

EBKA - Harlow Division - Annual General Meeting Minutes

Started 8.10 on Thurs 4th January 2018

1. Apologies for Absence

- **Ralph Cullen, Brian Bull, David McCorkindale & Pauline Tidmas sent apologies**
- As Pauline's' absence was a last minute surprise we restructured the meeting to 2 parts – this and an EGM next month

2. Previous AGM Meeting Minutes

- In the absence of certain parties the minutes were not readily available to the meeting attendees in a paper form – Nick Holmes said he would make an electronic version available and in next month's EGM we would have a paper version.

3. Reports

- **Chairman – David Tyler**

The AGM is not the most popular event so many thanks for those attending.

The 2017 beekeeping year started off slowly with poor weather and no oil seed rape crop for the bees or beekeeper to take advantage of therefore some members did not do so well with their honey crop; Hence very poor yields for many.

The weather improved for the field beans but little borage was grown due to over production in previous years.

We ran a successful The Introduction to Beekeeping Course and thanks to the organisers and new lecturers from the membership. Well done to all.

We had a few speakers for our monthly meetings with varied and interesting topics thanks to Nick for his input in this area. It is a difficult task to find speakers on subjects which would interest the membership and we are able to pay for speakers if we know what topics members are interested in.

Thank you to the membership for turning up each month in good numbers and continuing to keep the club vibrant and of course the generous donations for the monthly raffle.

Congratulations to all those that submitted entries in the Essex Show enabling Harlow to win the major trophy again. Let's see if we can continue this success through 2018.

The AGM is the time for election of committee officers and I ask members to consider taking over some duties in order that the load can be spread around. We as a club should not rely on the same people taking on these jobs year after year, these posts are not jobs for life. We need a new Treasurer no one has come forward so far and we also need a new Trustee to support the division at the Central Executive Committee meetings held during the year.

Thanks to all the officers who help to run the club and glad we can continue to hold our meetings at Kings Hall.

If there are no submissions I am happy to stand as chairman and librarian for another year. Happy New Year to you all.

- **Secretary** – to be delivered in next month’s EGM
- **Treasurer** – to be delivered in next month’s EGM with the accounts

4. Election of Officers

- **Current Posts & Holders:**
 - **Chairman** - David Tyler (would like to be replaced next year) – proposed by Danny Nicoll & Colin Porcher
 - **Vice Chairman** - ~~David McCorkindale wishes not to stand again~~ – **no offers - left open until EGM**
 - **Secretary** - Nick Holmes – proposed by David Swindale & seconded by Danny Nicoll
 - **Treasurer** - Pauline Tidmas – proposed by David Tyler & seconded by Nick Holmes
 - **Divisional Trustee** - ~~Martin Cavalier wishes not to stand again~~ – **no offers - left open until EGM**
 - **Spray Liaison** - Ben Hart – proposed by David Tyler & seconded by David Swindale
 - **Swarm Control** - David Swindale – proposed by Nick Holmes seconded by Ben Hart
 - **Training Officer**- David McCorkindale – proposed by Nick Holmes seconded by David Swindale
 - **Council Liaison** – Ralf Cullen – proposed by Danny Nicoll seconded by David Tyler
 - **Web Editor** -Nick Holmes – proposed by David Tyler seconded by David Swindale.
 - **Mailing Officer** -Lisa McCorkindale – proposed by Danny Nicoll seconded by Ben Hart
 - **Newsletter** -Nick Holmes & Roy Copley – proposed by Colin Porcher seconded by David Tyler
 - **Librarian** -David Tyler – proposed by Nick Holmes seconded by Ben Hart
 - **Show Secretary** -Pauline Tidmas – proposed by Nick Holmes seconded by Danny Nicoll

Divisional Program 2018

- There were various comments about the need for the programme to be done as soon as possible – previously requested talks are as follows
 - *Queen rearing*
 - *Pollen talk*
 - *Alternative bee hives (Peter Aldridge from Chelmsford?)*
 - *Shook Swarm*
 - *swarm collection does and don't*
 - *swarm prevention*
 - *Selling your honey – labelling requirements and marketing*
- Ben Hart said that he would be keen to help with arranging speakers but for now would not like the Programme Secretary role on paper.

Divisional Educational Apiary

Danny talked about ideas about how we might use the apiary going forward

Any Other Business -

Meeting structure – there was a discussion about the meeting structure – David Tyler point out people leave at half time which felt disappointing.

Ted Grad said Epping start 7:30 finish at 8:45-9 after tea – NH said pattern was like that at at Saffron Walden also

It was said Chelmsford have tea first

David Swindale said we could finish earlier if the meeting has run its natural course, as often meetings feel stretched out – David Tyler explained that as a speaker / host we wanted to give people the full time or they may feel short changed, but that it should be discussed at a committee meeting.

It was discussed to start the meeting at 7:30 and talk about general matters before 8pm lecture start – it was highlighted as response that a number of members would have difficulty doing 7:30 as they like to get home and have dinner before coming to the meeting

Speakers – David Tyler said we should have an autonomous speaker budget and willing to get out there and get good speakers

- Ben Hart said he would be happy to help

Facebook page

- Nick Holmes said he would like someone to help cultivate the Harlow Bees facebook page to support outreach to the public, interest in lectures and interest in beekeeping
- Ben Hart said he will help with curation of the facebook page and it may help to get us speakers

Local bees – it was discussed that we should all get local mongrels rather than imported queens. Danny related a poor experience he had had with a queen reseller or imported queens. David Tyler highlighted that various members sold locally bred queens.

AGM closed : 21:00