

## EBKA - Harlow Division

Minutes of AGM: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - 17 Attendees

**Meeting opened at 8.05 pm**

### **Apologies for Absence**

- David Tyler, David Tidmas, Lisa & David McCorkindale, Colin Porcher, Louise & Trevor Carr

### **Meeting Minutes for Previous AGM**

- Pauline Tidmas confirmed:
  - These minutes were circulated with Feb 16 newsletter – nothing arising from content
  - Page 1 Division posters still to be finalised and printed
  - Page 3 Awaiting Parndon Wood to put up sign – delay due to change in management
  - Page 4 Will still be purchasing more library books – please put ideas in suggestion box
- Previous minutes considered and agreed as a true representation by membership.
- Martin Cavalier asked if a column of action could be included within the minutes together with the initials of who should action various tasks, which was agreed

PT

### **Reports**

#### **Chairman – David Tyler**

Apologies for my absence.

The AGM is not the most popular event so many thanks for those attending.

The beekeeping year 2016 started rather badly with many beekeepers suffering colony losses. Many due to loss of badly mated queens the year before. The bees did not build up enough in many cases to take advantage of the oil seed rape crop. Hence very poor yields for many.

The field beans came out and it rained and rained, washing away blossom and providing little forage for flying bees. Some areas fared well but the overall picture was poor.

Borage was not grown in the acreage seen in the previous year due to over production. Fortunately the weather changed to our advantage in the late June and July and many beekeepers enjoyed a late season harvest from the blackberries and hedgerow forage.

Honey prices rose sharply and reflected the generally poor yields.

The Introduction to Beekeeping Course ran well with very satisfactory attendance.

Thanks to the organisers and new lecturers from the membership. Well done to all.

Monthly speakers were varied and interesting and thanks to Nick for his input in this area.

The out apiary in Parndon Wood is and plans are afoot to expand activities in this location.

We have taken advantage of central bulk buy schemes from EBKA to increase our equipment to benefit the division.

The library has been injected with some new titles from generous donations and purchases from our funds.

Thank you to the membership for turning up each month in good numbers and continuing to keep the club vibrant and of course the generous donations for the monthly raffle.

Congratulations to all those that submitted entries in the Essex Show enabling Harlow to win the major trophy.

The AGM is the time for election of committee officers and I ask members to consider taking over some duties in order that the load can be spread around. We as a club should not rely on the same people taking on these jobs year after year, these posts are not jobs for life.

If there are no submissions I am happy to stand as chairman and librarian for another year. Happy New Year to all.

### **Secretary – Nick Holmes**

We have had a good year of talks this year.

Early on we had a very engaging and interesting talk about anaphylaxis from people who have had first-hand experience.

Pat Allen, EBKA President, came and talk to us about queen rearing and her preference for raising queens with mini-nucs. She also talked to us about how to introduce queens to a hive safely.

David Rudland came in from Sussex, an ex-inspector, who came to educate us about bee diseases, how to spot them and what to do about them.

We had Clive de Bruyn talk to us about beekeeping in the Caribbean.

Then Andy Pedley teaching us about being hygienic while handling honey.

We had a super talk at the end of the year about a visit to France from Robert Pickford, a cross between beekeeping and surviving in rural France

## Treasurer – Pauline Tidmas

Again Membership has stayed stable

Now using the new accounting procedure based on receipts and payments accounting for that current year only, no advance payments allowed to be shown or banked.

Accounts have been finalised and audited and put to the meeting:

- Balance Sheet shows Net Assets of £3743.38 which is a lot of money for a charity and we will be looking for ideas of what is needed for the division.
- Divisional Account Sheet shows the breakdown of Receipts and Payments. The following columns are subject to a difference between totals of receipts as against payments; BBKA Capitation, EBKA Capitation, BDI Premium & BeeCraft Subscriptions due to some subscriptions for 2016 being received and banked in the 2015 accounts (under the old accounting system)
- Asset Register – See new Items and their locations are shown. We now have the use of the Church container at the rear of the church to localise some of these items however we need racking and the container is old and needs repair.

Membership agreed the accounts as a true representation for the division

## Election of Officers

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NOMINATED</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDER</u>
<b>Chairman</b>	Dave Tyler	Danny Nicoll	Ralph Cullen
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	David McCorkindale	Danny Nicoll	Ralph Cullen
<b>Secretary</b>	Nick Holmes	Ralph Cullen	Martin Cavalier
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pauline Tidmas	Nick Holmes	Carol Sissons
<b>Divisional Trustee</b>	Martin Cavalier	Barbara Maurice	Nick Holmes
<b>Spray Liaison</b>	Nick Holmes	Martin Cavalier	Danny Nicoll
<b>Swarm Control</b>	David Swindale	Pauline Tidmas	Val Jepps
<b>Training Liaison</b>	David McCorkindale	Nick Holmes	Danny Nicoll
<b>Council Liaison</b>	Brian Bull	Nick Holmes	Ralph Cullen
<b>Web Editor</b>	Nick Holmes	Ralph Cullen	Val Jepps
<b>Mailing Officer</b>	Lisa McCorkindale	Carol Sissons	Pauline Tidmas
<b>Librarian</b>	David Tyler	Barbara Maurice	Nick Holmes
<b>News Letter</b>	Nick Holmes	Pauline Whitcomb	Danny Nicoll
<b>Show Secretary/s</b>	Pauline Tidmas + Val Jepps	Pauline Whitcomb Nick Holmes	Nick Holmes BarbaraMaurice

## Divisional Program 2017

- **Jan 5** - AGM 2017
- **Feb 2** - Spring Preparation & What I did for the BBKA Basic with David McCorkindale
- **Mar 2** - Planting for Pollinators
- **Apr 6** - Making for Increase & Swarm Collection
- **May 4** - Propolis and Pollen
- **May** - Road Trip - TBA
- **Jun 1** - Bee Space
- **June** - Apiary Event - TBC
- **Jul 6** - Jerry Collins?
- **Aug 3** - Harlow Honey Show
- **Sept 7** - Wax Cleaning Winter Preparation
- **Oct 5** - Candles and Wax Moulding & 2017 Programme discussions
- **Nov 2** - Honey Beer... & 2017 Programme finalisation
- **Dec 7** - Xmas Party & Bee Quiz
- **Jan 4** - AGM 2018

## Divisional Education Apiary - Parndon Wood Nature Reserve **Danny Nicoll & Pauline Tidmas**

2015 was our 1<sup>st</sup> year at Parndon Wood. We introduced 2 new Hives of Honey Bees belonging to, and cared for by, local members of our Division. They thrived in their new location growing in numbers to large colonies. They even produced excess Honey which was sold in the Parndon Wood Café.

The start of Winter 2015/2016 was very mild and the Honey Bees they were out flying – not good! It doesn't help if they are still active!

Unfortunately their numbers dropped quite sharply but with sugar syrup, fondant and loving care both colonies made it through to the Spring 2016.

But Spring brought the cold weather and 1 of the colonies died out with just the strongest colony, number 1, surviving. Spring came and went with the Honey Bees missing out on important pollen and nectar producing flowers.

May gave a break in the weather on and off giving the Honey Bees a chance and their numbers improved allowing us to split the remaining colony in 2

This year we purchased a 3<sup>rd</sup> Hive and bees and with this good weather surplus honey was again available

By the end of July colony number 1 was large and doing very well, but the other 2 were having issues, we lost a swarm and the other was in decline.

They were somewhat touchy and the 2 day Education Event was a bit of a challenge when opening the hives. Sometimes you just can't save them and with that number 2 hit the dust.

We have been keeping a watchful eye on our remaining 2 colonies. With necessary treatments and feeding complete we hope to get them through this coming Winter and be strong for the Spring.

In 2017 it is hoped we will:

- Increase up to 4 hives and colonies & change Queens
- Education will be in the front of all we do. We will be looking at transferring all our reports on to the website so all members can see just how the bees are doing.
- We will list a rota for nominated members to do inspections logging dates and times for expected inspections on the divisional website, so members can come along.

**DN**  
**PT/NH**  
**DN**  
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**NH**

#### **Any other matters**

- **Tea making at divisional meetings:**

- Danny Nicoll suggested more members should help making tea at divisional meetings. All were in agreement. Each month a member will volunteer for the next month. Pauline Whitcomb volunteered for the February meeting.

- **Church Container & Storage of Assets:**

- Val Jepps asked if we could buy racking and pay for/ donate monies towards repair or towards a new container from divisional funds.
- Pauline Tidmas will speak to Harlow Committee – believe racking will not a problem but will check with Harlow Committee & Essex Treasurer with regards to payments for repairs for something which we do not own.

**PT**

**Meeting closed at 9.35 pm**