



Essex Beekeepers' Association

Saffron Walden: Jan - Mar 2020

Brief overview of talks at meetings:

The divisional AGM with annual dinner in January was well-attended. Cups from the Divisional Honey Show and certificates for module exams were presented to successful members.

In February, Kevin Thorn, Suffolk BKA/BIBBA, described the *Abberton Native Honeybee Project*. It was a wide-ranging talk, explaining practical aspects of the project, the genetics of honeybee reproduction and recommended queen rearing techniques.

Theory classes for beginners and discussion classes for second-year beekeepers take place in three sessions in March. Later in the month, we welcome Mike Abel (Chelmsford Division), who will give two mini-talks: *The production and use of bumble bee colonies in commercial horticulture*, followed by *Natural Pest control in the garden and greenhouse*.

In April we have arranged for Andrew Durham to update us on the Asian Hornet. His title is *Asian Hornet – a completely revised and updated briefing that takes into account the latest research and developments across the Channel*.

A Basic Assessment Training Day, run by Jane and Richard Ridler, takes place in Swards End on Sunday 3 May (more information: info@swbka.org). We are also running an apiary meeting and an improvers session later in the month.

Any administrative issues: We have been fortunate to appoint two further members to our divisional committee.

Any questions raised for CEC to consider:

Upcoming external events: An SWBK stall at Thaxted Dog Show and Fete is under discussion. We will also attend the Countess of Warwick's Show in August as in previous years.

Swarm activity:

Disease presence: None reported.

Future aspirations/ideas:

Brief overview of Division membership: 129 members: 121 BBKA members and 8 Associates (Non BBKA).

Financial position as of 18 Feb 2020: The current account balance is £12,210 (capitation not yet paid) and deposit account is £1,011.

VW 24/02/20