



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
February 2011
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The Annual General Meeting

This was well-attended, and business opened with approval of the minutes of the previous AGM. Helen Chadwick reported a good year for the Division, with some successful meetings and apiary visits, and record numbers of members. The Wanstead Apiary continues to be used regularly, and once again we are grateful to Mark Stephens for permission to use this site.

In Ted Grad's absence on holiday, Tiffany Levi presented the accounts, and we thank John Gracey for acting as auditor. Helen Chadwick was re-elected as Chair, and Paola Munns has volunteered to take over as Secretary from Jenny Johns, who will continue to be an active member of the group but who has decided to stand down as a committee member after many years of service to the Division. Other officers were re-elected, and the meeting concluded with a presentation to Jenny to thank her for all her hard work. ♀



Honey Show Prizes

After the routine business of the AGM, it was time for the prizes from this year's Honey Show to be awarded. The President's Cup was won by Peter Clarke, who also won the Divisional Shield for the most points in all classes, and the S J Smith Memorial Bowl. Jackie Clarke won the Beeswax Cup, so the Clarke family sideboard is going to be full for the next year! Just to show that the Honey Show is not only for experienced beekeepers, Ken Piper won two prizes – the Clarke Cup, and the Becker Cup which is awarded for any entrant who has not won a prize before. The Mead Trophy was awarded to Joe Chadwick, and the Cooper Memorial Cup to Richard Egan. Finally, as a reminder that it's not just for honey, Kevin Cook won the Single Photo Cup.

It seems a long way away off, but remember that the more entrants there are for the honey show, the better the competition. When you are harvesting honey or beeswax this year, think about entering some of your produce in this year's Honey Show. ♀



Basic Beekeeping Exam

If you've been keeping bees for two years or more, have you considered taking the BBKA Basic Exam? This is a practical test, with some verbal questions – no exam papers or essays required! If you'd be interested in finding out more about this, please contact Helen Chadwick or Ken Barker for more information. ♀

Chair's Corner

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to come to the AGM, which went very well. It was sad to see Jenny Johns stand down as Secretary after so many years of hard work for the division. thank you Jenny. Thanks are also due to Joe Chadwick, who has stood down as Librarian after looking after the books for four years. Welcome to our new Secretary, Paola Munns, and to Pierre Wadoup who is our new Librarian. We're also very grateful to Ian Nichols who has volunteered to be our CEC Rep, a position which has not been filled for a couple of years. **Helen Chadwick** ♀



Next meeting - Thursday 17th February

Our next meeting will be at Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4 6NH and as usual we will meet at 7.30 for an 8.00 pm start. This month we will have a presentation by Peter Harvey about Pumblebees – closely related to our honeybees but with very different habits and habitats, this promises to be a fascinating talk. ♀

A message from Jenny Johns

I would like to say very many thanks for the good wishes and also for the lovely flowers given to me at the AGM on my retirement as secretary of the division. I have enjoyed very much working, first with Ken and more recently with Helen. During this time, due to the growth of interest in beekeeping, the division has changed from a small group, when 12 at a meeting was often the norm, to one where 40 members attending a meeting is more usual. This has presented us all with an interesting challenge which I feel we have accepted and responded well to. I wonder what the membership will be in 10 years time and also what will be the threat to the bees by then? ♀

The Divisional Apiary

It was proposed at the AGM that the Division should purchase two hives, to be kept at the divisional apiary in Wanstead. These can be used for future demonstration and training purposes instead of opening up hives belonging to other members. If you have bees at the apiary, please be aware that the adjoining property is now occupied – access is still available as usual, but please show respect for the occupiers and keep noise or disturbance to a minimum when visiting. ♀

Topical Tips

More bees starve in February and March than at any other time of year. Even though it may be warm enough on sunny days for them to fly, there is little forage available at the moment, so if you think stores are running low, feed with fondant. Avoid having the hive open for too long however, as temperatures are still very low. ♀

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