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THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



The Show bench - The EBKA Honey Show 2015

Photograph: Jean Smye

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November 2015

EBKA Divisional Meetings

Diary dates for November / December 2015

5 Nov	Thursday 8.00pm	Harlow	'What has the BBKA ever done for me?' - Doug Brown at Kings Church, Red Willow, Harlow CM19 5PA
6 Nov	Friday 8.00pm	Romford	'Mock Honey Show'. Chadwick Hall, St. Michaels Church, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 5EL
16 Nov	Monday 7.30pm	Chelmsford	'Bumblebee Conservation Trust' at The Link, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
19 Nov	Thursday 7.30pm	Epping Forest	'Thermodynamics of Bees and the Hives'— Derek Mitchell at Chingford Horticultural Hall.
20 Nov	Tuesday 7.30pm	Saffron Walden	'More than Honey' Film at Swards End Village Hall CB10 2LG
27 Nov	Friday 8.00pm	Braintree	'Making Soap' with Dr Sara Robb. Constitutional Club, Braintree CM7 1TY
3 Dec	Thursday 8.00pm	Harlow	Christmas Party - Kings Church, Red Willow, Harlow CM19 5PA
4 Dec	Friday 8.00pm	Romford	Christmas Social - Chadwick Hall, St. Michaels Church, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 5EL
11 Dec	Friday 8.00pm	Braintree	Christmas social Evening - bring nibbles. Constitutional Club, Braintree CM7 1TY
17 Dec	Thursday 7.30pm	Epping Forest	Christmas Social - Chingford Horticultural Hall

Note to Secretaries: **Please inform the Editor of the details of your Divisional Monthly Meeting so that it can be included in these listings**
Deadline: 4th of the preceding month

Who's who and how to contact them

President of EBKA **Pat Allen** Hon CLM

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Interaction between Deformed Wing Virus and Varroa:

Katherine Roberts presented an interim report on behalf of Dr Alan Bowman and Emma Bradford. She explained that there was no varroa cell lines available, the use of Tick cell lines was a good substitute. Thus, cell lines would be infected and DWV studies could be done. (Emma Bradford's PowerPoint presentation is available) At this point Wally Thrall asked delegates to please co-ordinate meetings around the same time as Emma couldn't conveniently visit individual local BKAs from her base in Aberdeen.

The EARS funding projects had been well received and the idea was that EARS 3 should be discussed and planned.

Keith Morgan, Regional Bee Inspector, Eastern Region, reported:

County	AFB cases		EFB cases		Eastern Region	2014	2015
	2014	2015	2014	2015			
Norfolk	57	4	61	30	Colonies	27,986	29,944
Suffolk	0	0	14	2	Beekeepers	5,662	6,058
Essex	6	0	8	0	New beekeepers	545	306
Herts	0	0	11	1	Self-Registrations	218	224
Beds	0	0	0	0	Apiary Inspections	1,264	964
Lincs	0	1	32	15	Colonies Inspected	7,925	6,057
Cambs	0	0	1	1	Exotic Pest Inspections	85	368
Leics	0	1	0	1			
Rutland	0	0	0	0			
Totals	65	6	127	54			

EFB 'National League Tables'	
Shropshire	76 cases
Norfolk	30
Dorset	26
East Sussex	26

Chronic bee paralysis virus.

There has been an increase in diagnosis in the region and in the country. Often beekeepers report deaths. Equally often, it is reported as poisoning.

Api-Bioxal (oxalic acid) is now an approved bee medicine.

Sylvia Pettitt (SBI in Suffolk) is retiring. All thanked her for her work and wished her well.

2015 EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

Class 1	Section of Comb Honey	Class 7	2 jars Medium Clear Honey
1st	J & R Ridler	1st	J.D.Finn
Class 2	1 jar Clear Honey Gift	2nd	J.Pratt
1st	P.F.Abbott	3rd	J.McNeill
2nd	M.Harris	V.H.C.	M.J.Barke
3rd	J.Chipperfield	H.C.	M.Harris
V.H.C.	W.Gee	C.	J.Dutney
H.C.	J.Pratt	Class 8	2 jars Dark Clear Honey
C.	P.Allen	1st	P.F.Abbott
Class 3	Set Honey Gift Class	2nd	R.Hardwicke
1st	M.Harris	3rd	N.Reeve
2nd	J.McNeill	V.H.C.	I.Nichols
3rd	P.F.Abbott	H.C.	W.Gee
V.H.C.	C.Pardoe	Class 9	2 jars Natural Set Honey
Class 4	Pair Honey Sections	1st	P.F.Abbott
1st	J & R Ridler	2nd	I.Nichols
Class 5	Frame Extractable Honey	3rd	C.Pardoe
1st	J.McNeill	Class 10	2 jars Soft Set
2nd	P.F.Abbott	1st	J.French
3rd	C.Pardoe	2nd	P.F.Abbott
Class 6	2 jars Light Clear Honey	3rd	M.J.Barke
1st	I.Nichols	V.H.C.	J.McNeill
2nd	S.B.Fairchild	H.C.	B.Greenland
3rd	J.Dutney	C.	M.Clay
V.H.C.	R.Harman	Class 11A	Container Cut comb Not Set
H.C.	J.French	1st	J.French
C.	T.Watson		

Class 11B	Container Cut comb Set	Class 17	2 jars Medium Honey - less than 5 years
1st	J.French	1st	J.Pratt
Class 12	2 jars Chunk Honey	2nd	D.A.McCorkindale
1st	J.French	3rd	J. Dutney
Class 13	Cake of Beeswax 425-482g	V.H.C.	S. Haley
1st	J.D.Finn	H.C.	P.Hughes
2nd	P.F.Abbott	C	S.C.Edwards
3rd	M.Harris	Class 18	2 jars Dark Honey Less
V.H.C.	M.Clay	1st	S.Haley
H.C.	M.J.Barke	V.H.C.	Maldon Division
C.	J.Chipperfield	Class 19	Novice Clear Honey
Class 14	Bottle of Sweet Mead	1st	D.A.McCorkindale
1st	J.McNeill	2nd	M.Speakman-Bell
2nd	P.F.Abbott	3rd	S.C.Edwards
3rd	C.Pardoe	V.H.C.	J.Pratt
V.H.C.	T.Runacres	H.C.	W.Gee
H.C.	M.J.Barke	C.	P.Wisbey
C.	S.Runacres	Class 20	Novice 2 jars Set Honey
Class 15	Bottle of Dry Mead	1st	W.Gee
1st	C.Pardoe	2nd	J.Pratt
2nd	M.J.Barke	V.H.C.	D.Adam
3rd	P.F.Abbott	Class 21	Novice Cake of Beeswax
V.H.C.	J.D.Finn	1st	J.D.Finn
Class 16	2 jars light Honey - less than 5 years	2nd	J.B.Rushbrook
1st	D.A.McCorkindale	Class22	Honey Fruit Cake
2nd	J.B.Rushbrook	1st	E.Bunting
3rd	J.Dutney	2nd	S.Haley
V.H.C.	P.Wisbey	3rd	J.French
		V.H.C.	M.J.Barke

SmartBees

This is a 5 year EU scheme for the “**Sustainable Management of Resilient BEE** populations” that aims to understand natural resistance mechanisms - particularly to Varroa and DWV by:

1. Discovery of resistant traits and genes.
2. Advance knowledge transfer to beekeepers.
3. Field test traits to test local bee breeding.
4. Dissemination through publications & organisations.
5. Enhance resistance through dietary regime.

Among many other things, it means to establish a standard method for counting bees. See: <http://www.smartbees-fp7.eu/Extension/index.html>. Take the survey (mostly about bee breeding and where you get your information): <https://www.netigate.se/a/s.aspx?s=216996X32424011X22443>

Varroa culture. A Veterinary Medicines Directorate project. Varroa is highly reliant on its host and the VMD is funding the investigation of the volatiles the bee larvae emit that the varroa target.

MLST. Multi locus sequence typing of foulbroods - an aid to understanding disease spread. EFB and AFB strain types will be uploaded onto BeeBase to help inspectors understand and link disease spread.

Stress testing and optimisation of early interception networks for invasive pests of pollinators - based on our work on AFB in Jersey.

Asian Hornet in Andernos-les-Bains. The mean number of nests surviving - 3.6 in 2011, 2.6 in 2014. It has taken the hornet 13 years to achieve population stability.

Arsenophonus. Friend or foe?

After meeting note: according to Wikipedia:

“Arsenophonus is a genus of Enterobacteriaceae, of the Gammaproteobacteria. Arsenophonus are an increasingly discovered symbiont of insects from a diversity of insect taxa. Arsenophonus species are usually male-killers or mutualistic endosymbionts. *Arsenophonus nasoniae* infects the *Nasonia* parasitic wasps.”

Varroa. There is no sign of varroa slowing down.

In France, it is the responsibility of the commune to deal with nests but this can be expensive. In October 2014, NBU pest control and Wildlife teams visited Andernos-les-Bains, a small town near in Bordeaux. The hornet has had a devastating effect; beekeepers are reporting honey harvests going down from 50kg to 10kg. To fight it, they employ a 'cherry-picker' and half a man's time. Nests cannot be tackled in daylight but at dawn, adding difficulty. When first encountered, there were 4 nests in the area; last year there were 100. Because sulphur dioxide is used in the wine trade, it is available, but it could not be used in the UK. There, it is injected into a nest using a lance, a far from easy task in semi gloom; it adds to the difficulty that 20% of nests are above 20 metres, one was 28 m high.

Beekeepers fit porches to hive entrances with vertical wires at 37mm intervals to deter the hornets. The rate of predation is such that, where there are hornets, beekeeping may become impossible. The local population notice the hornets which are everywhere a nuisance. This hornet is now all along the north French coast; it can only be a matter of time before it reaches us.

Ben Jones – Effect of dietary pollen on health & behaviour of Honey Bees

Ben Jones, who manages the NBU's laboratory, is undertaking this investigation as a part-time PhD study; it is shortly to be completed. EARS has been contributing to his support.

Ben explained how non-pathogenic immune stimulation affects the feeding behaviour of honey bees. The bees were put on a forced diet, the intake target being Essential Amino Acids over an eight day period. The immune function and longevity of the honey bee were monitored. The bees on the sugar diet were able to keep the immune response going. The Essential Amino Acid diet increased longevity. The bees were tagged and put out into the field with the aim of tracking information such as length of the flights and age at first forage. Unfortunately the wire was destroyed by wildlife. Ben believes that initial results demonstrate that targeting the feed for healthy bees ensures the colony survival.

Dr Katherine Roberts, FERA

Katherine is the successor to Giles Budge. She explained that FERA is a now a noun, no longer an acronym, and the name of the agency is owned 75% by Capita and 25% by DEFRA. She went on to outline some of the projects now underway. These are:

Class 23	6 Honey Nut Cookies	Class 35	Pair Moulded Candles
1st	J.Pratt	1st	J.Dutney
2nd	M.Clay	2nd	M.Harris
3rd	P.Hughes	3rd	J.French
Class 24	Honey Sandwich	V.H.C.	J.D.Finn
1st	H.Hardwicke	H.C.	W.Gee
2nd	P.Hughes	C.	M.Clay
3rd	M.Clay	Class 35	Pair Candles Not Moulded
Class 25	Apricot & Honey Scones	1st	J.McNeill
1st	P.Rowland	2nd	P.F.Abbott
2nd	M.J.Barke	3rd	J.Chipperfield
3rd	J.Pratt	H.C.	S.Runacres
Class 26	Junior Honey Fruit Cake	C.	P.Runacres
1st	D.Holmes	Class 37	Practical Invention
Class 28	Junior Honey Sandwich	1st	D.A.McCorkindale
1st	B. Holmes	Class 38	12 jars Clear Honey for Sale
Class 29	6 Pieces Honey Fudge	1st	T.Watson
1st	J.McNeill	2nd	P.F.Abbott
2nd	M.Clay	3rd	J.McNeill
3rd	E.Bunting	V.H.C.	M.J.Barke
Class 30	6 Pieces Honey Toffee	H.C.	M.Clay
1st	J.McNeill	C.	M.Harris
3rd	S.Andrews	Class 39	12 jars Set Honey for Sale
Class 31	Honey & Malt Wholemeal Loaf	1st	M.J.Barke
1st	M.Clay	2nd	P.F.Abbott
2nd	E.Bunting	3rd	J.McNeill
3rd	L.M.Yeats	V.H.C.	M.Harris
Class 32	Junior poster about beekeeping	Class 40	Junior Photograph
1st	H.Walsh	1st	S.Collins
2nd	A.Collins	2nd	A.Collins
3rd	S.Collins		

Class 41	Photograph	Class 45	One Bottle of Dry Metheglin
1st	W.Gee	1st	M.J.Barke
2nd	Z.Bridges	Class 46	Honey Label
3rd	I.Nichols	1st	T.Watson
V.H.C.	S.Haley	2nd	P.F.Abbott
H.C.	P.F.Abbott	3rd	M.Clay
C.	M.Clay	V.H.C.	J.McNeill
Class 42	One Bottle of Sweet Melomel	H.C.	M.J.Barke
1st	M.J.Barke	C.	D.A.McCorkindale
2nd	P.Davidson	Class 50	Vase of Flowers
3rd	J.McNeill	1st	H.Hardwicke
Class 43	One Bottle of Dry Melomel	2nd	C.R.Mayes
1st	M.J.Barke	3rd	S.J.Andrews
Class 44	One Bottle of Sweet Metheglin	V.H.C.	Z. Bridges
1st	M.J.Barke	H.C.	S.B.Fairchild
2nd	S.Runacres	Class 51	Divisional Garden
3rd	T.Runacres	1st	S.J.Andrews - Romford
		2nd	Maldon Division

ESSEX COUNTY HONEY SHOW 2015 at BARLEYLANDS

Although this beekeeping season has not been good - some members have done very well and others not so well. We had 304 entries from 56 members which is the most we have had for a few years, so well done to all the new members for having a go - it's all good fun. There were 14 novices in the Class for clear honey. It's good to see new faces entering, hopefully they will continue to enter shows. It all helps to improve their honey sales. Having stewards at the end to remove and sign out the honey from the show bench made for a smoother finish. I don't think any jars went to the wrong members so this will be done in the future instead of the mad scramble it has been. The judges commented on the high standard of exhibits - so well done to all who entered. If you did not get a prize card this year don't give up, it was very hard for the judges because of the high standard. Next year could be the one for you.

Jim McNeill - Show Secretary

one of the coldest on record. 3,500 colonies were destroyed by burning, the soil was treated with two different pesticides and rotovated. The Italian government paid compensation. So far, he said, no beetles have been found in 2015.

After meeting note: Hive Beetle adults and larvae were found in Italy on 16th September within the 20km protection zone.

There is a very short 'window' in which eradication may be possible - perhaps 2-3 months. The Italians had geography and the weather on their side; if SHB had been found in London, where there are 5,000 apiaries within a 20 km radius, it would have been impossible to do the same. No decision has yet been made whether to go for eradication or acceptance. In the UK, compensation is unlikely.

An IBRA report details what is known about the beetle. It can fly 10 km; larvae survive 100 days without food; it needs 24 hours at -12°C to kill it. Adults lay some 2,000 eggs apiece and, using long ovipositors, tuck them into cracks and crannies where the bees cannot reach them. Larvae emerge 3 weeks later. The beetles are 1/3 the size of a bee, are found everywhere in hives and don't like light so scuttle away when colonies are opened; in other words, if they are present, they are not easy to see.

We have been fortunate that Dan Etheridge, a SBI, has lived in the States and has experience of the SHB which he has passed onto the NBU. In Georgia successful control has been found possible using traps between frames and on floors that beetles can enter but bees cannot. It has been found essential to keep colonies away from trees, perhaps because the beetles can also exist happily on fruit, their original food. A five frame nuc is the minimum size that has enough bees to defend itself; Apideas can't be used. Extraction must be carried out as soon as the supers are removed. Supers can be safely stored in refrigeration but then must be re-warmed before spinning. Clemson University, South Carolina, publishes good guidance. In Australia, 'Chux superwipes' have been found to make effective beetle traps.

Asian Hornet

It is now in France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Italy and Germany; also in South Korea. Queens emerge in the spring and raise a few workers. When a good food source is found, the colony relocates to within 1-2 km of that and then grows large. Honey bees form some 50% of their diet. Hornets 'stack' outside hive entrances at different levels. They do not enter colonies but 'hawk' outside them, catching returning foragers on the wing. This inhibits foraging! Commonly, there may be 10-12 nests per km².

The NBU is now a part of government's broadening focus on other bee pests and diseases, not just foulbrood. Much work has been done on contingency planning based on comprehensive pest risk analyses. The bigger the potential damage, the more resources are available. In the EU, a centre of excellence has been established at ANSES, the French national Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety. Bee farmers in the DASH scheme are now able to conduct their own inspections. New animal health legislation will include honey and bumble bees.

In many EU countries, it is the law that beekeepers must register. In England (and Wales), we want beekeepers to sign up on BeeBase; encouragingly, the number registered is recently well up. The work of the NBU is science led. We have established sentinel apiaries close to likely invasion points; their selection has been stress tested. The spread of disease has been modelled so allowing us to predict how an infection will spread.

Making ready for possible invasions means knowing the parameters for survival, investigating how we will deal with them, should they ever come. Biological and chemical control might make use of nematodes, entomopathogenic fungi, alternative pesticides and novel approaches. The NBU's publications cover what could and should be done. These include: Cuthbertson et al (2013): the Small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*: a review of its biology and control measures. [Current Zoology, 59: 644-653.]

Bee Base

Beekeepers registered were: 14,461 in 2007, 35,386 in 2014 with more than 165,000 apiaries. In 2014, one third of all inspections (some 6,800) were for exotic pests, rather than inspecting all within a 3 or 5 km radius. They were made by 60 part time and 9 full time inspectors. We made some 8,000 fewer inspections; this was due partly to the disruption of our transfer to APHA, so it took longer to fill vacancies for SBIs, and partly because exotic threat inspections must be thorough so took longer.

Small Hive Beetle

As you know, this was discovered in Reggio Calabria, Italy, in September 2014. This is an area where there are orchards and much trade; fortunately, it was found in a university apiary where standards are good. It was not seen in August inspections but a month later, it was evident. In other words, it was found early so the Italian authorities decided upon eradication. It was found in 61 apiaries in Calabria and one in Sicily that had returned from Calabria. The area favoured this decision with the sea on one side and a ring of mountains on the other. Again fortunately, the winter of 2014/5 was

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From the BBC Website & Warwickshire BKA - via Ebees

Nantes botanical garden in western France, found dead Asian hornets in a Sarracenia pitcher plant stem. Asian hornets spreading across Europe now face a natural enemy that lures them to destruction - a carnivorous North American plant, French experts say. The head of the botanical garden says the plant devours Asian hornets - but not European hornets. Nor does it eat bees or wasps.



Romarc Perrocheau recently found a Sarracenia stem full of dead hornets. Monsieur Perrocheau, quoted by AFP news agency, said Sarracenia had "invented a very selective trap" for the aggressive Asian hornets. The hornets are apparently attracted by Sarracenia's nectar and pheromones on the plant's tubular leaves. Once the hornet crawls inside the rim at the top, it easily slips and plunges into the pitcher, to be digested by the plant's juices. Mr Perrocheau and an entomologist aim to study the contents of 200 pitchers, hoping to identify the chemical secret of their attraction for Asian hornets.

The trap appears to be a European adaptation, as Asian hornets do not exist in Sarracenia's native Massachusetts, in the eastern US. The plant can be grown easily in Europe and is not considered a threat to native flora.

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Regards, Honey Helperrs

East Anglian Bee Forum

Report by Jeremy Quinlan and Sandra Gray

We met at The Arkenstall Centre, Haddenham CB6 3XD on 16th September 2015. The following delegates attended:

Gill	Brewer	Beds	Keith	Morgan	RBI, E Region
Wally	Thrale	Beds	Peter	Heath	SBI
Colin	Hall	Beds	Stewart	Spinks	SBI
Chris	Evans	Cambs & Hunts	Dave	Bonner	SBI
Jim	McNeill	Essex	Peter	Folge	SBI & Herts
Jean	Smye	Essex	Sandra	Gray	SBI & Ipswich
Katherine	Roberts	FERA	Fred	Daynes	SBI & Peterborough
Ben	Jones	FERA	Sylvia	Pettitt	SBI & W. Suffolk
Celia	Smith	Lincolnshire	Jeremy	Quinlan	Suffolk
Eddy	Gould	Lincs BKA	Laurie	Wiseman	Suffolk
Mike	Brown	NBU	Peter	Davies	WNKLBA
Paul	Metcalf	Norfolk	Don	Cooper	WNKLBA & BFA
Carolyn	Liston	Norfolk			

Apologies: Jan Reeves, Doug Brown.

Keith Morgan (Regional Bee Inspector, Eastern Region) opened the meeting by asking those present to introduce themselves; this was quickly done.

Bee Health Policy

Mike Brown, Head of DEFRA's National Bee Unit said that with the globalisation of trade, the work of the bee inspectorate was shifting towards exotic threats. It is hoped that these may be forestalled by monitoring apiaries within 5 km of ports, airports, truck transport depots, etc. That the risks are real has been demonstrated when an aircraft came in from Chad via several other places with a swarm - this had withstood temperatures down to -55°C. It was killed and examination showed it was carrying varroa. An *Apis florea* colony found its way to South Africa in machinery; there are many other examples. The Eastern Region had a particularly high number of exotic pest risk points.

The Healthy Bees Plan (England & Wales) and the Bee Health Advisory Forum aim to get everyone working together to promote good standards.



Zoe on the 'Obs' hive



Concentration

Photograph by Paul F Abbott
(Southend)



Hooray, Mead with the Lunch again !



Jim McNeill in full flow

Photographs by Tony Andrews
(Romford)



The 2015 Honey Show

Photographs by Tony Andrews
(Romford)



Did I really make that ?



Helen Hardwicke on Sales



How many is that?



Pat Allen and Jim McNeill



Yum, another slice of that, I think

Photographs by Paul F Abbott
(Southend)



President Pat Allen



The 'Obs' hive is popular
with all ages



The Winning Garden from
Romford Division



Judging the Exhibits



This is the only break we've had.
Richard & Jane Ridler



Wax, wax, more wax

Photographs by Jean Smye
(Chelmsford)



Pam Hughes with Bears to sell



Beautiful Beeswax Blocks