



EssexBeekeepers'Association

Education Secretary Report on 2024/25 Season for the March 2025 AGM

Module Training

A whole day Module training session took place on 12th October 2024 with myself and Richard Ridler. Both Module 1 and Module 3 were undertaken, some time being spent in one group and some time separately. The session was timed so that it could cover both those who were taking November exams, who could use it to help with revision and also as an introduction/overview for those looking to take the exams in March 2025. The attendance was very poor and disheartening. Twelve people showed interest in one of the Modules, but we eventually expected only 8 on the day. And only half that number actually turned up! (mostly sending apologies on the day, but not even all doing that!) The CEC had supported the hire of the venue financially, which although good use of our Education Fund, perhaps make delegates blasé? The second whole day Module training session took place on February 2nd 2025. The Module was 5, Bee Biology, and attracted a much bigger interest. Perhaps a larger fee (with a partial refund on the day) provided a better commitment. There were 16 delegates, and the Dunmow Day Centre proved to be a better venue than St Mary's Room, Dunmow. Module 6 is proposed for October 2025, if enough interest is shown – or another Module if preferred.

Practical Courses

Basic Assessment

Two full day courses were offered again this season on May 11th and 18th at Jane and Richard Ridler's home apiary. The theory and practical required for the assessment was covered so that candidates could be confident when approaching the real thing later in the year. Some Divisions have run their own theory classes this year which is helpful and hopefully to be repeated in future. If more Divisions run training for the BA, only a few candidates would need to be covered at County level which would

make life easier for the Examinations Secretary to place the candidates with assessors. The Officers' Day on March 1st revealed that most Divisions are covering some preparation. I am organising 2 County based sessions again in May 2025.

General Husbandry

The promotion and discount for this provided by the CEC seems to have been successful and we have 5 candidates for 2025. Richard and I will visit any of them who request it to help with setting up the apiary and honey processing, and also to explain the format to those who are considering it.

Communication

With the demise of the Essex Beekeeper and the ongoing development of the EBKA website, it was apparent during the year that communication was inadequate. A Bulletin sent out to all members via eR2 was instigated before Christmas, with a second following in March. The title has been changed successfully so that 'Admin' is not in the main heading, rather, Training and Assessment News! This seems to provide a good communication on exam dates, application headlines and education opportunities with the members in the absence of any other means. It is proposed to send out the Bulletin quarterly.

The Officers' Day on March 1st gave an opportunity for Divisional committee members to hear about the education and exams, and more importantly to give feedback on Beginners' Courses and Basic Assessment support as provided by the Divisions. This information is being correlated so that everyone can see the similarities and differences on offer in the Divisions across the County.

Jane Ridler

EBKA Education Secretary

09/03/25