

EBKA - Harlow Division

Minutes of AGM: 10th January 2019 - 22 Attendees

Meeting opened at 8.10 pm

Apologies for Absence

- David & Lisa McCorkindale, Barbara Maurice, Colin Porcher, Eric Fenner, Paul Wiltshire, Mandie Lohse, Debbie Winter & Frank Harrison

Meeting Minutes for Previous AGM

- Minutes of 2018 AGM & EGM were circulated with Newsletters and no comments received. Minutes Agreed.

Reports

Chairman – David Tyler

Horrific long wet winter led to major losses of bee colonies. As the Spring started colonies started to build slowly but there was little rain which resulted in a loss of nectar and therefore affected the honey supply. Everyone worked hard to replenish bee stocks and ensure colonies survived. Well done to everyone involved with Local Fete's, Essex and National Honey Shows. Membership numbers are holding up well. We hope to hold our Introduction to Beekeeping Course this year but unsure when, where or who will be running it.

Secretary – Nick Holmes

A good year for the Division, we had many good speakers at our Divisional Monthly Meetings. Nick is stepping down as Secretary and will be helping new Secretary during the year.

Treasurer – Pauline Tidmas

Small slide show to assist in the explanation of Annual Accounts which are made up of 4 documents

1. **Gift Aid:** As a Tax Payer you can grant Essex the opportunity to claim monies from the Tax Man (Gov.) equivalent to a percentage of the subscription paid. For 2018 Harlow members agreed Essex could claim against £2044.30 of subscriptions paid.
2. **Asset Register:** List of items held by the Division and where located. Items are nominal worth to anyone other than Division and we never include any value for assets within our accounts – as per instructions from Essex Treasurer.
3. **Balance Sheet:** Started 2018 with £3752.46 - we made a loss of £190.22 - therefore end of year balance is £3562.24.
4. **Divisional Accounts:** Itemised breakdown of receipts & Payments for the year. It was a very basic year for the accounts no major items spent other than final items for Divisional Apiary, meeting speakers and various bits of minor equipment

Divisional Education Apiary – Carol Sissons

Following the loss of all colonies the new Apiary Team have managed to colonize all 4 hives which are all still going strong. They have been fed with syrup, treated for Varroa and recently been given fondant to help ensure getting through this winter.

Following a discussion with regards to Bee Disease Insurance cover it was agreed to increase payment from 5 hives up to 10 to cover artificial swarm control.

Election of Officers 2019

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NOMINATED</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDER</u>
Chairman	Dave Tyler	Pauline Tidmas	Mike Barke
Vice Chairman	Mike Barke	David Swindale	Nick Holmes
Secretary	Carol Sissons	David Tyler	Danny Nicoll
Treasurer	Sue Frazer	Pauline Tidmas	Carol Sissons
Membership Sec	Pauline Tidmas	Binh Nguyen	Mike Barke
Divisional Trustee	Nick Holmes	Ralph Cullen	Adam Wooltorton
Spray Liaison	Ben Hart	Danny Nicoll	Chris Pen.-Smith
Swarm Control	David Swindale	Mike Barke	David Tyler
Training Liaison	David McCorkindale	Ralph Cullen	Carol Sissons
Council Liaison	Ralph Cullen	Nick Holmes	Danny Nicoll
Web Editor	Nick Holmes	Ben Hart	Binh Nguyen
Mailing Officer	Lisa McCorkindale	Pauline Tidmas	David Tyler
Librarian	David Tyler	Danny Nicoll	David Swindale
News Letter	Pam Chambers	Mike Barke	Adam Wooltorton
Show Secretary	Carol Sissons	Nick Holmes	David Swindale

Divisional Program 2019

No program set up at present as new Secretary just elected.

Program will be setup ASAP with Assistance from Pauline & Nick. There are already set events for certain months, such as AGM for January, Honey Show for August & Xmas Party for December.

All monthly meetings, fetes and shows will be listed and requests for volunteers & event advertising will be done in good time for each event.

Any other matters

- **Monthly Meetings: Future Setup**
 - Danny Nicoll suggested 15 minutes be set aside for instruction for beginners ensuring they know what is coming up next with regards to looking after their colonies. **This was agreed by members.**

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- **Divisional Events:**

Some events are inviting Harlow Beekeepers to their show but charging a fee for our stall. In 2018 we paid £40 & £30 at 2 separate events. The aim of Harlow attending is primarily to educate the General Public and we ask for volunteers to man the stall. At these events volunteers can sell products from the hive.

- Danny Nicoll suggested that any member selling any of their own products under the Harlow Beekeepers Banner should pay a proportion to Harlow Division as they are there under the Harlow Division Banner– He suggested 10% would be reasonable.
- Pauline Tidmas expressed a view against charging. We make no extra money from the cost of items, especially honey, at our local shows we keep it at a very reasonable price.
- Ben Hart suggested putting a premium on the price to cover this charge.
- A vote was taken as to whether a charge should be made on sales– this was turned down

'For' – 6 'Against' – 9 'Abstained' 7

It was felt that this is 'quid pro quo' for the same helpers every time turning up to help; this in light of them giving up their time / expenses and it was felt that if volunteers started to having to pay we may not have enough people to run the events.

- **Junior Membership:**

Essex encourages Junior Membership via the Local Division rather than via BBKA.

- Nick Holmes suggested the price for Junior Membership be reduced to a nominal figure of say £1.00 from 2020. Junior members tend to just join in at the Essex & Local Honey Show – they receive no other benefits from the division. **Membership Voted in Agreement to reduce payment down to £1**

- **Honey Sales to Parndon Wood:**

Apiary Site is Free of Charge to Harlow Beekeepers. It was agreed all honey produced on site would be sold to the Nature Reserve who would sell it to the general public. 2015 – 2018 we have sold honey in 12oz jars (without labels) for £2.50.

- Nick Holmes suggested now was a good time to increase the price for 2019 to £3.50 per unlabelled 12oz jar. **Membership Voted in Agreement**
- Carol Sissons agreed to speak to the centre

- **Access & Education at Parndon Wood:**

Inspections are to take place when the centre is closed; so as not to affect the General Public. We do open the hives on our educational weekend - we are not inspecting hives just removing frames -and the General Public are brought right up to the fence

- Nick Holmes suggested now was a good time to try to get the rules relaxed so would could use the hives for the main purpose we wanted them, which was for teaching. **Members agreed this would be a good idea.**
- Carol Sissons agreed to speak to the centre and Ralph Cullen agreed to Speak to the Council Representative

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- **Harlow Honey Show – August Meeting**

- David Swindale asked if the Divisional Honey Show could be changed from the August meeting to say the October Meeting. David explained members are very busy during August and they would have more time to prepare for a later month.
- Pauline Tidmas explained that when the Honey show was resurrected a few years ago it was agreed to choose the August Meeting so members (especially beginners) had an opportunity to have a trial run at doing honey show entries before the Essex Honey Show in early September and the National in November.
- **Membership Voted to leave the Divisional Honey Show in August**

Meeting closed at 10.10 pm