

Council Meeting 5th March 2006

Thirteen directors representing ten Branches, three Officers and one visitors attended the meeting at the Margaret Calder Pavilion.

The KBKA have purchased a printer for the production of newsletters and other bulk items such as membership lists and subscription renewal forms. This will reduce the dependence on these services being provided by members.

Correspondence from DEFRA advising the new Bee Diseases Control Order comes into force on 17th March 2006. The changes were reported in the February 2006 newsletter.

A letter from Essex BKA advising a free Varroa Management Workshop on Saturday 20th May at Dagenham. Registration via Mrs. Pat Allen, secretary, Romford Division, EBKA.

Finance:

JH is dealing with the current year accounts and will send out the return due in April towards the end of March. First period returns have been received from all Branches.

JC is preparing the accounts for year ended 30th September 2005. All Branches have supplied the input data required. We still need to appoint the Independent Examiner. Any suggestions to JC or JH.

Subscription for Year commencing 1st October 2006

The BBKA capitation will be £11 next year, BDI was likely to remain at £2 but BeeCraft cover price will rise to £22 from £20. KBKA receives a 20% discount because all members receive the magazine. With regards to the Branch allocation after a short discussion it was agreed to leave this at £4. It was agreed we need to increase the annual subscription to £34 from £31. This is the smallest possible increase. The Junior subscription will rise £1 to £17, but the Friend and Associate will remain at £6 and £1 respectively.

The responsibilities in the main jobs were considered.

General Secretary: County Newsletter, Correspondence Meetings. and Minutes.

Treasurer: Produce Accounts, pay bills and Branch returns.

Membership Secretary: Gift Aid, BDI, BBKA and Bee Craft returns.

It was agreed to pay an honorarium of £250 each year for the three jobs.

Some minor amendments were made to the Bye-Laws. As copies were distributed to all members last year we will not distribute again, but if any body would like a copy these are posted on the KBKA web site or ask the General Secretary for a copy.

Council are keen for members to enter the KBKA Honey shows at Detling and the National Honey Show. Schedules for the County Show in July are distributed???? We plan to distribute information for the National with the August newsletter.

The following were elected to serve for the next twelve months:

Chairman Clive Watson, Vice-Chairman Frank Pearce,

General Secretary & Membership Secretary John Hendrie,

County Treasurer James Cash,

Executive Committee: Peter Hutton, Mike Wall, William Mundy, (one vacancy).

Honey Show Committee: P. Baker, J. Cowan, B. Farrow, Lesley Fancote, Sally Hardy, Mary Hill, Margaret May, W Mundy, W Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Weedon, M. Wall, D. Wood

Education Committee: Terry Hardy, K. Erhardt, M. Oliver, J. Audsley and T Tong.

It was suggested the NBU consider the use of GPS for monitoring the spread of Disease. Brian Palmer reported on the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting held on 14th January 2006.

John Hendrie

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. 25

COUNTY NEWSLETTER

April 2006

FREE BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT for 2006!

At the December Council meeting it was agreed to refund the entrance fee for all full members of the Kent Beekeepers' Association who achieve their BBKA Basic Assessment in 2006. The main reason is to improve the knowledge of beekeepers. When you are planning to take an examination or assessment it inspires you to undertake some structured learning. The BBKA provides a correspondence course, there are also course run in parts of Kent. It may also be that your branch will set up a refresher course too. Another reason to consider taking the Basic Assessment is to demonstrate to other people that you have achieved a competence in Beekeeping It's a bit like having to pass a driving test before being allowed to take a car on the highway.

It is advisable that you have been keeping bees for two years, but much of the assessment (which is purely practical and lasts for about 1 hour) is just commonsense but does follow the BBKA syllabus . The syllabus and an application form is available on the BBKA website www.britishbeekeepers.com or contact the Kent Examinations Secretary Peter Hutton on 07941 375589.

Applications should be sent to Peter Hutton, with the £10 fee by the end of April so dates can be arranged and Assessors can be booked The full refund of £10 will be made for successful candidates. Last year 99% of beekeepers passed their Basic Assessment Lets make this a bumper year for success in Kent.

John Hendrie

The Future of Beekeeping?

Mid Kent Branch arranged for the immediate Past President of the BBKA, Glyn Davies from Devon to come and speak on the future of beekeeping . There were visitors from many branches to find out what the future holds. Glyn observed that the BBKA had only 95 years left on the lease of the HQ at Stoneleigh and asked how many of us would be around to see what happened thereafter. On a more serious note he pointed out that the Insurance Company for third party cover had not yet asked for a list of insured members and whether they had a qualification of competence in beekeeping. Maybe if you don't hold the BBKA Basic Certificate you will not have this insurance in the future. How many people can obtain car insurance if they haven't passed the driving test?

CALENDAR – April to June 2006

Branch Events

Dartford, Gravesend, Sidcup, Whitstable—No meetings notified

Ashford

Sun 2nd April 2:30 pm Frank Wood Demonstration at the Branch apiary, Cheeseman's Green

Bromley

Sun 2nd Apr 11:45 am The Branch morning apiary meeting. Tea and biscuits provided.
Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management if weather permits

Tues 18th Apr 7:30 pm Clive Newitt of Exomite "Combating Varroa resistance"
Meeting at Kent House Road Allotments, 91a Kent House Road, Sydenham. SE26
Opposite Woodbastwick Rd., park in Kent House Rd. and walk up alleyway.

Canterbury

Sat 1st April 2:30 pm Spring Inspection at Barrowfield Apiary, Barham.
Sat 6th May 2:30 pm Apiary meeting at Tony Carter's Apiary, Shepherdswell.

Mid Kent

Sun 30th April 2:30 pm Magic Queen Introduction at the Branch Apiary with Brian Palmer.

Orpington

Sat 1st April 2:30 pm Apiary opening - High Elms Nature Centre.
Mon 1st May 9:00 am May Fair at Petts Wood Memorial Hall garden.
10th 11th June Stall at Coolings Garden Centre, Knockholt.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

Sat 1st Apr 2:30 pm . Meeting at Barrwood (and 15th, 29th April, 13th & 27th May))
Sat 6th May 2:30 pm Meeting at Hilbert Road Apiary (and 8th June)

Weald

Sat 29th April 3:00 pm Bob Smith Spring work in the apiary
For directions and venues ring Nick Mengham on 01233 840660

Westerham

28th & 29th April Bee Health Inspections.

Sat 20th May 2:30 pm At John and Margaret Williams' home 132 Sutherland Avenue, Biggin Hill,
demonstration and discussion

County and Other Events

Sat 8 th April 2006	Microscopy Course at West Kent College
Sat 22 nd April 2006	BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh
Sat 20th May 2006	Varroa Management Workshop at Dagenham Essex.
8th to 10th June 2006	South of England Show at Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
Sat 24 th June 2006	10:00 am Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling
Sat 24 th June 2006	12:30 pm AGM at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling
14 th -16 th July 2006	County Show at Detling
7 th October 2006	BBKA Forum at Stoneleigh
19 th - 21 st Oct 2006	National Honey Show RAF Museum, Hendon, North London
24 th October 2006	Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling
Sat 11 th Nov. 2006	Lecture at West Kent College. Details in next issue.

Microscopy Day with Dr John Cowan

Saturday 8 April 2006 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Places are limited to 10 people and must be booked in advance. Cost £20. Contact Terry Hardy on 01622 832066 to book a place. Venue West Kent College, Brook Street, Tonbridge.

National Honey Show

This year the NHS are offering FREE full annual membership to all those who have already joined the Kent Beekeepers' Association since 1st October 2005. This will entitle you to visit the National and attend the lectures for all three days of the show. You will also be able to enter in the competitive classes free of cost. If you think you qualify then advise John Hendrie not later than 31st July. The NHS will then send you tickets.

KBKA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at the Margaret Calder Pavilion, County Showground, Detling on Saturday 24th June, 2006 at 12:30 pm (At conclusion of Council Meeting)

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 11th June 2005
3. To elect a President
4. To approve the Annual Report and Accounts
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the Accounts in accordance with statutory requirements
6. Any Other Business

Jim Weedon retires as President and is eligible for re-election.

South of England Show Ardingly 8th to 10th June 2006

I have schedules for the Beekeeping classes at the forthcoming South of England Show. If you are interested please let me know. Entry forms need to be returned to Mrs Audrey Gill, 143, Smallfield Road, Horley. RH6 9LR not later than 13th April 2006. If you would like to help at the show contact David Staples, Chief Steward, 14, Northfield Road, Worthing. BN13 1QW. Tel: 01903 539205.

Free Varroa Management Workshop

The Romford Division of Essex BKA have arranged a Free Varroa Management workshop in Dagenham Essex. If you haven't yet attend one of the workshops run by the CSL then this may be a good opportunity. You must register in advance because places are limited. Please contact: Pat Allen, Secretary, Romford Division, 8, Frank's Cottages, St. Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex. RM14 3NU. Tel: 01708 220897

note that all details should be sent to John Hendrie, KBKA General Secretary, 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9JT or email: jdh@bbka.freereserve.co.uk by 20th May with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.