

BEEMASTER

**Nottinghamshire
Beekeepers' Association**
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<http://www.nottsbees.org.uk>

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The Editor would like to thank the following members for their contributions:
Janet Bates Karen Burrow Griff Dixon Alison Knox Bob Logan Anne & Rob Mason
Other BKAs through the Bee Editors Exchange scheme
Newsletter Archive jsching37@yahoo.co.uk

DIARY DATES

Monday 6 January **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold** NG65 6NZ
David Kemp: Working with Brother Adam at Buckfast Abbey 7.30pm
Monday 20 January **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham** NG23 6HB 8pm
Monday 27 January Copy date for **February** newsletter
Monday 3 February **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold** NG5 6NZ
NBKA AGM and talk: Adult Bee Diseases, Dhonn Atkinson, Regional Bee Inspector 7.30pm
Monday 17 February **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham** NG23 6HB 8pm

www.nbkaeducation.weebly.com

From the editor

Penny Forsyth

Happy new year to you and your bees: may you and they be healthy, productive and content. January 2020 has a bit of a ring to it - the start of a new decade and the ideal time to take stock, consider then move on decisively, leaving failure, frustration and regret behind. Here's hoping! You will have noticed, of course, that the Beemaster masthead colour is now blue to reflect the queen-marking colour of the year: last year was a red year, blue is the next in the sequence- remember **will you raise good bees?**/white, yellow, red, green, blue.

Christmas and New Year gave us a brief and welcome respite from the histrionics of Brexit and the pantomime politics of the election but the world turns and we with it, trying to make the best of it and do our bit for the planet whilst keeping a level head about climate change and global heating, deforestation and mass extinctions, plastic pollution, unbreathable air, social division, child poverty, the NHS, sabre-rattling megalomaniacs with nuclear weapons.....

Of course, what is happening in the wider world impacts our craft: unseasonably warm or cold weather affects plant growth and forage availability; international transport of goods provide an avenue of ingress for unwanted pests and diseases; high demand for honey and hive products are an incentive to cheat and adulterate- there have been high profile cases recently involving Tesco; there were adulterated entries to Apimondia honey classes and there have been severe economic impacts on the economy of honey producing areas all over the world.

In this issue: Griff gets creative with the website and plans some painting and rendering this winter; we are called to an important gathering on 6 January, the NBKA AGM; Alison still wants your silver; Anne and Rob say a special thank you and show us what our donations can achieve; BBKA Chairman Margaret thinks positively; the healing power of honey is explained. In Beelines Janet clarifies categories and moots module study; I worry about unseasonal wasp activity.

BBKA News has the Asian hornet stats from the Channel isles, Top Bar Hive beekeeping, Clive de Bruyn on queens, Gerry Collins on the complex relationships between flowers and bees, Dr. Sara Robb on making and selling cosmetic emulsions. The new look Beecraft is very impressive and merits reading from cover-to-cover, you may need a slice of Christmas cake. Kettle on?

Hon. Sec. Report & Notes from Norwell & January 2020

Griff Dixon

This is the first Hon Sec Report for the New Year before we have actually got there! I have reported all the up and coming events in the December 2019 report plus have added the 2020 diary into the website.

Thank you to those members that thought the picture slideshow I put onto the "nottsbees" home page was worthwhile. If any members have photos of other NBKA events in 2019 such as Honey Shows and the Auction I can add these in. I wanted this to be a reflective set of photos letting anyone and newcomers see what we achieved during the year hopefully in a progressive timeline. I can add video clips too if anyone uses a "GoPro" and records beekeeping activities I can take a look at them for inclusion.

I can also link to Youtube. I know that the "A Canadian Beekeeper's Blog" is a bit of a favourite and I have seen other associations use links to some of his videos such as Bailey Comb Exchange. If anyone has any favourite beekeeping links that members could use I can see if we can put them on.

On December 24th I managed to get around to all my hives and check for food and general disposition. Most had either consumed the 1kg fondant I had put on or at least nibbled at it. There were a few that were not interested as they were happily still consuming their own stores. There was nothing much to report on the activity front other than some 2.5kg fondant were added to those hives that were still begging for more.

The wet weather had made for some soggy trekking to get to those hives at bottom of fields or next to the River Trent. The incessant rain periods and soggy ground shows up the older

wooden hives (5 years+) as they degrade over time thus becoming a bit of a sponge with the floors and brood boxes never seeming to dry out, not good for bees. I will be starting to paint up and weatherproof my older equipment so I can get a few more years out of them. I wonder who is still using the same boxes that are over 20 or 30 years old. I am sure there are probably quite a few.

I have started to undertake wax rendering and will spend a few days on this to try and get old brood and super boxes emptied and frames salvaged for the new season. I am going to need quite a lot of new foundation next season so I am on the case at the moment.

I have read from Bee Farmer social media that sublimation varroa treatment, often undertaken as a winter treatment, can be ineffective if the cluster is too tight plus at least three treatments are advised to ensure a good gassing. On this basis I have decided not to invest in the next level sublimation kit, at many hundreds of pounds, and will give Oxybee trickle a try. The weather has warmed up a bit so this may be a bit delayed as I normally tackle this early January.

The Er2 renewal system has been activated with Janet Bates having taken control of the software as membership secretary and pressed the button. Hopefully with internet banking now available all the previous administrative drama at this stage of the year will become a thing of the past.

Happy New Year Everyone

Griff Dixon Hon. Secretary NBKA (honsec@nbka.email)

This month in your apiary: December

Penny Forsyth

January is another quiet month in the apiary: our bees should still be in their winter cluster, feeding on their stores and using their strong thoracic muscles to generate the heat necessary for their winter survival. When there is no brood to rear the temperature at the centre of the cluster will be about 20C, with the outer shell being not below 8C- any lower and the outermost bees will fall off and die. It is vital that the bees have enough accessible stores to consume, especially as the queen may already have started laying, and this requires the bees to raise the nest temperature to 34.5C or very close if the brood is to survive. This demand for food is why many beekeepers say that spring feeding is done in the autumn. By now we should have got used to hefting our hives to estimate the weight of the stores inside and will know if we need to feed our bees. It is too cold to feed sugar syrup as the bees will not break the cluster and come up to a feeder, therefore we must feed fondant or candy either directly on the top bars or over the feeder hole if the cluster is centrally situated within the hive. Whether you use bakers' fondant or a product specifically formulated for bees, put the cake or slice into a plastic bag or container with a couple of access slits on the underside so that the bees can eat it without the risk of it drying out or, conversely, melting and running down onto the cluster. Use an eke or empty super to give enough space and cover loosely with insulating material. You may like to feed a pollen supplement or substitute at the same time to give your bees an extra boost. If you haven't already done so, there is still time to treat your colonies for varroa with the newly approved treatments, Api-bioxal or Oxuvar. If using the trickle method, ideally work with a partner to cut down the time each hive is open and use a warmed solution: if using a vaporiser, be sure to follow the instructions to the letter and observe safety precautions. You can locate the cluster easily if you check the floor insert for signs of uncapping of stores.

Jobs for January

~ regularly check hives for damage by animals, woodpeckers or weather and check roofs for signs of leaks- take a dry roof with you just in case

~ check that entrances are not blocked by snow or dead bees

~ keep on hefting to estimate the weight of stores left in the hive: feed with fondant or candy if necessary

~ if you intend to treat colonies with oxalic acid, do it early in the month or you risk damage to brood if the queen starts laying

~ keep on cleaning and repairing equipment and make up some frames & supers ready for the spring

~ keep on reading and learning and make a plan for the active beekeeping season

~ keep your eyes peeled for signs of Asian hornet nests and early emerging queens

Happy new year!

Nottingham Region Meeting

Bob Logan

A Good New Year to everyone

Our next meeting is **Monday 6th January 2020** and our speaker is David Kemp who will be talking about his time with Brother Adam at Buckfast Abbey. David (a past RBI) is one of the small band of people who can say that they worked with Brother Adam and helped to produce the Buckfast strain of bees.

If you need to feed your Colonies, Alec will be bringing packets of fondant along. A generous donation to Apiary funds would be greatly appreciated!

See you there

Kitchen Support Team January

Greville Seddon,

Alan Barton

Adrian Kennedy

February's Volunteers are: Diane Kidger, Adrian Kennedy, Martyn Nisbet

Nottingham Region Meeting Monday 2 December 2019

Karen Burrow

Phil Khorassandjian gave the group a talk on brood diseases. Phil is a Master Beekeeper and Seasonal Bee Inspector from Sheffield. He gave us a roundup of the EFB problems experienced in Sheffield this summer. He reiterated the importance of registering on Beebase and the need for carrying out regular disease inspection. Phil talked us through frame change techniques such as shook swarm and Bailey comb change. He reassured members that bees often recovered well from such manipulations and encouraged all to consider using them. Phil concluded with explaining what to expect from the bee inspector if EFB or AFB are found and the importance of correct Insurance.

As is the norm for the December meeting Bob supplied mince pies for refreshments and the evening concluded with the annual raffle for Bees Abroad, which was well supported.

From Anne Mason on 3 December: Many thanks for passing on your Bees Abroad donations last night - duly banked this morning.

£113 from the raffle

£9.50 from Penny's pot

£10.00 from another donation

i.e **£132.50** in total, excellent!

To see where your money is going please read the Appeal and fundraising update below.

Newark Region

Penny Forsyth

With many members apparently involved in seasonal family or community activities, myself included, it was only a small but select group of Newark area beekeepers who assembled at the Ferry In, North Muskham, for our informal monthly gathering. The conversation was, as always, far-ranging and eclectic and did apparently even feature bees and beekeeping. There was particular curiosity about an Agenda item for the imminent meeting of Council: a new teaching apiary at Hucknall of which little seemed to be known and enlightenment sought. Seasonal good wishes were expressed and the group adjourned until January.

The Annual General Meeting of the Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association will be held at the Eagle's Nest Community Centre, Gedling Road, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6NZ on the evening of Monday, 3rd February 2020 at 7:30pm followed by a talk by Dhonn Atkinson on Adult Bee Diseases. Please come. Agenda and 2019 minutes p15 onwards.

NBKA Honey Shows: a reminder to trophy winners

2018 SILVER CUP HOLDERS ~ please make ready to return your silver cups to me at the **JANUARY 2020** meeting in Arnold. I will need to get them re engraved for presentation to the 2019 winners at our AGM in February. ~ Thank you ~

Alison your (soon to be ex) **Show Secretary**

A Special Thank You from Bees Abroad

Anne & Rob Mason

As we move into a New Year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in 2019. Without you, we could not continue to help our communities and provide the practical beekeeping skills that are key to building sustainable livelihoods.

An example of the significant impact our projects deliver arrived recently from our partner in Hoima, Uganda. This project, originally set up by the late Pam Gregory, run and managed by the late Roy Dyche and now continues with the support from our project managers Stuart Andrews and Geoff Redwood. Kusima Kaheesi Samuel, Former Executive Director of Bisudef writes recently, "The women groups of Bisudef comprised of over 150 members still count the benefits of support received from Bees Abroad; their confidence was enhanced, they were made entrepreneurs, they were taught and skilled to make Kenya Top Bar (KTB) hives using local and readily available materials, value addition on hive products (honey processing, lip balm and candle making), making of protective gears using local material, tree planting, and general apiary management.

The community has also applauded the other indirect benefits of ecosystem services (pollination, climate change mitigation etc) supply from the apiary.

The model implemented in Hoima was simple yet impactful. Bees Abroad will forever be on the hearts of Bisudef women, and the trail left will never wane".

Bees Abroad is unique in that we are the only charity in the UK that delivers practical beekeeper to beekeeper training direct to participants in small communities abroad. Although our model is simple, it is powered by a huge number of volunteer hours both at home and abroad. We are very grateful to you for being part of our team that enables our participants to improve their livelihood through beekeeping.

In 2020, we celebrate 21 years of relieving poverty through beekeeping and we hope you will continue to support us by raising funds.

Thank you once again for your support. We wish you a very Happy New Year.

2019 Christmas Appeal



This year's Bees Abroad Christmas appeal is raising funds for a new project in Ghana which will help people like Simon (pictured) to become beekeepers, offering a means of financial support towards their future. Simon was only able to start school last year at 17 as he worked with his father catching fish on Lake Volta from a very young age leaving no time for schooling. He now has dreams to be a doctor. Please help Simon and the others of the Ekye village beekeeping group achieve their dreams by donating to our Christmas Appeal. Read more about the project here:

<https://beesabroad.org.uk/helping-young-people-succeed-through-beekeeping/>

Bees Abroad fundraising in 2019 update

It doesn't seem that long (!) since I was writing an article for the January 2019 edition of Beemaster informing readers of our fundraising efforts since 2014 for the Bees Abroad (BA) Cameroon project led by Jo Hiscox.

Rob and I decided to adopt the BA Monze, Womens' Beekeeping project in Zambia beyond the 2018 Christmas raffle and in this month's new look BeeCraft magazine there is an article written by project Leader, Stuart Andrews on page 28/9 entitled 'The impact of drought on Zambian beekeeping' reporting on the effect that little rainfall has on such a beekeeping project (not something we in the UK experience thankfully!). I am very pleased to report that Rob and I raised £1604.43 in 2019 for this project, and with other funding too Stuart is well on his way to achieving his target of £5000.

For your interest, altogether in 2019 we raised £3816.71 (which includes the Zambia project monies). With 2020 kicking off the 21 st Anniversary of the Bees Abroad charity it looks as if we are going to be extra busy this year!

The Bees Abroad shop sells a variety of items as you are probably aware all sourced by a small number of Bees Abroad supporters and this money goes into the General Account for all the Bees Abroad projects. Next month we hope to confirm which specific BA project we will be supporting from 2020 through sales of knitwear, cakes, plants, stained glassware, polished stones, our bee/beekeeping talks, etc. Any donations received go in to the BA General Account or if requested go towards the project we are particularly supporting.

Rob and I wish to give our thanks to the NBKA members especially for their support in 2019, we couldn't do it without you!



In Kisoro, Uganda we have started a project with the Jireh Women's group. We normally provide top bar hives but they are already practised in using the local hive design.



Honey from three different Bees Abroad projects in the Soroti area of Uganda won 1st 2nd and 3rd prizes in the charity class at the UK National Honey Show this October. The groups we support are taught to produce the best quality of honey because it demands the highest prices. We are very grateful to the National Honey Show for introducing this new class last year which enables us to showcase honey from our projects.

Ever thought about becoming a charity trustee? We are searching for two. Interested? For full details of the roles and responsibilities please email info@beesabroad.org.uk. n

Positive Thinking: BBKA members' newsletter December 2019

Dear Members,

December is here and we will soon have the darkest day, then start to move towards spring again, something to look forward to.

At Headquarters, it is a busy time getting everything ready for the official transfer from Charity to the CIO. Bank accounts, stationery, leases and contracts all need to be changed and of course on top of that there is the preparation for the ADM on the 11th January 2020. The office staff do all the preparations, printing and organising and all before the Christmas break as well.

In the period just after Christmas the builders will start the alterations at the office to put in new toilet facilities, although this is part of the Presidents Project for the Education Centre and apiary garden, it has also been needed as the current drainage system is sometimes rather putrid and the staff have certainly suffered from that on occasions. With any luck they will have working toilets for the first Exec Meetings on the 17th and 18th January 2020. The Garden project will be underway as well in February (weather permitting) so with luck by Spring there will be something to show.

With regards to the ADM, there are no contentious items in the propositions so I am hoping that means that we are managing to keep up with the members requirements, we certainly do try.

Our Insurance brokers will also be there to offer guidance on cover both through the BBKA and on individual insurance for your equipment so if you have any questions, ask your delegate to approach them and get an answer.

This ADM will be Margaret Murdin's final duty as President, she has faithfully served 8 years and has been instrumental with many of the changes for the better within the BBKA. It has sometimes been a rocky road and I have had the privilege of travelling part of that with her. Margaret will still be involved with the exam board, but she will be able to take a well-earned rest from duties for the BBKA and perhaps have some time for her own family, garden and bees.

I hope you will all join me in wishing her nothing but the best in future years and hope she does keep in touch, her knowledge of the BBKA is fantastic and I am sure that she will allow us to call on her should the need arise.

There are no major activities to report this month so please have a lovely Christmas with love and laughter all around you.

Margaret Wilson, BBKA Chairman

Medicinal honey: summary of a talk at the NHS by Shona Blair.

With the over use of antibiotics has come the rise of antibiotic resistant superbugs, for example MRSA. As the use of antibiotics continue, the number of superbug cases is set to rise dramatically. Honey has had known medicinal properties for thousands of years so the effect of honey on MRSA was studied by Shona Blair.

Average honey contains glucose oxidase, which when combined with water produces hydrogen peroxide.



Hydrogen peroxide is toxic to microbes in a similar way to bleach, but unlike bleach the hydrogen peroxide is not a high enough concentration to damage tissue, just microbes. This hydrogen peroxide effect can be seen when adding honey to a petri dish with MRSA. The hydrogen peroxide produced inhibits the growth of the MRSA.

However, some honeys have an additional defence, such as Manuka honey. These floral components introduce extra anti-microbial properties to the honey which continue to inhibit the growth of the MRSA even when a catalase is introduced to reverse the hydrogen peroxide effect, showing that they independently impact the growth of the bacteria.

It has been shown that Manuka honey can kill MRSA even when diluted down to 5%. Honey dressings have been shown to have a strongly positive effect on wounds and infections in real life. The moist, mildly acidic environment promotes healthy regrowth of tissue and inhibits infection. It has been shown to reduce healing time and scarring in a large number of injury and infection types. These positive health outcomes could also mean fewer follow up treatments, making it cheaper for health services which would outweigh the higher cost of honey dressings.

Courtesy of Reigate Beekeepers via e-bees

Recipe of the month

Lin Howell, the Ipswich and East Suffolk Beekeepers' Association

Jewish Honey Cake

Preheat oven 180 C/gas 4.

Grease a 900g loaf tin lined with grease proof paper

Ingredients

275g plain flour

1 teaspoon of each ground cinnamon, ginger, mixed spice

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

2 large eggs

150g dark muscovado sugar

250g honey

125ml vegetable oil

125ml hot coffee made with 2 tablespoons instant coffee

100g chopped walnut pieces

Method

Remove one tablespoon of flour and set aside. Sift flour into a bowl with the spices, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda.

In another bowl whisk the eggs and sugar then add honey, oil and coffee. Gradually whisk into the flour mixture.

Toss the nuts in the reserved flour and add to the cake mix

Put into the tin and place in the centre of the oven and bake for 1 hour or until a skewer put in the centre of the cake comes out clean.

I carefully slip a piece of double folded greaseproof paper across the cake top halfway through to prevent burning. You can also put on a double thickness brown paper collar which goes round the outside of the tin and projects about 2 cm above the rim. This needs to be put on at the start. The cake can tend to burn because all of the sugar and honey.

Beelines: notices, news and views

From Janet Bates, MB, Membership Secretary

Membership Renewal for 2020

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are due January 1st 2020

Subscriptions are due on January 1st. Many of you already pay by standing order and thank you for that. It is very helpful for the treasurer and membership secretary. Do please make sure that your payment can be recognised as belonging to you. The reference should be [SUBS.NAME+FULL INITIALS](#)

Bank details:

Notts Beekeepers' Association

Sortcode 40-10-06

Account Number 21122258

I have just added another category to the list. It is **Country Member**. It is suitable for anyone who wants to belong to BBKA and NBKA but who doesn't have bees so does not need the public liability insurance of BBKA or the Bee disease Insurance. It will suit members who are retired from bees but like to keep in touch. Also anyone who is thinking about keeping bees but is not likely to get any during the coming year.

See below for details of the various categories.

Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association Membership Categories

Category	NBKA	BBKA Public liability	BDI	BBKA News	BeeMaster (email)	Subs
Full Registered member	Yes	Yes	Up to 3 colonies	Yes	Yes	£25.00
Partner member + BDI¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	£18.50
Partner member²	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	£16.50
Country member³	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	£13.50
Junior member⁴	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	£9.50
Associate member⁵	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	£12.50
Family member⁶	Yes	No	No	No	No	£6.25
BDI⁷						

1. Partner member + BDI: (2nd BBKA member at the same address – max one per registered

member)

2. Partner member no BDI: (2nd BBKA member at the same address – max of one per registered member)
3. Country member: BBKA but no public liability, No BDI, NBKA and BeeMaster
4. Junior member: up to age 18
5. Associate member: NBKA membership and BeeMaster
6. Family member same address as an NBKA member
7. BDI. The basic subscription insures up to 3 colonies. Extra colonies are on a sliding scale.

From Janet Bates MB, NBKA Education Secretary

Module Study Groups

You are invited to join and learn more about your bees and beekeeping.

The original study group have taken Module 7 so will be working on module 8 which can only be taken after the other modules have been taken (and passed). This means it is not suitable to start with although anybody is welcome to come along to the meetings.

The new module study group will be working on module 2. It is quite suitable for anybody to start with this module as they can be taken in any order (apart from 8).

The first meeting for module 2 is on 10th December. Please, do come along if you are interested (there is no obligation to take the exam).

The syllabus is on the BBKA website- it is on the products of the hive. The meeting is held in the meeting room at the big Tesco's in Hucknall at 7pm for a couple of hours.

Let me know if you would like to come along so that we can look out for you, 07973 412101. We meet at the customer service desk and go up to the room together.

BBKA Public & Product Liability Insurance

The BBKA has confirmed that with the help of their insurance broker, Buckland Harvester, they have arranged the public and product liability insurance for the period 4th October 2019 to 3rd October 2020 at a lower cost than the previous year. This was largely due to the fact that there had been no claims on the insurance policy over the last twelve months.

The insurance policy wording and certificates are on the website for members to view and download. www.bbka.org.uk/public-liability-insurance.

The BBKA has also published a document entitled 'Frequently Asked Questions' which can be viewed or downloaded via the members' area of the BBKA website as above or from the WSBKA website: www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/newsletters.html

NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team News

Current UK situation

There have been no further reports other than those already detailed this year. Asian hornet queens should be hibernating now: check sheds, garages, roofs of beehives, leaf litter. We need to be looking upwards: as the leaves have fallen there is a better chance of spotting nests in trees, especially in sycamore, birch and apple. On the ground you may see dead larvae which have been ejected and dead worker and drone adults- so..... **See it, Snap it, Send it!**

Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) <http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

Some worrying news from Reigate BKA concerning wasp activity : *'On our member site you may have seen a piece by Richard Ramsden about wasp activity around the Brockham and Buckland hives with signs of fighting while the hive entrances are vulnerable. This alarming increase in winter predation is likely due to the very mild weather we've had this year. This increase in wasp attacks will not be the only challenge we face in 2020, 17 sightings of the Asian hornet were confirmed in 2019 and the hoped for cold snap has not yet happened meaning that any Asian hornet queens are more likely to survive the winter. Let's hope for a cold snap in January and remember to be vigilant as we head into spring.'*

If you think you see an Asian hornet or nest be sure to report it immediately, preferably with a photo, via the Asian Hornet Watch app, downloadable for smartphones, or email details to: alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk and please let me know pennyforsyth16@gmail.com If you have any queries about identification please send me a photo; the smart phone app has useful pictures.

Download the identification pdfs, laminate them and put them up in your apiary, on your allotment information board or local notice board.

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

Somerset BKA has produced some excellent information pdf's available to all: you can access them via the link on the AHAT website <https://ahat.org.uk>

Read up about traps and baits ready for next season- visit <https://ahat.org.uk>

If you have not already registered your apiary on Beebase then please do so now. If there is an Asian Hornet incursion in your area it is vital that every beekeeper can be located and contacted. When you register and record your apiary information you can also report whether or not you have AH traps in place. Follow the link below:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/login.cfm>

The NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team is now registered on the AHAT website and with the BBKA. I am currently registered as Coordinator with Pete Bull as North Notts contact and Alec Thomson the City and South Notts contact. We have a further 12 team members and between us we cover several postcodes but the aim is to provide a county-wide contact network ready to react to reports of possible Asian Hornet incursions into our region and to coordinate with the National Bee Unit, the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) and other BKAs **so we need more!** There is no limit to the number of members an AHAT may have so if you would like to be involved please contact me at pennyforsyth16@mail.com for information or if you wish to join the contacts register. There is excellent information and a set of guidelines on the AHAT website

<https://ahat.org.uk>

BBKA Asian Hornet Conference: Saturday 8 February 2020 - now at Myton School CV34 6PJ

This is the first Asian Hornet Conference to be hosted by BBKA and is designed to bring together AH Co-ordinators from the regional BKAs to hear keynote speakers and discuss best practice. Two representatives are invited per BKA and the event will now take place a larger venue due to overwhelming demand. NBKA will, of course, be represented and will report back to members.

And finally.....

As winter draws near in Siberia

The bees become wearier and wearier

Then the Russian bee chaps

Lace their candy with schnapps

Which makes them decidedly cheerier!



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BEEMASTER is published monthly. Contributions by 25th of previous month please to the Editor. Copy received after this date may have to be held over to the next **BEEMASTER**.

The Editor retains the right to amend submitted articles or to reject articles which appear, in her opinion, to be unsuitable. Items which do appear may not reflect the opinions of the Council of the NBKA.

EXTRACTORS

Members may borrow the NBKA extractors - 4-frame, hand driven kept at Brackenhurst and hired from Maurice Jordan. An electric one (with settling tank) is held by Glenis Swift 0115 9538617. The EasyBee extractor which is useful for extracting frames that hold honey that has granulated is held by Frank Chambers in Calverton (0115 965 2128).

ADVERTISEMENTS

NBKA accepts no responsibility for advertisements appearing in this newsletter. Please mention **BEEMASTER** when replying to advertisements.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Advertisements free to paid-up members but 10p per word – minimum charge £1 to non-members. Circulation approx 300 throughout the UK and abroad.

Short adverts may be paid for in First and Second Class postage stamps which should be sent directly to the Editor. Cheques should be made out to NBKA and sent to the Treasurer.

This advertising space is available now ~ see above right for rates and terms

CASH AND CARRY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT at discount prices



See our website (Products/Cash and Carry)

for new beekeeping equipment being introduced continuously throughout out the year.

Major cards accepted.

Normal opening times: Wed, Thu, Fri and Sun 12.00 – 5pm

The Honey Pot, Unit 73, Trent Business Centre, Canal Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4HN.

0115 9726585

Mobile/text numbers 07703 711009

Email localhoney@hotmail.co.uk

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3rd FEBRUARY 2020 – 7:30pm

Eagles Nest Community Centre, Gedling Road, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6NZ

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM (Enclosed)**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Accounts for 2019 and Auditor appointment**
- 6. Subscriptions for 2021**
- 7. Election of Vice - President**
- 8. Election of Honorary Treasurer**
- 9. Election of Show Secretary**
- 10. Election of Two Council Members**
- 11. Presentation of Cups and Awards**
- 12. Any Other Business**
- 13. Date and Time of the next AGM**

Refreshments will be made available by Nottingham Region. There will be a raffle, proceeds in aid of Association funds- suitable prizes are very welcome.

Nominations are required for the election of officers shown in 8, 9, 10,11 and 12 above.

I Nominate _____

For the Office _____

Signature _____

Please note that the nominee's permission must be obtained before a nomination is made. All Nominations must be in the hand of the Chairman before 7:30 pm on the day of the AGM

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Nottinghamshire Beekeepers Association
Lowdham Village Hall NG14 7BD
Saturday February 2nd 2019 – 2:15pm**

The Meeting was Chaired by David Chambers (DC) (President) with Council Members Andrew Barber (AB) (Chairman), Griff Dixon (GD) (Hon Sec), Chris Hutter (CH) (Hon Treasurer), Stuart Ching (SC) Archivist) and Alison Knox (AK) (Show secretary)

Only 32 out of 220 members were in attendance (15% of the Membership)

The President welcomed those members that had been able to attend to the meeting.

- Apologies for absence were received from Janet Bates, Alec Thomson and Pete Bull
- The Minutes of the AGM for 2018 had already been circulated and were accepted as a true record.
- There were no matters arising from the minutes other than a technical correction.
- The Chairman's report had already been circulated with the members being given time to read it through. DC thanked AB for the report and asked for any questions and was accepted as a true record.
- The accounts for 2018 were presented by the Honorary Treasurer who informed the membership that the Association had made a £71.47 loss last year. The Honorary Treasurer highlighted various pockets of money that was used for specific association purposes and mentioned that the Honorariums had increased for the first time in 25 years to bring it in line with a current valuation. The Honorary Treasurer mentioned that the subscription would remain the same for the next year. The President asked for any questions and the accounts were accepted as a true record. The President asked the Honorary Treasurer if the appointed auditor would continue for next year and it was affirmed.
- The President announced that Membership Subscriptions would be maintained at the same level as last year at £25. The Honorary Treasurer enquired if BDI were going to raise their capitation charge to which the Hon Sec replied that it did not seem likely. The President asked the members if they were happy with the subscription which was affirmed.
- Chris Hutter was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer
- Penny Forsyth was re-elected as Beemaster Editor although Penny drew to the meeting's attention that she may be leaving the area in the next year or so and will be seeking a replacement. The President enquired about an editor designate
- David Chambers was re-elected as Spray Secretary although this is now known as Agricultural Liaison.
- Janet Bates was unable to attend the AGM but by proxy was re-elected as Education Secretary
- There were no advance nominations for the two councillor vacancies, so the President asked for nominations from the meeting members that were present.

Robert Logan asked if the criteria and description of a Councillors role could be discussed. The President asked for him to provide this as a current Council member. The role involves 4 meetings a year and would assist in helping run the association with ideas and thoughts on how it could be improved. The Council agenda is put together by the Hon Sec based on things that require discussion based on the requirements of the BBKA, BDI and the running of the NBKA. Topics are debated with differing opinions with a general consensus being the way forward for the Association. It is the Governing Body for the NBKA. Geoff Curtis volunteered to continue beyond his 3-year term and was co-opted through Nottingham Region rather than as a direct member appointment. Susan Ford volunteered to become a Council member and was duly elected.

The President informed the meeting that he had received a nomination for a Vice President put forward by Andrew Barber. Alec Thomson was duly elected Vice President.

The awarding of Certificates could not be made as Janet Bates (Education Secretary) could not attend the AGM therefore the awards were postponed and will be distributed at another event.

- Stuart Ching, Archivist, addressed the members informing them that a list of Cup winners through the years was not something that was readily available, and he was compiling such a list for posterity and NBKA records.

The President received a list of the Award winners and read them out to the Members: -

Karen Burrow passed Module 1 with Credit, Module 3 with Distinction and Module 5 with Distinction

Sue Ford passed Module 3 and Module 5 with Credit

Rod Chapman passed Module 3

Kevin Anderson passed Module 3 with Credit

The President congratulated those members that passed the modules with the members showing their appreciation for their success.

The Presentation of Cups was introduced by Alison Knox and presented by Laney Birkhead.

The following awards were made: -

Moorgreen Cup	Best in Show for Annual Honey Show	Mary Carey Allwood
Fred Richardson Tankard	Best in Show for Autumn Honey Show	Mary Carey Allwood
Allan Lewis Memorial Trophy	Heather Honey (Cat 6 Jars)	Maurice Jordan
Herrod Hemsall Cup	Most Points for Honey, Beeswax & Mead	Martin Bowker
William Marshall Cup	Most Points in Wax classes 9 & 9A	Bob Logan

Albert Scoffins Cup	Most Points in Classes 11, 12 & 13	Jane Simpson
The Novice Trophy	Member <2 years Honey, Beeswax & Mead	Ben Wilson
Bartle Memorial Trophy	Granulated Honey at Autumn Show	Martin Bowker
NBKA Display Trophy	Best Display at Nominated Shows	Linda Jordan
Photography Cup	Best Photography for Bees & Beekeeping	Alec Thomson

In addition to the cup a hive tool engraved with the awarded cup notation was also presented to the successful member as a keepsake.

The President congratulated all the winners and Alison Knox for all her hard work.

Penny Forsyth presented an award to Ann Mason for being the most prolific contributor to the Beemaster Monthly Journal.

- Any other business - Penny Forsyth drew to the members attention the NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) had now been formed which was now officially registered and on call for any Asian Hornet sightings.
- The date and time for the next meeting would be Saturday February 1st 2:15pm at Lowdham Village Hall. **NOTE:- This has been Changed to Monday February 3rd 2020 at 7:30pm Eagle Nest Community Centre, Gedling Road, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6NZ**

The President Closed the meeting at 3:02pm

Tea and refreshments were provided which was followed by Laney Birkhead the Guest Speaker who gave a presentation, talk and film entitled "Swarm: A Creation of Many Hands" based on her exhibition "Swarm"

Griff Dixon Hon Sec
NBKA