

## Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> October

Twelve representatives from nine Branches together with the four officers and one visitor attended the Council meeting in October.

The £300,000 Fera project for training 400 amateur beekeepers issued on 7th October was discussed. We need to find out how these people will be selected.

James Cash reported a satisfactory financial position for the current year and reminded Branches that accounts are required no later than the end of December 2010.

The County show produced a surplus of about £500. Some of this money is used to fund the Kent Classes at the National Honey Show. We have also paid £450 as refunds for the successful candidates in the BBKA Basic Examination this year.

Membership at 30th September 2010 was 657 Ordinary, 4 Junior, 173 friends Total 834. In addition there are the Associate members who are in effect just Branch members. Due to the large increase in membership and the fact that we can only order BeeCraft magazine round to the following January edition, Council are designing a New Members form to allow us to order BeeCraft from the month after new members join KBKA and not having to obtain back issues to make up the twelve issues currently paid for.

It was agreed to update our stands and publicity material perhaps purchasing one of the modern pop-up stands and some of the portable pull-up type stands.

The election of Officers and Representatives is as follows:

Examinations Secretary There were no volunteers so this was left vacant

Webmaster Steve Turner

Representatives: BeeCraft John Hendrie

BDI John Hendrie

BBKA ADM Brian Palmer

NHS Peter Bashford, Mike Wall & Clive Watson.

It was agreed that the Margaret Calder pavilion looks shabby and needs painting. As we are keeping it for the foreseeable future it was agreed we should redecorate as necessary. We are seeking advice from professionals about the way forward and possible costs. We will also install hot water in the kitchen.

It was reported that all was in place for the lecture day on 7<sup>th</sup> November at Lenham.

A report suggesting that Invertebrate Iridescent Virus had been connected with Nosema and is being linked to Colony Collapse Disorder was reported. There was a discussion on current research into dealing with varroa. There are statistics on some of this work on Bee Base. There was slightly less EFB in the south east compared with last year and there had been no AFB. There have been incidents of AFB adjacent to honey processing plants in some parts of the country and honey importers have been asked to improve their hygiene procedures.

A number of people were reporting a high varroa mite drop in their colonies this autumn, after treatment with thymol. Some people had measured drops of more than 100 per day. It was suggested this was in colonies with no young brood for the varroa to live in.

CW reminded Council of the Organic Acids treatment seminar at Dorset Road, Elmers End on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Names in advance to him please.

It was agreed to nominate Pam Hunter (Sussex) for the BBKA Examinations Board.

It was confirmed that KBKA policy is not to use treatments containing organo-phosphorus compounds such as check-mite.

## KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A company limited by guarantee, Registered No. 238630 Registered Charity No. 222946  
Registered Office: National Beekeeping Centre, RASE, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. CV8 2LG



No. 53 COUNTY NEWSLETTER December 2010

### Happy Christmas to all Beekeepers and Friends

#### More Examination Success for Kent

On the recommendation of the BBKA the Worshipful Company of wax Chandlers have agreed to award their prize to **Ian Stell** of Sidcup Branch at their dinner in January. The award is a cash prize. This is for the best Master Beekeeper in any year, providing certain standards are achieved. There were six beekeepers awarded their Master Beekeeper Certificate this year so Ian has done very well indeed.

#### Subscriptions

If you haven't yet renewed your subscription this is likely to be the last communication you receive. The part of your subscription that goes to BDI or BBKA applies for the whole of 2011 irrespective of when you pay in the Autumn. If you renew after November you will miss one or more copies of BeeCraft magazine because these are ordered and paid for in advance. Also remember Associate Membership is only for people residing at the same address as an Ordinary Member or a Friend there are no circulars for Associates.

#### BBKA Written Examinations

The BBKA Module Exams will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Seven modules are on offer and each is a 1½ hour written paper. The syllabus and application form can be downloaded from [www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations\\_and\\_assessments.php](http://www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations_and_assessments.php) The fee is £18 for each module. Applications to John Hendrie by 31<sup>st</sup> January please. A suitable location will be found in Kent depending on where candidates live. Last year it was near Sittingbourne.

#### £300,000 to Train Beekeepers

Fera (The Food and Environment Research Agency) issued a press release on 7<sup>th</sup> October about training 400 amateur beekeepers in England as trainers. The project is worth about £300,000 of which the BBKA is providing £90,000 which has come from the Adopt a Hive project. We await details of who will be trained and how. The BBKA have appointed Bill Cadmore from Yorkshire as project manager. It is likely that Bill will come to talk to the beekeepers in South East England at the end of January. We await further details.

*John Hendrie*

## CALENDAR December 2010 – February 2011

### Branch Events

#### Ashford

- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 7:30 pm Annual General Meeting.  
Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 7:30 pm Social Meeting.  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30 pm To be confirmed see newsletter in January.  
Meetings at St. Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road, Kennington, TN24 9LN.

#### Bromley

- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 11:30 am Apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.  
Meeting at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.

#### Canterbury

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 7:30 pm Annual General Meeting and social evening.  
Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 7:30 pm Preparation for the New Season  
at [Stelling Minnis Village Hall, Bossingham Rd, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AG](#)

#### Dartford

- Instruction course in Beekeeping commencing end of January  
Contact William Mundy on [willmumby8@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:willmumby8@tiscali.co.uk)

#### Gravesend

- No meetings notified. Contact Lesley Fancote for events - 01474 702666

#### Mid Kent

- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 7:00 pm Branch Christmas Dinner at the Bull, Linton. See Newsletter for details.  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 7:30 pm. Lecture TBA at EMR, East Malling.

#### Orpington

- No meetings notified. Contact Frank Chappell for events - 01689 821858

#### Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 7:00 pm Christmas Social at the Bucks Head. See Newsletter for details.  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 7:30 pm Peter Hutton will Reminisce over 50 years of Beekeeping.  
Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30 pm Bob Smith will talk on Swarm Control & Shook Swarm Techniques.  
Meetings at St Edith's Hall Kemsing TN15 6NA

#### Sidcup

- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2:00 pm Branch AGM at Baldwyn's Apiary  
Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2:00 pm Afternoon meetings at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm.

#### Weald

- Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Lunch.  
For details contact Nick Mengham 01233 840660 or 07884 231514

#### Westerham

- No meetings notified - Please contact John Williams for events - 01959 572124

#### Whitstable

- No meetings notified - Please contact Julie Coleman for events - 01227 751719.

### County and Other Events

- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 10:00 am Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.  
Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 10:30 am BBKA ADM at Stoneleigh.  
11 - 12 Mar Ulster BKA Conference at Green mount Campus, Co. Antrim.  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Mar BBKA Module Examinations. £18 per module.  
Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April Central Association AGM and lecture day at Roots & Shoots, London.  
16 - 18 April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh.  
15 - 17 July Kent Show at Detling.  
26 - 31 July Irish Summer School at Gormanston near Dublin.

### National Honey Show

There were record entries at the NHS this year and record attendance. Most of the lectures and workshops were over-subscribed. Generally the traders reported brisk business. There were many Kent beekeepers attending for the first time and most said they will attend next year as well. At the time of writing the dates and venue for the event have not been confirmed, but we expect to be at St. Georges College Weybridge at the end of October as for this year. We could do with more entries in the Kent Classes because it costs the county about £200 to stage our honey show, more entries would really make it worthwhile. We currently have 13 classes and we averaged 5 entries per class at this years show.

Yorkshire BKA won the Smallholder shield, but Kent BKA were second largely thanks to the huge contribution from Peter Bashford of Bromley.

Congratulations to the following Kent Beekeepers who won trophies at the NHS:

#### Open Classes

The Hamlin Cup	Peter Bashford	Bromley Branch
The Ross Rose Bowl	Peter Bashford	Bromley Branch
Tom Bradford Cup	Peter Bashford	Bromley Branch
The Frank Crow Trophy	Peter Bashford	Bromley Branch

#### Kent Classes

Commemoration Cup	Peter Bashford	Bromley Branch
The Kent Wax Cup	Peter Bashford	
Barnes Cup	Peter Bashford	
Beeswax Cup	Peter Bashford	
Vincent Cup (shared)	Peter Bashford	
	Mary Hill	Ashford Branch
Coronation Cup	Mary Hill	
Coronation Mead Mazer	John Chapman	Medway BKA
Smith Cup	John Chapman	
Bee Cup	Daniel Morris	Ashford Branch

**Visit the Kent Beekeepers web site:** [www.kentbee.com](http://www.kentbee.com)

**Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover February - April and please note that all details should be sent to John Hendrie, KBKA General Secretary, 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9JT or email: [bibba26@talktalk.net](mailto:bibba26@talktalk.net) or tel: 01732 833894, by 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.**