

Bulk Buys

The Division will be doing a bulk buy from National Bee Supplies of flat pack frames and sterilised wired wax foundation. Our Secretary, Sue, will send an email to members with approximate prices. There will be a small carriage charge also. We have been offered a good discount provided we can order within the next couple of weeks.

Please send your orders to me by 4th February 2022. I will invoice you with the cost and bank details and payment must be made to secure your order. Collection will be by arrangement from my house in Dagenham.

julie.mugglestone@gmail.com

Julie Mugglestone

Show and Tell April:

Our April 7th meeting will be "show and Tell" meeting at Chadwick Hall. Would any members who have made any aids or gadgets to help with their beekeeping, be willing to show them to other members. If so please contact Dawn or Sue before the meeting so we know how many to expect and can make any necessary preparations. dawn_doyland@hotmail.com

Dawn Doyland, Sue Richardson

Membership Renewal

Many thanks to all those who have renewed their membership – and paid. You should receive an email confirming your renewal and this will tell you how to pay and how much.

Please note that the deadline for renewal and payment is 15th February 2022. If unpaid after this your membership, including BDI and 3rd Party insurance, will lapse. Those beekeepers with hives in Divisional Apiaries **must** be paid-up members and fully insured at all times.

Romford Division Contacts:

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Membership Secretary: **Pat Allen**
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Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

February 2022

Romford Division

Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 15th March 2022, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

March Meeting: Thursday 3rd March 2022, 8pm.

Topic: Really Getting to grips with swarm control

Venue: Zoom meeting

Speaker: Robert Smith.

Warmer times.

Photo taken in early summer 2021, a Queen surrounded by workers.



The BBKA Basic Assessment – have you taken it yet...?

The Basic Assessment (BA) is the first 'test' in the BBKA's suite of examinations and assessments. It is something every beekeeper should undertake. Many Allotment Societies and other such groups, that allow bees on their sites, will insist on the beekeepers having this qualification. However, that is not the only reason for taking the BA, you should do it for yourself and for your bees. Just learning and revising for the BA will help your confidence, and the more you know about the bees, the better you will look after them and the more you will enjoy your beekeeping. And just to encourage you a little more, if you pass the Basic, Romford Division will refund your exam fee! Here are comments by two of our members who took the BA in 2021.

Graeme Ellis says: "I had the pleasure of taking my BA in June last year. I was meant to take it in 2020 but this was cancelled for obvious reasons. I'm now in my 5th year of beekeeping – that white Queen marking pen has come around very fast! If like me you've been keeping bees for a few years you'd definitely benefit from taking 'the Basic'. It helps you go back and rethink the bees' life cycle, roles, swarm control and diseases. I took my assessment in Saffron Walden with Jane Ridler, and I have to say it was fun! It consists of carrying out a hive inspection – WBC hives were a first for me, but the parts are largely the same as a National, just with some 'lifts' on the outside. You name the parts and talk through the inspection, then on to questions on bees. Pat had run a refresher course a couple of weeks before and this was invaluable. The BA can be of use if you need to demonstrate that you have knowledge of keeping bees. A good example of this is that allotment associations will usually insist on it before allowing you to keep bees on a site. I would say it was a very positive experience and has honed my thinking. I'd encourage others to read the syllabus and sign up to take 'the Basic'."

Mark Wood says: "In June 2021 I took my Basic Assessment and I would say that if you are considering taking yours, my advice is to go ahead. There is nothing you would not have covered if you have been looking after your own bees for a couple of years. The syllabus looks a little daunting at first glance but after reading through you will find that a lot of it you would do during your regular inspections and it never hurts to revisit pest and disease information. The Assessor was very friendly, he made it feel not so much as a test, more like a one-to-one training session, with the information coaxed out rather than black and white, yes or no, answers. So as I said, if you are considering taking the BA, you should do it. You will get a great deal more out of it than you expected. I did."

About Romford Division & Who Does What:

Information about our Division has been updated for 2022 and can be found in the members area of the Romford Beekeepers website:

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>

FEBRUARY Beekeeping Notes:

- Not a huge amount to do this month with the bees. It is too cold to open them up. They should be flying on warmer days though, and if you see pollen going in then that is a good sign.
- Clean up your supers, they will be needed soon. Mouldy combs or ones with mouldy pollen should be discarded, the wax can be rendered down.
- Take mouse guards off now as they knock the much-needed pollen off the bees' legs.
- Get a new set of record sheets ready for the coming season.

Pat Allen.

Annual General Meeting: 6th January 2022

Due to the ongoing uncertainty with Covid the AGM was held via Zoom. It was a bit disappointing, with only 25 members recorded, including two new members. Paul Wiltshire chaired ably, as always, and he will sign the minutes of the 2021 AGM, which had been reviewed for accuracy at the February 2021 members' meeting, when they are physically available to him. Officers' Reports had been emailed to all members and these were accepted by those in attendance.

Rose McCarthy, Treasurer, presented the 2021 examined accounts, which had also been emailed to members, and these were approved unanimously. The Division had a deficit in 2021, mainly due to the cost of printing the monthly magazine, which was over £1200 including postage. Bearing in mind this was not a full year's costs, it was accepted that this was not sustainable. It was therefore agreed unanimously that the magazine and newsletter will no longer be printed but will be emailed to members. The newsletter and magazine are available on the websites. Good news was that we had received a substantial refund of rates for Havering Apiary for current and past years, and rates will be lower in future.

The Committee members all agreed to continue in post and were elected *en bloc* unanimously. Lorna Pattle, despite her move to Cornwall, agreed to join the committee as a Lay Member. The post of Mailing Secretary is no longer necessary so Terry Watson can retire from that! Pat Allen reported that Graeme Ellis (not present) had agreed to take over newsletter production from Theresa Caves. Theresa was thanked for her work over nearly 10 years. Paul thanked everyone for their work and closed the meeting. The next AGM will be on Thursday 5th January 2023.

Pat Allen