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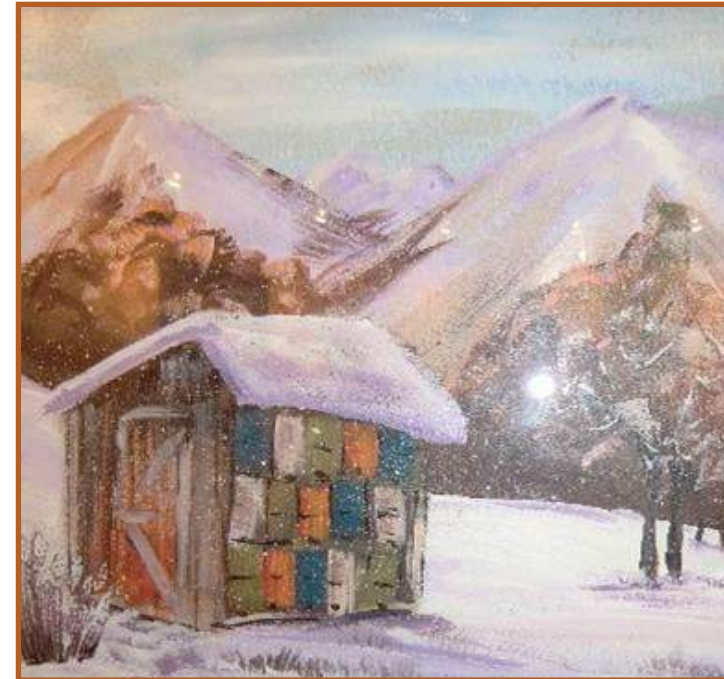


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THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



A wonderful painting of a classic bee haus displayed at the historic Beekeeping Museum in Radovljica, Slovenia. The original home of the Carniolan honey bee, Slovenia has a long tradition of beekeeping and these special picturesque bee-houses can be found across the country.

Photograph courtesy of Reigate BeeNews - via ebees

Monthly Magazine of the Essex Beekeepers' Association
Issue No. 623 **November 2016**

Furthering the Craft of Beekeeping in Essex

Registered Charity number 1031419

www.ebka.org

EBKA Divisional Meetings

Diary dates for November & December 2016

3 Nov	Thursday 8.00pm	Romford	'Mead Making' - Mike Barke. Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL
5 Nov	Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm	County Event	Annual Conference - Barking & Dagenham College, Dagenham Road, Romford, RM7 0XU
16 Nov	Wednesday 7.30pm	Dengie 100 & Maldon	Members Meeting - The Oakhouse, High Street, Maldon CM9 5PF
21 Nov	Monday 7.30pm	Chelmsford	'Inventions'. Demonstrate your 'really good tool or invention'. Also a bring and buy sale. The Link, Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Rd, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
22 Nov	Tuesday 7.30pm	Saffron Walden	'African Adventures' Richard Ridler. Swards End Village Hall CB10 2LG
23 Nov	Wednesday 7.30pm	Southend -on-Sea	AGM. WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED
24 Nov	Thursday	Colchester	Langham Community Centre, School Road, Colchester CO4 5PA
25 Nov	Friday 8.00pm	Braintree	'Bees Abroad' - Richard Ridler. Constitutional Club, Braintree CM7 1TY
1 Dec	Thursday 8.00pm	Romford	'Christmas Social' - Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL
12 Dec	Monday 7.30pm	Chelmsford	'Bee Social' - including a quiz. Nibbles will be provided. The Link, Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Rd, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
16 Dec	Friday 8.00pm	Braintree	Christmas Social - bring nibbles. Constitutional Club, Braintree CM7 1TY
21 Dec	Wednesday 7.30pm	Dengie 100 & Maldon	Christmas Soiree - The Oakhouse, High Street, Maldon CM9 5PF

GOOD NEWS FOR MEMBERS

In the years 2015 and 2016 BBKA Capitation Rates increased at the rate of £1.00 a year. EBKA absorbed these increases by reducing the charge for EBKA Capitation. The current representation system triumphed when our delegates at the BBKA Annual Delegates' Meeting rejected a proposed further increase in BBKA capitation.

So the good news is the annual membership will remain the same for 2017.

Bob Manning - County Treasurer

Who's who and how to contact them

President of EBKA **Pat Allen** Hon CLM

Trustees:

Chairman: *Ian Nichols* 17 Dyers Hall Road, Leytonstone, London E11 4AD
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 Keith Morgan keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk tel. 01485 520 838 or 07919 004 215

Notes from the Central Executive Committee (CEC)

Meeting on 29 September 2016

So far the 'hate' part of the relationship seems to be winning, but ivy flowers are so attractive to bees and other insects, that it is impossible to not love it. You only have to watch a busy hive in autumn bringing in load after load of yellow ivy pollen to realise the value of this plant to the beekeeper. The flowers are produced in clusters called umbels, at the ends of the stems and are pale coloured, greenish structures. The ovary which forms a small mound in the middle of the flower becomes covered with nectar that is therefore accessible to all visiting insects and it is common to see late butterflies, wasps and many species of flies, feeding on patches of ivy on sunny days. The nectar is very rich in sugar, so much so that it frequently dries up on the flower leaving a dry sugary residue. It also granulates very quickly when bees carry it home, but it is reputed to have a pleasant flavour and is the last, often very important, honey produced in the year.

Both the nectar and the pollen provide important sources of food for the colonies as they prepare for winter, although the stored honey granulates very rapidly in the combs.

There are two footnotes to the story of ivy. One is the appearance of a little solitary bee, *Colletes hederæ*, from the Continent in 2001, first recorded in Dorset. (see previous article on page 12)

The second is the holly blue butterfly which, despite its name, uses ivy as its food plant for its second brood of larvae. (The first brood feed inside holly buds but clearly these are not available later in the year.) The larvae develop inside the buds of the ivy flowers and the pretty little butterflies can often be seen flying around ivy-covered trees. There are some species of moth larvae that also feed on ivy leaves.



Ivy flowers provide an abundance of late nectar and pollen Photo: Celia Davis

Once the flowers of ivy have vanished they are replaced by purple/black fruits and these are eaten avidly by many birds, particularly the winter-visiting thrushes such as Fieldfares and Redwings, so on balance, the ivy is really a tremendously valuable plant for wildlife in general, but I still prefer to keep it under control in my garden.

Items taken at the above meeting included:

EBKA Propositions for the BBKA Annual Delegates' Meeting (ADM) 14 January 2017

The CEC was concerned with an article in the September edition of the BBKA News recommending that the BBKA moves towards a **system of one member one vote** rather than through the current method of Associations sending their Delegate to the ADM to vote on their behalf. The CEC would like the future shape of the BBKA to work for its membership by improving governance and financial controls. The EBKA are calling for a working party to be established to achieve these goals. **The two EBKA propositions are set out on page 4 in this magazine.** Pádraig Floyd, our BBKA Delegate, having sought the agreement of the CEC, is arranging for a seconder for these propositions which it is planned would be taken at the 2017 BBKA ADM.

2017 Essex Honey Show

Many of you will have been made aware from press coverage that the Essex Country Show held annually at Barleylands in September will no longer take place. The CEC were made aware that the Show Committee are to look for an alternative venue next year to stage our annual Honey Show.

Dates in 2017 of EBKA County wide events

Please make a diary note of the following events are being arranged for members to attend:-

Saturday 18 March at 2pm	EBKA AGM to be held at Writtle College, Chelmsford
Sunday 2 April at 2pm	The annual Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture at Marks Hall, Coggeshall. The speaker arranged so far is Professor Dave Goulson, founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.
Saturday 21 October	The EBKA Annual Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn, Colchester.

Feedback on any matter discussed by CEC is welcomed and should be directed to your Divisional Trustee (contact details on inside back page).

EBKA proposition 2016/01

Proposition: That the so-called “one member one vote” proposition presented in the 2015 survey be rejected as inappropriate and potentially dangerous as a means of member representation.

Supporting notes Most BBKA members have little interest in becoming involved in its administration, expecting it to be a well-managed operation providing guidance and support and addressing environmental issues.

The 2015 survey more than adequately proved this point. Though members were repeatedly encouraged to vote, fewer than 3% responded and they tended to be those already highly engaged at a local, regional and/or national level.

Many AAMs (if not all) already operate a one member, one vote system. All members may vote at local meetings/AGMs and have their views represented at a higher level. The proposed system would impose an unrepresentative and dangerous framework that would reduce member representation and place the power within the hands of the few who engage with the formal process.

Costs: n/a

EBKA proposition 2016/02

Proposition: EBKA welcomes the efforts to improve governance and financial controls, but is disappointed that EC has not indicated how it would like to shape the BBKA for the future. To deliver a more open, efficient and effective organisation to meet the needs of its membership and to continue BBKA’s important work in society, a working party should be established to inform the reappraisal and reorganisation of BBKA. Its remit would be to develop a clear understanding of BBKA’s goals and to propose a viable and cost-effective structure to support that organisation.

Supporting notes The working party should be comprised of all key stakeholder groups, including EC, trustees, associations, other appropriate member groups and staff. It should:

- appraise all operational, administrative and constitutional areas – no sacred cows.
- propose a more clearly defined and functionally structured BBKA management team
- encourage suggestions from the broad membership base
- report within six months



CREEPERS and CLIMBERS

- Araliaceae

Celia F. Davis

Extract from an article in *Warwickshire Beekeeper*

This family is in sharp contrast to some of the others that have featured this year, as it contains so few species in only three genera: *Hedera*, *Fatsia* and *Aralia*. The last two are of only passing interest to us as beekeepers but *Hedera* contains the ivies, which are of immense importance to honey bees and other insects. There are a number of species, subspecies and cultivated varieties of ivy, but the common ivy (*Hedera helix*) is the one we are concerned with here

I have a love/hate relationship with ivy. In the last few years it seems to have taken off in a big way and is now found festooning trees everywhere, climbing over buildings and even growing out into grassy areas. It is extremely difficult to remove, although a certain grim pleasure can be had pulling the trailing stems and seeing how long you can get them before they break. Otherwise I find myself using finger nails to prise them from the tree trunks and other places where they are not wanted.

Ivy has two forms of stem; creeping and flowering. The creeping stems wander over the ground searching for somewhere to climb. Their leaves are smoother and not the characteristic shape of the leaves on the climbing stems and the creeping stems may form a mat on the ground. Once the creeping stem has found somewhere to climb, it begins its upward trek. It may be a wall, tree, fence, anything that it can fasten onto with its little roots, which occur all along the stems and which make it very difficult to remove them from the support. These roots do not obtain any food from the support, so ivy cannot be classed as a parasite, but the roots just act as anchors, enabling the stems to reach great heights. The leaves then change to the characteristic three-lobed ivy shape and the flowers appear on the tips of these climbing stems.

Although the books say they need sun to flower, I have seen plenty of ivy that flowers quite well in the shade. Trees can become quite inundated with ivy causing them to be too heavy and reducing dramatically the amount of light reaching their leaves. Smaller trees can sometimes snap off from the weight, particularly after heavy rain or high winds. This is all made worse by the fact that ivy is evergreen. However, this luxuriant growth provides nesting sites for small birds and a home for many insects, particularly in the overwintering stage of their life-cycles.



IVY BEES

The Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Scheme (BWARS) is monitoring the spread of the ivy bee and needs your recordings.

Ivy bees (*Colletes hederæ*)

were first seen in the British Isles in Dorset in 2001, having arrived from continental Europe. They feed exclusively on the nectar of ivy flowers and consequently emerge in mid or late September to take advantage of the flowering season of the ivy and are on the wing until early November.

They are the last solitary bees to emerge and because there are so few other bees around at this time of year, are relatively easy to identify.

They look like small honeybees with orange striped abdomens and a furry ginger thorax. Several may be seen together on ivy flowers, particularly if there is a nest site nearby. They are now locally common in southern England and are spreading north and west into the Midlands and Wales.

Unlike honeybees, the ivy bee is solitary. After mating, the female digs a burrow in loose earth or sand and creates underground chambers. She lays several eggs which she supplies with pollen as food for the larvae when they hatch. She dies after a few weeks but the larvae pupate, staying underground and emerging as adults the following autumn.

Tens or even hundreds of females nest close together in colonies, usually on sandy banks. The male bees wait by the burrows for females to emerge before ambushing them. Many males may attempt to mate with a single female, forming a writhing mass, or mating ball.

Photograph: BWARS/Penny Frith

Adapted from:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/earth/story/20141001-new-bee-on-the-block>
 via ebees

Costs Initial cost of £1,500 to form working parties and offer minimal admin support. Meetings should be conducted remotely via email, video calls, conference calls wherever possible to keep costs low, but to also encourage more regular interaction.

County Honey Show 2016

Report by Jim McNeill & Jean Smye

This years show went off very well. We had much praise from the public who said that there was a great atmosphere. The marquee looked good and the Bee Gardens added so much to the welcoming look. We were even told that our marquee was the best on site.

We had 57 exhibitors putting in 335 exhibits. We had 5 gardens, the most we have had for years Well done to you all.

We were fortunate to have the benefit of 3 judges this year so it helped with the time it took to judge it all. We will sadly be saying goodbye to Martin Buckle who is now retiring and ours was his last show.

The Blue Ribbon went to Paul Abbott (Southend) with the Novice Prize to Valere Jepps (Harlow). Harlow won the President's Cup for most points.

Also this year, the numbers of helpers far exceeded expectations. Thank you so much, you wonderful people. Thanks to Pauline Tidmas - the rota worked a treat.

Committee Changes:

Vi Taylor is taking a step back and being understudied by Jan French.

Jean Smye agreed to stand as chair for one year and is standing down (having, prior to Jim McNeill, been show secretary for 12 years) and the role is being taken by Michael Webb.

Jim McNeill is also standing down (again, having been in the post for 12 years) and, subject to AGM approval as the post of Show Secretary is a County appointment, Pauline Tidmas will take the role.

We will also need a new venue, as Barleylands will no longer be holding their annual show .

2016 EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

Class 1 Section of Comb Honey

1st P. F. Abbott
2nd A. Stark

Class 2 1 jar Clear Honey Gift

1st V.M. Taylor
2nd P.E.G. Tidmas
3rd W. Gee
V.H.C. J. McNeill
H.C. P. Rowland
C. J.L. Riley

Class 3 Set Honey Gift Class

1st J. French
2nd P. Hughes
3rd J. McNeill
V.H.C. P.F. Abbott
H.C. M.J. Barke
C. P. & A. Wisbey

Class 4 Pair Honey Sections

1st P.F. Abbott
2nd A. Stark
3rd J. French

Class 5 Frame Extractable Honey

1st J.L. Riley
2nd M. Barke
3rd D. Smye
V.H.C. P.E.G. Tidmas
H.C. P.F. Abbott
C. M. Harris



Class 6 2 jars Light Clear Honey

1st P.E.G. Tidmas
2nd D.P. Tidmas
3rd M.J. Barke
V.H.C. P.F. Abbott
H.C. V.M. Taylor
C. J. McNeill

Class 7 2 jars Medium Clear Honey

1st P.E.G. Tidmas
2nd P. Burge
3rd M. Harris
V.H.C. J. McNeill
H.C. P. Hughes
C. C. Pardoe

Class 8 2 jars Dark Clear Honey

1st P. Hughes
2nd J.L. Riley
3rd P. F. Abbott
V.H.C. J. Rushbrook
H.C. I. Nichols

Class 9 2 jars Natural Set Honey

1st J. French
2nd P.F. Abbott



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Honey Tasting

Show Photos by Tony Andrews / Jean Smye / Paul Abbott

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Class 39	12 jars Set Honey for Sale
2nd	M.J.Barke
3rd	P.F.Abbott
Class 40	Junior Photograph
1st	H. Hallows
2nd	J. Hallows
3rd	L. Harris
V.H.C	S. Collins
H.C	A. Collins
Class 41	Photograph
1st	P. Hughes
2nd	Z. Bridges
3rd	J. French
V.H.C.	C. Mayes
H.C.	I. Nichols
C.	D. Burge
Class 42	One Bottle of Sweet Melomel
1st	P.E. Davidson
2nd	D. McCorkindale
3rd	R. Alabone
V.H.C.	J.McNeill
H.C	M.J. Barke
Class 43	One Bottle of Dry Melomel
1st	M.J.Barke
Class 44	One Bottle of Sweet Metheglin
2nd	M.J.Barke
V.H.C	D. McCorkindale
Class 45	One Bottle of Dry Metheglin
2nd	M.J. Barke

Class 46	Honey Label
1st	N. Holmes
2nd	M.J. Barke
3rd	S. Haley
V.H.C.	M. Wilson
H.C.	P.F. Abbott
C.	J. McNeill
Class 47	Pair of Coloured Candles
1st	C. Pardoe
Class 50	Vase of Flowers
1st	S. Andrews
2nd	P. Hughes
3rd	V. Jepps
V.H.C.	S. Haley
H.C.	J. Wells
Class 51	Divisional Garden
1st	Dengie 100 & Maldon
2nd	Southend
3rd	Romford
V.H.C	Chelmsford
H.C	Braintree



Class 10	2 jars Soft Set
1st	J.French
2nd	W. Gee
3rd	J.McNeill
V.H.C.	V. M. Taylor
Class 11A	Container Cut comb Not Set
1st	J.French
2nd	P. & A. Wisbey
3rd	P.F. Abbott
Class 11B	Container Cut comb Set
1st	J.French
Class 12	2 jars Chunk Honey
1st	J.French
2nd	C. Pardoe
V.H.C	P.F. Abbott
Class 13	Cake of Beeswax 425-482g
1st	V. M. Taylor
2nd	M. Harris
3rd	C. Pardoe



V.H.C.	P.F. Abbott
H.C	J. Rushbrook
C.	M. J. Barke
Class 14	Bottle of Sweet Mead
1st	P.F.Abbott
2nd	J.McNeill
3rd	M.J.Barke
V.H.C.	C. Pardoe
H.C.	P.E. Davidson
Class 15	Bottle of Dry Mead
1st	J. McNeill
2nd	M.J.Barke
3rd	C. Pardoe
V.H.C.	S.J. Vickery
H.C	J.L. Riley
C	P.F. Abbott
Class 16	2 jars light Honey - less than 5 years beekeeping
2nd	V. Jepps
3rd	D. McCorkindale
Class 17	2 jars light Honey - less than 5 years beekeeping
1st	P. Hughes
2nd	P. N. Saunders
3rd	J. M. Pratt
Class 18	2 jars Dark Honey Less than 5 years beekeeping
1st	P. Hughes
2nd	B. Greenland
3rd	D. McCorkindale

Class 19	Novice Clear Honey
1st	V. Jepps
2nd	P. Hughes
3rd	Z. Bridges
V.H.C.	P.E.G. Tidmas
H.C.	D. Adams
C.	D. P. Tidmas
Class 20	Novice 2 jars Set Honey
1st	P. Hughes
3rd	C. Mayes
Class 21	Novice Cake of Beeswax
1st	E. Shiner
2nd	P. Hughes
3rd	D. Burge
V.H.C.	S. Rushbrook
C	V. Jepps
V.H.C.	W. Gee
H.C.	M. J. Barke
C	E. McNeill
Class 22	Honey Fruit Cake
1st	J. French
2nd	P. Rowland
3rd	P.F. Abbott
V.H.C.	W. Gee
H.C.	M. J. Barke
C	E. McNeill

Class 23	6 Honey Nut Cookies
1st	V. Jepps
2nd	S.R.H.Barke
3rd	M.J. Barke
V.H.C	E. Bunting
H.C	J. M. Pratt
C	D. P. Tidmas
Class 24	Honey Sandwich
1st	S.R.H. Barke
2nd	P. Hughes
3rd	E. Bunting
V.H.C	M.J. Barke
H.C	J.M. Pratt
C	P & A Wisbey
Class 25	Apricot & Honey Scones
1st	P. Hughes
2nd	S. Andrews
3rd	M. Wilson
V.H.C	P.E.G. Tidmas
H.C	S.R.H. Barke
C	E. Bunting
C	S. Rushbrook

Class 27	Junior Honey Nut Cookies
1st	S. Collins
2nd	A. Collins
Class 28	Junior Honey Sandwich
1st	D. Holmes
2nd	B. Holmes
Class 29	6 Pieces Honey Fudge
1st	J.McNeill
2nd	V. Jepps
3rd	M. J. Barke
V.H.C	S.R.H. Barke
H.C	S. Andrews
Class 30	6 Pieces Honey Toffee
1st	S.Andrews
2nd	S.R.H. Barke
3rd	M.J. Barke
V.H.C	V. Jepps
Class 31	Honey & Malt Wholemeal Loaf
1st	S.R.H. Barke
2nd	D.P. Tidmas
3rd	P.E.G. Tidmas
V.H.C	M. Clay
H.C	S.J. Vickery
C	M.J. Barke

Class 32	Junior poster about beekeeping
1st	H. Hallows
2nd	A. Collins
3rd	S. Collins
Class 33	Divisional Composite
1st	Braintree
2nd	Southend
Class 35	Pair Moulded Candles
1st	J. French
2nd	M. Wilson
3rd	M. Harris
V.H.C.	J. McNeill
H.C.	P.F. Abbott
C.	W. Gee
Class 36	Pair Candles - Not Moulded
1st	P.F. Abbott
2nd	J. McNeill
3rd	C. Pardoe
Class 37	Practical Invention
1st	D.A.McCorkindale
2nd	D. Burge
3rd	P. Hughes
V.H.C	J.L.Riley
H.C	P.F. Abbott
Class 38	12 jars Clear Honey for Sale
1st	P.E.G. Tidmas
2nd	J. McNeill
3rd	P.F. Abbott
V.H.C.	M.J. Barke