



EssexBeekeepers'Association

General Secretary's Report to EBKA's 2025 AGM

The Central Executive Committee (CEC) met on six occasions on Zoom during the past year, with excellent attendance and a positive team atmosphere. Diverse topics were discussed ranging from finance and governance, to education, bee research projects, the honey show, and a new website. Meeting minutes have been circulated promptly to all members of the committee.

Governance

The Governance Subcommittee met 5 times during the year. EBKA policies were reviewed with meeting minutes and recommendations passed to the CEC.

The CEC approved the following EBKA policies:

Health & Safety; Finance; Privacy; Insurance; Safeguarding; and Equality & Diversity. Two further documents were also introduced: *EBKA Complaints Procedure* and a *Guide for Members publishing items on Beekeeping*.

Policies are available on the EBKA website: <https://ebka.org/members-area/ebka-rules-policies/>

The *EBKA Handbook of Policies and Protocols* was reviewed and is now being updated. It covers all aspects of running the Association and guidance for Divisional Committee members. Following approval by the CEC, it will be sent to divisions and available via the website.

EBKA Website

The EBKA website is being re-designed by Jan Swanwick, our webmaster. In addition, CEC members have been set up with an EBKA email address with access to a Microsoft 365 shared area. In the interest of security and convenience, reports for CEC meetings will be uploaded to the common area in future, rather than emailing attachments to committee members.

Officers' Day

This took place on 1 March at Margaretting Hall in Chelmsford. Officers from all eight divisions registered for the event, 48 in total. It was a highly successful day, especially meeting in person, and included finance, education, exams, and an update on Asian Hornet, as well as plenty of discussion.

New General Secretary

My term of office as Secretary comes to an end this month. An enjoyable and rewarding four years, during which I have been lucky to work with two splendid CEC chairs, Jane Ridler and Linda Yeats, and with CEC members across all divisions. A huge thanks to them all, and especially for their time and energy working for EBKA members.

We are looking for a volunteer for a new Secretary, as a point of communication for the county. Please contact me direct, if you think you can help.

Vanessa Wilkinson, EBKA General Secretary, March 2025, secretary@ebka.org