



# Essex Beekeepers' Association

## **Secretary's Report to the Association's 2018 Annual General Meeting**

The Central Executive Committee (CEC) met on six occasions during the past year. Whilst the Committee dealt regularly with routine matter, the CEC had agreed last year to set up a Governance working party to review our procedures. Following a verbal report on the issues for review, it was decided to set up a Governance Sub Committee chaired by Ted Gradosieiski which has reported regularly to the CEC during the year. It is encouraging that the Governance Report to be taken later at this meeting sets out for members the progress made to date in reviewing the issues which the Charity Commission require the Association to address.

Members have been provided with the propositions that the CEC have requested to be taken at this AGM. If the changes requested are passed by a majority of members at the meeting then the Rules of the EBKA will be revised.

I am pleased that Chad Colby Blake, from Southend Division and a member of the Governance Sub Committee is to give a presentation today on the General Data Protection Requirements (GDPR) which comes into effect from the end of May 2018. This follows on from the talk he gave to the CEC Trustees (Divisional Voting Members) and Divisional Treasurers at a training session held earlier in the month. It is important that, as an Association, we ensure that the new requirements for obtaining, holding and disposing of data are followed by all Divisions.

Last year's Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture was well attended at Marks Hall, Coggeshall with Professor Dave Goulson, founder of the Bumble Bee Trust and local horticulturalist, Darren Lerigo. The 2018 Lecture is being held on Sunday 22 April at the Lecture Theatre, Writtle College. This year's speakers are:

*Professor Richard Pywell*, Head of Biodiversity Science at the NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology who is to talk about his research on the threats to wild and managed pollinators, and the actions farmers can take to manage these.

*Norman Carreck*, the Science Director at the International Bee Research Association (IBRA) is to talk about the work of the IBRA and its founder, Eva Crane.

Both speakers are also leading the Honey Monitoring Scheme researching neonicotinoids in honey.

Finally, my term of office has come to an end today. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of the CEC who, during the past four years, have provided a dedicated commitment to work on behalf of the members of the EBKA.