



**Jim getting his Essex Show cup**



**Our President Terry Watson and Annette Friday, (just two of the 125 conference attendees.)**



**(Most of) the Romford contingent**



**Tom Keeper & Dawn Doyland collecting the Romford certificates (Tom won a Miss Avey Award for high marks)**



#### **Romford Division Contacts:**

Secretary ~ Pat Allen

01708 220897 ~ [pat.allen@btconnect.com](mailto:pat.allen@btconnect.com)

Chairman ~ Jim McNeill

01708 765898 ~ [jimandliz44@aol.co.uk](mailto:jimandliz44@aol.co.uk)

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee ~ Paul Wiltshire

01277 375454 / 07870 258192 ~ [paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com)

**Website:** [www.ebka.org](http://www.ebka.org)



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

December 2016

## **Romford Division**



### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**Committee Meeting:** Thursday 19th January, 7.30, Jim's Place, Collier Row

**January meeting:** Thursday 5th at 8pm, Chadwick Hall, Gidea Park

**Event:** Annual General Meeting



### **Call for help – Your Division Needs You!**

Please consider sparing a few hours of your time to help to run our Division. There are only six committee meetings a year and usually an email report to the Secretary will suffice if you are unable to attend a meeting.

We desperately need a **Programme Secretary**. Would you be prepared to take on the task of arranging topics and speakers for 2017? You would have the help of other committee members of course.

Our **Show Secretary**, Helen Kingsford, will be standing down. Helen will show the new person the ropes through the coming year and then stand aside. The date and place of the 2017 Honey Show are settled, and the judge chosen, so organisation is well under way.

### **Subscriptions are due soon!**

The good news is that the subs remain the same for 2017. You will receive a subscription form for 2017 with your December papers. Please help the Treasurer and Membership Secretary by renewing your subscription straight away. You will notice that this year there is advice on the form about Bee Disease Insurance and Hive Rental for those members to whom these apply. Hope this helps.

**Note: if you are booking the Beginners Course then *ignore* the subscription form – the course booking includes full membership of the Division for 2017.**

## Romford Division Honey show 2016. Winners List

**Congratulations to the following beekeepers who won a trophy at this year's show.**

### MEAD MAKING with Mike Barke ~ written by Jilly Speakman-Bell

Mead is honey wine and is one of the oldest alcoholic drinks. It can be still or sparkling and have dry or sweet taste. You can add all sorts of fruits to alter the taste of the mead. By adding more honey you will get a sweeter mead.

Mike told us that when he first made mead he made it with honey, but now he makes it with cappings. For a gallon of mead you need to use 3-3.5 lbs honey. If using cappings you will have to wash them, add water and strain. This will leave a sugary liquid. Add campden tablet – sodium metabisulfite to kill bacteria. Leave for 24 hours then add yeast. If you want a sweeter mead, add more honey. It is extremely important to have all equipment clean by using a sterilising tablet. Use a hydrometer to determine the amount of water present in the mead.

Mike said that the judging of mead is simply a matter of the judge's personal taste, as so many entered into competitions are of equal standard, therefore the winning mead is the one that the judge has a preference for the taste.

### December beekeeping notes ~ written by Pat Allen

The Division will not be using oxalic acid this year due to the change in the law making it much less easy to do the group treatments. We hope to use it next year, using the evaporation method. Meanwhile, do check your varroa population (greased floor inserts in for a week) and make sure you treat in spring if necessary (see bulk buy notice).

The weather continues to be rather mild (albeit with some cold snaps) and the bees are still pretty active. It is a good idea to put a small cake of fondant over the cluster (or over a hole in the crownboard over the cluster). If you find they have taken it, then they need stores as they only take fondant if they need it.

Otherwise just check hives are upright and safe from woodpeckers and mice.

### BULK BUY ~ written by Lorna Pattle

The division will be making a Bulk Buy purchase in the New Year and members will be able to place orders for Wired Foundation and Apiguard.

We are also offering the chance to order MAQS Strips and self-assemble National Bee Supplies DNS + SN1 frames which are more expensive, but of a higher quality and better design than Thornes.

Order sheets will be available at the January and February meetings or to me by email; lorna.pattle@outlook.com

More information to follow regarding prices.

Light Honey—E. STEFONI

Med. Honey—G. FURNELL

Dark Honey—T. WATSON

Set Honey—J. McNEILL.

Clear for sale—G. FURNELL

Set for Sale—J. McNEILL

Three Different Honeys—Eileen Marrable  
Memorial Trophy—J. McNEILL

Gift—T. KEEPER

Novice clear—T. KEEPER

Clear Honey, Beekeeping less than 5  
years—E. STEFONI

EDITH STEVENS TROPHY - Best Honey in  
Show—J. McNEILL

Photograph—P. ALLEN

Frame for Extraction—P. ALLEN

Dry Mead—P. HEWSON

Sweet Mead—G. FURNELL

Beeswax—N. MESSENGER

Pair of Candles—N MESSENGER

Fudge—S. ANDREWS

Honey Cake—A. MANDER

Carrot Cake—L. FRANCIS

Bakery—L. PATTLE

W.G. CHANT MEMORIAL - Best Exhibit in  
Show—N. MESSENGER



EBKA Conference 5/11/2016

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

To members who kindly donated prizes to the raffle held at our conference on  
5<sup>th</sup> November.

We raised over £500 in ticket sales. Every prize was appreciated, and very much wanted by the winners. The £500 went towards to the costs of hosting the conference, and made a big difference to our club funds by helping to reduce our outlay. It is heartening to see so many of our members supporting this event.