



Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association December 2016 Newsletter



BBKA and the Annual Delegates Meeting

Before looking at some of the propositions for the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) I would like to give some background to the supplement we all received with the December issue of the BBKA News.

Members may or may not be aware that the BBKA operates through several committees comprising the BBKA Trustees and co-opted members. One of the committees entitled Education and Husbandry is responsible for the education programmes run by the BBKA. Nearly two years ago there was a disagreement between the then Chair of the committee, Peter Sutcliffe, and Dan/Ken Basterfield concerning the commissioning and payment for a new General Husbandry Course. The specific details have been lost under the myriad of accusations and counter accusations. The outcome of the whole episode was that Peter resigned as BBKA Vice Chairman and Chairman of the E&H committee, there were several attempts at mediation, an enquiry by the BBKA and finally Dan instigated legal proceedings against the BBKA. The County Court Judgement was included in the BBKA News Supplement. It is a real shame that after all the disruption caused by this case within the BBKA that supporters of one side wish to continue with a what appears as a vendetta against the BBKA. I know that the BBKA has drawn a line under the matter, in fact Ken Basterfield is the current Chair of the E&H Committee.

Despite this case the BBKA seems to have made significant progress in the last year under the guidance of the new Chairman of the BBKA, Margaret Murdin. For the first time in several years the BBKA have reported a financial surplus. Margaret has taken on board the feedback from last years ADM and has made improvements to the organisation and implemented changes ensuring more transparency in the operations of the BBKA.

In the December BBKA News the Nominations and Propositions for the forthcoming ADM were published. Derek Atkinson the Chairman of the Bucks County Beekeepers Association will represent all the Associations of Bucks at the meeting. He will cast votes on the Nominations and Propositions in accordance with the agreed position on each item agreed by the County Committee.

At the last MBBKA committee meeting we discussed and agreed the following positions:

Agree with all Trustee and Exam Board Nominations except for Ken Basterfield.
Accept all the applications for Associations to be affiliated to the BBKA.

Disagree with propositions 1,2,3,4,7,9.

Agree with propositions 5,6,10.

We feel that there is some merit in paying expenses for remote Associations and that proposition 8 requires further discussion.

We feel that proposition 11 would benefit from further discussion as it is a difficult topic. If you have any comments on the above contact chairman@mbbka.org.uk.

Annual MBBKA Quiz

We do not hold a winter meeting in December, so our next meeting will be on 18th January 2017.

The MBBKA annual quiz night will take place at this meeting. It is a fun evening and we promise not to ask too many Honeybee related questions.

Attached are details for the evening, please help Liz organise the evening by letting her know if you will be attending and what your food order is. Liz can be contacted at secretary@mbbka.org.uk.

Programme of Events

Church of the Good Shepherd
18th January 2017

MBBKA Annual Quiz
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd
11th February 2017

Bucks County Spring Seminar
10:00am

Memorial Hall, Wendover
15th February 2017

The World of Insects
John Tyler
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd
20th February 2017

New Beekeepers Course Starts
Church of the Good Shepherd

22nd March 2017
Tree Bumblebees

Clive Hill
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd
7th-9th April 2017

BBKA Spring Convention
Harper Adams University

Bucks County Beekeepers Association Activities in 2017

The Bucks County BKA **Spring Seminar** will be held at the Wendover Memorial Hall on **Saturday 11th February**. The seminar has been successful in enticing three leading beekeepers as speakers; Gerry Collins, Clive de Bruyn and John Wittaker. There will also be the usual stands including second hand equipment and books for sale. Please put this date in your diary, there will be further communication on the seminar once the tickets go on sale.

After a successful year in 2016 with 6 members of the county **Microscopy Group** sitting the BBKA Microscopy Assessment, meetings start in 2017 with an **Open Day on Saturday 21st January**. The purpose of the day is encourage new members to join and for the existing members to demonstrate some of their work from 2016. There will be a Saturday meeting each subsequent month through to September 2017 and informal practice sessions on Monday evenings usually 2 weeks after the Saturday meeting. Due to the popularity of the Group we will be holding the meetings at Butlers Cross Village Hall. Further information can be found [here](#).

The county will be running the **Practical Beekeeping Course** again this year, the classroom day will be held on **22nd April at Butlers Cross Village Hall** and the Practical Weekend in an apiary will be held on **3rd and 4th June**. Further information can be found [here](#). This is a popular course and places are limited so an early application is recommended.

The **Bucks County Show** is where all four Associations get together to run a stand presenting the beekeeping activities across the county. Following on from the success of the 2016 stand we will be doing the same on **31st August 2017**, please put this date in your diary to either come along and help or just visit the stand.

Finally there will be the county **Honey Show** which will be held in September/October.



Membership Renewal

Hopefully you will have recently received a membership renewal email from Jonathan Palmer our Membership Secretary. Our membership year runs from 1st January 2017 through to 31st December 2017. Payment is via cheque or BACS transfer. Please remember when completing your renewal form to select the Gift Aid option. As a Charity the Gift Aid we receive from the HMRC is a vital part of our Association's income and has helped us maintain the subscriptions at last year's level.

Change to Winter Programme

There has been a change to our winter programme, we now have a new speaker for our February Meeting on 15th February. The speaker will be John Tyler and his talk is entitled "The World of Insects". Check out John's website <http://www.johntyler.co.uk> for some great images.

Changed Layout at November Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our November meeting. Bill Fisher brought along over 60 items he uses as part of his beekeeping. I think everyone went away with at least one idea they could adapt to help with their beekeeping.

At the meeting we tried out a new layout for the attendees. The presentation was carried out in the hall where teas and coffees are served. The atmosphere was more cosy than in the church and the acoustics were better. The plan is to try and hold the rest of this season's winter talks in the hall.

New Beekeepers Course 2017

The New Beekeepers Course for 2017 starts on Monday 20th February. Course preparation is well under way. We need volunteers to help out during the course. Extra hands will be appreciated for preparation and serving of drinks, with the hands on sessions and general administration during the evening. If you can spare some time to help out please contact Caroline Windley at beginnerscourse@mbbka.org.uk.

Christmas Reading Idea

In the October edition of Beecraft Randy Burlew talked about the 10 Beekeeping Crimes. The first crime is what she calls "Skipping the Basics". The principle being that before you ever pick up a book on beekeeping you should first find out how bees work. Beekeeping is all about managing the behaviour of honeybee colonies to the mutual benefit of the colony and the beekeeper. One of the books Randy recommends reading is "The Buzz about Bees: Biology of a Superorganism" by Jürgen Tautz. This book is a super read and is available from the Association library, library@mbbka.org.uk.

WBC Hives for Sale

You may have read the series of articles in the BBKA News by Don Honey concerning the benefits of using a WBC hive. Ken Gorman has several WBC hives in good condition for sale, if you are interested purchasing please contact him at special@kennethgorman.plus.com.

Quiz Night

Wednesday 18th January 2017

7:30 pm in The Church of the Good Shepherd

For the Quiz Night we have made arrangements with the local fish and chip shop to provide either fish and chips or chicken and chips.

You don't have to order food if neither option is to your taste but we must place the orders with the shop earlier in the day. We need to have numbers by **6 pm on Tuesday 17th January at the latest.**

Please order for me:

_____ portions of Cod and Chips & £7.00 each

_____ portions of Chicken and Chips & £7.00 each _____

Total: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

To save us having to handle lots of small cheques, could you please pay cash on the night. **PLEASE** let us know in advance if you cannot come and need to cancel your order as all food will have to be paid for in advance.

Teas and coffees will be provided on the night, feel free to bring along your own beverages (alcohol is permitted).

There will be a raffle on the night, donations of prizes are welcome.

You can place your order by email or phone

to: Liz Tice

Tel: **01296 612618**

email: liztice@hotmail.com

If you order by email and do not receive an acknowledgement from Liz, please try again. Liz will confirm receipt of all food orders.