



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter

No. 83

June 2016

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of KBKA will be held on Saturday, 4th June 2016 at Lenham Community Centre at 11:30 am or when the Council meeting finishes if later. The formal notice and agenda is given below. The meeting is purely a formality to comply with legal requirements but anyone wishing to attend the AGM is welcome to sit in at the Council meeting as well.

KBKA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at Lenham Community Centre on Saturday, 4th June 2016 at 11.30 a.m. or thereabouts (at the conclusion of the Council meeting)

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM held on Saturday, 6th June 2015
3. To elect a President
4. To adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2015
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the Accounts in accordance with statutory requirements
6. Any other business

At the Council meeting on 12th March 2016 the Executive officers were elected as follows:

Chairman:	David Bragg
Vice-Chairman:	David Wood
Treasurer:	Charles Posnett
Assistant Treasurer:	James Cash
General Secretary:	Jenny Spon-Smith
Membership Secretary:	John Hendrie
Examinations Secretary:	Sharon Bassey

Committee members: Anthony Keeler, Lisa Wilson, Steve Clarkson, Michael Wall, Julie Coleman

ASIAN HORNET

Vespa velutina

I was recently telephoned by one of our members who thought he might have seen an Asian hornet. The threat is very real and it is not a question of if but when they will arrive here. The Channel is not really a deterrent these days and all it will take is for one or two to hitch a ride on one of the thousands of freight containers coming into Dover on a daily basis.

Vespa velutina, also known as the yellow legged hornet, is a native of Asia and arrived in Bordeaux in 2004. Since then it has been working its way north through France and is now not far from our shores. It is an aggressive predator and poses a threat to honey bees and other pollinators. The insect as described to me was much larger than the European hornet and had an orange abdomen. Whilst the caller was right to raise concerns as to what he had seen, it is also important that members are aware of what an Asian hornet looks like as early detection of its presence is vital.

The Asian hornet is smaller than the native European hornet. Its abdomen is almost entirely dark except for the 4th abdominal segment which is yellow, as are the lower parts of its legs. Further information and photographs can be found on BeeBase.

Jenny Spon-Smith

COUNTY AND OTHER EVENTS

KENT COUNTY SHOW

County Showground, Detling

8th 9th and 10th July 2016

Stewards are always needed so please make a note of the dates
in your diary.

To volunteer please contact Bob Smith
bsmith12@ntlworld.com

LENHAM LECTURE

Sunday, 6th November 2016

Lenham Community Centre

Speakers: Phil Stevenson and Dave Goulson
Topics to be confirmed

85TH NATIONAL HONEY SHOW SANDOWN PARK

Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10 9AJ

27th 28th and 29th October 2016

Beekeeping lectures and workshops
Show Schedule and entry forms will be available
nearer the time

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

As many of you will already know, John Hendrie will be standing down as County Membership Secretary. Under normal circumstances a new Membership Secretary would be elected in March 2017 but, given John's increasing commitments as BBKA President and the membership year ending in September, the best time to hand over would be October 2016. With that in mind we hope to appoint a new Membership Secretary with immediate effect at the Council meeting on September 24th 2016. If you would like to be nominated for this important role then please contact Jennifer Spon-Smith, KBKA General Secretary jennifer@spon-smith.com

REMINDERS

Change of contact details:

If you move house or change your telephone number or e-mail address, please don't forget to let your branch secretary and the county membership secretary know. Depending on your membership class, BDI, BBKA and BeeCraft need advising. If the database is not updated, then your incorrect details will be sent on the next update to these organisations.

Imported bees:

Members are reminded of the BBKA's policy to discourage the importation of queen bees and colonies from outside the UK. Prospective purchasers should satisfy themselves of the origin of bees offered for sale.

Maintenance of the Margaret Calder Pavilion:

Like any building, the Margaret Calder Pavilion needs repairs and maintenance from time to time. If it is not maintained in good repair, then it will start to deteriorate and there comes a point where it is past redemption. If you have any decorating, plumbing, electrical or any other useful skills and are able to undertake repairs/improvements etc. as the need arises, please let me know on jennifer@spon-smith.com