



# KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter No. 66 March 2013

## Annual Delegates Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013

At the ADM on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013, our Chairman, Clive Watson, was our delegate.

### The BBKA proposition:

That in view of the budget and projections presented, annual capitation rates per member be increased with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 as follows:

Registered members from £15.00 to £17.00

Other categories of member, pro rata:  
Partner members from £9.90 to £11.20  
Country members from £7.50 to £8.50  
Junior members from £7.50 to £8.50

Individual members:  
UK from £33.00 to £37.00  
Overseas from £25.00 to £28.00

### Proposition carried

### BBKA Executive Committee propositions:

**1/2013:** That two amendments are made to the BBKA Constitution to sub-clause 7.11 and Annex A.

In sub-clause 7.11 to replace the final sentence which currently reads "Junior Membership shall cease at the end of the BBKA Financial Year in which the Junior attains age of 18" with:  
*Junior Membership shall cease when the Junior attains the age of 18 and shall be automatically and immediately amended to Registered Membership for the remainder of that membership year, without further payment of any additional capitation in respect of that year. The benefits of Registered Membership, as defined in Annex A, shall apply.*

That Annex A shall be amended to insert in the row that is labelled "Junior Member" a tick instead of a cross in the column headed Third Party, Public and Product Liability Insurance.

### Proposition carried

**2/2013:** That the BBKA Constitution adds sub-clause 19.5 to read:

*That Trustees have the power to suspend a Trustee from membership of the Executive Committee if s/he is deemed to have engaged in conduct considered disreputable or opposed to the general interests of the BBKA or is in breach of the Trustees' Code of Conduct. In such an event, the Trustee will have the right to be heard at a properly convened meeting of Trustees, held prior to any such suspension which shall only take effect by a two-thirds vote of the Trustees present, the quorum for such a meeting of the Trustees being two-thirds of the total number of Trustees excluding the Trustee under consideration. The suspension shall remain valid until the next Delegates' meeting, at which meeting the Delegates shall have the power to remove the Trustee from office by a two-thirds vote. Both the Executive Committee and the suspended member shall have the right to address the Annual/Special Delegates Meeting to present their respective cases prior to voting.*

### Proposition carried

### Area Association propositions:

**3/2013 Cumbria BKA proposition:** That the two capitation dates: primary and secondary, be united to a single capitation date on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### Proposition rejected

**4/2013 Devon BKA proposition:** That the BBKA admit Jersey Beekeepers Association (JBKA) to full membership of BBKA.

**Proposition carried**

**5/2013 Hampshire BKA proposition:** That the BBKA negotiate with Defra and farmer representatives to establish a reporting scheme that mandates farmers who sow seed treated with pesticides, systemic or otherwise, to submit all relevant information to a central collection point on or before the date of sowing, which beekeepers could access online.

**Proposition rejected**

**6/2013 Hertfordshire BKA proposition:** That the BBKA formally launch the web-based Swarm Collection Service and give it wider publicity particularly to Local Authorities and that all Area Associations encourage their beekeeping members to become Swarm Collectors and register with the BBKA Swarm List.

**Proposition carried**

**7/2013 Stratford-upon-Avon BKA proposition:** That the BBKA should do more to educate Associations and their new members on the benefits of locally sources queens and it is ideally placed to encourage collaboration between neighbouring associations so that they consider the effect their drones may have on local queen rearing programmes.

**Proposition carried**

**8/2013 Gloucestershire BKA proposition:** That as the BBKA are acting guardians/custodians, they cannot ignore the major threat of neonicotinoids which can damage bee colonies severely, if not fatally. Whilst waiting for the results of existing studies, the BBKA should seek to quantify the sub-lethal damage caused by this group of chemical. Therefore, the BBKA must take a more proactive approach to achieving the scientific evidence by which these issues are measured. This should be BBKA's number one priority.

**Proposition referred back to the BBKA Executive Committee**

## **County and other events**

### **MEDWAY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LECTURE 2013**

Wainscott Memorial Hall, Holly Road, Wainscott ME2 4LG

**Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

This year's speaker is Stuart Roberts, who is an entomologist working in the Centre for Agri-Environmental Research at the University of Reading (UK). His main area of interest is bees, specialising in the solitary species and bumblebees rather than honey bees.

Should you wish to attend please e-mail Alex Barker [alex@alexbarkeronline.com](mailto:alex@alexbarkeronline.com)

### **SPRING CONVENTION**

Harper Adams University College, Newport, Shropshire

**Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Lectures from leading speakers

Courses and workshops for all levels of experience

Visit - [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) for more details

### **SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW**

Ardingly

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June**

For Honey Show information and entry form

Contact Mrs P Sparkes 01293 862063

**KENT COUNTY SHOW**  
County Showground, Detling  
**Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013**  
Stewards are always needed  
E-mail Bob Smith [bsmith12@ntlworld.com](mailto:bsmith12@ntlworld.com)

## **Education Coordinators' Workshop**

David Blower, the BBKA's Education Coordinator, recently organised an education workshop for the South East Region. This was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February and it was a very worthwhile day. See below notes made by Kit Erhardt.

Survey by David Blower 230 branches:

35% of branches have education coordinators.

New beekeeper training:

84% have significant demand

3% need help coping.

Beginners (up to 3 years)

81% report significant demand for training.

59% report significant demand for training for basic.

15% do not offer preparation for basic assessment.

Improvers (more than 3 years)

42% report significant demand for training

26% report no demand for training.

47% offer no training.

Summary: we do quite well for new beekeepers and beginners. We do a lot less well for improvers.

Follows some of my notes which I hope interest you in the order they came up.

BBKA has good exam and assessment framework. Less good on training.

Consider becoming an examiner for the basic assessment.

Suggested Initiatives

1. Themed apiary meetings achieve more than random ones.
2. Study groups for modules.
3. Study groups for general husbandry.
4. Training takes precedence over honey production.

Topics amenable to cyclical (intermittent) training:

1. General husbandry
2. Microscopy
3. Queen rearing.

Random suggestions

Getting people to do the basic assessment: select people with aptitude, allocate mentors to them.

- Associations
1. Working together.
  2. Sharing training facilities.
  3. Sharing expertise.