

Council Meeting 7th March 2009

Sixteen representatives from eleven Branches together with three officers attended the Council meeting in March. Unfortunately KCAS had forgotten to advise us of the new security arrangements and we couldn't gain access to the Showground so the meeting was transferred to Detling Village hall and its start was delayed by half an hour!

Brian Palmer presented an excellent report on the BBKA ADM, sadly advising that the capitation fee was remaining at £14. He is discussing a possible new advisory leaflet on 'Identifying and dealing with bees in public places' with the BBKA Chairman of the Publicity Committee – Brian Ripley. It was reported that *Nosema Ceranae* is now widespread in England. The honey crop in England in 2008 had halved from 2007.

Ivor Davis was elected as a BBKA Honorary member by acclamation.

Executive Committee: John Hendrie, Pam Hunter, Brian Dennis and Chris Deaves were elected.

Central Sussex application for membership was rejected.

BuzzWorks application as a specialist member association was accepted.

Further details can be found in BBKA News.

James Cash in his absence had circulated a report giving a satisfactory financial position. Delays by two branches had meant preparation of our annual accounts was delayed. With low interest rates for deposit accounts Branches may like to consider investing in M&G Charifund units where the return is considerably higher. Details from James Cash.

With regards to the subscription from October this is likely to be £41 depending on the views of Branches and the vote to be taken at the June meeting. BeeCraft is increasing its cover price from January and will cost KBKA £18 per subscription in 2010. BDI is currently £2 and we will receive the 2010 figure in April. BBKA is £14. If we allow the Branches £6 and the County £1 This makes up the suggested £41. Representatives will be discussing this at their committee meetings and will make the decision at the June Council meeting so make your views known to your Branch.

It was suggested all Branches undertake a winter colony loss survey and forms have been sent to secretaries.

Membership excluding Associate members is up from 397 in 2008 to 503 in 2009 based on the first period return from branches.

Julian Audsley said the speakers for the lecture day on Sunday 15th November at Lenham had not yet been booked and asked for suggestions.

We will again participate in The Living Land Event this year on Thursday 7th May at Detling when we put on a display for 3000 school children at the Show ground.

A honey beer class is to be added at the National Honey Show in October.

As there may be problems with obtaining Fumidil-B it may be necessary to use 80% Acetic Acid (Ethanoic Acid) as a sterilizing agent. In view of the dangerous nature of this chemical it was recommended that each Branch makes any arrangements to purchase in bulk rather than centrally. Recent press reports show a the tremendous increase in people taking up environmentally friendly activities such as gardening. There are long waiting lists for allotments. There is likely to be a huge increase in beekeeping and we must be ready to provide the necessary education. An issue will be finding sites for bees.

The following Officers were appointed for the next year:

Chairman - Clive Watson, **Vice-Chairman** - David Wood, **General Secretary** - John Hendrie, **County Treasurer** - James Cash, **Membership Secretary** - John Hendrie.

The following elections were made to the committees:

Executive Committee: Peter Hutton, Mike Wall, William Mundy, Simon Amans.

Honey Show Committee: Dr. J. Cowan, Ronnie Eagle, B. Farrow, Lesley Fancote, Mary Hill, Margaret May, W. Mundy, R. Smith, W. Thomas, M. Wall, B. Wood.

Education Committee: Terry Hardy, K. Erhardt, Lesley Fancote, and J. Audsley.

John Hendrie

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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COUNTY NEWSLETTER

April 2009

Money for Bee Research?

Of the money the government announced for Bee Research in January £2.0 million is new to beekeeping but it will be used for research into pollination of bees in general over a five year period. Although this is not for research into disease or Colony Collapse disorder it is still very welcome. We still need to push for research and the BBKA have published a document 'Honey Bee Health Research Concepts' This shows how £9 million is required over a five year period. Download from: <http://www.britishbee.org.uk/files/bbka-research-concepts.pdf>. The rest of the £4.3 million is to be used at the NBU and the immediate benefit for us is an extra Seasonal Bee Inspector in Kent for 2009. This means we will have three SBO's in Kent and this is promised for two years at least.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of KBKA will be held on Saturday 6th June 2009 at the Margaret Calder Pavilion Detling at 11:30 am or when the Council meeting finishes if later. The formal notice and agenda is given below The meeting is purely a formality to comply with legal requirements, but anyone wishing to attend the AGM is welcome to sit in at the Council meeting as well.

KBKA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at the Margaret Calder Pavilion, County Showground, Detling on Saturday 6th June, 2009 at 11:30 am (At conclusion of Council Meeting)

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 28th June 2008
3. To elect a President
4. To adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 30th September 2008
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the Accounts in accordance with statutory requirements
6. Any Other Business

William Mundy retires as President and having served two years is eligible for re-election

CALENDAR April – June 2009

Branch Events

Ashford - No meetings notified.

Sat 4th April 2:30 pm Spring Inspection led by Harry Kendall.
Sun 3rd May 2:30 pm Open day for beginners.
Sun 7th June 2:30 pm Swarm Control and making up nuclei.
Meetings at the Branch Apiary, Cheeseman's Green, Mersham.

Bromley

Sun 5th April 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Tues 21st April 7:30 pm. Peter Bashford on Preparing Honey & Wax Exhibits for the show bench.
Sun 3rd May 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.

Canterbury

Sat 4th April 2:30 pm Spring Inspection at Peter Oldrieve's Apiary.
Sat 9th May 2:30 pm. Meeting at Julian and Joan's Apiary.
Ring Joan McAllister for directions: 01304 824660.

Dartford - No meetings notified.

Gravesend

Sat 25th Apr 3:00 pm John Hendrie will demonstrate 'Swarm Control' on Dennis Blakeley's bees.
Sat 23rd May 3:00 pm Visit to Brian Wood's Apiary.
Contact Lesley Fancote 01474 702666 for details and locations.

Mid Kent

Sun 26th April 2:30 pm Meetings at The Branch Apiary.
Sat 27th June 2:30 pm Meeting at Simon Amans apiary in Leeds.
Contact Barbara Harris for details 01622 880440

Orpington

Sat 16th May Demonstration at Coolings Garden Centre
See newsletter for details.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

4th & 25th April, 16th & 30th May 2:00 pm Meetings at Barrwood Apiary.
2nd May & 6th June 2:00 pm Meetings at Hilbert Road Apiary.
See Branch newsletter for details.

Sidcup

All Saturdays Afternoon meetings at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm.

Weald

Sat 25th April 3:00 pm Spring Inspection at Hayland Farm.
Sat 16th May 3:00 pm Barbecue & Bees at Denny Deroy Parker's apiary.
For directions contact Nick Mengham 01233 840660 or 07884 231514

Westerham

Sun 26th-Apr 2:30 pm Demonstration at Lynn Read's apiary at Downe.
Sat 30th-May 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Bee Health workshop with Alan Byham and Nick Withers.
Please see Branch newsletter for details and directions.

Whitstable - No meetings notified.

County and Other Events

17th - 19th April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.
26th April 12:00 noon. Auction entrance opposite Lyngs Close in Yalding ME18 6ES.
Sun 17th May Auction and Sussex Bee Market at Heathfield.
Sat 6th June 10:00 am Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting at Detling.
11th - 13th June South of England Show at Ardingly.
7th - 10th July The Royal Show at Stoneleigh.
17th - 19th July Kent County Show at Detling.
20th - 25th July Irish BKA Summer School at Gormanston. Celia Davis Guest speaker.
7th - 9th Sept Society International Conservation of *Apis mellifera mellifera* SICAMM Conference at Aviemore., Scotland. Details from John Hendrie
15th - 20th Sept International Apimondia at Montpelier, France.
Sat 10th Oct 10:00 am Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
29 - 31 Oct National Honey Show at St. Georges College, Weybridge.
Sun 15th Nov Lecture day at Lenham. Details in next issue.
Sat 12th Dec 10:00 am Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
Sat 16th Jan 2010 10:00 am BBKA ADM at Stoneleigh.

BBKA Basic Assessment

For those of you aspiring to be qualified beekeepers the KBKA are again sponsoring members who are successful at the BBKA Basic Assessment. You still need to complete an application form, available on the BBKA website and send it with your remittance of £15 to John Hendrie. Successful candidates will receive a refund of the £15 from KBKA later in the year.

KBKA Show Committee

At its first meeting in March the Show Committee elected David Wood as Chair and Bob Smith from Sidcup Branch as the Chief Steward. The position of Secretary is still vacant so John Hendrie will send out calling notices this year with note taking at the meetings being shared. We are mindful that we have a smaller marquee this year and plans are being made to fill it with stands of interest to the public. The only thing missing from previous years are the competition classes. If you would like to help to steward the event please contact Bob Smith and let him know. For half a days stewarding you will be given a one day ticket allowing you half a day free to view the show. There will be a rota and normally stints are for two hours, but that will depend on which exhibit you are assisting. We are also arranging refreshments for stewards at a nominal cost. The removal of the competition means most trophies will not be awarded this year so if you were successful last year could you please return your trophy to David Wood or John Hendrie either directly or via your Council rep. One cup will be awarded this year, subject to entries of sufficient standard. The Beeswax cup will be added to a new class for six one ounce blocks of wax at the National Honey Show. If we resurrect the competition at Detling we will bring that trophy back. In effect Kent BKA will be having just one honey show this year and that is the Kent Classes at the National Honey Show. The Show Committee is responsible for managing the two events.
Contact Bob Smith on 020 8300 1807 or bsmith12@ntlworld.com if you would like to steward.

Visit the Kent Beekeepers web site: www.kentbee.com

Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover June - August and please note that all details should be sent to John Hendrie, KBKA General Secretary, 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9JT or email: bibba26@tiscali.co.uk or 01732 833894, by 20th Mar with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.