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Jane Ridler, Chair, CEC

The CEC met on the first Tuesday of the New Year. Amongst other points, some tweaking of the Health and Safety Policy was included.

Health and Safety must be owned to be a more important issue in our hobby than say, stamp collecting. There is the odd hazard! All members, especially those who volunteer on Divisional committees should take responsibility particularly at apiary meetings and when there are new members. To make sure everyone is up to date on the protocol, here is some of the most important detail from the latest update on the EBKA Health & Safety Policy.

All Divisional meetings and CEC arranged events need to have a named responsible person present who has a completed Risk Assessment Form, preferably with them. This person could be the owner of the apiary, a committee member or other volunteer, to spread the load of responsibility. As usual each Division is responsible for their own arrangements, but should an incident occur, the form should be sent to the CEC (via the trustee) for consideration.

Most meetings will have some similar safety requirements, especially for your well used indoor venue and training apiaries, so a proforma is a good idea. I know that Divisions are up to speed on this, from my travels around the County, but everyone always needs to comply. Here are a few ideas from round the Divisions as a checklist:

- Have the Risk Assessment Sheet at the meeting, with the named Safety Officer, so there’s no confusion, and venue postcode or other location information for ambulance access.
- Fully charged mobile phone
• First Aid Box both general and bee specific
• Are there any (new) members with relevant health conditions/disabilities?
• Introductory talk re appropriate apiary behaviour and post-sting procedure
• Checking of bee suits – and that zips are done up!
• Being aware of all lifting and tripping hazards.
• Emergency bee equipment e.g. sheet for throwing over knocked down hives, water spray

Coming up soon is the County AGM. Hopefully we will get a good turnout of members on 7th March, starting promptly at 2.00pm. There’s an opportunity to have your say, mix with other divisions over refreshments and enjoy a good bee lecture. The venue is Writtle University, as usual, but we are returning to rooms we used in the past - E03/6 in the Design Building, King’s Lodge Campus on Lordship Road, CM1 3RR. An important agenda item will be the introduction of the proposal that the EBKA transfers to becoming Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CEC have discussed this through the year, but the bulk of the effort has been from our secretary, Tony Rand. After the meeting and delicious tea, provided this year by Chelmsford Division, we will be enjoying a lecture by Abi Lowe from the University of Bangor, and National Botanic Garden of Wales - ‘The identification of floral resources used by honeybees’. Her talk will cover the modern techniques of pollen identification and will make a comparison of flowers visited by bees now with 50 years ago, especially in areas like Essex. She’ll also show us some of the flowers the bees prefer in the extensive collection at the National Botanic Garden in Carmarthenshire. Some of you may have seen her presentation at this year’s National Honey Show.

Last but not least, by no means least, we are still searching for a new Treasurer!

Jane Ridler, Chair, CEC
AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 139th AGM
3. Report of the Chair of the Central Executive Committee (CEC)
4. General Treasurer’s Report & Approval of the 2019 Accounts
5. Written Reports of other members of the CEC
6. Election of County Officers (Trustees): CEC Chair, General Treasurer and General Secretary
7. Notification of the 2020 Divisional Voting Members and 2020 Presiding Officer
8. Election of County (non Trustee) Appointees:
   a. President
   b. BBKA Delegate
   c. Editor (The Essex Beekeeper)
   d. Education Secretary
   e. Examinations Secretary
   f. NHS Delegate
   g. EBKA Show Secretary
   h. Bee Health Secretary
9. Notification of CEC Appointees and Co-opted Members
10. Notification of Honorary County Life Member Clive de Bruyn
11. Confirmation of the Accounts Examiner

12. Propositions:
   a. That the General Secretary, on behalf of the trustees and following consultation with the membership, prepare and submit a Constitution to the Charity Commission with the objective of changing the status of EBKA to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
   b. That authority to set membership subscription rates be vested in the CEC and that the letters “CEC” should replace the words “Annual General Meeting” in Rule 4 Conditions of Membership of the Rules.

13. 2019 Conference Report

14. 2020 Conference Preview

15. Installation of the 2020 Presiding Officer

16. Reading from the Book of Commemoration

Presentation

Following the meeting Abigail Lowe from the National Botanic Garden of Wales and University of Bangor will give a presentation on honeybee uses of floral resources.

Her talk will cover the modern techniques of pollen identification. She will make a comparison of flowers visited by bees now with 50 years ago, especially in areas such as Essex, and also describe the flowers preferred in the extensive collection at the National Botanic Garden in Carmarthenshire.
Divisional meetings around the County

Meetings in February 2020

02  10:00 – 16:00 - Train The Trainers’ Day
   Address: tba

06  20:00 – 22:00 - tba, Harlow Division
   Address: tbc

06  20:00 – 22:00 - Filippo Negri, Chunk Honey in a Jar, Romford Division
   Address: Gidea Park, 91 Main Rd, Romford RM2 5EL

13  19:30 – 21:30 - The Abberton Black Bee Project, Kevin Thorn, Suffolk BKA/ BIBBA, Saffron Walden Division
   Address: Radwinter Village Hall, Walden Rd/Water Lane, Radwinter, CB10 2SN

26  19:30 - 21:30 – “EWT Blue House Farm Nature Reserve” talk by the Warden, Harry Smith, Southend Division
   Address: WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED

Meetings in March 2020

05  20:00 - 22:00 – tba Harlow Division
   Address: tbc

05  20:00 - 22:00 – Ed Fairey, National Open Gardens Scheme, Romford Division
   Address: Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 5EL

07  14:00 - 16:00 – EBKA AGM
   Address: Room E06, Writtle College, Lordship Lane, Chelmsford. CM1 3RP

12  18:30 - 21:30 – Beginners’ Theory Classes and Discussion Classes for Second-Year Beekeepers, Saffron Walden Division
   Address: Thaxted Day Centre, 2 Vicarage Ln, Thaxted, CM6 2RL
09:30 - 17:00 – Beetradex
Address: tbc

19:30 - 21:00 – tba,
Chelmsford Division
Address: Margaretting Village Hall, Wantz Rd, Margaretting, Ingatestone CM4 0EP

8:30 - 21:30 – Beginners’
Theory Classes and Discussion Classes for Second-Year Beekeepers,
Saffron Walden Division
Address: Thaxted Day Centre, 2 Vicarage Ln, Thaxted, CM6 2RL

12:300 - 17:00 – Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture
Address: tbc

19:30 - 21:30 – Drone laying Queens & Laying Workers by Jane Ridler, Southend Division
Address: WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED

18:30 - 21:30 – Beginners’ Theory Classes and Discussion Classes for Second-Year Beekeepers,
Saffron Walden Division
Address: Thaxted Day Centre, 2 Vicarage Ln, Thaxted, CM6 2RL

19:30 - 21:30 – Ethical pest control and use of bumble bee boxes in pollination,
Mike Abel, Braintree Division, Saffron Walden Division
Address: Thaxted Day Centre, Vicarage Lane, Thaxted, CM6 2RL

Articles appearing in The Essex Beekeeper are not necessarily the views either of the Editor or the Essex Beekeepers’ Association

To ensure inclusion within the diary of county-wide events would Divisions provide the editor with details of local meetings by the 4th of the previous month.

Robert Silver – robert.silver@outlook.com
Bee populations have collapsed around the world, with pesticide use said to be the main cause.

The European parliament has vetoed a move by 16 member states and the European commission to weaken EU rules protecting bee colonies from toxic pesticides. MEPs blocked revised legislation that was said to ignore the risk to bee larvae from long-term exposure to chemicals, known as chronic toxicity.

The MEPs instead argued that a guidance document produced by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2013 should be fully implemented. The guidance seeks both to protect bees from adverse effects from a single exposure or multiple exposures over a short period of time, known as acute toxicity, and also long-term exposure.

Sixteen member states, which have not been publicly named, lobbied against the full implementation of the guidance before the new rules are brought to a vote in the European parliament. 🐝
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Good News from the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting

Richard Ridler
Saffron Walden Division, CEC ADM Representative for Essex

Our Essex motion which moves the UK towards re-applying for Apimondia membership was passed with 93% of votes in favour. It was good to see the BBKA President and Chair being supportive. They have already started moving things forward. Hopefully the embarrassing years of the UK being the only European country which is not a member will come to an end at the 2021 Apimondia conference in Russia which is the next time an application can be considered.

The award for the association with the best performance in Basic Assessments went to Tyneside, a small association with many entering. The prize for the best performing association in other BBKA assessments and module exams was awarded to Yorkshire. Steph Green stephgreen711@gmail.com can tell you all about BBKA assessments and exams. Why not have a go?

We learnt that the BBKA is in the final stages of arranging insurance for members of AHATS (Asian Hornet Action Team) who try to locate nests by following hornets prior to the Bee Inspectors destroying them. Salma Attan and Katy Langley, our Essex Bee Health Secretaries, will know more.

For the 4th year running there will be no increase in BBKA capitation and their accounts show a reasonable surplus. The income of the BBKA amazingly now just exceeds £1,000,000.

A new teaching apiary is being built at the BBKA HQ at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire for use in educating and informing all sections of the public from schools to retirement homes about the wonders of beekeeping. If successful BBKA hope to replicate it in the North and South.

It’s time Essex contributed to the running of the BBKA again, there
are lots of opportunities from being a trustee and running the Spring Convention to helping at public events.

Just email me if you have any questions about the BBKA. 🐝

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**BBKA Examination Dates 2020**

**All Module Examinations**

**March** – 21st March 2020 *(Applications in by 10th February 2020)*

**November** – 14th November 2020 *(Applications in by 30th September 2020)*

2021 module dates: March 20th and November 13th

**Basic and Junior Certificate**

Date by arrangement with the Essex Examinations Secretary - Steph Green

Assessments held between 1st May and 31st August (although rarely held in August in our region) *Applications 1 month before*
the assessment (although it helps with the administration if sent in as early as possible i.e. from March 2020)

**Bee Health Certificate**
By arrangement with the Essex Examinations Secretary – Steph Green
*(Applications in by 28th February 2020 last date for Assessment 31st July)*

**Bee Breeding Certificate**
Date by arrangement through the BBKA Examinations Board Secretary
*(Applications in by 28th February 2020)*

**General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry**
Date by arrangement through the BBKA Examinations Board Secretary
*(Applications in by 28th February 2020)*

**Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry**
To be held at Stoneleigh on 29/30/31 May 2020 and 12/13/14 June 2020 depending on numbers
*(Applications in by 28th February 2020)*

**Microscopy Certificate**
To be held at various venues on 21st/22nd November 2020 (other dates as required)
*(Applications in by 31st August 2020)*

All information, application forms, syllabi, fees etc. available at: www.bbka.org.uk under ‘Examinations and Assessments’.

Secretary to the Exam Board: Val Francis val.francis@bbka.org.uk

For general help with enquiries contact Sarah Snelson at Head Office: Telephone: 02476 696679 sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk

Essex Exam Secretary: Steph Green: examsec@ebka.org. 07867 806549
**Divisional Roundup**

**Saffron Walden**
The Saffron Walden division report that they have two talks coming up in February and March and that their beginner courses will take place in March of this year.

They were unaware that the Essex Beekeeper would be sent out via email, and are in discussion over a stall in Saffron Walden marketplace in June.

**Southend**
Southend report that they have numerous talks planned throughout the coming months including one by Clive de Bruyn in April and one by Kevin Thorn in July.

They have four apiaries, two of which are new and are now operational but only used by members at present.

They report a large interest in potential beginners were planning to hold a meeting to discuss the true numbers wanting to attend beekeeping courses.

**Braintree**
Braintree report that they’re very pleased with their Eat Natural Bee Hive and that other hives have been bought to improve education and teaching.

Their report, which can be found on the EBKA web site, gives a roundup of previous meetings and upcoming events.

**Romford**
Dr Nikki Gammans from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust gave a very interesting and informative talk at the November meeting, and it was difficult to close the meeting as the speaker gave such an interesting talk.

Upcoming events include a beekeeping taster session as well courses for people at other stages of beekeeping.
The Napoleon bee
The Derbyshire Beekeeper, via eBees

I was watching an episode of BBC’s Antiques Roadshow when my ears pricked up on hearing them talk about the fleur-de-lys, how this was linked to bees and specifically Napoleon. So I decided to do a little research and find out for myself.

After the Revolution and the anti–monarchical fervour, France was enjoying rule under a hugely popular leader, Napoleon. He began to toy with the idea of crowning himself “Emperor”, having greatly admired the ideals of the Roman empire. He had a new crown made, of laurel leaves, based on “Charlemagne”, (King of the Franks from 768 and Emperor of the Romans from 800) . This can be seen in the image on the left, when he was crowned in 1804.

You will also have noticed that his coronation robes are richly decorated with golden bees. The bee had become a powerful symbol of holiness and royalty by early French kings. Three hundred gold bees and other precious objects were found in the tomb of Childeric I, a fifth century warrior and second king of the Merovingian dynasty of the Franks. King Louis XIV (The Sun King) had them consigned to the Bibliotheque Nationale de France and they remained there until Emperor Napoleon decided to have them sewn on his coronation robes. Napoleon understood the importance of emblem and ornamentation on imperial garments and how the display could demonstrate his authority. He was fully aware of the prestige value attached to antiquity and pageantry, wanting to associate himself with the austere military values of France’s first monarchs rather than the despised Bourbon dynasty. Napoleon therefore chose the symbol of the bee as his personal emblem as it represented a greater antiquity than the fleur-de-lys which had become associated with the Bourbon kings. Although it has been suggested that the design of the fleur-de-lys is based on
a badly drawn bee! It was a perfect emblem, exemplifying a great republic with a single, all–powerful leader. In addition to all this, bees are also associated with industriousness and are social, well organised and productive.

Jean-Baptiste Isabey was charged with the design of the bee emblem. He developed a design of the bee that was volant en arriere, i.e, a bee seen from the top with partially open wings. The image below shows the two bees which featured on the clasp of Napoleon’s robe. The emblem featured on furniture, glass, fabrics and carpets throughout the imperial residence.

After Napoleon’s downfall, the bees were sold by the pound by the canons of Notre Dame to pay for the repair of the roof. Now only two survive and were returned to the Biblioteque, after the remainder were stolen with other treasures and melted down.
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