



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers  
February 2015  
[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on 15<sup>th</sup> January and Chair Ted Gradosielski stood down after three very successful years running the Division. Thanks were expressed to Ted for his leadership and enthusiasm, and to Mark Chambers who has stood down as Treasurer. Our new Chair is Eric Beaumont and the new Treasurer is John Dutney. Mark Chambers has taken over as CEC Rep and Khalil Attan is now Honey Show Secretary. Volunteers to

help with events are always welcome so please speak up if you would like to become involved with any of the Division's activities. ☘

## Prize Winners

Although the Division's Annual Honey Show takes place in the autumn, prizes are always awarded at the AGM in January. This year Ian Nichols swept the board with Best in Class, most points in all classes, and the best photograph. Khalil and Salma Attan won the Best Frame and Peter Clarke maintained his record winning the Mead class.



President Ken Barker pictured with outgoing Chair Ted Grad and incoming Chair Eric Beaumont; John Dutney with the Miss Avey Award; Peter Clarke with the Mead Cup and Ian Nichols winning everything else. Photos by John Dutney



## Bee Health Day – 27<sup>th</sup> June

Essex Bee Keepers Association are once again holding this event at Aldham Village Hall near Colchester. Highly recommended by those who have attended a previous event, this day runs from 10-4 and will include a mixture of discussion and presentations including some practical sessions and a chance to meet local Bee Disease Inspectors. All you need is a packed lunch and a clean beesuit. Booking essential, contact Jim McNeill at [jimandliz44@aol.co.uk](mailto:jimandliz44@aol.co.uk) or on 01708 765898. ☘

## Do you love your bees?

If so, then please renew your membership! Valentine's Day is the last possible date for us to include you in this year's subscriptions. To have all the benefits of Bee Disease Insurance, divisional meetings and membership of Essex Beekeepers and the BBKA, please return your forms to the Treasurer before 14<sup>th</sup> February. ☘



## Exams

Firstly congratulations to Simon Roberts and John Dutney who have passed their Basic Exam. John Dutney also won a Miss Avey award for the gaining the highest number of points in Essex in his exam. No fewer than nine Miss Avey awards have been made to Division members over the years. Robin Harman passed Module 2, and Ted Grad and David Mallindine passed their Microscopy exam. Special thanks to Roy Cropley and Chris Branch for their help with the latter. ☘

## Monthly Meeting – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February

The next monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February at Chingford Horticultural Hall on Larkshall Road E4 6NH. The subject this month will be Swarm Control - please arrive at 7.30 for the meeting to begin promptly at 8.00 pm. ☘

## Harold Moss

We are sad to report the death of Harold Moss, a member of the Division for many years. You may remember that in 2013 Harold celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and Chair Ted Gradosielski visited him to pass on congratulations. Harold's name appears on many of the Honey Show trophies that were given out at the AGM. He passed his Basic Exam in 1947. Ted still owns a WBC hive made by Harold's father, it's been refurbished of course and a picture of it is used on Ted's honey labels. Harold was 101 when he died. ☘

## Book Amnesty!

Ian Nichols is now Divisional Archivist in charge of all books. Have you borrowed a book from the Division and still have it? Return it during February and no questions will be asked! There are a number of books outstanding that we'd like to see again. We are hoping to make more books available for those studying for exams. ☘

## Essex AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> March

The Essex BKA Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at Writtle College at 14.00. The meeting will be followed by a talk on Bees and the Law by beekeeper and former solicitor Andrew Beer. Details will be available on [www.ebka.org.uk](http://www.ebka.org.uk) ☘

## Tips from the Bee Man

January and February are the months when more colonies starve than at any other time of year so check for stores and feed if necessary. This is also a good time to wash your beesuit if you haven't already done so. Take stock of your equipment and order any new supplies or replacement kit now so you can be ready when the season starts in a couple of months. ☘

## Chair's Corner

The new season is nearly upon us but it is not too late to look back and thank Ted Gradosielski for his Chairmanship during the last three years, a period marked by substantial increase in members which stretched the Division considerably. Nonetheless, Ted managed the changes necessary to cope with this growth; the challenge ahead is to look to our own skills and seek to improve them. The Division intends to offer opportunities to do so; please take advantage of them. Spring is not far away: hazel, snowdrop and crocus were seen in flower last week. Have those frames been made? ☘

**Eric Beaumont**

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