

Positive Thinking 19 - March 2019

From Margaret Wilson, BBKA Chair

Information from Bee Health Advisory Forum

“Dear BHAF Members

I have been asked by Michelle Wilson – Head of APHA’s Plant and Bee Services to inform you that following the retirement of Mike Brown on Friday the 8th February, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Julian Parker as the temporary Head of the National Bee Unit. This is a key role to ensure that NBU services are delivered and integrated within APHA, implementing recommendations from the Plant and Bee Health Review.

Julian began his new role on Monday February 11th 2019. Julian has held a variety of roles within the National Bee Unit over the past ten years, including most recently the National Bee Inspector. Julian’s appointment ensures we can benefit from his previous subject and business experience “

Exams

When the exam papers are completed and sent in for marking, it is quite distressing for the markers to see that the candidate has not read the question properly, and will answer what they think is asked rather than answer the specifics of the question. Also additional information is added to the core question to expand the answer. This takes your time away from other questions.

If you could please just read the question at least twice before answering and then stick to the facts. In a ten point question you will generally find there are ten specific points you must cover. Mostly this happened in the Module One exams, this is probably because like myself taking the Beekeeping Exams is the first time you have taken any kind of test since leaving education and certainly for me that was a long time ago.

In 2020 it is hoped to have the Microscopy exams taken in the excellent facilities at Harper Adams, so to those wishing to take that exam, now is the time to start studying.

There is to be a new special edition magazine on Queen Rearing, which is anticipated to be ready for the Spring Convention. I think this is going to be a very popular edition, the more beekeepers who take up this function with their bees, the fewer queens we will need to import.

Other special editions in the line are one on wax and another on the healthy hive guide, these magazines are great because you can just pick up the one to give you all the information on your subject without having to leaf through book. I like the books, to sit and read to keep me up to date but if I want to perform a particular function, the special edition is my choice.

Insurance

The office have been asked many times about insurance for Juniors, I would like to confirm that Junior members are insured with the BBKA insurance plan.

Your Honey Show

If you would like to advertise your Honey Show, please send the details to Claire.hartry@bbka.org.uk and Claire will put the details on the website, This may just get more members coming to enjoy your shows. There is no charge for this, so why not give it a try.

Adopt a Beehive

Many years ago Nicky Smith, owner of TwelvePR, approached the BBKA with the fundraising idea of Adopt a Beehive. We want to thank Nicky and her team for their work which has produced additional funds for BBKA sponsored research projects. Some of our members have written many articles for the Hive Talk newsletter which is sent out to 'adopters' and these have been greatly appreciated.

Associations and Branches have promoted Adopt a Beehive by distributing leaflets at shows they attend and we thank you for your support and encouragement.

However, we have decided it is time for new ideas and the fundraising team are busy working on these and talking with potential sponsors. I will bring you more information once plans have been finalised. We will not be promoting or selling anymore Adopt packs from 1st April but we are of course carrying on for the next year to fulfil the scheme for those people who have already purchased Adopt.

Spring Convention

We are again approaching the spring convention, this gives you a chance to catch up with friends in a lovely atmosphere, the chance to listen to learned speakers, attend workshops and buy equipment at the Trade Show.

It appears that this is the last year when Harper Adams will be able to offer the depth of accommodation, we have till now enjoyed, so next year some members may have to book in local hotels.

Average attendance is only about 4.5% of the membership and from experience seem to be the same visitors each year with some new beekeepers coming along but not sustaining their visits year on year.

By comparison the Beetradox Exhibition which is just for one day and has limited speakers available and no workshops attracted 10% of members this year.

As we had agreed that we would accept the offer to have a BBKA stand at Beetradox this year, we took the Special Editions, members of the staff were on hand as were Trustees, to answer any questions, we also devised a questionnaire regarding the Spring Convention to find out if those at Beetradox went to the Spring convention and if not why not.

The result was enlightening, so we would like to extend those questions re the Spring Convention to the whole membership (or at least the 95.5% of members who do not go to the Spring Convention)

May I ask that you complete the simple questionnaire below and return this to Alex at Stoneleigh on ta.answers@bbka.org.uk. this will help us to give you what you want regarding lectures, workshops, trade show or location at the beginning of the beekeeping season.

Spring Convention - Questionnaire

Please scan this sheet with your answers and send to Alex Danks at BBKA, Stoneleigh ta.answers@bbka.org.uk. Thank you !

Have you ever attended Spring Convention ? Yes / No

If yes – how many times have you attended : _____ (approximately)

What discourages you from attending Spring Convention? (you can choose more than one answer).

- a) Cost of tickets
- b) Distance to, or accessibility of Harper Adams, Shropshire
- c) Not interested
- d) Timing (ie Easter Holidays)
- e) Lectures are repetitive (each year the content is the same or similar)
- f) Other

Please add any other comments in the space below: