



## Minutes of the Central Executive Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 7 September 2021**

### Voting Members:

JR	Jane Ridler	Chair	Present
VW	Vanessa Wilkinson	General Secretary	Present
PA	Pat Allen	Treasurer	Present
JT	Jan Tutton	Chelmsford Trustee	Present
GM	Glenn Mayes	Maldon & Dengie Trustee	Present
SN	Simon Nicholson	Epping Forest Trustee (Acting Minutes Secretary)	Present
CA	Chris Allen	Southend Trustee	Present
NH	Nick Holmes	Harlow Trustee	Present
BM	Bridget Mudd	Braintree Trustee	Present
JM	Jim McNeill	Romford Trustee/Honey Show Delegate	Present
LY	Linda Yeats	Saffron Walden Trustee	Present
AL	Andrew Linley	Colchester Trustee	Present

### Officers / Members:

JS	Jean Smye	President	Present
DI	Dee Inkersole	Editor of Essex Beekeeper	Absent
RR	Richard Ridler	BBKA Delegate	Present
MW	Michael Webb	Secretary of Essex Show	Absent
SG	Stephanie Green	Examinations Secretary	Absent
GMD	Garth Milford	eR2 Implementation Manager	Absent
DG	Dave Garrett	Bee Health Officer	Present

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Michael Webb and Stephanie Green.

### 2. Minutes of CEC meetings held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The minutes were passed without comment.

### 3. Matters arising not on Agenda/action updates

**Item 3:** There is still one Trustee Responsibility document to be returned

**Action:** for NH to complete:

JR thanked GM on the work done to replace the "MAD" acronym on the Maldon website.

Also we had been asked by their secretary if they can apply the change of name to "Maldon & Dengie 100" on the EBKA website before approval given by the AGM

**Proposal:** That Maldon & Dengie 100 can use their changed name before approval by AGM.

**Vote:** Carried unanimously

NH changed the website accordingly. He asked Maldon Division to check the website.

**Action:** Maldon Division to check if they are happy with the website changes or find any instances where it still needs to be changed.

Of the two outstanding AGM reports, Epping has contacted to say theirs is on its way, but Southend's is still outstanding.

**Action:** CA to chase-up the report from Southend

**Item 4:** JR confirmed that she had uploaded the EBKA Annual Report to the Charity Commission.

**Item 5:** PA is looking at coordinating EBKA subscription with ER2 (see Treasurer's Report).

**Item 6:** JR raised the importance of EBKA not passing £50,000 in trading activity, and that divisions should report their trading activity. Examples such as buying bulk items to pass onto members (eg jars, fondant nucs, etc), or apiaries selling honey.

**Action:** Trustees, to have an item "Trading Activity" on their DVM reports to CEC.

**Item 7:** JR confirmed that she had written to EARS to advise the increase in our funding to £2,000 for one year in the first instance and PA stated that she had not received an invoice, but that the £2,000 would not be payable until 2022.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The General Treasurer's report and the CEC Receipts/Payments Ledger (up to 7/9/2021) had been presented to CEC members. PA stated that the Autumn Returns and capitation invoices were up to date, and that she had sent out the new rates to the Division Treasurers.

The hypothecated funds proposal has not been prepared, but will be done for next January.

**Action:** PA to prepare proposal for hypothecated funds for the CEC meeting in January 2022.

MW had sent the name of a possible Accounts Examiner for this year's accounts to PA.

PA stated that there were some miscellaneous expenses to come, e.g. fee for Giles Budge for the Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture and prize monies to the National Honey Show for the Essex classes.

PA said that the Spring return 2022 is already open and so there are no urgent actions to be taken. There was then a discussion about the possibility of changing the EBKA year so that it aligns with ER2 (+ BBKA). At the moment the situation is this:

ER2 : 1 Oct - 30 Sept

BBKA: 1 Oct - 30 Sept

EBKA: 1 Jan - 31 Dec,

PA is looking at aligning the EBKA financial year with the others, which should make memberships/subscriptions in particular easier to handle. However, in the following discussion it was stated that some Divisional Treasurers have said they are unwilling to change and would prefer to keep the financial year as it is at present. It would be very awkward changing from one year to the other.

PA said that Divisional Treasurers and Membership Secretaries should be consulted about the implications of the possible change in advance of a decision.

JR summarised that it is a complex situation and needs full research to be carried out before any proposal is made. JT stated that she was already processing memberships up until 31/12/2022, so it will be two years of planning for this at the earliest.

## **5. Harlow Division**

Introduction: NH introduced the issue of Harlow BKA. He stated that the Harlow division finds itself in a position where it is unable to function as a division due to lack of membership support in its committee roles. It refers itself to the CEC to direct and/or assist in their future.

He referred to the minutes of the Harlow EGM on 2 September 2022 that he had sent to CEC. Harlow has had a problem with membership engagement for a long time, with poor attendance at meetings, and no-one willing to step into roles, and it has been too heavy a burden for him and Pauline Tidmas (who had lately stepped down). NH believes that Harlow cannot run itself now, and he himself will resign at the end of this year from all posts.

Clearly Harlow is not in a position to organise the Conference next year.

Discussion: JR then allowed all members at the meeting to ask questions. They all expressed their sadness and regrets at the situation and below is further information that came out of the questioning:

- Harlow has around 84 members and about 50 of them are from the immediate Harlow area. All of them are assumed to keep bees. The Division borders Epping Forest, Saffron Walden, Chelmsford and Romford. The closest Division to Harlow is Epping, although NH said that the nearest BKAs are actually in Hertfordshire (Ware and Bishop Stortford).

- NH said that the pandemic might have had an effect on the situation, but that really the issue of engagement had been going on long before then and he has tried everything he can to get the members to take on committee roles; eg lettering them all and increasing the

committee size to 18 members, so that the burden on each would be shared: but turnout for meetings continued to be low. He has even looked outside for interest. In the end only 12 people out of 84 were interested enough to attend the EGM to save the Division.

Possible Actions by CEC: RR spoke about how upsetting the situation is, and also of the importance of keeping the Division going if we can – as it is far more difficult to create a Division than to close one down.

GM pointed out that the members in Harlow aren't interested in having a committee and therefore the Division should be allowed to fail, with beekeepers choosing to join other divisions if they wish.

SN was asked whether Epping Forest would be prepared to merge with Harlow. SN replied that after informal soundings of committee members the feeling was generally against such an outcome.

The meeting then considered the minimum role requirements for keeping the Division going: NH said that the key to keeping the Division going is to have a Treasurer. The minimum requirement for roles in a Division is five: President, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee. So, in order to keep Harlow Division afloat the CEC agreed to set up a working party to support NH. JR and RR will be on this: SN and DG also agreed to join them.

**Action:** CEC to provide a working party comprising JR, RR, SN, DG, and NH to see if Harlow Division can be recovered and to support a recovery solution.

Finally, as Harlow are not currently in a position to organise the Conference for Autumn 2022, the committee is asked to invite Epping Forest to organise it, who are next in line according to the EBKA Rules. SN provided feedback that Epping Forest are reluctant to take on the task principally because they do not have the time, costs or capacity to organise such a project. Their view is that it is too much for any one division to undertake and would be more effectively organised by a CEC sub-committee, in the same way as the Essex Show.

JR responded that it was a key element that divisions organised the conference. It was a way of getting divisions involved and also was found to be a unifying experience within the division as members came together to deliver the project. BM stated that when Braintree was asked to do it, they felt the same way, but they found it a very rewarding experience, and other members agreed.

**Proposal:** That an invitation be sent to Epping Forest to organise the 2022 Conference

**Vote:** Carried

## 6. Ted Hooper Lecture

VW stated that Giles Budge has agreed to give the lecture via Zoom, on 27/11/21 at 2.30pm.

She asked if any Divisions would help with managing Zoom. JR suggested that Eventbrite should be used as a way of advertising and managing the event.

### **7. Propositions for EBKA ADM**

RR asked if there were any propositions for the ADM. None proffered.

### **8. National Honey Show**

JM stated that the National Honey Show is going ahead on 21-23 October 2021. He will again be taking exhibits to the show, but entrants must get their jars to him by Tuesday 19 October 2021. An email will be sent out to all EBKA members via ER2.

### **9. Questions arising from the Divisional Reports and Secretaries Reports**

The issue of alteration to the subscription year has been dealt with in the Treasurers Report.

CA stated that Southend has proposed a reduction in their membership fees of £10 for full members and £5 for partners. They tried to enact it independently but understood that it was not EBKA policy. PA explained that it is Essex that decides and sets the fees each year, and even though BBKA increased their capitation fee the CEC absorbed the increase and kept the rates at the same level as before. Some Divisions are finding that they can afford to offer reductions, eg from savings by not physically printing the Beekeeper, but other divisions cannot. Any proposals for reduction in membership subscriptions for 2023 should reach the CEC for its meeting in July 2022.

CA said that as regards the insurance issue, it can be tackled outside of this meeting by email.

## **NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 2 November at 7.30 pm (via Zoom)**

<b>Action date</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action due date</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Status</b>
3/3/20	Trustees	Ensure that their committees have elected Safety Officers to cover Risk Assessments for all events, and the CEC Event Safety Officers to cover all County events.	30/3/20		Open
16/3/21	PA	Address of issue of Education and Research funds	30/4/21		open
16/3/21	NH	Contact MW with name of the upcoming Presiding Officer	20/3/21		open

6/5/21	VW	Feedback whether HSOs should be included on Officers List	6/7/21		open
6/5/21	DG	Send reminders to members to join Beebase	6/7/21		open
6/7/21	Trustees	Ask Divisions if Divisional subscriptions could be reduced	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	Trustees	Include information on proposed trading activities in Divisional reports	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	KL/JT	KL to let interested parties know of insurance quote. JT to investigate how divisional hives can best be included on BDI policy	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	Trustees	Ensure JR has up to date information on Divisional apiaries.	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	DG	Circulate questionnaire about bee disease	1/9/21		open
7/9/21	GM	To check the EBKA website refers to "Maldon & Dengie100" throughout the site.	9/11/21		open
7/9/21	Trustees	Trustees to have an item "Trading Activity" on their DVM reports to CEC.	9/11/21		open
7/9/21	PA	Prepare proposal for hypothecated funds for the CEC meeting in January 2002.	Jan 22		open
7/9/21	JR	CEC to provide a working party comprising JR, RR, SN, DG, and NH to see if Harlow Division can be recovered and to support a recovery solution.	9/11/21		open

Minutes agreed as true record of meeting:

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Jane Ridler - Chair of CEC – 2 November 2021