



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
February 2014
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The Annual General Meeting

It was a wild and windy night in January for this year's AGM, which was attended by around 30 members. Chair Ted Gradosielski was absent in the Southern Hemisphere, so our President Ken Barker stood in to chair the meeting. Reports from the Secretary and Treasurer were read, as well as Ted's report. Treasurer Mark

Chambers was able to report that the Division's finances are in good health, helped by the generous donations from some of our members, whose numbers are currently at 130. CEC Member and Conference Organiser Ian Nichols reported on the Essex Conference in September, which was regarded as a great success by all who attended and which left us (very slightly) in profit. The website, blog and online ticket ordering were particularly good. Secretary Robin Harman was able to report a relatively quiet year, and he had just received confirmation that we will be able to have our annual trip to Willow Cottage in June this year. Robin would be pleased to receive any ideas for speakers or activities for future monthly meetings, so if you've seen a good speaker at another meeting or if there's an aspect of beekeeping that you would like to learn more about, please let him have your suggestions.

The Committee Members were re-elected at the meeting. Pete Andrews has stood down as Librarian, with thanks for his contribution in this role; thanks were also expressed to Salma Attan for her work administering bookings for the Divisional honey extractors, and to Don McHale for providing teas and coffees for our meetings as well as other refreshments, and to Sheila Morrissey for assistance with catering at events. Finally, certificates were presented by Ken Barker to the nine members who obtained their Basic Beekeeping qualification last year. It's encouraging to see so many members studying for and obtaining this qualification.



As usual, the final event of the AGM was the report from the Honey Show, and the presentation of cups by Ken. Show Secretary Eric Beaumont said that Judge Jean Smye had commented on the generally high standard of exhibits. Sadly, only a few of the cups could be presented as the winner of several exhibits was absent (see the reference above to Ted Gradosielski being away!). Congratulations to Ian Nichols (who also won Best in Show), Michael Sanders, Michael Stevenson and John Dutney. Eric also had an announcement about this year's Honey Show, which will be earlier than usual. We are going to hold a joint event with Epping Horticultural Society, who have their annual show on 24th August, and it will be held in St John's Church, Epping. August seems a long way off, but please keep the date in mind. The joint event should attract a wider audience, and it would be good if the Division could put up a larger than usual number of entries to show off our skills. Don't forget that the Show is not just for honey, but mead, candles, cakes, photographs and frames of honey. Anyone wanting advice on how to present items for showing is welcome to contact Eric. ☘



Chair's Corner

I'd like to use this opportunity to thank all those who helped with talks, presentations, raffles, Beginners' classes, cake making, newsletters, postage, membership, library, maintenance tasks and much more over the past year. All the Divisional Officers and helpers make my job as Chairman much easier and more enjoyable. I am delighted to have been re-elected as Chair and look forward to another year of events and activities for members. ☘

Ted Gradosielski

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 20th February

This month's meeting will be held at Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4 6NH at 7.30 pm. A talk on Microscopy/ Nosema will be led by Chris Branch and Roy Cropley. ☘

Essex Beekeepers Association

Pat Allen will be retiring as secretary at the EBKA AGM in March. She has been a diligent and effective secretary for Essex, and we congratulate her on the work she has done. If anyone would like to consider applying for the role, please contact Ian Nichols or Pat Allen. ☘

Spring Convention

Tickets are now on sale, and the lecture programme includes speakers from the UK, Germany, Netherlands and the USA – find out more and book tickets via the BBKA website. The Convention is from 4th-6th April this year. ☘

Sticky fingers?

Thieves in South London got a nasty shock recently when they broke into a garden shed only to discover that it had been converted to a beehive! The *Evening Standard* reported that anyone with information has been asked to give the police a buzz ... Joking apart, theft of hives and equipment is on the increase. Make sure any hives at out apiaries are branded or indelibly marked with your name and postcode. ☘

Beginners Classes

These will be starting in February, enquiries to Robin Harman or Chris Branch if you would like a place on this year's Beginner Beekeeping course. ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

Check your hives for stores (do this by 'hefting' and checking for weight, rather than opening them up) and feed if necessary with fondant. Woodpecker activity has been noted recently, so check any out apiaries for this as well as for fallen branches or other weather damage. ☘

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