

THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



**EBKA President Eric Fenner with the President's Cup won by
Harlow Division at the 2014 Essex Honey Show**

Monthly Magazine of the Essex Beekeepers' Association

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Furthering the Craft of Beekeeping in Essex*

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**November
2014**

Divisional Meetings

November & December 2014

6 Nov	Thursday 8.00pm	Harlow	'Mead Making' - Mike Barke Finalising Divisional Programme for 2015
7 Nov	Friday 8.00pm	Romford	'Products from the Hive' - Speaker tba Chadwick Hall, Main Road, RM2 5EL
17 Nov	Monday 7.30pm	Chelmsford	"Beekeeping in London" - David Lockie, The Link, Rainsford Rd, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
19 Nov	Wednesday 7.00pm	Saffron Walden	'Beating Varroa' - 6 members share their methods. The Crown, Little Walden CB10 1XA.
19 Nov	Wednesday 7.30pm	Dengie 100 & Maldon	Members meeting. The Norton PH, Cold Norton CM3 6JE
20 Nov	Thursday 7.30pm	Epping Forest	'Gardening for pollinators' - Mark Patterson. Chingford Horticultural Hall.
26 Nov	Wednesday 7.30pm	Southend	Tbc - W I Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh.
28 Nov	Friday 7.30pm	Chelmsford	Annual Beekeepers' Supper, Millennium Hall, Great Baddow, Chelmsford
4 Dec	Thursday 8.00pm	Harlow	Christmas party & AGM preparation.
5 Dec	Friday 8.00pm	Romford	Christmas Social. Chadwick Hall, Main Road, RM2 5EL
11 Dec	Thursday 7.30pm	Epping Forest	Christmas Social at Chingford Horticultural Hall. Ep- ping Forest members free—charge for others.
14 Dec	Sunday From 1pm	Southend	Christmas Drinks, etc at The Roebuck PH Rayleigh. Family and friends welcome, informality is the theme.
17 Dec	Wednesday 7.30pm	Dengie 100 & Maldon	Members Meeting. The Norton PH. Cold Norton CM3 6JE
19 Dec	Friday 8.00pm	Braintree	Christmas Social Evening. Constitutional Club, Braintree CM7 1TY

Photographs of the EBKA Annual Conference by Jean Smye

*The views expressed in any article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent
the views of the EBKA.*

Moisture content of honey

Some people are not too clear of what moisture content is permissible in honey and how this can be ascertained. The statutory document that governs our honey sales is The Honey Regulations and Schedule 2, section 2 states that in general honey should not have a moisture content greater than 20%. Heather honey (calluna) and Baker's honey are allowed more moisture, with an upper limit of 23%. Just to complicate matters further, Baker's honey made from heather is allowed an upper limit of 25%. Baker's honey is usually classified as such because it has been downgraded in some way, such as the beginnings of fermentation, or it has a 'foreign taste or odour'. It is intended for industrial use, or for use in other foodstuffs which are then processed. As only very few of us take our bees to heather, we can concentrate on the 'general' category, so our honey should not exceed 20% moisture content.

Below 20%, honey stands a much better chance of not fermenting. The lower the moisture content, the less chance of fermentation. Bees reduce the moisture content of their stores to a level where they won't ferment, before capping them off. This is why we tend to take only capped honey for extraction. If it is capped then we can be pretty sure that the moisture content is below 20%. What about uncapped honey? Many beekeepers conduct a simple test to see if their honey can be taken. They shake the unsealed frame, in question, over the super from which it came. If liquid spills from the cells, it is assumed that the honey cannot be taken. If there is no spillage, then it is thought to be safe to take. Whereas this is a rough guide to moisture content, it cannot be presumed as a guarantee. The safest way of ensuring that your honey is below the required moisture limit is by using a refractometer. These are available from beekeeping equipment suppliers, but at a somewhat extortionate price of around £80.00. A very similar product can be obtained from a well known online auction site for as little as £20.00 inc. p&p. Do make sure that you are buying a refractometer which will specifically measure the moisture content of honey, as there are different sorts available. You

should calibrate it before use and it should come with a register block (small glass block) and calibration oil. Using a refractometer could not be simpler. There is a transparent plastic flap covering a blue plastic screen. Lift the flap and smear honey on the blue screen. Hold it up to the light, look through the eyepiece, which can be focused, and spot where the blue and clear areas meet. Read the right hand scale where these meet and that is your moisture content.

Earlier I mentioned the chance of fermentation being the reason for regulating moisture content. Where the 20% figure comes unstuck is with honey that has set. *'Once the honey has crystallized the fluid between the crystals is diluted by removal of solids, and rises by some 4 – 6% in water content. This brings most honey into the range where fermentation can occur'* (*Guide to Bees & Honey — Ted Hooper*). It is therefore a good idea to ensure that set honey is well below the 20% mark, but by how much will depend on the variety of honey, as different set honeys have different crystal sizes, and that will determine the percentage of moisture which is safe.

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Write for our new list in December

Trophy Winners at the 2014 EBKA Essex Show
Presented at the Annual Conference on 11 October

<u>Award</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Division</u>
Burt Challenge Cup Class 11a - 11b Best container of cut comb honey	Vi Taylor	Braintree
Dearman Cup Class 39 12 Jars soft set honey	Jim McNeill	Romford
Ford Trophy Classes 2,3,6,7,8, 9,10, &12 Most points in extracted honey classes	Eric Fenner	Harlow
Horton Cake Cup & Knife Classes 22 & 26 Best honey fruit cake	Mike Barke	Harlow
Mallinson Cup Classes 35 & 36 Best exhibit of cast & uncast candles	Jim McNeill	Romford
Ongar Cup Class5 Frame of extractable honey	John Riley	Southend
President's Cup Division gaining highest total number of points in all Classes		Harlow
Holmes Cup Exhibitor gaining highest number of points in all classes	Mike Barke	Harlow
Tidswell Challenge Bowl Classes 1 to 12 Most points in all honey classes	Jim McNeill	Romford



Jersey Cup

Classes 13 & 21
Best cake of beeswax

Fiona Adedotun
Colchester Division

WBC Cup

Classes 23, 24 7 29
Biscuits, sandwich &
Fudge

Margaret Clay
Chelmsford Division



Award

Winner

Division

Devall Award

Classes 1 to 41 Novice gaining highest total number of points and an award in classes 19 to 21

Jan French Braintree

Essex Chronicle Cup

Class 38 12 Jars of clear honey Mike Barke Harlow

Chelmsford Wine Circle-

Class 14 Best bottle of sweet Mead Mike Barke Harlow

Alf Gunn Jubilee Sheld

Classes 44 & 45 Best bottle of Metheglin Mike Barke Harlow

Walden Wine Shield

Classes 42 & 43 Best bottle of Melomel Mike Barke Harlow
Richard Alabone Chelmsford

Award		Winner	Division
G. A. Taylor Mazer			
Class 15	Best bottle of dry Mead	Mike Barke	Harlow
Archie Horton Award			
Classes 35 & 36			
Most points in candles classes		Paul Abbott	Southend
B.B.K.A. Blue Ribbon			
Best exhibit in the show		Jim McNeill	Romford



Eric Fenner presenting Jim McNeill with one of the four trophies he gained at the 2014 Essex Honey Show

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2014 COUNTY HONEY SHOW

REPORT by Jim McNeill — Asst Show Secretary

I would like to thank all 46 exhibitors for entering the show, we had 248 exhibits, Martin Buckle, our senior Judge, e-mailed after the show and said "as usual your members put on a good show with almost nothing easily rejected from the judging and a very high all-round standard of presentation. Good as any I have seen this year"

The weather was much better this year and the marquee seemed to have people moving around looking at the exhibits most of the time. We need to especially thank Roy Hardwicke & Vi Taylor for doing most of the hard work and extra time they put in before and after the show, Roy getting the trailer to and from the event. Roy got home after 8.30 Sunday, Vi adds up all the points and works out who wins the trophies. She was doing that on Friday till about 11.30pm - both long days on our behalf. So the little bit I do during Friday and get all the credit for seems very small, but it all worked out ok on the day as they say.

Also I would like to thank the Southend members who kept everyone well fed at lunch time and all the refreshments coming round on both days - a cup of tea certainly helps to keep you going even if you don't get time to finish every one while talking to the public, who are very interested in what we do.

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2014 Honey Show Results

Class 2		Division
1 jar clear honey gift		
1st	J. McNeill	Romford
2nd	R. Hardwicke	Chelmsford
3rd	P. Abbott	Southend
VHC	P. Hughes	Chelmsford
HC	B. Spencer	Chelmsford
C	M.J. Barke	Harlow

Class 3		Division
1 Jar set honey gift		
1st	F.G. Adedotun	Colchester
2nd	T.Parrish	Saffron Walden
3rd	J. McNeill	Romford
VHC	P. Allen	Romford

Class 5		Division
Frame of honey		
1st	John Riley	Southend
2nd	P. Abbott	Southend
3rd	P. Allen	Romford
VHC	J. McNeill	Romford

Class 6		Division
2 jars light honey		
1st	J. Dutney	Epping
2nd	E. Fenner	Harlow
3rd	John Riley	Southend
VHC	P.J.Learmonth	Saffron Walden
HC	W.L. Moore	Southend
C	J. McNeill	Romford

Class 7		Division
2 jars medium honey		
1st	M.J. Barke	Harlow
2nd	I.A. Nichols	Epping
3rd	T. Watson	Romford
VHC	W.L. Moore	Southend
HC	P. Allen	Romford
C	P.H. Rowland	Braintree

Class 8		Division
2 jars Dark honey		
1st	I.A. Nichols	Epping
2nd	E. Fenner	Harlow
3rd	F.G. Adedotun	Colchester
VHC	S. Fairchild	Chelmsford

Class 9		Division
2 jars natural set honey		
1st	P.J.Learmonth	Saffron Walden
2nd	I.A. Nichols	Epping
3rd	E. Fenner	Harlow
VHC	M.J. Barke	Harlow
HC	T. Watson	Romford

Class 10		Division
2 jars soft set honey		
1st	R. Hardwicke	Chelmsford
2nd	J. McNeill	Romford
3rd	E. Fenner	Harlow
VHC	P. F. Abbott	Southend
HC	M.L. Clay	Chelmsford
c	I.A. Nichols	Epping

More 2014 Honey Show Results

Class 11a		Division
1 container liquid cut comb		
1st	V.M. Taylor	Braintree
2nd	J. French	Braintree
3rd	F. Potter	Southend
Class 11b		Division
1 container set cut comb		
1st	J. French	Braintree
Class 12		Division
2 jars chunk honey		
2nd	J. French	Braintree
3rd	W. Gee	Chelmsford
C	P.J. Learmonth	Saffron Walden
Class 13		Division
Cake of beeswax 425gm-482gm		
1st	F.G. Adedotun	Colchester
2nd	B. Spencer	Chelmsford
3rd	P. F. Abbott	Southend
VHC	M.L. Clay	Chelmsford
HC	M.J. Barke	Harlow
C	P.J. Learmonth	Saffron Walden
Class 14		Division
1 bottle sweet Mead		
1st	M.J. Barke	Harlow
2nd	P. F. Abbott	Southend
3rd	J. McNeill	Romford

Class 15		Division
1 bottle dry mead		
2nd	M.J. Barke	Harlow
Class 16		Novice - kept bees for less than 5 years
2 jars light honey		
1st	J. French	Braintree
2nd	J. Pratt	Chelmsford
3rd	P. Hughes	Chelmsford
Class 17		Novice - kept bees for less than 5 years
2 jars medium honey		
1st	A.K. Morris	Southend
2nd	J. Pratt	Chelmsford
3rd	P. Hughes	Chelmsford
Class 19		Novice - kept bees for less than 5 years
2 jars clear honey		
1st	N. Reeve	Braintree
2nd	D.A. Puffett	Southend
3rd	P.B. Charlin	Saffron Walden
VHC	M. Blagrove	Chelmsford
HC	J. Finn	Chelmsford
C	A.K. Morris	Southend
Class 20		Novice - kept bees for less than 5 years
2 jars set honey		
2nd	B. Greenland	Braintree

More 2014 Honey Show results

Class 21		Division
Cake of beeswax		Novice - kept bees for less than 5 years
1st	D.A. Puffett	Southend
2nd	W. Gee	Chelmsford
3rd	J. French	Braintree

Class 22		Division
Honey fruit cake		
1st	M.J. Barke	Harlow
2nd	Z. Bridges	Maldon
3rd	E. Sivell	Saffron Walden
VHC	M.L. Clay	Chelmsford
VHC	P.H. Rowland	Braintree
VHC	P.J. Learmonth	Saffron Walden

Class 23		Division
6 honey nut cookies		
1st	M.L. Clay	Chelmsford
2nd	J. McNeill	Romford
3rd	M.J. Barke	Chelmsford
VHC	S.R.H. Barke	Harlow
HC	Z. Bridges	Maldon

Class 24		Division
Honey sandwich		
1st	E. Sivell	Saffron Walden
2nd	M.L. Clay	Chelmsford
3rd	S. Andrews	Romford
VHC	Jan Riley	Southend
HC	E. Bunting	Braintree
C	M.J. Barke	Harlow

Class 25		Division
4 raisin & honey scones		
1st	M.L. Clay	Chelmsford
2nd	M.J. Barke	Harlow
3rd	S.R.H. Barke	Harlow

Class 29		Division
6 pieces of honey fudge		
1st	P.J. Learmonth	Saffron Walden
2nd	J. McNeill	Romford
3rd	E. Bunting	Braintree
VHC	M.J. Barke	Harlow
HC	S.R.H. Barke	Harlow

Class 30		Division
6 pieces of honey toffee		
1st	P.J. Learmonth	Saffron Walden
2nd	M.J. Barke	Harlow
3rd	J. McNeill	Romford
VHC	E. Bunting	Braintree
HC	S.R.H. Barke	Harlow

Class 31		Division
Honey & malt wholemeal loaf		
1st	E. Sivell	Saffron Walden
2nd	S.R.H. Barke	Harlow
3rd	M.J. Barke	Harlow
VHC	M.L. Clay	Chelmsford
HC	E. Bunting	Braintree

More Honey Show results

Class 35 <i>Division</i>		
Pair of beeswax candles moulded		
1st	J. Dutney	Epping Forest
2nd	F. G. Adedotun	Colchester
3rd	P. F. Abbott	Southend
VHC	P. J. Learmonth	Saffron Walden
HC	W. Gee	Chelmsford
C	M. Wilson	Southend

Class 36 <i>Division</i>		
Pair of beeswax candles — not moulded		
1st	J. McNeill	Romford
2nd	P. F. Abbott	Southend

Class 38 <i>Division</i>		
12 jars clear honey labelled for sale		
1st	M. J. Barke	Harlow
2nd	P. F. Abbott	Southend
3rd	J. McNeill	Romford
VHC	F. G. Adedotun	Colchester
HC	E. Fenner	Harlow

Class 39 <i>Division</i>		
12 jars set honey labelled for sale		
1st	J. McNeill	Romford

Class 41 <i>Division</i>		
1 Colour photograph		
1st	I. A. Nichols	Epping Forest
2nd	W. Gee	Chelmsford
3rd	P. F. Abbott	Southend
VHC	R. Hardwicke	Chelmsford
HC	H. Hardwicke	Chelmsford
C	John Riley	Southend

Class 42 <i>Division</i>		
1 bottle Sweet Melomel		
1st	M. J. Barke	Harlow
2nd	R. Alabone	Chelmsford
3rd	J. McNeill	Romford

Class 43 <i>Division</i>		
1 bottle dry melomel		
1st	R. Alabone	Chelmsford
2nd	M. J. Barke	Harlow

Class 44 <i>Division</i>		
1 bottle sweet Metheglin		
1st	M. J. Barke	Harlow

Class 45 <i>Division</i>		
1 bottle dry Metheglin		
1st	M. J. Barke	Harlow

Class 46 <i>Division</i>		
Honey jar label		
1st	Jan Riley	Southend
2nd	P. Allen	Romford
3rd	P. F. Abbott	Southend
VHC	J. McNeill	Romford
HC	M. J. Barke	Harlow
C	W. L. Moore	Southend

Class 50 <i>Division</i>		
Vase of Flowers		
1st	S. Andrews	Romford
2nd	S. Fairchild	Chelmsford
3rd	H. Hardwicke	Chelmsford
VHC	P. J. Learmonth	Saffron Walden

Class 51 <i>Division</i>		
Divisional Garden		
1st	S. Andrews	Romford

The 2014 EBKA Annual Conference

Report by Chad Colby-Blake - Southend Division

We have not long finished this year's conference. On the whole I come away thinking it was a good success. Those I spoke to during the conference and at the end seemed satisfied with the conference and I believe left happy and hopefully a bit inspired, having picked up a few facts and ideas which they could use in their own beekeeping practice.

Our (Southend Committee) vision was to cover subjects that we have not heard over the last few years; to visit topics and practices that would challenge us and encourage active discussion on key principles of beekeeping practice, ethics and concepts. Thus we titled the conference 'Beekeeping for All'; which is encapsulated in our divisional objectives.

Attendance was down on previous years. This, however did not seem to injure the sense of occasion. There was plenty of conversation on the tables at the arrival, during coffee breaks and over lunch partly due to meeting acquaintances – the conference is a social occasion after all, partly due to the thought provoking presentations. Our caterers (Affinity1777) did a superb job of feeding the attendees. A two course lunch was provided aside from the teas and coffees and all seemed well disposed to the culinary treats: the honey flapjack went down well with my after dinner coffee. Our Master of Ceremonies (and President of the Southend Division); David Blackwood, did a professional job of introducing speakers and keeping time for proceedings. His management of the lunch queue was second to none.

Dr Nicola Bradbear started off the talks with her presentation on the work of **Bees for Development**. Strangely, Nicola was also at the 2005 conference that Southend hosted so it was like a home from home – well almost! Her talk was well received even if the microphone was minded to thwart the attempt. Whilst the talk covered the who's and what's of the charity, it did a good job of highlighting that beekeeping in third world countries is a means to make



life a little easier; it brings in much needed honey (foodstuff) but more importantly an income. In these places you make your own hives out of those materials you find and colony death or a bad honey harvest can mean a time of famine, or not being able to send your kids to school as you simply do not have the income from honey sales. Bees for Development has

been involved in projects in 53 locations around the world including Chechnya, El Salvador, Afghanistan, Chile and Iraq. Nicola focused on current projects in Ethiopia and Kyrgyzstan where the charity helps people to make beekeeping a financially viable option to ease poverty by providing not just beekeeping information but much needed financial guidance and links to co-operatives and other people in the market chain.

Bearing in mind that the hives used (a hollowed log, top bar design hive, a wicker skep etc.) are very rudimentary, the beekeepers seem to bring in a good surplus of honey and whilst they do have similar diseases issues as us they are not as prolific as to cause the level of problems we experience. Nicola explained that the beekeepers in these places practice 'Extensive' beekeeping as opposed to 'Intensive' beekeeping. Intensive practice focuses on maximising honey production and trying to control more of the factors that affect health and honey production - think battery chickens - as you bring a larger population together the health risks increase and the need to control the environment to maintain productivity increases. Extensive practice means that you may have several colonies in the same area (i.e. a tree), but you aren't trying to take the maximum amount of honey from the colony, just want its 'surplus'. Nicola explained that one young beekeeper (15 yrs. old) manages 50 colonies! The whole premise of beekeeping is different, but works exceedingly well.



Our next talk was by **Heidi Herrman** of the **Natural Beekeeping Trust**. I was pleased to note as I took pictures from the back of the hall that the whole audience was stock still and silent, listening intently to her talk. Still, we had mastered the microphone by then, so perhaps that helped! Heidi was originally to speak on 'Varroa Destructor or Varroa Instructor', which in some ways she did, but not quite as I imagined 10 months ago when she informed us of her title. Her talk was effectively a journey of how she came to the conclusions that gave rise to the Natural Beekeeping Trust and why she challenges conventional beekeeping practices. Oddly, it is intertwined with the BBKA debacle of having endorsed in past years pesticide producing companies such as Bayer. Heidi has been keeping bees some 16 years. I think one of the draws to Heidi, if you have opportunity to speak with her, is that she genuinely has a true respect and fascination for beekind. A reverence I have not often encountered amongst British beekeepers and I think this was engendered by her experiences of beekeeping in Europe (notably her homeland; Germany), and where she chanced upon the Biodynamics movement. One thing she highlighted was that the whole concept of beekeeping in Europe is far more Holistic than in Britain on the whole and the bees are far more docile and gentle. She showed a number of pictures of children holding frames of bees without a jot of protection; like the beekeepers who handed them over. Although we sadly did not get a chance to question any of the speakers I dearly wanted to ask Heidi what the attraction was to her hives by the reported large number of Regional Bee Inspectors. At one meeting she reports that 7 bee inspectors came to inspect. Not because there was a disease issue but simply to see and experience her bees and practices. I can't help but think that there must be something to offer us beekeepers here even if you don't buy 100% into the no treatment sphere. Indeed, Heidi highlighted that it was a decision: you had to change all aspects of your beekeeping if you were to practice no treatment in its true form. One thing struck a chord with me. I have often felt that the treatment of chemo or radio therapy which destroys the whole body's immune system and thus leaves it vulnerable an odd practice, rather than target the issue and assist the body's very

developed systems to fight any condition. I think Heidi was trying to say something similar. She recounted how when treating her bees in the early years of her beekeeping she would hear the roar of the bees to the chemicals in the colony. This made her begin to question if this was the right thing to do. Yes it worked, but did it weaken the bees and leave them vulnerable to other conditions that we then had to treat for?

I have used MAQ strips these past few years. It works well. This year I noticed that a few colonies reacted strangely. A large number of bees, maybe 1/3 of the colony, clustered outside the colony front and remained there over night as the formic acid did its thing inside. So bad was the environment the bees removed themselves from it in droves like we would if there was a fire in our house. It does make me wonder



Our last speaker was **Terry Clare** who covered the necessities for successful Queen rearing and was a good balance, on reflection, to the morning's talks which were more alternative in their views. As with any conference the next speaker is always able to comment and interact with points raised in the previous presentations and Terry did highlight a few things in his talk.

He began by highlighting that beekeepers have responsibility; to our bees, us and the public which should be considered at all times. He also made the point that essentially British beekeepers are 'small' beekeepers with most having no more than 4 hives; real hobbyist beekeepers. With 25,000 beekeepers in the UK, that is a tiny number compared to most other EU countries. Terry went on to cover the characteristics we look for in our bees, the stock we use and the need for diligence in disease checking to raise healthy queens along with a good supply of mixed pollen and lashings of foodstuff. He did put an interesting perspective on Swarming. Swarming is preservation, not reproduction. He puts forward that why would a colony swarm unless a survival trigger has tripped to tell the bees that resources are not good here and it is time to preserve themselves and send out colonies to other areas. Fortunately, we had time spare at the end and did hold a questions forum but due to travel commitments Nicola and Heidi were not present to partake, so Terry held the floor and imparted further gems of wisdom before the close.

I would like to thank all those who helped in whatever way, no matter how small. Putting together a conference (as some of you will know) is something of a challenge so any help is a relief. I would however like to thank in particular David Blackwood for being compere and his seasoned guidance in preparations, Vernon Amor and Marguerita Wilson who have put in a lot of personal time to liaise with speakers, caterers, and other members of the County membership to get this show on the road.

I was a pity that no Harlow representatives (other than EBKA's honoured President, Eric Fenner and Roy Cropley with a trade stand) were present at the Conference. I didn't really see the point in publically giving out certificates and cups that acknowledge the good and worthwhile achievement of fellow members when so many of those having awards were not present to receive them. We clapped to ghosts.

Notes from the Central Executive Committee (CEC) Meeting on 25 September 2014

Items reviewed at the above meeting included:

Capitation rates

The CEC agreed unanimously that subscriptions for the EBKA single membership for 2015 would remain at £31.50; the same as last year. By holding fees at the 2014 level, the EBKA will absorb from central funds the BBKA capitation which has risen by £1 to £18.

BBKA Annual Delegates' Meeting (ADM)

The EBKA would be sending propositions to the BBKA ADM to be held in January 2015. The CEC reviewed whether to second a proposition from another association as well as considering our own submissions. EBKA propositions are likely to include:-

A recommendation that the BBKA take a more positive approach in representing members' and associations' concerns regarding the use of neonicotinoids; and

A clarification and possible extension of the risks covered by the BBKA Members' Insurance policy.

The recommendations by the group detailing enhancements to the website were accepted by the CEC and implementation of these changes can now proceed.

Electronic communications : Website Working Group

Electronic delivery of *The Essex Beekeeper*

The CEC reviewed the responses from Divisions regarding the trial of issuing the monthly magazine in both electronic and paper format. There clearly was a demand from members for receiving *The Essex Beekeeper* in both formats - electronically and a paper copy. It was agreed to continue with this practice and also to allow each Division the flexibility of whether to make a charge for sending the magazine to members in the post.

EBKA Library Books

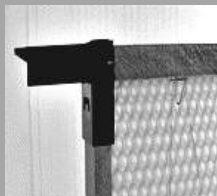
Some Divisions have taken books previously held at Writtle College and those remaining are to be offered for sale to members at this year's conference.

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