



## Our Annual Convention 22nd February

*There is still time to book, but be quick.*

Full details of the Association's Annual Convention appeared in last month's County News. This not to be missed event has a top line up of speakers with a range of lectures to suit everyone with full details on the website.



*Lodge Hill Conference  
Centre, Pulborough*

Apart from the three main lectures there are two sessions where you can choose which seminar to join and, as participants come from all over the region, there are plenty of people with whom to swap ideas and chat throughout the day.

The convention is also a great opportunity to stock up on equipment and reading matter for the coming season. As usual, Paynes Southdown Bee Farms will bring a tremendous range of equipment and books to the Convention, so don't forget your shopping list!

The day promises to be both entertaining and stimulating so book now to ensure your place on the seminars of your choice. The price for WSBKA members is just £20 per person if booked before 17th February.

For further details contact Gordon Allan on 01798 343470, email [wsbkaconvention@gmail.com](mailto:wsbkaconvention@gmail.com) or visit the West Sussex website: [www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/convention/index.shtml](http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/convention/index.shtml)

*A Booking Form is attached to this Newsletter*

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## Bee Market & Auction - 26th April

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Following this month's Convention the next major event for the Association will be the Annual Bee Market & Auction now in its 42nd year. A small army of volunteers is needed to run this event successfully and if you are available to help with a variety of tasks including assisting in the Auction Ring and serving tea and coffee please contact me.

Details are now on the WSBKA website so if you have surplus equipment you wish to sell download the Lot Entry Form. Closing date for entries is 16<sup>th</sup> April or when 300 lots have been registered.



*A fine display from 2013  
Photo courtesy of Roger Patterson*



Regional Bee Inspector  
Julian Parker

Sue Cooper will again be running her very popular plant stall, but as Sue has retired your contributions are even more appreciated than ever. Sue tells me she is very short of tomato plants this year. So if you can help please contact Sue on 01798 870 461 for more details.

It is hoped Worthing Division will again be running a tombola for the benefit of the WSBKA exchequer and all prize donations will be gratefully received.

Finally, Julian Parker, the new Regional Bee Inspector has agreed to attend the event. So this will be a great opportunity to meet him if you have not already done so.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

**Graham Elliott**

[grahammt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahammt@tiscali.co.uk) 01403 752493 or mobile 07761 349281

## Examination Success

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to Crissy Blakeman (Worthing) and Jim Norfolk (Chichester) on their recent success in passing BBKA Modules. Crissy passed Module 5 and Jim also Module 5 with distinction. Very well done.

## 2013 National Honey Show

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A number of lectures were recorded, funded in part by the National Lottery. So if you missed the show the first two of these, 'The Sustainable Apiary' by Mike Palmer, and 'Origins and Evolutionary History of the Honey Bee' by Robert Paxton may be viewed on <http://youtu.be/nznzpiWEI8A> and <http://youtu.be/Wtm8URk-V9A>. Further lectures will be shown on the NHS website [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) under 'Education' as they become available.

The NHS also has a new page on facebook - [www.facebook.com/nationalhoneyshow](http://www.facebook.com/nationalhoneyshow)

# Annual Delegates' Meeting - Saturday 11th January 2014

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*Chairman, Tom Moore reports on his attendance at the 54th ADM*

Another January Saturday and there I was again on the road to Kenilworth to attend the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Delegates' Meeting of BBKA as the West Sussex delegate. This is the big annual meeting at the heart of democracy in BBKA, with elections for the Executive, the presentation of accounts, reports from various committees, and a whole series of motions to discuss and vote on. There were 64 voting delegates, one-Association-one-vote, though at times a vote is called for that reflects the membership numbers of each Association. This is a summary of what went on. A fuller account will appear in BBKA News, but this is my personal report to you, the WSBKA members.



## Reports, Budgets and Accounts

The papers for the ADM include reports from the various BBKA sub-committees on the work undertaken during the previous year. These are available for any member to see, so if you would like a copy please contact me, or Graham Elliott, and we can email you the relevant sections. The Trustees and others do a huge amount on behalf of beekeepers and honey bees, and I suspect that many of us rather take it for granted without realising the time and effort that is put in. We owe them appreciation and thanks for this.

On the financial side there was a significant deficit in the last year, largely because external fundraising did not bring in anything like the amount budgeted. This means that BBKA reserves are being depleted, and as well as expecting to raise more from external sources in future years there was a motion to raise the BBKA Capitation fee (i.e. what we each pay for BBKA membership) by £1 for 2015. There have been a number of increases in recent years, and the WSBKA Committee felt that it was not right to have increases so much in excess of the rate of inflation. So, while the accounts and budgets were accepted by a large majority, there was a vote to delay the rise in Capitation. This caused a certain amount of uproar, as it would mean significant further losses on the annual accounts. The meeting degenerated into a somewhat farcical state, with suggestions that we, the delegates, had left BBKA in an impossible situation. Ultimately, a later motion was amended, and the £1 rise was accepted, a rather convoluted and contentious way out of this difficult position. This means that from the end of 2014 the BBKA element of your (full) membership will rise from £17 to £18.

***I have to say that it is my personal opinion that this is an absolute bargain. For this sum you get 12 issues of BBKA News, personal liability insurance up to £10 million for both beekeeping and sale of honey and other hive products, as well as all the BBKA leaflets, examination system, advice, website, forum, etc. etc. If you know an insurance broker, try asking them what it would cost to buy the insurance alone individually; and if you subscribe to any magazine, what does that cost? You will not get either for £1.50 a month, let alone the whole package.***

## Elections

Davis Aston, who has been (in my view an excellent) Chairman of BBKA was elected as President. There were five Trustee (Executive) positions to be filled, and our chosen candidates were all elected. Namely, Ken Basterfield, Doug Brown and our own Roger Patterson all re-elected (being serving trustees who had come to the end of their term), plus Ruth Homer and Gareth Morgan (Gareth being from Surrey, and a candidate whose nomination we seconded).

There were also five vacancies on the Examinations Board, and again our chosen candidates were elected or re-elected, Pam Hunter, Margaret Murdin and Peter Sutcliffe for three years, and Lea Bailey and Alastair Welch for two years. This I believe gives us a very good Board.

The BBKA treasurer, who was also a Trustee, retired at this meeting, and a replacement had been found to take over, who has been shadowing and learning the systems for some time. There was a Proposition later in the meeting that the role of Treasurer and Trustee were not compatible, and that the Treasurer should not be a Trustee. However, the proposed new Treasurer wished to become a Trustee. Perhaps in anticipation of the Proposition to come, she was not elected as a Trustee, and so withdrew from the Treasurer position. At this point the meeting again degenerated into uproar. The delegates were again told we had put BBKA and the Trustees into an impossible position, with no Trustee with any financial qualification, and no treasurer. Lots of tension, and a situation the Trustees will have to address. The meeting did give an overwhelming vote of confidence in Shena Winning as potential Treasurer, and ask her to take time to reconsider. Time will tell!

## Propositions

So to the Propositions. I have already referred to those connected with the Capitation fee, so will now summarise what else was decided.

The Proposition already referred to, preventing the Treasurer from being a Trustee, was amended so that he/she could be a Trustee but not Chair of the Finance sub-committee.

Surrey BKA had proposed that BBKA be asked to review the dates of budgets, accounts and meetings, as the ADM is annually asked to approve the budget for a financial year that is already under way by over three months. We seconded this motion, and it was passed, with support from BBKA. Yorkshire BKA had proposed something similar, which on the passing of 'our' Proposition they withdrew.

Yorkshire had also made a Proposition that BBKA look at providing a much improved structure for membership/support for school beekeeping groups. This was passed.

Somerset BKA proposed that *BBKA News* be re-named *The British Bee Journal*. This was defeated.

Devon BKA proposed that BBKA lobby Government for a reduced or zero-rate level of VAT for beekeeping equipment. They said they have a member who would do the work involved. While there was some strong feeling that we were fooling ourselves if we thought such a change achievable (which we in WSBKA agreed with), this motion was also passed – but I would not hold off making any purchases in the hope of a lower VAT rate coming along!

There was also a technical motion from BBKA to clarify some dates in the Constitution. Perhaps the most boring part of the meeting, but a quick and simple thing to agree.

## Finally

Various awards are made at the ADM, including giving Honorary Membership to people who have given long and loyal service to BBKA in various roles. Among those receiving a Certificate to recognise 50 years of beekeeping was Roger Patterson, so he now has that certificate to go with the other things that Wisborough Green Division gave him in the autumn in recognition of his long service. Roger did appear to have worn better, or started younger, than some of the others. I wonder how he will look when he gets the 60 years version at the 2024 ADM!

There are always some surprises at these meetings, and it can be a long and tiring day, but this is democracy at work and BBKA is a valuable organisation. I think worth the buzzing in my head as I tried to sleep once I got home that night.

**Tom Moore**

## Around the Divisions

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All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

### Central Sussex Division

**Wednesday 12th February** - *'Recognise & Manage Swarming'*. At the RAFA Club, Horsham from 7:30pm. Further details from Melvyn Essen: [chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk) or the Central Sussex website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

### Chichester Division

**Tuesday 11th February** - AGM & *'Spring Preparation'* at Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, 7:30pm. Further details from Henrietta Currey: [secrtary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secrtary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk) or the Division's website: [www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk)

***'Share your Division's  
activities with readers of the  
County News'***

### Wisborough Green Division

**Tuesday 25th February** - *'Alternative Hives'* with Chichester Chairman, Jim Norfolk and WSBKA members at North Hall, Loxwood. 7:30pm. Details from Sue Elliott: [sj.elliott@ukgateway.net](mailto:sj.elliott@ukgateway.net) or website: [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk)

### Worthing Division

**Thursday 13th February** - *'Bees, Trees, Boxes & Heat - The Mechanical Engineering of Bees'* with Derek Mitchell at Ferring Village Hall, 7:30pm. Further details from Phil Carter: [philange5180@btinternet.com](mailto:philange5180@btinternet.com) or the WBKA website: [www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk)

### ... and Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 22nd February** - Annual Convention, Lodge Hill, Watersfield, Pulborough. See the lead article in this newsletter.

**Saturday 8th March** - Wisborough Green *'Beekeeping for Beginners'* day. See the article in December's newsletter.

**Tuesday 25th March** - Annual General Meeting. Pulborough Village Hall at 7:30pm. Details next month.

**Friday 4th - Sunday 6th April** - BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams University, Newport. [www.bbka.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/spring\\_convention.php](http://www.bbka.org.uk/news_and_events/spring_convention.php). Online booking is now open.

**Saturday 19th April & Saturday 10th May** - Central Sussex Beekeeping Course. See the article in last month's newsletter.

**Saturday 26th April** - Annual Bee Market & Auction, Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough. See article in this newsletter.





## More from Moore - water, water everywhere

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*Tom shares his thoughts from his apiary in West Sussex.*

Little did I know when I wrote last month's notes, that we would be in for the wet and stormy weeks that we have all endured. Frequent trips to the apiary to ensure no branches had come down on hives (impossible on Christmas Eve as all roads south from Petworth and adjoining towns were closed by flooding), luckily with no problems so far. Some of you know that we don't 'do' Christmas, so it was ironic that on getting to the apiary on 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day to you...) there was one huge casualty, probably the biggest tree in the wood, snapped off about 6ft above ground; *Picea abies*, the Norway spruce, or traditional Christmas tree! Luckily a long way from the hives, but it will be a major job to dismantle and clear from where it fell.

All our hives were still alive when we did oxalic acid treatment, and hefted at a good weight. Some still seem to have a very large number of bees, and they have been active on many days as it has been so mild, so we will watch the level of stores very carefully as winter progresses. At least it seems the bees have been able to re-organise stores as required, and remove dead bodies from the hives. There has even been a bit of pollen coming in at times, possibly some from hazel which is in full catkin very early, but I can't think what else is in flower in enough quantity to yield worthwhile amounts. Some snowdrops are out in the garden, and *Daphne bholua*, and soon there will be hellebores. I am trying not to get too excited about an early spring as there could well be a lot of hard weather ahead.

Now to last month's question about hollies. Does the very small response tell me that nobody reads these notes, or is it that nobody had any thoughts? There is a well-known beekeeping phrase along the lines of 'Ask two beekeepers and you will get three answers'. Well, just two beekeepers responded, and gave a total of three answers! Two were somewhat fanciful, encompassing thoughts on promiscuity, and birds causing damage, and while it could possibly be argued that in developing fruit a female holly makes less extension growth (not noticeably so, as the picture last month showed), the answer I sought, worded rather nicely by the winner (and here I will quote him), is 'female plants are grazed more, particularly by people with secateurs collecting branches with berries on'. Congratulations to Jim Norfolk, Chairman of Chichester Division, who wins a very small prize of a honey dipper (similar to that in the picture). For anyone wondering, all hollies will grow more open and straggly in shade, and more compact and dense in sun, related to the amount of available light. Interestingly (to me at least) they also tend to produce smoother leaves once they grow well above head height, as there is less need to defend themselves against grazing animals (or humans wielding secateurs?).



I hope the coming weeks are kind to your bees, and that those of you who have suffered from the rain and floods manage to dry out.

**Tom**

## BBWare Discount

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BeeWare has renewed its discount to WSBKA members this year. A 20% discount is offered on all clothing. To claim your discount phone or email your order through to the company and ask your division's secretary to confirm your membership of WSBKA to BBWare. [www.bbwear.co.uk](http://www.bbwear.co.uk)

## BBKA Examination Dates 2014

**All MARCH Module Examinations** - 22nd March. **Applications must be with Steve Boyce no later than 7th February.**

**All NOVEMBER Module Examinations** - 8th November. Applications to County Exam Secretary no later than 25th September.

**Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry** - 14/15th June. **Reserve date 28/29th June.** Applications to BBKA by 28th February.

**General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry** - Date by arrangement with Exam Board Secretary. Applications to BBKA by 28th February.

**Microscopy Certificate** - 15/16th November. **Other dates as required.** Applications to BBKA by 31st August.

**Basic & Junior Certificate** - date by arrangement with County Exam Secretary. Applications 1 month before assessment. Last date for assessments 31st August.

Cheques, made out to BBKA, and applications for the March modules should be sent, not later than 7th February to:-

Mr Stephen Boyce, Hon. Treasurer WSBKA,  
2 Castle Cottages,  
Hickstead Lane,  
West Sussex,  
RH17 5NT.

### Fees

Junior - £2  
Basic - £15  
Modules - £20 each  
General Husbandry - £40  
Advanced Husbandry - £60  
Show Judge - £40  
Microscopy - £40  
Correspondence courses - £45 each

**Roger & Marion Brooks**, County Examination Secretaries

### MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

[grahammt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahammt@tiscali.co.uk)

**We're on the web:**

**[www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex](http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex)**

Previous newsletters from the last 12 months are available on the website.



# West Sussex Beekeepers' Association Annual Convention – 22nd February 2014

**To: Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0AU**

Please book me ..... places for the WSBKA Convention to be held on Saturday 22nd February 2014 at a cost of £.....  
(Ticket price is £20 each for WSBKA members and £25 each for non-WSBKA members.)

You can either enclose a cheque made payable to 'WSBKA' along with this form

**Or:**

You can make payment by Bank transfer and return this registration form by email (no SAE required). For Bank transfer, Account name is 'West Sussex Beekeepers Association', Sort code: 402823, Account number: 11457721 - please put the first delegate's surname in the Reference field.

In both cases, you will receive your confirmation number(s) and a map by email. If you do not have email, or require a physical ticket/map, **a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed.**

## DELEGATE 1

Name..... (please print) Telephone No. ....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Email .....

I am a member of .....Beekeepers' Association (if any).

**Seminars - In case your first choice is over-subscribed, please indicate your order of preference**

**Seminar 1** (you can attend one of these)

- 1) The impact of Nutrition on Honey Bee Health - Ben Jones
- 2) If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper - Graham Royle
- 3) Record Keeping for Beekeepers - Tom Moore

**Preference**

First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third

**Seminar 2** (you can attend one of these)

- 4) Managing the Workers - Bob Smith
- 5) Beeswax Candle Making - Celia Rudland

**Preference**

First / Second  
First / Second

## DELEGATE 2

Name..... (please print) Telephone No. ....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Email .....

I am a member of .....Beekeepers' Association (if any).

**Seminars - In case your first choice is over-subscribed, please indicate your order of preference**

**Seminar 1** (you can attend one of these)

- 1) The impact of Nutrition on Honey Bee Health - Ben Jones
- 2) If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper - Graham Royle
- 3) Record Keeping for Beekeepers - Tom Moore

**Preference**

First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third

**Seminar 2** (you can attend one of these)

- 4) Managing the Workers - Bob Smith
- 5) Beeswax Candle Making - Celia Rudland

**Preference**

First / Second  
First / Second