



EBKA AGM 20th March 2021

Essex Exam Secretary report

Covid-19 prevented the BBKA from offering beekeeping exams in 2020.

Module exams 2021

In line with other educational establishments the BBKA took the opportunity during lockdown to explore the feasibility of being able to offer module examinations online. After much work, they settled on a suitable platform called Inspira. The first use of this system will be on April 24th this year. The exams were put back for a month to give enough time to trial the system and for candidates to be able to download the software and test it out at home. 5 candidates are signed up to take the exams online this Spring: 3 people are taking Module 1; two people are taking Module 3 and one person Module 2.

Written exams will still be offered but perhaps in fewer locations. It is hoped that the November exam will be offered as a written exam as well as being available to complete online. Two people who were to have taken exams in the Spring have deferred to the Autumn.

Exam applications

The process of applying for exams has also changed. The Local Exam Secretary is now able to manage exam applications through er2 with access to the BBKA Exam portal. This system went live on February 15th. It means that all applications are now made direct to the BBKA by use of a link to online application and payment. The Local Exam Secretary receive requests by e-mail from people wishing to take an exam, and will send them the link. Paper applications and phone payment will only be received now in exceptional circumstances.

The new process for applying to take any exam (effective from 15th Feb 2021)

- a) Anyone committed to taking an exam should e-mail me directly. It is important that they let me know at this stage if they have any special requirements
- b) I will send them a link to an online application form which they complete. This creates a record number for that person.
- c) On completion, they are prompted to make an online payment to the BBKA. The candidate will get a receipt by e-mail.
- d) Once this has gone through their name and status will show up on the exam portal.
- e) The BA is still organised at a local level between the Local Exam Secretary and the Basic Assessors
- f) Any exams completed will show on each person's record

Practical Assessments

The BBKA are hopeful that practical assessments will go ahead but until confirmed the BBKA are holding off from taking new payments just yet.

Basic Assessment

I am not sending out application forms to new people until we have some certainty, **BUT** I would encourage any beekeeper wishing to take their BA in the summer to contact me by e-mail to register their interest. I will keep a record of their name and when new get the go-ahead I can then send them a link to the application form. Currently we have 6 beekeepers from 2020 who wish to take the BA in 2021 and another 6 who have applied this year.

General Husbandry

Two people who had to defer hope to take the exam this summer. An additional 4 people, who have taken part in the General Husbandry course this autumn have also applied for 2021.

Stephanie Green
Essex Exam Secretary