

Essex Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the 135th Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 14th March 2015

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 Saturday 30th May 2015. Any point challenged will be brought before the next meeting for correction of the record.

Presiding Officer: David Blackwood, President, Southend Division

Also present: 56 people signed the Attendance Book.

At the start of the meeting the Presiding Officer asked the members to stand for a minute silence to remember Herbert (Nobby) Clark, Geoff Mills, Harold Moss, Ann Rolls and others known to the membership who, since the last AGM, were no longer with us.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Garry Furnell, Chris Harris, Ian Hunter and David Learmonth.

2 The Minutes of the 134th AGM had been published in the May 2014 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 2015 issue of *The Essex Beekeeper* (see magazine for details).

4 General Treasurer's Report and Approval of the 2014 Accounts

Copies of the accounts were distributed to the members present and the **General Treasurer** noted the main points. The EBKA Consolidated Accounts had shown a surplus for the year of £18,783; mainly resulting from a bequest of £10,000 paid to Romford Division and implementing a change in making gift aid claims. He added that this year there would be a change in the accounting procedure so that the 2015 accounts will be on a receipts and payments basis. The EBKA Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31st December 2014 was £86,084 but the Treasurer reminded everyone that the consolidated accounts include all monies held by Divisions and which averaged £3,000 to £4,000 per Division. The CEC Profit & Loss Statement showed an increased income resulting from having up-to-date gift aid claims and from an exercise by the editor of the *The Essex Beekeeper* to claim for outstanding advertising revenue. The CEC Balance Sheet of £33,224 increased by nearly £9,000 over the previous year. The Treasurer said that during the forthcoming year the CEC should re-examine the formula for allocating funds. He reported that the subscriptions for members this year were held at last year's rate as the CEC had agreed to absorb the BBKA increase in capitation. Finally, the Treasurer expressed his continued concern that some Divisional accounts were still being supplied to him late. This had resulted again in the EBKA accounts being finalised the previous evening. He proposed providing some training for Divisional Treasurers in the coming year. The accounts were approved by the members present.

A vote of thanks was given to the Treasurer for his hard work throughout the year.

5 Written reports from other members of the Central Executive Committee

The report by the **General Secretary**, Michael Webb was tabled without comment.

In the absence of the **BBKA Delegate** his report was noted without comment.

The **Examinations Secretary's** report was tabled and Jane Ridler summarised the main points.

The number of Basic Assessment candidates was down on last year. Three Miss Avey awards were made. In 2014 Module Study Groups met prior to the March and November examinations where Modules 1, 2 and 3 were covered. 10 candidates were successful in 2014 in BBKA Modules 1,2,3,6 and 8 with one candidate achieving credit in the Intermediate Theory Certificate (4 modules) and two achieving credit in the Advanced Certificate (all 7 modules). Two candidates were successful in Microscopy. Three delegates have entered the General Husbandry BBKA examination and further CEC workshops were to be organised in 2015 to promote the more advanced learning in the County. Jane announced that four compound x400 microscopes had been donated to the EBKA for use by the Divisions and were suitable for checking for Nosema.

As Jane was due to stand down this year she was pleased to report that the CEC had agreed to introduce two distinct roles for an Examinations Secretary and an Education Secretary. Jane indicated that she was keen to continue to contribute to education in the County.

The Presiding Officer, on behalf of the membership, thanked Jane for all she had achieved in the role of Examinations Secretary and was pleased to learn that she was intending to continue in a different role.

6 Election of President

Eric Fenner, the retiring President said that he would be happy to nominate Pat Allen (Romford Division) as his successor in that role. The nomination was seconded by Jean Smye and carried unanimously. Pat thanked the members and said she was honoured to accept this role.

7 Elections of County Officers (Trustees)

Richard Ridler, the current **Chair of the CEC** had agreed last year to stay on for a further year and he was pleased to nominate Ian Nichols (Epping Forest Division) to succeed him. The nomination was seconded by Jim McNeill and carried unanimously. The Presiding Officer, on behalf of the membership, thanked Richard for his leadership of the EBKA for the past five years.

Michael Webb was willing to stand for another year as **General Secretary** and was re-elected.

Bob Manning was willing to stand for another year as **General Treasurer** and was re-elected.

8 Notifications of the 2015 Divisional Voting Members (Trustees) and 2016 Presiding Officer

Braintree:	Stuart Mitson
Chelmsford:	Margaret Clay
Colchester:	Tom Geddes
DH & Maldon:	Glenn Mayes
Epping Forest:	Mark Chambers
Harlow:	Martin Cavalier
Romford:	Pádraig Floyd
Saffron Walden:	Richard Ridler
Southend:	Marguerita Wilson

The 2016 Presiding Officer will be Jim McNeil from Romford Division.

9 Elections of County Non-Trustee posts

BBKA Delegate: Pádraig Floyd was re-elected.

Editor: Jean Smye was re-elected.

Examinations Secretary: Pat Allen was nominated by Jane Ridler, seconded by Jim McNeill and carried unanimously.

NHS Delegate: Jim McNeill re-elected. The Secretary noted that he would advise The National Honey Show of the appointment.

Show Committee Secretary: Richard Ridler and Jim McNeill currently share this post and Richard stated that he would like to stand down if a successor could be found. Mike Barke agreed to work with the current jobholders and take over Richard's position from next year.

The current jobholders were re-elected.

Spray & Disease Delegate: Jim McNeill was re-elected.

10 Notifications of CEC Appointees and Co-opted Members

Minutes Secretary: Following the retirement of Eileen Marrable last year, this position has remaining vacant and the Secretary asked that this vacancy should be filled.

Membership Secretary: Pat Allen

Book of Commemoration Secretary: Penny Learmonth

Advertising Secretary: Jean Smye

Distribution Secretary: Mary Heyes

Webmaster: Nick Holmes

Education Secretary: Jane Ridler (A new post agreed by the CEC – see agenda item 5 above).

11 Confirmation of Accounts Examiner (External Auditor)

The Treasurer, Bob Manning said that Emma Baker had examined the 2013 and 2014 Accounts very thoroughly. Members confirmed her appointment as the Accounts Examiner for 2015.

12 Conference 2014 Report

The Presiding Officer asked Chad Colby-Blake, the Secretary of Southend Division to give the conference report. Chad reported that the conference was held on Saturday 11th October at Runnymede Hall, Thundersley. The theme was "Beekeeping for All" and it had been disappointing that numbers were down on the previous year. The speakers were Nicola Bradbear, Bees for Development; Heidi Hermann, Natural Beekeeping and Terry Clare, whose talk complemented the topics of the two previous speakers.

Basic Certificates and the March 2014 Module certificates were presented at the conference by the President. Chad said that the catering arrangements had been excellent with many favourable compliments from members. Some criticism had been received from members regarding the cost of admission but Chad reported that the overall funding of the event had resulted in neither a profit nor loss to the Division.

13 Conference 2015 Preview

The Conference will be hosted by Dengie Hundred and Maldon Division and a preview of this event was given by Glenn Mayes. He said that the conference was to be held on Saturday, 31st October at the Orminston Academy, Burnham-on-Crouch. Glenn acknowledged that it was disappointing that the conference would be held on the same day as the National Honey Show but it had not been possible to change the date with the speakers already booked. The guest speakers are Professor Francis Rafnieks, from Sussex University, Professor Linda Field from Rothamsted Research and Barbara Dalby, an apitherapist from Pebadale Apiaries. The cost of admission had been set at £20 per member and, following a request for confirmation, it was agreed that this would cover all types of member. The Division would make use of the allocation of funds for the annual conference agreed by the CEC.

14 Installation of the 2015 Presiding Officer

Glenn Mayes, the Divisional Trustee from Dengie Hundred and Maldon Division was installed as the Presiding Officer for 2015. Glenn read from the Book of Commemoration.

15 Presentations

BBKA certificates were awarded by the retiring President, Eric Fenner.

Recipients were Ted Gradosielski (Epping Forest) and David Mallindine (Epping Forest) for Microscopy; Janet French (Braintree), Robin Harman (Epping Forest) and Paul Abbott (Southend) for Module 1; Nick Holmes (Harlow) for Module 2 and Christopher Branch (Epping Forest) for Module 6. Morag Chase (Colchester) achieved a credit in the Intermediate Theory Certificate.

16 Any Other Business

There was none.

Before the close of the meeting Eric Fenner, the retiring President gave a short address in which he commented on the reasons for having to retire before the end of his term of office. Members expressed their thanks to Eric for all he had achieved as President.

As the formal business of the AGM had concluded David Blackwood was thanked by the members for chairing the meeting. The meeting broke at 2.55pm for refreshments, kindly laid on by members of the Dengie Hundred and Maldon Division. During this interval second hand books on beekeeping were sold by Stuart Baldwin.

Following the break there was a talk by Andrew Beer, the chairman of the North Bucks Beekeepers' Association entitled "Bees and the Law". A video made of Andrew's talk would be available to members on the EBKA website. The new Presiding Officer thanked Andrew for a most entertaining and informative talk and asked the members to show their appreciation in the usual way. A donation was given to Andrew for his chosen charity, "Bees Abroad", a small UK-registered charity seeking to reduce poverty through beekeeping. In thanking the Association for their generous donation, Andrew said that volunteer Project Managers assess and support beekeeping projects in developing countries worldwide, working with local community groups to develop self sustainability.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.