

# Essex Beekeepers' Association

## Minutes of the 138th Annual General meeting

held on

**Saturday 24th March 2018**

in room E06, Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RP

*These minutes will be considered correct if no objection is raised in writing or by email before Thursday 31st May 2018. Any point challenged will be brought before the next meeting for correction of the record.*

**Presiding Officer:** Ian Milligan (Colchester Division)

**Also present:** As Attendance List, 40 people signed in.

*A period of silence was observed to remember our fellow beekeepers who had died during the past year.*

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Mike & Sabina Barke, Barbara & Peter Dalby, Jan French, Pat Holden, David Learmonth, David McCorkindale, Danny Nicholl, Jane Ridler, Barbara Sharp, Brian Spencer, Pauline & David Tidmas.
- 2 **The Minutes of the 137th AGM** had been published in *The Essex Beekeeper* for review by members. No challenges to the accuracy had been received so the minutes were signed by the Presiding Officer as a true record.
- 3 **The Report from the CEC Chairman** was published in the March 2018 issue of *The Essex Beekeeper* and a copy was in the AGM pack distributed to members present.
- 4 **General Treasurer's Report and Approval of the 2017 Accounts**
  - Copies of the examined accounts were in the AGM pack.
  - The General Treasurer said he had not found it easy getting to grips with the job in his first year and he was surprised to find that not all divisions were using the same accounts template. He mentioned the Treasurer Training Day that was held recently and this should help to get better alignment between divisions' and EBKA central accounts.
  - EBKA had run a deficit in the last three years, and while there had been a good reason for reducing the reserves, they were now no longer excessive. The reserves need to be adequate to cover any cash flow problems that might arise, for instance, when capitation has to be paid to BBKA but the income has not yet been received from divisions. The figure of £18,000 has been set and the Treasurer is now reporting to CEC on a cash flow basis to give a clearer picture. Divisions' accounts are all healthy, but this money is not available to EBKA central accounts.
  - Gift Aid has been claimed and is shown in the accounts to give a truer picture although this money has not yet been received from HMRC.
  - There was once again a small deficit in 2017, which is why the Trustees have proposed an increase to the subscription for January 2019.
  - The accounts were approved *nem con* and the General Treasurer was thanked for his hard work.
- 5 **Written reports from other members of the Central Executive Committee**
  - The **General Secretary's** report was in the AGM pack.
  - The **Education Secretary's** report was in the AGM pack. Note a correction: The Basic Preparation Training Day will be on **Saturday** 26th May 2018 (wrong day of the week given previously).
  - The **Examinations Secretary's** report was in the AGM pack. Further to this, the Exams Secretary said that all 12 of the candidates booked for modules that morning had attended.
- 6 **Election of County Officers (Trustees)**

**CEC Chairman:** Ian Nichols was willing to continue (1 year left of maximum term) and was re-elected *nem con*, proposed Pádraig Floyd, seconded Jim McNeill.

**General Treasurer:** Tom Keeper was willing to continue (3 years left of maximum term) and was re-elected *nem con*, proposed Ian Nichols, seconded Pat Allen.

**General Secretary:** Michael Webb was standing down having come to the end of his term. After some persuasion, **Chad Colby-Blake** agreed to take on the post for one year. Proposed by Pádraig Floyd, seconded by Nick Holmes and elected *nem con*. There was a vote of thanks to Michael for his work.

## 7 Notification of the 2018 Divisional Voting Members (Trustees) and 2019 Presiding Officer

Braintree	Stuart Mitson
Chelmsford	Jan Tutton
Colchester	Tony Rand
DH & Maldon	Kate Tuerena
Epping Forest	Don McHale
Harlow	Nick Holmes
Romford	Paul Wiltshire
Saffron Walden	Vanessa Wilkinson
Southend	Jean Smye

The 2019 Presiding Officer will be Tony Yeats of Saffron Walden Division.

## 8 Election of County Non-Trustee posts

President:	<b>Pat Allen</b> was happy to continue in the post (2 years left of maximum term) and was re-elected <i>nem con</i> , proposed Jim McNeill, seconded Ted Gradosielski.
BBKA Delegate:	<b>Pádraig Floyd</b> was proposed by Jean Smye, seconded by Nick Holmes, and re-elected <i>nem con</i> .
Editor:	Jean Smye was standing down having served the full term. <b>David Smye</b> was proposed by Paul Abbott, seconded by Mary McCulloch and elected <i>nem con</i> .
Education Secretary:	<b>Jane Ridler</b> was willing to continue and was proposed by Paul Abbott, seconded by Tom Keeper, and re-elected <i>nem con</i> .
Examinations Secretary:	<b>Pat Allen</b> was willing to continue for another year but will then stand down. Proposed by Ted Gradosielski, seconded by Paul Abbott, and re-elected <i>nem con</i> .
NHS Delegate:	<b>Jim McNeill</b> proposed by Paul Abbott, seconded by Susan Andrews and re-elected <i>nem con</i> .
Show Committee Secretary:	<b>Pauline Tidmas</b> was absent but understood to be willing to continue. Proposed by Jean Smye, seconded by Eric Fenner, re-elected <i>nem con</i> .
Spray & Disease Delegate:	This post will be renamed in line with changed job content and <b>Ian Nichols</b> agreed to take on the role. Proposed by Jim McNeill, seconded by Don McHale and elected <i>nem con</i> .

## 9 Notification of CEC Co-opted Members

Minutes Secretary:	David Smye
Membership Secretary:	Pat Allen
Book of Commemoration Sec'y:	Penny Learmonth
Webmaster:	Nick Holmes
Advertising Secretary:	Jean Smye
Distribution Secretary:	Michael Elliott

## 10 Confirmation of Accounts Examiner

The Accounts Examiner is Richard Davis and the payment to him was agreed at £100.

## 11 Propositions from the CEC:

11.1 The full wording of this proposition was published in the March 2018 issue of *The Essex Beekeeper* and a copy was in the AGM pack. The essence of it is that EBKA membership categories should be adjusted to align better with the BBKA register. This is to avoid misunderstandings as to benefits and to simplify the calculation of capitation, which has been a problem for Treasurers since the BBKA register was brought in.

Dual Membership would be changed to Registered Member and Partner Member

Single Membership would be renamed Registered Member

Group Membership would be dropped (in reality it is Single Membership by another name).

EBKA Life Membership categories would remain unchanged; Junior and Associate categories would be unaffected. There would be no change in benefits or costs to members.

Pat Allen, Membership Secretary, spoke to clarify that Group membership does not mean group insurance, only the named representative is the registered member and has the insurance. Jim McNeill pointed out that also, at a show the group cannot enter, only the named representative. Nick Holmes asked, if the registered person leaves and is replaced by another, would there need to be a fresh

registration and payment? Pat said it is possible to change the name of the representative without making a new registration. Bob Manning suggested that groups could get their own insurance. Tom Keeper said it was dual memberships that cause the most problems for a treasurer. After further discussion, it was agreed to vote on the proposal as it stood **but omitting the paragraph referring to Group Membership**. (Group Membership was referred back to the CEC for further consideration.) Proposed Neil Reeve, seconded Pádraig Floyd. For:19; against:5.

- 11.2 The full wording of this proposition was published in the March 2018 issue of *The Essex Beekeeper* and a copy was in the AGM pack. The essence of it is to adopt a method of keeping the subscription in line with inflation with small increases, thus avoiding the recurring deficit in the EBKA accounts or having to bring in a big jump in one year.

Tom Keeper, General Treasurer, spoke to explain why rounding to the nearest 20p was proposed. If 50p or £1 was used for rounding, then it is unlikely that the subscription would ever be increased as inflation is so low. After some discussion it was agreed to vote on the proposition as it stood. Proposed Tom Keeper, seconded Pat Allen. There was one abstention, otherwise passed *nem con*.

12 **Report of the Governance Sub Committee**

Ted Gradosielski, Chair of the Sub Committee, spoke of its work. The Sub Committee was formed by the CEC over a year ago. The report was not available at the AGM but can be provided to interested parties. The work of the Sub Committee is to prepare draft policy documents for EBKA. EBKA is regulated with rules (last amended in 2016) but is not a corporate body. With our current structure the Trustees are personally liable in law but they are covered by indemnity insurance. EBKA must also comply with new Charity Commission rules. This means we need a set of policies (Safeguarding, Data Protection, etc) and over the next year the Sub Committee will be putting together draft policies for consideration by the Trustees. Rule changes will be needed, for which an EGM will be held. In drawing up these draft policies, advantage is being taken of templates available.

13 **Conference 2017 Report: given by Ian Milligan**

- Held at the Holiday Inn at Eight Ash Green, with 90 people attending.
- Martin Bencsik gave a fascinating talk on bee communication through resonance on wax and his recording of it was surely a first.
- Margaret Ginman spoke about the Bee Farmers' Apprentice Scheme which is proving successful. This is backed by the Wax Chandlers, coincidentally the source of our speaker today.
- Norman Carreck's talk was a roam through time of publications on beekeeping and the future of IBRA.
- The buffet was excellent, as was the raffle (though embarrassment for Ian whose ticket was first out of the hat).

14 **Conference 2018 Preview: given by Pat Rowland**

- The Conference will be hosted by Braintree Division, on Saturday 3rd November 2018, at Chelmsford City Racecourse.
- The theme will be "Bees and Wellbeing".
- Speakers will be Bunny Campione (Daws Hall Trust), Dr Rowena Jenkins (Dept of Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, Swansea Univ Medical School), and Chris Newenham, Managing Director, Wilkins & Sons Ltd.
- Price £25 per head.

15 **Installation of 2018 Presiding Officer**

Pat Rowland, Chair of Braintree Division, will be Presiding Officer for 2018. Pat read from the Book of Commemoration.

----- This concluded the AGM business. -----

**Presentation by Chad Colby-Blake**

Following the AGM there was a short presentation by Chad Colby-Blake, a member of the EBKA Governance Sub Committee, about the General Data Protection Requirement (GDPR) which comes into effect on 25th May 2018. This presentation was a shortened version of that given at the recent Trustee & Treasurer Training Day. Chad concentrated on personal data and explained how the GDPR will affect how EBKA collects personal data, processes it, and disposes of it.

We were running behind schedule at this stage, but Chad made sure his message was clear and complete because, as was pointed out by Mary McCulloch, this matter affects the whole of EBKA and we have no choice but to comply with the GDPR.

----- Break for refreshments kindly provided by Braintree Division -----

### **Presentation of Awards**

BBKA and EBKA certificates were given out by the EBKA President, Pat Allen. Recipients were: Jan French, Tom Geddes, Christine Poerschke, David Mallindine, Tom Keeper, Vanessa Wilkinson, Paul Abbott. (Certificates for absentees were collected by an attendee from their division.)

### **Talk by Peter Tompkins, Deputy Master of the Wax Chandlers Company**

Peter told us that the Wax Chandlers have been in existence and on the same site in Gresham Street in the City since the sixteenth century. The current building is the sixth, the previous ones having been lost to the Great Fire of London, bombing, and deterioration.

He mentioned many of the other Livery Companies and their place numbers in the 'hierarchy', and explained the derivation of the expressions 'Hallmark' (the assay mark is put on at Goldsmiths Hall) and 'at sixes and sevens' (two Livery Companies dispute their position, so they swap year to year, between 6 and 7).

The Wax Chandlers Company does much charity work supporting projects helping young people, and offers prizes, sponsors the National Honey Show, and much more. The Hall is used for meetings and many dinners throughout the year. Peter said that visitors are welcome and, if there is nothing else going on, the Beadle is happy to show visitors around the Hall.

----- The meeting finished at approximately 5.15pm. -----