

**ESSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION - ROMFORD DIVISION**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 7.30 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Pat Allen (PA), Doyland (DD Dawn), Garry Furnell (GF), Roger Honey (RogerH), Rob Hyde (RobH), Angela Mander (AM), Norman McDonald (NMCD), Rose McCarthy (RMCC), Jim McNeill (JMcN), Filippo Negri (FN), Sue Richardson (SR), Terry Watson (TW), Paul Wiltshire (PW)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Julie Mugglestone (JM), Lorna Pattle (LP), Alan Sansford (AS), John Whittard (JW).
2. **Minutes of previous meeting 11.1.24:** Minutes agreed and to be signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda:**

**Point 5.3:** Divisional equipment holders need to send a list of items held to RMCC for listing in our assets. This should be done each year. In future equipment holders to send equipment list to RMCC in time for the January AGM, as this needs to be submitted in time for the EBKA AGM. **Action equipment holders.**

**Point 7:** Storage at Thames Chase – PA confirmed that they are not averse to us having some storage at the teaching apiary, but we need to decide what type of storage. Container similar to that at Havering suggested, but this would need ground screws, and the ground to be surveyed for underground pipes etc. Or an open structure with roof and open sides, similar to small cart shed. RH suggested large plastic storage containers, like those at The Chase. Not sure if these would be large enough. **Action – decide what storage we would like, PA to speak to Thames Chase again.**
4. **Correspondence not otherwise on agenda:** SR has received numerous emails, many to do with the AH which have been passed onto members and committee as appropriate. 2024 business rates bill due from Havering.
5. **Regular Reports**

**5.1 Trustee/DVM:** We need to let the CEC know who our presiding officer will be for the upcoming EBKA AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> March. This is usually the Chair, so would be JM. The next CEC meeting is next week. Divisional news: Braintree meetings include: microscopy day, queen rearing and a soap workshop. They gave information about AH ID labels that are available to go on honey jars. Saffron Walden have already held their beginners' course theory session. Southend have held meetings on the AH and comb change. Current EBKA membership stands at 1070, down from 1291 in 2023. Essex Honey Show date is set for 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**5.2 Chair:** no report, not present.

**5.3 Secretary:**  
Our website is out of date with regards to the committee meeting minutes and the newsletters, also the who does what page, and the 2024 beginners' course details were not on there. The last committee minutes on the website are January 2023, and the newsletter also January 2023. PA and SR have emailed Padraig several times, and PA has just heard that he has been unwell with Covid for some months. He has now put the 2024 beginners' course details on. Committee meeting minutes, newsletters, Who does what page and taster session details need to be put on. **Action SR, PA, Padraig Floyd.**

**5.4 Treasurer:**  
Balance of accounts is £22,205.83. Latest accounts sheet to follow. £2,700 has been paid for EBKA capitation. Still no mandate for JM and Roger Honey for Barclays, as JM has not been able to go to branch with ID. Roger H's ID is Ok. JM and Roger H are on the same mandate from. RMCC has asked for an extension but this will soon run out. PA finally has a new card. PA confirmed that members who have not renewed now have been lapsed. **Action JM, RMCC.**

**5.5 Show Secretary:** nothing to report, left meeting due to poor internet connection.

## 5.6 Apiary Wardens

**5.6.1 Havering:** Ann Hart has lost her bees and has decided to give up beekeeping. TW has a bee suit, and her hive, which is empty and cleaned out, Ann has offered these to the division for a beekeeper. Roger H mentioned that he had been contacted by a lady nearby who was interested in having bees in her garden.

**5.6.2 Hornchurch:** NMCD has put up the Asian Hornet trap.

**5.6.3 The Chase and Bee Garden:** Cristian Cracium has put up the AH trap. Yurii Titovskiy has asked to put his bees on the apiary. RH to check bees are healthy and sort out the apiary paperwork for him. **Action Rob H.**

**5.6.4 Teaching Apiary:** FN has been over, a few bees flying, no grass to cut. PA will be putting the AH trap up.

## 6. Programme 2024:

March 7th – JM with a wax evening. April 4th - Mark Patterson from Apicultural talking about Planting for Pollinators. May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Essex Bat Group. June – apiary meeting at Thames Chase on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm. July or August – microscopy ? Possibly Jane Ridler. Who has the divisional microscopes – Clare Russell and Annette Friday, tbc. **Action PA, DD.**

## 7. Courses 2024:

**Education Officer:** Zakir Bickhan has now taken over the post and is organising the beginners' course. There are only 4 students booked in at the moment, the course details have only just been put on the website. Dates booked with Thames Chase. Garry Furnell has offered to run the taster sessions. Dates of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July confirmed. PA to book the dates with Thames Chase. PA is happy to do refresher sessions, and to run a preparation session for the Basic exam if there is any interest. **Action ZB, GF, PA.**

## 8. Asian Hornet Team:

TW has offered to be our AH coordinator. This needs to be added to the eR2 system for TW's name to be added to the BBKA website AH map. Several requests have been put out to our members via the newsletter, but no response! GF is on the BBKA Asian Hornet WhatsApp group, and receives information via this. GF kindly offered to be on the AH team. Our AH team is currently: Terry Watson, Garry Furnell, Filippo Negri and Jim McNeill.

FN has the remaining 36 AH traps, and 1 gallon of bait. 3 traps have been paid for but not yet collected. Item to be put in March newsletter offering remaining traps. We have received an update about how to use the traps from Dave Garratt, this is to also to be include in the March Newsletter. **Action PA, SR.**

## 9. EBKA Conference 2024:

JM conference coordinator not present, so no update on progress. JMcN said that JM had sent out emails to several prospective speakers. Not sure if a conference zoom meeting had taken place. Are we still going with the theme of "Rewilding"? RH spoke to Robert Brett at Hyde Hall recently; he has redesigned Hyde Hall, he could be a good speaker. PA suggested David Robinson from National Bee Supplies, also Sutton Seeds, as he is rewilding the grounds of National Bee Supplies and we are good customers. He writes a monthly column for Bee Craft magazine. RH has circulated to the committee the planning chart from Sarah Rumble for last year's conference which should be useful for this year. **Action PA, JM.**

## 10. 2024 Donations:

TW suggested that we make a donation to Dover and District Beekeepers' Association as they have carried out a lot of work at their own expense to trap and monitor AH. They have divided their coastal area into 1Km squares and each of these is to have an AH trap put up and monitored. The members are travelling around at their own expense. There have been about 50 AH reported in their area so far. TW and JMcN said that they are doing a lot of advertising too. The cost of traps, bait and petrol must be high. They are working hard to protect the UK from the AH. If we are to donate, we would need some more information about their actual costs. **Action SR to contact them.**

- 11. BBKA 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trees for Planting** – Divisions have been offered funds for planting a tree to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> year. We can buy a bee friendly, preferably native, tree or hedging up to the value of £70, and send the receipt into them for a reimbursement. Not sure where to plant a tree. To be thought about.
- 12. Bulk Buys 2024:** JM and AS have now sent out the Spring Bulk buy email. Orders to be collected from JM.  
**Action JM, AS.**
- 13. AOB:** none.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – via Zoom  
Meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

**Chaired by Paul Wiltshire**

***Minutes - Sue Richardson***