

Thank you from the EBKA President



The tenure for the EBKA President is 5 years. I have completed my 4th year in office.

Having come through Covid and Lock-down in the first two years, I felt optimistic about the future. Beekeepers are well known for facing problems head on and overcoming adversity. However, years 3 and 4 have had both ups and downs. The downs have been that some Divisions have seen less members attending meetings and fewer taking part in Divisional events. It's a pity, because mixing with other members is by far the best way to meet our fellow beekeepers, who will always be willing to give advice and even hands-on help.

Unsurprisingly, our common enemy, the Asian Hornet, is actually creating opportunities where members are getting together to share information. Southend have been very proactive as they have had first hand experience of the AH and have widely distributed traps and information and guidance to members. Dave Garrett is EBKA's AH link to Apha and is kept busy sharing the latest information amongst members.

Our 2023 County Show was an enormous success, ably masterminded by our Show Secretary Michael Webb, and supported by members across the County who gave both practical help and by submitting a record number of entries. All in all, a great event and one to be proud of, benefitting our members as well as the public.

The 2023 County Conference was presented by Southend Division and held in Brentwood, it being reasonably central for members. The speakers were very knowledgeable as well as being entertaining (always a bonus) and gave us food for thought as well as hope for the future, in that, if we do well in all respects for our bees, they will do their best for us.

Southend Division was generous with its hospitality and created a great atmosphere. The day rounded off with the presentation of cups and trophies won at the County Show and Certificates awarded for the examinations taken.

It was heartening to see at both the County Show and the Conference, members mixing and enjoying the company of fellow beekeepers. We need these occasions to make us appreciate how much we have in common as well as to glean from the experiences of others.

Long may it last.

Jean Smye HCLM

President