

BBKA ADM 2010

The 50th Annual Delegate Meeting of BBKA was held on Saturday 16th January. There were 59 voting delegates, only a few Associations were not represented, and in total over a hundred people attending, including the BBKA executive and visitors. Clive Watson represented us this year as Brian Palmer was unable to attend.

A number of announcements were made, of new initiatives and involvements by BBKA, including a three-year funding of £12,000 per year for the work on hygienic bees being done at Sussex University, and the fact that Saga is about to launch and fund an Adopt-a-Hive scheme and B&Q are to stock the Beehaus!

New Executive members elected are David Bancalari, Dawn Girling, Brian Ripley and Julian Routh. For the Examinations Board David Aston, Ken Basterfield and Pam Gregory will serve three years, with Tom Canning and Pete Sutcliffe elected for one year.

On the resolution that BBKA should cease to endorse pesticides as soon as contractually possible, the argument divided broadly between those in favour, claiming it was a matter of credibility for BBKA and the public perception, and the contrary view that it was better to guide farmers to using more 'bee-friendly' pesticides when there was a choice. The vote was 25 for the motion, 30 against, 3 abstentions. The proposers then called for a membership vote, where the number of paid-up members in each Association is counted (rather than just one vote per Association) and the result, while still a defeat for the Proposition, was a lot clearer, with 4,588 for, 9,829 against and 1,025 abstentions. The resolution instructing the Executive to re-join the Healthy Bees Project Board was proposed by Dorset BKA. Tim Lovett vacated the chair to argue passionately against this, while others felt that BBKA must be involved. There were questions of credibility if the Executive was 'ordered' back in, and how the situation might change if there is a change of government in a few months. The proposition was defeated, 7 for, 39 against, 10 abstentions, so BBKA remains outside the Board. Lancaster BKA, Rutland BKA and Bees for Development were all elected as members of BBKA.

Council Meeting 12th December 2009

Fifteen representatives from ten Branches together with three officers attended the Council meeting in December.

Letter from Abby Brindley, event manager, mds shows, about an event at the hop farm on the first May bank holiday in 2010. They will defray some costs but clashes with our events.

FERA about an invitation from the Healthy Bees Project Management Board's Chair offering City and Guilds train the trainer courses similar to what the Education Committee is proposing but we need to respond to FERA by 7th January. Education committee will consider training at its next meeting. There is now enough money from Branch returns to cover the cost of BeeCraft for 2010. Electronic payment of subscriptions to be considered as banks plan to phase out cheques.

It looks as if we will have the Margaret Calder pavilion for a few more years because KCAS are reviewing their development plans.

The BBKA propositions (Listed in December BBKA News) were considered and our delegate given advice on how to vote. The important outcomes are given above.

Concern expressed by some about the BDI terms and conditions that reduce compensation if claims made in more than two consecutive years. Concern about bees being killed by poison, anyone dealing with bees killed by chemicals should take photographs and document all relevant facts.

National Honey Show in 2009 had considerably larger attendance than 2008. More space has been booked for 2010 and lectures will be held in a larger hall.

Concern was expressed about delays in arrival of BBKA welcome packs.

KBKA membership at 30th September 2009: 543 Ordinary, 2 Junior, 149 Friends making 694 Total.

John Hendrie

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A company limited by guarantee, Registered No. 238630 Registered Charity No. 222946
Registered Office: National Beekeeping Centre, RASE, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. CV8 2LG



No. 48

COUNTY NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Money for Bee Research

As some of you know the BBKA has been building up a Research Fund for many years. Here is part of a press release issued on 14th January.

The British Beekeepers' Association, which represents more than 16,000 of the country's amateur beekeepers, will give a £36,000 grant to support the work of a post graduate student over the next three years, in the prestigious Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) at Sussex University.

'Hygienic' bees are able to detect and remove diseased larvae from the colony, and so reduce the spread of disease within the hive. Increased understanding of this behaviour may provide opportunities to improve the resistance of honeybees to a number of the diseases which affect them.

The donation will be specifically used to support a PhD student, Gianluigi Bigio, working under Professor Ratnieks's supervision and with two of the department's researchers Norman Carreck and Dr Karin Alton on Project 1 of the Sussex Plan for Honey Bee Health and Well Being- 'Breeding disease-resistant 'hygienic' honey bees'. The work will start in March 2010.

South East Honey Survey 2009

The summary of Alan Byham's survey is given below:

These results are compiled from beekeepers owning between 1 and 39 colonies with total yields between 0lbs and 1852lbs. Interestingly the largest crop did not come from the beekeeper with the largest number of colonies. (1852lb from 20 cols – 92.6lb/col) The highest yield per colony (121.3lb) came from a beekeeper with 3 colonies, the total crop being 364lb. There is a wide variation in reported average honey yields – from 0 to 121.3 lbs per colony. The average yield, 35lb is a substantial decrease over the previous year's figure (45lb), which was mainly due to the poor weather in the summer and the short season, as mentioned above. However, this year average prices are higher than last almost breaking the £4.00 per lb. Again I received some surveys indicating that no honey had been collected (9 responses, 3 of which were 'new starters' this season).

Direct sale to customers is the commonest method of honey sales - 144 respondents provided a figure for this. As usual there is little agreement over price. The average price this year is the highest it has been at £3.96, which is a much better average, although I feel that £4.00/lb should be the minimum asking price, taking into account the cost and time involved in producing honey. Using figures from this survey, an average crop of honey per colony was worth £138.60 when sold direct at average price. (2008 = £160.65) 34 replies indicated selling honey wholesale to a retailer. At the average wholesale price, an average crop of honey per colony was worth £122.50. (2008 = £120.15).

CALENDAR February – April 2010

Branch Events

Ashford

- Fri 5th Feb 7:30 pm .Prof. Jerry Cross from East Malling Research will talk about:
"The Effect of Commercial Pesticides on Honeybees."
Fri 5th March 7:30 pm .Alan Byham, will talk about "Tips for more successful Beekeeping"
Meetings at St. Mary's Community Centre Rylands Road Kennington TN24 9LN

Bromley

- Tues 16th Feb 7:30 pm Pam Hunter from Sussex will talk on 'Bee Genetics'.
Tues 16th Mar 7:30 pm Michael Badger MBE topic to be advised.
Tues 20th Apr 7:30 pm Clive de Bruyn from Essex topic to be advised.
Meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.

Canterbury

- Wed 3rd Feb 7:30 pm Bob Smith from Medway on 'Queen Rearing'.
Wed 3rd Mar 7:30 pm Details to be advised
Meetings at Stelling Minnis Village Hall.

Dartford

- Sat 10th April First monthly meeting at Branch Apiary.

Gravesend

- Tues 9th Feb 7:00 pm Annual Dinner at Railway Inn, Sole Street
Sat 20th Mar 3:00 pm Maurice Field 'Reducing Stress in the Apiary'
Contact Lesley Fancote 01474 702666 for details and locations.

Mid Kent

- Thur 18th Feb 7:30 pm Topic 'A Flying Start'.
Thur 18th Mar 7:30 pm Topic to be advised.
Meetings at The Bull Inn, Lower Road, East Farleigh.
Sun 18th April 2:30 pm at Branch Apiary Hunton - Spring Management

Orpington

- Wed 17th Feb 8:00 pm Tom Hart Dyke will talk on 'Flower Power World Garden'
Book with mandy@atomwide.com and there is a charge of £3:00.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

- Tues 23rd Feb 7:30 pm Bob Smith from Medway on 'Honeybee Anatomy'.
Tues 16th Mar 7:30 pm Peter Hutton Swarm Control and Simple Queen Rearing.
Meetings at St Edith's Hall, High Street, Kemsing. TN15 6NA.
Sat 20th Mar 2:00 pm First Hilbert Road Apiary meeting, 27th March for Barrwood Apiary.

Sidcup

- Sat 27th Feb 2:00 pm David Aston NDB on 'Proteins in Pollen, Nutrition & Stress in Honeybees'.
Meeting at Baldwyn's Apiary
Every Saturday Afternoon meetings at Ruxley Apiary, or Baldwyn's apiary. Details on web site.

Weald

- Sat 20th-Feb 3:00 pm Queen Rearing Part One.
Sat 20th-Mar 3:00 pm About Bees Abroad.
Sat 24th April 3:00 pm Spring Inspection
For locations and details contact Nick Mengham on 01233 840660 or 07884 231514.

Westerham

- Wed 24th-Feb 8:00 pm John Williams talking on 'Now you have bees, What Next?'.
Wed 31st-Mar 8:00 pm Celia Rudland talking on 'Swarm prevention and control'.
Meetings at Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue, Westerham.
Sun 25th April 2:30 pm Demonstration by Diane Steele from Storrington at
Carol and Edwin Taylor's home apiary at Brasted Chart.

Whitstable - No meetings notified.

County and Other Events

- Sat 13th March 10:00 am Council Meeting. Venue to be decided.
Sat 13th March 2:30 pm Medway BKA Open Lecture see below.
Sat 13th March 9:15 am Cambridgeshire BKA One day seminar - 'A World Without Bees'.
Speakers include Dr Helen Crews, Fera, and Professor Ted Benton.
Details from DJ Abson, 6, Ascham Lane, Whittlesford. Cambridge. CB22 4NT
tel: 01223 834620 <http://www.cbka.org.uk/> Fee for day including lunch £16:00.
Sat 20th March BBKA Exams. Modules 1 to 8 are available. £18 per module.
16 - 18 April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh.
Sat 5th June 10:00 am Council Meeting. Venue to be decided.
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 Detling.
28 - 30 Oct National Honey Show at St. Georges College, Weybridge.
Sat 4th Dec 10:00 am Council Meeting at Detling.

Medway Beekeepers' Association 9th Annual Beekeeping Lecture

Lecture on "Pollen in Forensic Science" – Dr Michael Keith-Lucas, University of Reading
Starts 2:00 pm on Saturday 13th March at Wainscott Memorial Hall, Holly Road,
Wainscott, Rochester ME2 4LG.

There is no admission charge, Refreshments will be provided and Everyone is welcome!
Just buy a few raffle tickets to help defray costs Further details – contact Bob Smith 01634
721063

BBKA Examinations

The BBKA modules are being held on Saturday 20th March at Lynsted Church near
Sittingbourne starting at 9:30 am. If you would like to join the group please send fee £18
per module and application form to John Hendrie by 10th February.

Council have agreed to refund the fees of successful candidates for the Basic Assessment
in 2010. Again applications with fee of £15 to John Hendrie, ideally by 14th April.

Application forms can be downloaded from the BBKA web site:

http://www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations_and_assessments.php

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

**Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover April - June 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.**