

# THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



**Tea Break at the Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture on 2nd April at Marks Hall**

Full report in next month's issue

**Monthly Magazine of the Essex Beekeepers' Association**

**Issue No. 629**

**May 2017**

*Furthering the Craft of Beekeeping in Essex  
Registered Charity number 1031419*

## Divisional Meetings Diary dates for May and June 2017

<b>4 May</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 8.00pm	<b>Romford</b>	<b>'Using varroa treatments'</b> - Paul Wiltshire, and <b>'Trial recipes for the Honey Show'</b> - Angela Mandor. Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL
<b>4 May</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 7.30pm	<b>Harlow</b>	tbc
<b>7 May</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Saffron Walden</b>	Trip to <b>The Hive</b> at Kew Gardens.
<b>15 May</b>	<b>Monday</b> 7.30pm	<b>Chelmsford</b>	<b>'Integrated pest Management'</b> The Link, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
<b>20 May</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Epping Forest</b>	<b>BBQ</b>
<b>24 May</b>	<b>Wed</b> 7.30pm	<b>Southend</b>	<b>'The Essex Top Bar Hive'</b> - Peter Aldridge. WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED
<b>25 May</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 7.30pm	<b>Colchester</b>	<b>Hints &amp; Tips for Tendring Show</b> — Langham Community Centre, Church Road, Langham CO
<b>28 May</b>	<b>Sunday</b> 3.00pm	<b>Braintree</b>	<b>Apiary meeting</b> - High Easter CM1 4QZ
<b>1 June</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 7.30	<b>Harlow</b>	tba
<b>4 June</b>	<b>Sunday</b> 2.30pm	<b>Saffron Walden</b>	<b>Garden Party</b> - Lower House Farm, Water lane, Radwinter CB10 2TX
<b>17 June</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Epping Forest</b>	<b>Barrier management and the need for cleanliness in the apiary</b> - Caroline Washington (SBI Ret'd)
<b>19 June</b>	<b>Monday</b> 7.00pm	<b>Chelmsford</b>	<b>Apiary meeting</b> at Hylands Park with Clive deBruyn
<b>22 June</b>		<b>Colchester</b>	<b>'The Flo-hive - experience after 2 years'</b> . Rita Wilson Langham Community Centre, Church CO
<b>25 June</b>	<b>Sunday</b> 3.00pm	<b>Braintree</b>	<b>Apiary meeting and Guided tour of Layer Marney Tower</b> CO5 9US
<b>27 June</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> 7.30pm	<b>Saffron Walden</b>	<b>'Drone Congregation Areas'</b> - Clive deBruyn. Thaxted Day Centre, Vicarage Lane CM6 2RL

Please notify Jean by the 4th of each month of your meetings,

Jean Smye - jsmye@sky.com

# Essex Beekeepers Association

## Bee Health & Disease Recognition Day

at Copped Hall, Epping, Essex. CM16 5HS

On **Thursday 15th June 2016**

9.30am to 5pm

The lectures will take place in the South Room on the ground floor, an adjoining smaller room will be available for use to demonstrate diseased combs, etc.

***Suitable for Beekeepers of all levels of experience***

Come and meet your Eastern Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan and the Seasonal Bee Inspectors



This relaxed and friendly day will include a mixture of presentations, Useful Tips & Hints with Discussions, Apiary Hygiene, Varroa, Comb Recognition .....

Plus a practical session in the apiary observing how Inspectors check for disease



### **IMPORTANT - bring**

- ◆ A packed lunch
- ◆ CLEAN Protective Beekeeping Clothing

### **Pre Booking of Places is Essential**

as limited number available.

Car Parking is plentiful and free. Maps and directions are on the Copped Hall website. The venue is within easy access of the M25 and North Circular. Tea, coffee, juice will be available during the day; cake will appear in the afternoon

Contact: Ian Nichols      [ian@iannichols.demon.co.uk](mailto:ian@iannichols.demon.co.uk)

## BEE HEALTH DAY - 15 June 2017

Spaces are filling up fast again for the 2017 Bee Health Day on Thursday 15 June at Copped Hall, Epping CM16 5HS.

We have had many applicants who have only had bees for a season or less and a few with years of experience.

### Why should I bother to go?

You might say “my bees never get sick”. However, your bees are only as good as your neighbours’. If you have a notifiable disease or exotic pest, a stand-still order will be placed on your apiary. You will not be allowed to move any equipment or bees or remove honey. You could lose your total stocks of bees and honey crop too. By not taking action it puts all colonies at high risk in the area. We all remember ‘foot and mouth’ in 2001. This could be the situation if Small Hive Beetle (SHB) or *Tropilaelaps* arrive.

The day will provide you with answers to problems.

If your bees have Deformed Wing Virus, what would you do?

Massive drop on a varroa board how to treat, when and what with.  
Chronic bee paralysis - how do you know that it's not pesticide damage?

Is my honey safe for human consumption?

By practicing good husbandry constantly thinking, ‘are my bees healthy?’, using techniques on how to inspect a hive and using only VMD treatments in the correct way, you will prevail. You might say it's all on YouTube, no it isn't. Beekeeping is hands on and only by doing and listening can it be truly learnt. Meanwhile why not go and do a bit of e-learning on the BeeBase website as a warm up for Bee Health Day.

Another important thing that should not be forgotten is you get to meet the SBI's, the RBI's and fellow Essex Beekeepers. There are over 850 EBKA members in Essex. There will be very knowledgeable ones who love the occasion and they can give you great advice too. Then next time you meet up, say at the Essex Conference on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, there will be a friendly face and the bee world does not feel too daunting .... You might even want to volunteer at local or county level and share your knowledge and skills with others!

The UK is split up into regions. 90% of Essex is in the Eastern Region and run by Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) Keith Morgan, the remaining part of Essex is in the South East Region run by RBI Sandra Gray. They both control several seasonal bee inspectors (SBI). They all are protected under

UK law and have the right to look at any colony where there could be the possibility of disease or exotic pests. There are about 60 inspectors at Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) who cover the whole of the U.K. There are scientists and lab technicians, administration and management at Sand Hutton, York. The funding comes from Central Government and is nothing to do with the BBKA.

## **So, what is on offer and how is it done?**

On the EBKA run Bee Health Day beekeepers are split into manageable groups and taught by a member of the APHA team. Each group rotates throughout the day to a new task of learning.

Group 1: Beekeepers will be taught what Diseased Comb looks like and how to recognize it using photographs and the real thing. This part is called 'FoulBrood Training - Recognition and Control; American Foulbrood (AFB) and European Foulbrood(EFB)'.

Group 2: Will cover the recognition of other brood disorders and conditions, managing *Varroa*, Using the Veterinary Medicines Directorate for Honey bees (VMD). Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and recognition of the exotic pests *Aethina tumida*, Small hive beetle and *Tropilaelaps* mites; Non-native species Asian Hornet.

Group 3: Will observe a Bee Inspector at work. They demonstrate how to inspect a hive for disease and exotic pests.

Summary: There is round up at the end of the day by the RBI's

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# Essex Beekeepers' Association

## 2017 Annual Conference

Hosted by Colchester Division

**Saturday, 21<sup>ST</sup> October 2017, 9.30am – 4.30pm**

Venue: Holiday Inn, Abbots Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester,  
CO6 3QL (just off the A12)

### ***'Future Challenges and Opportunities'***

Our theme reflects the challenging times for bees and beekeepers, and our speakers will discuss various aspects of these challenges. The final line-up of speakers will be confirmed shortly, but will include:

#### **Dr Martin Bencsik:**

Martin works in the School of Science and Technology at Nottingham Trent University, and conducts research into automated beehive condition monitoring.

#### **Mr Norman Carreck:**

Norman, who is well known to many beekeepers, is Science Director at IBRA.

**Ticket price £25, includes lunch.**



*Cheques payable to :  
Essex Beekeepers' Association  
Colchester Division*

*Send with your contact details to  
The Treasurer, Crabtrees, Paynes  
Lane, Little Bromley, Manningtree,  
Essex, CO11 2PJ*

There will also be trade stands and  
an excellent raffle.

# Essex Beekeepers' Association

## Minutes of the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in room E06, Writtle College, Essex CM1 3RP

*These minutes will be considered correct if no objection is raised in writing or by email before Wednesday 31st May 2017. Any point challenged will be brought before the next meeting for correction of the record.*

**Presiding Officer:** Jim McNeill, Chairman, Romford Division

**Also present:** 45 people signed the Attendance Book.

*At the start of the meeting the Presiding Officer asked the members to stand for a minute in silence to remember those known to the membership who, since the last AGM, were no longer with us.*

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Mark Chambers, Margaret Clay, Dawn Doyland, Michael Elliott, Robin Harman, Deryk Johnson, Danny Nicoll, Pat Rowland and Brian Spencer.

**2. The Minutes of the 136th AGM** had been published in the May 2016 edition of *The Essex Beekeeper* for review by the members. No challenges to the accuracy had been received so the minutes were signed by the Presiding Officer as a true record.

**3. The Report from the Central Executive Committee (CEC) Chairman** was in the March 2017 issue of *The Essex Beekeeper* (see magazine for details).

#### **4. General Treasurer's Report and Approval of the 2016 Accounts**

Copies of the accounts were distributed to the members present and the **General Treasurer** noted the main points. The Treasurer said that it had been a difficult year with many transactions quoting the Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture, sale of books and the bulk purchase of gazebos for the Divisions. He added that some Divisions had failed to make Gift Aid returns and he expected another £1,000 payment in respect of this year. He reiterated that Divisions cannot make a claim for Gift Aid as it is the EBKA that is the registered charity. The EBKA Consolidated Accounts showed a deficit of £802.09 on the previous year. Pádraig Floyd proposed that the accounts be approved, seconded by Paul Abbott and carried unanimously by the members present. A vote of thanks was given to the Treasurer for the work he had undertaken throughout the year.

## 5. **Written reports from other members of the Central Executive Committee**

The report by the **General Secretary**, was tabled. Michael Webb drew the attention of the meeting to the proposal to set up a Governance working party to review the Association's procedures with the aim to provide a report for consideration at next year's AGM.

The **Education Secretary's** report was tabled. Jane Ridler mentioned that it was planned to repeat the Basic Assessment training day on 14 May and she had 7 applications so far.

The **Examinations Secretary's** report was tabled without comment.

Although the **BBKA Delegate** did not submit a written report, Pádraig Floyd reported at the meeting that the 2017 BBKA ADM held in January was more constructive than in previous years. The two propositions submitted by the EBKA were considered at the meeting. The proposition to reject the move to a "one member one vote" rather than voting by Associations and Branches was passed by a large majority. The proposition for the BBKA to conduct a review into its administrative practices and structure was lost but the BBKA agreed to accept a similar proposition submitted previously by Surrey BKA.

## 6. **Elections of County Officers (Trustees)**

Ian Nichols (Epping Forest Division) was willing to stand for another year as **Chairman of the CEC**. As there were no other nominations, Jim McNeill proposed the appointment, seconded by Nick Holmes and was re-elected by the members present.

As Bob Manning's term of office finishes at the end of the AGM, the Chairman said that he was pleased to announce that Tom Keeper from Romford Division had volunteered to put his name forward for the post of **General Treasurer**. As there were no other nominations Bob Manning proposed the appointment, seconded by Michael Webb. Tom's appointment was greeted with a round of applause from the members present.

Michael Webb was willing to stand for another year as **General Secretary**. As there were no other nominations, Jim McNeill proposed the appointment, seconded by Tom Geddes and was re-elected by the members present.

## 7. **Notifications of the 2017 Divisional Voting Members (Trustees)**

Braintree:	Stuart Mitson	Chelmsford:	Peter Aldridge
Colchester:	Tom Geddes	DH & Maldon:	Mark Hallows
Epping Forest:	Mark Chambers	Harlow:	Martin Cavalier
Romford:	Paul Wiltshire	Southend:	Chad Colby-Blake
Saffron Walden:	Vanessa Wilkinson		



The 2018 Presiding Officer will be Pat Rowland, Chair of Braintree Division.

## 8. Elections of County Non-Trustee posts

<b>President:</b>	Pat Allen was willing to stand for another year. As there were no other nominations. Richard Ridler proposed the appointment, seconded by Jane Ridler and Pat was re-elected by the members present.
<b>BBKA Delegate:</b>	Pádraig Floyd was willing to stand for another year. As there were no other nominations, Nick Homes proposed the appointment, seconded by Chad Colby-Blake and Pádraig was re-elected by the members present.
<b>Editor:</b>	Jean Smye was willing to stand for her final year. As there were no other nominations. Paul Abbott proposed the appointment, seconded by Jim McNeill and Jean was re-elected by the members present.
<b>Education Secretary:</b>	Jane Ridler had indicated that she was willing to stand for another year. As there were no other nominations, Pat Holden proposed the appointment, seconded by Barbara Sharp and Jane was re-elected by the members present.
<b>Examinations Secretary:</b>	Pat Allen was willing to stand for another year. As there were no other nominations, Jane Rilder proposed the appointment, seconded by Ian Nichols and Pat was re-elected by the members present.
<b>NHS Delegate:</b>	Jim McNeill was willing to stand for another year. In response to a question from Pat Allen, Jim asked if there was any member present interested to join him as the EBKA were allowed four NHS Delegates. The appointment was proposed by Jean Smye, seconded by Pat Allen and carried by the members present. The Secretary noted that he would advise The National Honey Show of the appointment.
<b>Show Committee Secretary:</b>	Pauline Tidmas had expressed her willingness to take on this as Jim McNeill is now retiring from the role. Jim McNeill proposed the appointment, seconded by Pat Allen . Carried unanimously.

	It was also noted that Michael Webb was the new chairman of the Show Committee.
<b>Spray &amp; Disease Delegate:</b>	Jim McNeill was willing to stand for another year although technically his term of office ended this year. Jim noted that there was very little to do especially as members were now registering with Bee Connected. Using this service allowed members to be advised when farmers were spraying in their area. Jim also advised the meeting that Epping Forest were organising the 2017 Bee Health Day being held at Copped Hall, near Epping on 15 June.

## **9. Notifications of CEC Appointees and Co-opted Members**

Minutes Secretary:	David Smye
Membership Secretary:	Pat Allen
Book of Commemoration Secretary:	Penny Learmonth
Advertising Secretary:	Jean Smye
Distribution Secretary:	Michael Elliott
Webmaster:	Nick Holmes

## **10 Notification of Honorary County Life Member**

The Chairman reported that the CEC had agreed that Vi Taylor from Braintree Division should be made an honorary County Life Member. He added that Vi had been a loyal supporter of the Association and had for many years been an active member of the Show Committee and his comments were greeted with a round of applause from the members present.

## **11 Confirmation of Accounts Examiner (External Auditor)**

The Treasurer, Bob Manning reported that Emma Baker had examined the Accounts very thoroughly but had decided not to continue in this role. He added that her remuneration for her services this year had been set at £300. It was agreed that the CEC at their next meeting should consider appointing a replacement auditor and set the remuneration for this role.

## **12 Conference 2016 Report**

The Conference was held at Barking and Dagenham College on 5 November last year. Pat Allen said that it had been a sell out event with three excellent speakers who spoke on the theme of raising the standards of beekeeping

husbandry. There were 6 trade stands and the raffle raised some £500. The lunch and refreshments were enjoyed by all. A review of the conference with photographs of the event was in the January 2017 edition of *The Essex Beekeeper*. Ian Grant enquired if Romford Division had not needed to use the grant of £500 from the CEC, could a donation of those funds be made to the charity, Bees Abroad. Bob Manning replied that the invoice from the college for using their facilities on the day had not yet been received and the final figure was yet to be established. He added that such a donation cannot be made from the funds of one charity to another.

### **13 Conference 2017 Preview**

The Conference will be hosted by Colchester Division and a preview of this event was given by their President, Ian Milligan. He said that the conference was to be held on Saturday, 21st of October at The Holiday Inn at Eight Ash Green, Colchester. The theme of the conference was “**Future Challenges and Opportunities for Beekeeping**” with speakers looking to the future using modern technology and how this could change beekeeping. The speakers, who have been provisionally booked, are Martin Bencsik from Nottingham Trent University and Norman Carreck.

The cost of admission will be £25 per member. There will be a raffle, trade stands and presentation of Essex Show cups and BBKA examination certificates.

### **14 Installation of the 2017 Presiding Officer**

Ian Milligan, President of Colchester Division was installed as the Presiding Officer for 2017. Ian read from the Book of Commemoration.

### **15 Presentations**

BBKA certificates were awarded by the President, Pat Allen.

Recipients were:- **Janet French**(Braintree) Module 5 with credit

**Robin Harman** (Epping Forest) Module 6 also Intermediate Theory Certificate

**Ian Nichols** (Epping Forest) Module 3 with credit and Module 6 also Intermediate Theory Certificate.

**Stuart Levey** (Saffron Walden) Modules 1 and 6 with credit,

**Vanessa Wilkinson** (Saffron Walden) Module 6, and

**Paul Abbott** (Southend) Module 6 also Intermediate Theory Certificate.

Recipients of the **BBKA 50 year Beekeeping Certificates** were:- Maurice Bacon, Mick Lovell and Stuart Mitson all from Braintree Division.

**Addendum:** *As the certificates had not been received by the date of the AGM, a **BBKA 70 year Beekeeping Certificate** was subsequently presented to Derek Clark from Braintree Division*

## **A Note from the President**

Pat Allen mentioned that the President's chain of office did not contain the names of the three past Presidents. It was agreed that this omission should be rectified and new name badges prepared and set in the chain.

As the formal business of the AGM had concluded Jim McNeill was thanked by the members for chairing the meeting.

The meeting broke at 15.05pm for refreshments, kindly laid on by members of the Colchester Division

Following the break there was a talk by Wally Thrale of the East Anglian Bee Forum on the work of the Forum and, in particular, the East Anglian Research Student (EARS). Wally stated that it was important for beekeepers to initiate research and he gave a review of the EARS2 project on deformed wing virus; the progress report from Emma Bradford of Aberdeen University having been included in the agenda papers for the AGM. Wally mentioned that the next meeting of the **East Anglian Bee Forum** was on 13 September at Haddenham Hall and he hoped that members of the EBKA would attend. Jim McNeill thanked Wally for a very interesting and informative talk and the members expressed their thanks in the usual way.

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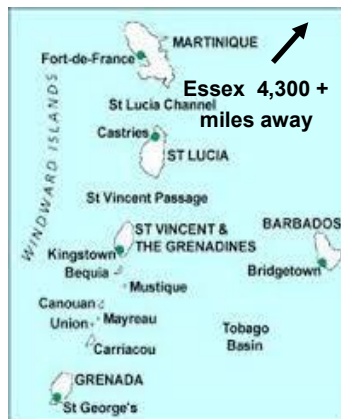
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**Stock, Essex CM4 9RL**

# West Indian Wintering

Ian Milligan - Colchester Division

I have been lucky enough to holiday over quite a few years on a small Grenadine island in the West Indies. Originally, the island had lost all its bees to the dreaded varroa mite. It meant a severe loss of pollinators to various fruits and vegetables. True, there are still Humming Birds and Bananaquits (a small Blue Tit like bird that feeds on pollen and nectar) but very few pollinators.



Everywhere you look there are Geckos which accounts for many insect losses. Eventually, an American brought bees in, I believe from St. Lucia, but they had a terrible temper. I was helping one friend, both of us in full beekeeping kit, when I realised he was not there any more. The bees had found his Croc shoes, which have small square holes for ventilation. His feet swelled up so much he was barefoot for three days. After this experience I recommended they requeen all the hives with Hawaiian Queens, after seeing pictures of bee beards in the American Bee Journal.

This year, the local West Indian beekeeper came past our rented house, and invited me to help inspect three hives further down the slope. Everywhere is either 'up' or 'down' as the islands were formed volcanically. I was a bit concerned, having no kit and having just applied a liberal dose of DEET to keep any mosquitoes at bay. "No problem" he said "they are very quiet". I've heard that one before, I thought! Anyway, I set off just in sandals, shorts and a short sleeved shirt. Curtis started by lighting a usefully sized smoker - looking good. Then he took off his shirt and we tackled the Langstroth hives. The first hive needed the super and brood body reversing, as the bees were all in the super. The second colony just needed a brood inspection to check for queen cells.

I collected one sting, but my attention was diverted as I realised something was crawling up my leg - a large Gecko! The third hive was really strong - honey in the supers which we removed for extraction. Into the brood chamber and found the queen busy laying eggs, no queen cells. The bees were very dark and could have been glued onto the combs they were so quiet - beautiful bees and a joy to handle. What a contrast to the UK, when we are mostly dressed up like Knights of Old at Agincourt. Maybe the difference is no wasps or woodpeckers annoying the hives, also no rogue drones. Anyway, you heard it here first ..... TOPLESS BEEKEEPING!

Most of their beautiful honey comes from Coconut, Almonds and Cashew Nut trees, also a type of Bindweed, which we think is called Coralito with a pink flower that the bees work all day long. I also saw a Flo-hive on a colony but not actually drawing the honey off.

### **LOW COST HONEY JARS for EBKA Members**



**Last orders for this year by- 27th May  
for collection on Friday 16th or  
Saturday 17th June.**

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For additional order forms contact

Jean at: **07731 856 361 / [jsmye@sky.com](mailto:jsmye@sky.com)**

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## Who's who and how to contact them

**President of EBKA**

**Pat Allen** Hon CLM

### Trustees:

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**Web site:** Nick Holmes email: [webmaster@essexbeekeepers.com](mailto:webmaster@essexbeekeepers.com)

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All other Divisions:  
Keith Morgan [keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk) tel. 01485 520 838 or 07919 004 215



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