



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
February 2013

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

The Divisional AGM took place on 17 January – proceedings would take too much space to report here, but the meeting was well attended. Ted Gradosielski was re-elected as Chair, and most officers have been reappointed. Andy White has resigned as Treasurer and Mary West as Membership Secretary. Both were thanked for their work, the role of

Treasurer will now be filled by Mark Chambers who will also cover Membership issues. Reports from the CEC Representative, Honey Show Secretary and Secretary were read – 2012 was a busy year, with hive stand workshops, social events, apiary meetings and training sessions, 11 nucs supplied to beginners, and a full complement of hives at the Wanstead Apiary where considerable work was carried out to improve amenities.

Some points to consider: the Division needs another apiary site, ideally in an urban area such as Walthamstow, Barkingside or Ilford. If you know of a potential site then please contact Ted Grad with details. We also need more entrants for this year's Honey Show! It won't be too long before beekeepers are (we hope) harvesting honey, and please bear this in mind for the 2013 show in September. Prizes for this year's show were awarded, and Ted Grad not only won several Divisional awards but also won a first prize at the Essex Show and at the National Honey Show. Eric Beaumont is happy to provide advice on how to present your honey for show. ☘

Epping hosts Essex

As you may know, this year it's the Division's turn to host and support various events in the county. The first is the Essex AGM, on Saturday 2nd March at Writtle College, Chelmsford, with Graham Royle as the speaker. Tea and cake will be provided by Epping members, and donations/volunteers are needed. The next date for the diary is 13/14 September, which will be the Essex Show, and again we need helpers to provide and serve food to the Stewards. Finally, we will be hosting the Essex Conference on Saturday 21st September at the Woodland Burial Park in North Weald, caterers will be providing lunch but we'll need some volunteers for this day. Please contact Ian Nichols, Robin Harman or Sheila if you can help with any of these dates, and do make a note of the dates as these events are well worth attending. ☘

The Spring Convention

Tickets are on sale for the BBKA Spring Convention, from 12-14 April at Harper Adams College, Shropshire. Contact the BBKA website for more information. ☘



Our chair, Ted Grad, shows his surprise at being crowned again for another year

Beginners

We have another Beginner Beekeeping Course starting on 14th February with 20 delegates signed up for the course – not all of them are new to the Division, but all want to learn the basics of keeping bees. This year sessions will be run by Eric Beaumont, Chris Branch, Ted Grad, Ken Barker and others. ☘



Good attendance at the AGM, above, and Khalil Attan receives a cup for the best frame, below.



Next meeting – Thursday 21st February – Film Night

Come to the Chingford Horticultural Hall Chingford E4 6NH on Thursday 21st January to see some films about bees and beekeeping. Please be there at 7.30 for the meeting to start promptly at 8.00 pm. ☘

Membership News

You have, of course, all signed up for 2013, haven't you? Don't miss out on the benefits of membership! Next year the Associate Membership Fee will increase to £10, with effect from January 2014. ☘

Buyer Beware

Most bee treatments will lose their effect after a certain period of time. If you're offered any treatments at what seems like a cheap price, do check the sell-by date. We've heard of some being offered locally that is out of date, so check before you buy. ☘

Basic Beekeeping Assessment

Several members passed their Basic Assessment in 2012 – congratulations to Salma and Khalil Attan, Alan and Christine Payne, Richard Egan, Ian Nichols and Andy White. If you are interested in taking this straightforward practical test this year, then contact Ken Barker – you should have been keeping bees for at least one full year. Anyone who has the Basic under their belt can take one of the written Modules – closing date for entries is 10th February, and the exam takes place on 23rd March this year. Again, speak to Ken or Roy Cropley for advice. ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

It's important now to check your hives for sufficient stores. At this time of year candy (fondant) is best, but as an alternative you can cut a hole in a bag of sugar, pour a cup of water on, and invert this above the hole in the crown board (you'll need an eke or an empty super to make space). This was recommended by Terry Clare in his talk at the Essex Conference in November. ☘

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Chair's Corner

I'm delighted to stand as Chair again for another year, credit must go to the many Division Members who help with all the events and meetings however, and particular thanks to Andy White and Mary West who have both stood down from their posts. We have plenty of events planned for 2013, and look forward to another busy beekeeping year, and welcome the new members on the Beginners Beekeeping Course who will be joining us at these. ☘

Ted Gradosielski

