



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
February 2012

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

The Divisional AGM took place on 19th January – there isn't room in this newsletter to report everything that took place, but the various reports will be available on the division's website in the next few weeks. Helen Chadwick gave her report on the last year and confirmed that she has stood down

as chair, after three years in the post. Warm thanks were expressed for her hard work during this time, and Ted presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Our new chair is Ted Gradosielski, a member of the Division for more than 30 years, and member Andy White has been elected to the post of Treasurer. Paola Munns has also had to stand down as Secretary due to other commitments, and that role is now taken by Robin Harman. Mary West continues in the new role created last year of Membership Secretary, and most other posts are remaining the same. The accounts were presented to the meeting, they have not been audited due to the sad death of our auditor John Gracey last year, but they were proposed and seconded. Thanks were expressed to all those members who have helped with the administration of the Division in 2011, too many to name individually but they have all contributed to a very successful year. ☘

Plans for 2012

Ted Grad outlined his hopes for the next year. Due to the recent increase in numbers in the Division, many of whom are novice beekeepers, our monthly meetings have been focused on meeting their needs. Ted would like to introduce some meetings which will be of interest to 'Improver' or Advanced beekeepers, and he will be running a queen rearing course later this year. Last year five Division members passed their Basic Beekeeping Assessment – Eric Beaumont won the Miss Avey Award for the highest marks in the County – and ideally all our members with more than two years' experience will progress towards taking this practical test. Ken Barker can offer coaching in this, and if anyone would like to enter for it this year please contact him. ☘

Honey Show prizes

Eric Beaumont is our Show Secretary, and he presented the prizes from the Honey Show held in September last year. It's surprising that, in a Division of over 140 members, only 12 took part in the Honey Show. Judge Oonagh Gabriel commented that some of the honey presented for judging was speckled, underweight or in jars with marks on – there is certainly room for improvement and there are opportunities for all to take part, with some classes specially for novice beekeepers. When you are extracting honey this year, why not have the show in mind and put up a few jars specially for this? Eric will be happy to give advice on what's required, if you are at all unsure.

Don McHale won the Beginners Cup, Ken Barker took the prize for the best frame of honey, and Ted Grad won the Divisional Shield and the President's Cup. Joe Chadwick was awarded the prize for the best Mead submitted, and Peter Clark won an award for an exhibit of beeswax. Richard Egan won the Photograph Class. ☘



New Chair Ted Grad examines the Divisional Honey Shield to see when he last won it!

Chair's Corner

I am delighted to have been elected as Chair of the Epping Forest Division, and would like to thank Helen Chadwick for her hard work over the last three years, during which we've seen the Division grow in size. We now have 145 members ranging from complete beginners to experienced beekeepers, and the challenge for me is to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all these groups. Please contact me if you have suggestions for future meetings, training sessions or activities – this is your Division, and the more involvement we have from members, the more we can do.

Ted Gradosielski ☘



Next meeting – AGM

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th February and will be at the Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4 6NH. Please arrive promptly from 7.30 so that the meeting can begin at 8.00 pm. This meeting will be a film night, with films from the BBKA Library – this was a very popular event last year, so turn up on time in order to get a seat! ☘

Online pollen chart

Pete Andrews has drawn our attention to this very useful website created by the Sheffield Beekeepers Association – it will help you to identify pollen at different times of year. If you have a smartphone, it might be worth bookmarking this site for use when in the apiary. The chart can be found at <http://www.sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk/pollen-chart/> ☘

For Sale

Stainless steel 4-frame tangential manual honey extractor. In excellent condition, the reason for sale is that the owner has upgraded to a larger extractor. Please contact Michael on 0208 446 2787 for further details. ☘

Doug Beard

Members will be sad to hear that Doug Beard, County Member for many years and a former CEC representative, died recently after a short illness. He was a member of the Essex Beekeepers Association for many years, and gave many lectures on beekeeping. ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

The early part of this winter has been so mild, that bees have been flying on many days in January. Beware – although active, they may not have found enough forage and could still need feeding. This is normally the time to apply oxalic acid to prevent varroa mite, but many beekeepers are finding brood in their hives. The treatment will not be effective if there is sealed brood present. The recent cold spell, however, may make woodpecker attacks more likely. ☘

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