



Romford Division

Members Information Pack Updates 2020:

This year I am sending the Info Pack updates out by email and not in hard copy as in previous years (except to the couple of members who do not have email addresses who will get print copies). Please take a couple of minutes to print and file them in your Packs. Even if you cannot remember where you put your Info Pack, keep the updates as they have useful information for 2020 in them. I will send them this month, so if you do not get them, let me know.

Pat Allen

BBKA Basic Assessment:

I would like to encourage all the beekeepers who have not yet gained this certificate and who are eligible to take the Assessment – and the Division has many people in that category – to seriously consider taking it this summer. You will learn a lot just by studying the syllabus, and taking the Assessment will give you confidence and improve your practical beekeeping. If there are enough of you taking it this year, then I will run a Basic Assessment Preparation session for you (I am not allowed to assess members in my own division). It is a great help to the EBKA Exams Secretary if you get your application form in early as this makes it easier to arrange the assessments, which take place in May, June and July and occasionally early August.

Pat Allen

Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: **Sue Richardson**

01708 381900 / 07971 957333 ~ susanmrichardson7@gmail.com

Chairman: **Paul Wiltshire**

01277 375454 / 07870 258192 ~ paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee: **Jim McNeill**

01708 765898/ 07743 310143 ~ jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

Membership Secretary: **Pat Allen**

01708 220897/07958 938427 ~ pat.allen7@icloud.com



Websites:

www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 18th March 7.30pm

Jim's Place,
Collier Row

April meeting: Thursday 2nd at 8pm

Venue: Chadwick Hall Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL

Speaker: Ted Gradosielski

Topic: Queen Rearing for both experienced and beginner beekeepers.



Courses:

Beginners Beekeeping: About 20 people are booked on the Beginners Course which is due to start on 21st April. The limit will be set at 25.

Follow-on Refresher Sessions: **Pat Allen** and **Paul Wiltshire** will be running a number of sessions if there is enough interest. If you think you need a bit more information about some of the more complex manipulations we have to do, or more practice under guidance, then put your name down for one or more of these sessions. A small charge will be made to cover incidental expenses and sessions will last 2-3 hours. The precise dates will be published next month, they will be mainly at the weekend, and it will help if you indicate any date constraints you may have. If you would like advice on procedures not on the list below, then say what you want and it may be possible to add it to the list.

Swarm Control: Indoors in early May.

Changing Combs (Bailey & Shook Swarm): Apiary in May.

Managing Nucs & Mini-Nucs: Weekend day in early June.

(All the sessions above will include **tips and techniques for finding the queen & marking her!**)

Integrated Pest Management: How to keep the varroa population under control.

INVENTIONS – Filippo Negri – 6th February 2020

Filippo was asked if he had cut comb in a jar to sell. This inspired him to invent a piece of equipment to facilitate comb for chunk honey.

Filippo put some wax into the jar first as if you try to add honey afterwards the wax tends to float. The bees produce the comb and honey inside the jars. The honey is just as the bees have produced it – no processing or filtering. The bees fly

into the jar and produce the honey on the combs inside each jar. The jars have a hole in the lids for the bees to fly into the jar and store the honey on the combs inside each jar.

He made a wooden frame to fit four jars and replaced some traditional frames with the special frame containing the jars. He had made a larger version with 12 jars attached to go into the hive.

He showed us another invention of his to keep wasps out of the hive. He reformed an entrance so that wasps cannot cross the hive threshold.

Filippo also brought one of his hand made skeps made from straw.

In 2019 Filippo won not only First Prize and the Essex Honey Show for his Chunk Honey but also a Blue Ribbon Award at the National Honey Show.

For his Practical Invention he won another First Prize at the Essex Honey Show 2019, along with a further seven prizes for his 10 exhibits!!!!



Jilly Speakman-Bell

EBKA AGM & Ted Hooper Lecture

Make a date in your diary for the **EBKA AGM SATURDAY 7th MARCH**. You won't have to worry about getting nominated for a job as all posts are usually sorted out beforehand, (unless you really feel strongly about doing something).

You get to vote and find out 'who' is doing 'what' within the county as well as getting to know where your capitation money goes.

It will be held at Writtle College, Lordship Lane, Chelmsford CM1 3RP; find out who is going and share a car.

There will be Tea/Coffee & cakes in the interval.

The guest speaker will be Abigail Lowe from the National Botanic Gardens of Wales, which should be very interesting.

Also, look on line for information about the TED HOOPER MEMORIAL LECTURE ON SATURDAY 21 March. Tickets are £8.00. All the information is on line and will be in the Essex Beekeeper Magazine.

Jim McNeill



March Beekeeping Notes

The weather this month should be warm enough at some point to open your hives for a quick first inspection. Don't be in a rush to do it though, make sure the temperature is at least 14°C and the day is calm. First watch the entrance, you can tell a lot from that alone. If the bees are active and there is pollen going in then all is probably well. If there is a lot of 'spotting' on the front of the hives (i.e. bee poo), then there may be some *Nosema* in your bees. Perhaps it is time you did a comb change.

Bees can run short of food in March so be prepared to give them a little syrup (in a contact feeder or frame feeder) if this is the case.

Mouseguards should definitely be off and woodpecker guards should not be needed any more.

Pat Allen