



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

February 2009

[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## AGM reflects on a great year for EFBK

### Divisional offices play musical chairs for 2009.

What a great year for Ken Barker to end his role as Chairman after 16-years in office. Though Ken will remain at the hub of the Division's activities – continuing as Disease, Swarm & Training Officer – at the AGM he handed on the role of Chairman to Helen Chadwick. Helen, having served as Vice Chairman for a number of years, offered herself for election and was unanimously elected.

Ken will also fill the role of Divisional President as John Gracey also decided that 2009 would be the year he retired from office. John had previously represented our Division at County level, a role which will now be fulfilled by the new Divisional Secretary, Jenny Johns. John Gracey will however continue to audit divisional accounts.

Ted Gradosielski, who retired as Secretary, was duly elected as Divisional Treasurer, a role vacated by Tiffany Levi. Tiffany has now moved on to Mailing Secretary. Being unable to attend the AGM, former Mailing Secretary, Beth Day, was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the Division as a sign of gratitude for the many years that she has ensured that members received their monthly correspondence.

All new appointments were made after the current officers gave reports on their respective offices. The all important financial report given by Tiffany showed that the Division has had one of its most successful years financially; showing a surplus of £205.13. This success is generally down to the increased monies collected from those attending the beginners course run by Ken Barker – combined with the honey sales made at the Epping Forest Festival.

## Winners

Though the results from the Honey Show (held alongside the Buckhurst Hill Horticultural Show) were announced in the October issue of Forest Beekeeper, the presentation ceremony for the winners was held back to its traditional AGM timeslot.



However, a potential future shortfall in funds needed to be addressed. For many years a £1 levy was placed on those who elected to have their copy of Forest Beekeeper delivered by post as opposed to email. This amount did not come close to covering the cost of postage, envelopes and ink, so Ted Gradosielski proposed that it should be increased to £5, which was unanimously agreed by the meeting. This amount will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure costs continue to be covered and that dramatic increases do not have to be implemented in the future.

Other roles in the Division will remain unchanged, including Peter Clarke and Ron Baldwin performing the important role of Show Secretaries. Ron pointed out that there was a generally poor level of participation in the Honey Show last year and that it would be great for more members to enter.

Joe Chadwick will also continue to act as Librarian. Having restocked the library with a number of new titles last year, Joe reminded us that this is a very useful resource in furthering your knowledge of beekeeping. Joe also reminded those members who have borrowed books in the past, and not returned them in good time, to contact him to extend their loan period.

With the formalities of the evening over, the meeting closed at around 9pm. ⚡

The winners included...

**Ted Gradosielski** - (Presidents Cup, Jarvis Cup, Taylor Cup & Divisional Shield)

**Ken Barker** - (S.J. Smith Memorial Bowl & Best in Show)

**Ken Barker & Kevin Cook** - (H.J. Cooper Vase)

**Peter Clarke** - (Barker Cup). ⚡

## Next meeting

We have a perfectly timed presentation at our next meeting – a talk by CEC member, Jim McNeill on opening the hives in spring. This meeting will be especially helpful for those who are new to, or about to enter the world of beekeeping.

The meeting will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30pm at Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford. ⚡

## Sugar, sugar!

Peter Dalby has acquired a substantial stock of feed-grade sugar – amounting to around 1 ½ tons!

Peter is making this available to division members at 50p per kilo, packed up in 10kilo bags. This compares very favourably to supermarket prices. If you would like to purchase sugar from Peter please contact him on 01992 622645. ⚡

## Divisional accreditation

Five Division members passed their Basic Assessment and gained their 'Certificate of Proficiency in Apiculture' in June 2008.



Jenny Johns, Tiffany Levi, Ted Gradosielski, Jonathan Longstaff and Kevin Cook were among the 32 beekeepers within the county who passed their Basic Assessment last year.

Ted Gradosielski achieved one of the top three highest scores in the county and received the Miss Avey award and along with a cheque for £25. ⚡

## Contacts

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