



Essex Beekeepers' Association

Secretary's Report to the Association's 2023 Annual General Meeting

The Central Executive Committee (CEC) met on six occasions on Zoom during the past year, with an excellent team atmosphere and attendance. Key points from the meetings are sent directly afterwards to Divisional Chairs and Secretaries by CEC Chair, Jane Ridler, and the final Minutes are available to members on the EBKA website.

Governance

Following recommendations from the Governance subcommittee, the CEC has reviewed and updated the following EBKA policies: Health & Safety; Financial; Privacy; Insurance; Equality & Diversity. Revised versions of these policies are freely available on the EBKA website.

In addition, the Trustee Handbook was updated and renamed the EBKA Handbook of Policies and Protocols. It covers all aspects of running the Association and guidance for Divisional Committee members. It has been sent to all Divisional Officers and is available on the website.

World Bee Day 2022

To celebrate World Bee Day, Bees Abroad and the Wax Chandlers' Company joined in an initiative to raise sponsorship for beekeeping projects in Africa, and County Associations were encouraged to get involved. The CEC unanimously agreed to a donation of £4,500 from EBKA funds, as being in line with our charity's aims to promote and further the craft of beekeeping. Governance aspects of the payment were thoroughly considered. There will be a report at the AGM, by Bees Abroad Chair, Richard Ridler, on how the funds have been used.

Change to EBKA Rules

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in November to consider changes to Rule 22.

The Rules now state that a Divisional AGM should take place in January and an independently examined financial statement submitted to the General Treasurer within 10 days of that meeting. In addition, although Divisional Committee Officers are elected at their Divisional AGMs, their roles are taken up after the county AGM in March. Both these changes were made to improve the administrative running of the Association.

The Essex Beekeeper

The magazine has been sorely missed this year, and we were very sorry Dee Inkersole was unable to continue as Editor. We are looking for an urgent replacement for this key role in sharing information across the county.

Last and not least, I warmly thank members of the CEC for all their time and energy spent working on behalf of EBKA and its members.

Vanessa Wilkinson, General Secretary EBKA, secretary@ebka.org