

Council Meeting 13th March 2010

Fourteen representatives from ten Branches together with the four officers attended the Council meeting in March.

KCAS are reapplying for planning permission for the work on the show ground and hence we will have use of the Margaret Calder Pavilion for the foreseeable future.

Some branches said there was a long delay in members receiving their BBKA Welcome packs. The Education Committee is to investigate whether a Kent Welcome pack was a viable option.

BBKA have confirmed that check-mite can be used to control varroa. Because check-mite contains coumaphos which is an organo-phosphorus pesticide it was agreed we should not recommend its use to KBKA members.

Clive Watson had attended and reported it was a long day, the meeting finishing at 6:30 pm. The following were elected. President. Martin Smith from Lancashire. Executive Committee. David Bancalari, Dawn Girling, Julian Routh & Brian Ripley. KBKA is no longer the only limited company after Lancaster BKA were elected as a new member. Also elected Rutland BKA. and Bees for Development as a Specialist member. A full report is contained in the April BBKA News.

James Cash reported a satisfactory financial position and there was no need to raise subscriptions for the next year. The recommendation for branches to consider prior to the decision being taken in June is to keep subscriptions at their current level. There are some minor changes for the dates Branches make their returns to County to fit in better with BBKA, BDI and Gift Aid. If Branches would like electronic payment of subscriptions they can have the details put on the subscription form, this is in preparation for the banks plan to phase out cheques. Card payments will not be accepted because of the charges applied. Honoraria were raised to cover increased work loads with rising membership.

It was suggested that Branches could order BeeCraft direct rather than it being done centrally. Each organisation is only permitted one update each month by BeeCraft Ltd and branches will be able to react more rapidly than going through the County Membership Secretary in these days of rapidly increasing membership. Reps to take the paper back to their branches and then come to the June meeting with a view as to whether KBKA should make this change. BeeCraft are now offering a digital version of the magazine as an alternative to the printed copy. The cost will be £16 for digital and for KBKA £18 for printed copy (after discount). It was suggested there may only be limited demand for the digital copy because it was not possible to download or print it on computer. Again reps to ask their branches whether KBKA should include the digital copy as a subscription option.

Election of Officers and Committees.

Chairman – Clive Watson having served four years was not eligible for re-election. David Wood was elected.

Vice-Chairman – Clive Watson was elected.

General Secretary - John Hendrie, **County Treasurer** - James Cash and **Membership Secretary** - John Hendrie were re-elected unopposed.

Examinations Secretary – vacant but John Hendrie will undertake the duties for the next year.

Executive Committee: Peter Hutton, Mike Wall, William Mundy and a vacancy.

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

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

John Hendrie said this was the last time he would stand as General Secretary.

David Wood is involved with a Field Trial with Waverlux, based in Tunbridge Wells. This is a project to feed a pollen substitute as a spring stimulant.

KBKA membership after the first Branch returns: 489 Ordinary, 4 Junior, 122 Friends making a 615 Total.

John Hendrie

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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Registered Office: National Beekeeping Centre, RASE, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. CV8 2LG



No. 49 COUNTY NEWSLETTER April 2010

Farewell to Ted Hooper

Many of you will own Guide to Bees and Honey by Ted Hooper, now one of the classic texts on beekeeping and possibly have his Encyclopaedia of Beekeeping edited with Roger Morse. Sadly Ted passed away on Saturday 20th March after a short illness. He was 91. KBKA was represented at the funeral at Chelmsford, Essex on Wednesday 31st March. An obituary is posted on the BBKA website and will appear in the May BeeCraft. Ted was an excellent lecturer and teacher and he encouraged many beekeepers over several decades. Some thirty years ago I was one of his students.

John Hendrie

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of KBKA will be held on Saturday 5th June 2010 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 5th June, 2010 at 11:30 am (At conclusion of Council Meeting)

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 6th June 2009
3. To elect a President
4. To adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 30th September 2009
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 three years is eligible for re-election and he has indicated his willingness to stand.

CALENDAR April – June 2010

Branch Events

Ashford

Sun 11th April,
Sat 1st May, Sun 9th May, Sun 23th May.
Sat 5th June, Sun 20th June.

Meetings at 2:30 pm at the South Stour Apiary, Cheeseman's Green Lane, Mersham.

Bromley

Sun 4th April 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Tues 20th April 11:30 am. Lecture by Clive de Bruyn from Essex.
Sun 2nd May 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Sun 6th June 11:30 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Sun 20th June 3:00 pm Afternoon apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.

Canterbury

Sat 10th April 2:30 pm Spring Inspection at Julian and Joan's Apiary, Waldershare Park.
Sat 1st May 2:30 pm. Apiary meeting at Vincent's Apiary at Weddington near Ash.
Sat 5th June 2:30 pm. Apiary meeting at Chris' Apiary at Westwell near Ashford.
Ring Joan McAllister for directions: 01304 824660.

Dartford - No meetings notified.

Gravesend

Sat 10th April 3:00 pm Peter Bashford will talk on 'Preparing Honey and Wax for Sale and Show'.
Fri 7th May 10:00 am Bee Diseases workshop using microscopy. David Rudland & John Wilby.
Sat 15th May 3:00 pm Using Nuclei & Queen Rearing at the apiary of Eileen & Graham Smith.
Sat 26th June Visit to Orpington Branch Apiary at High Elms Country Park.
Contact Lesley Fancote 01474 702666 for details and locations.

Mid Kent

Sun 25th April 2:30 pm Meeting at The Branch Apiary.
Sat 16th May 2:30 pm Meeting at Terry Trott's apiary in Bapchild.
Contact Barbara Harris for details 01622 880440

Orpington

Saturday afternoons 2:30 pm Demonstrations at Beeche Centre, High Elms Country Park
Shire Lane, Farnborough, BR6 7JH. See Branch newsletter for details.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

10th & 24th April, 8th & 22nd May 2:00 pm Meetings at Barrwood Apiary.
10th April 1st May & 5th June 2:00 pm Meetings at Hilbert Road Apiary.
See Branch newsletter for details.

Sidcup

All Saturdays Afternoon meetings at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm or Baldwin's Apiary.
Please see Branch website for details.

Weald

Sat 24th April 3:00 pm Spring Inspection
Sat 8th May 3:00 pm Meeting.
Sat 19th June 3:00 pm Queen Rearing part 2.
For directions contact Nick Mengham 01233 840660 or 07884 231514

Westerham

Sun 25th April 2:30 pm Demonstration by Diane Steele from Storrington at
Carol and Edwin Taylor's home apiary at Brasted Chart.
Sat 22nd-May 2:30 pm. Demonstration by Michael Cooper at Jane & Adam Skinners' apiary
At Oakfield Farm, Crockham Hill.
Please see Branch newsletter for details and directions.

Whitstable - No meetings notified.

County and Other Events

16 - 18 April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh.
Sat 5th June 10:00 am Council Meeting. Margaret Calder Pavilion.
11:30 am Annual General Meeting (at conclusion of Council Meeting).
10th - 12th June South of England Show at Ardingly.
16 - 18 July Kent Show at Detling.
26 - 31 July Irish Summer School at Gormanston near Dublin
Sat 9th Oct 10:00 am Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
28 - 30 Oct National Honey Show at St. Georges College, Weybridge.
Sun 7th Nov Lecture day at Lenham. Details in next issue.
26 - 28 Nov Central Association of Beekeepers weekend course at Stratford on Avon.
Sat 4th Dec 10:00 am Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
Sat 15th Jan 2010 10:00 am BBKA ADM at Stoneleigh.

National Honey Show

The National Honey Show may seem a long way off but the Schedule will be available in July. Again new beekeepers are being offered free one day tickets. This year these are being sent by email and all new KBKA members will be sent one, providing you included an email address on your subscription form. No action is required by any KBKA member as the list will be sent in July by the membership secretary. If you joined KBKA since October and do not require a ticket please advise John Hendrie accordingly. Contact details are given below.

County Show at Detling

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. 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. We plan to have a number of competition classes and John Chapman will manage these, the details will be sent out with the June issue of this newsletter. 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. We will also have a small display in the 'Why Farming Matters' tent so we will need more stewards this year.

Contact Bob Smith on 020 8300 1807 or bsmith12@ntlworld.com if you would like to steward. Indicate your preferred day(s). Last year we were short of stewards on Saturday and Sunday.

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 May with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.