



## Annual General Meeting Tuesday 25th March

The Association's 41st AGM will be held on Tuesday 25th March. The venue is Pulborough Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

All members are welcome to attend and will find full details at the end of this newsletter. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend and support the Association.

Additional agenda items or nominations for election of the executives (president, chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer and secretary) to the Committee should be advised to the Association Secretary no later than 18th March.



Your Association needs

**YOU**

**Graham Elliott**

Hon. Secretary West Sussex Beekeepers' Association

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## Bee Market & Auction - 26th April

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With just 8 weeks to go to one of the most important events in the Association's calendar we are looking for enthusiastic and willing **VOLUNTEERS** to help on the day with a variety of tasks including helping in the Auction Ring and serving tea and coffee. So if you can spare some time please contact the event organiser, Graham Elliott [grahammt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahammt@tiscali.co.uk) 01403 752493 Mobile 07761 349281

If you have surplus **BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT** you wish to sell an Entry Form is attached to this newsletter or can be downloaded from the West Sussex BKA website. It can also be requested from the event organiser. Closing date for entries is 16<sup>th</sup> April, but **please do not delay in registering your lots**.



*Bidding is brisk at the 2013 event*

A regular feature of the Auction is the **PLANT STALL** organised by Sue Cooper. There is usually a wide range of plants available, and these come from a variety of donated sources. So, when you are taking cuttings, dividing plants, or transplanting seedlings, please remember the stall and keep some spares aside. Please contact Sue on 01798 870 461 for more details.

And finally.....Worthing Division will be running a **TOMBOLA** for the benefit of the WSBKA exchequer. All prize donations are gratefully received, so dig out those unwanted Christmas gifts!

As always, your support is greatly appreciated. Full details of the event, Rules & Guidance Notes and Entry Form are on the WSBKA website at: - [www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/auction](http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/auction)

## Meridien Beekeepers' Open Lecture - Monday 7th April

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Meridien Beekeepers' Association invites WSBKA members to a lecture by Dr Jay Evans at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham, SO32 1DN at 7:15pm.

Jay Evans grew up in Seattle, Washington, USA as an avid naturalist and went on to Princeton University and the University of Utah for AB and PhD degrees respectively in Biology. His talk will be on '*Beenomics - tools for understanding and improving bee health*'. This should be a fascinating and most informative talk.

## Des Res for Bees

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A landowner in Plummers Plain between Handcross and Lower Beeding has 13 acres consisting of wild flower meadows, orchard, formal garden, and vegetable plot together with several ponds, two of which are wild life ponds. Possibly the perfect surrogate home for a few hives. (First offered in Sep 2013). If you are interested please contact me in the first instance.

**Graham** 01403 752493 [grahammt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahammt@tiscali.co.uk)

## 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 March** - 'Annual General Meeting' 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 March** - Film Night 'More Than Honey' a new feature film about bees, beekeeping and honey production. 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

**Saturday 8th March** - Beginners and Improvers Day, Pulborough Village Hall from 08:30.

**Tuesday 11th March** - 'Annual General Meeting' followed by a film. 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 March** - A talk by members of the division 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

**Tuesday 25th March** - WSBKA Annual General Meeting. Pulborough Village Hall at 7:30pm. Details in this newsletter.

**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.

**Monday 7th April** - Meridien Beekeepers' Open Lecture. Bishops Waltham at 7:15pm. See article in this newsletter.

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

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

**Thursday 5th - Saturday 7th June** - South of England Show. See article in this newsletter.



## More from Moore - Winter at the Satellite Apiary

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*Tom shares his thoughts from his apiary in West Sussex (although NOT on this occasion!)*

We all know, or should know, that locally-adapted bees are likely to do better anywhere than imports from a different area where climate, forage and seasons can be very different. Thus it was with some concerns that in the summer of 2012 we gave two colonies of our locally-adapted West Sussex bees to a long-standing friend who had decided to take up beekeeping – high in the hills in central Wales, 12 miles inland from Aberystwyth. He had attended training classes locally in Wales, and made a few visits to our apiary near Petworth where he handled the bees. How would the bees, and the beekeeper, fare in such a different setting?

I took the first hive to Wales myself in June 2012, secured under a travel top, and avoiding motorways most of the way so that I could stop and spray water over the hive every so often. It was a journey of something over 230 miles, so temperature regulation was very important. The bees seemed unperturbed, and it was quite amazing to see them just 15 minutes after arrival bringing in loads of pollen from the nearby fields. The second hive followed in July, and by the end of August they were well settled in and even produced a small crop of very light coloured honey, quite different from the dark honey that we get here at that time of year.

So how have the bees got on in the very different surroundings, where there are no flowering agricultural crops to forage on, just meadows and woodland, gorse, willow herb and brambles? The answer is, surprisingly well. Due to the limited experience of the beekeeper both hives swarmed in 2013, and produced a cast, all of which he caught and housed. So now (after losing one queen and uniting two boxes) there are five hives in what I jokingly refer to as 'our satellite apiary'. They were inspected last summer in a routine visit by their regional bee inspector, who liked the bees (phew!), and another harvest of very light honey was taken in August.

We all know how difficult it is for beekeepers to go away on holiday during the summer, so in mid February we took a short break and went to visit the satellite apiary (and the friends). They all seem to be in good order. Overnight on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February there was a significant fall of snow, and the one sad thing was to see, on the bright sunny morning of 11<sup>th</sup>, that a number of bees had clearly been tempted out by the high light intensity, and were dotted about the garden dead, little black dots in the white, some in depressions up to a centimetre deep where it would seem their residual body heat had melted the snow a little.



*A snowy scene in Wales on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

At the time of writing this we still haven't had a proper winter here, so I thought I would include a picture of the Welsh apiary in the snow. We are waiting for a couple of cold weeks so that we can move the five 2013 external swarm hives from our quarantine apiary into the main apiary – and beginning to wonder what we will do if we never do get the cold spell and can't move them. I can see us having to find a new quarantine site this summer!

**Tom**

## South of England Show 5 - 7 June

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The ever-popular Honey Show will again be part of the South of England Show at the Agricultural Society's Showground, Ardingly between 5th and 7th June. Hopefully you will have had a successful beekeeping year and have been able to put something by for the Show. A free entry ticket to the Showground will be issued with every entry, which is a good incentive to exhibit in the Show.

So request your ticket by ticking the box on the back of the entry form which must reach Mrs P Sparkes, Hon. Entries Secretary no later than 13th April or as a late entry by 11th May. You can contact Mrs Sparkes anytime except between 22 March to 26 April, but queries will be answered after that date.

Tel: 01293 862063 email [sparkes-1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sparkes-1@tiscali.co.uk).

The Show Schedule can be downloaded from the WSBKA website.

For those that would like to enter for the Show but cannot deliver their exhibits themselves our co-ordinating team will be arranging drop off and collection points to make it easier. Hopefully one for each division. Details to follow shortly and if you are still unsure about exhibiting East Grinstead BKA has an event 'Honey Showing with Becky Champion' on Saturday 26th April at 2.30pm. For more details contact the events co-ordinator by email [events@egbka.org.uk](mailto:events@egbka.org.uk).

## Beekeepers @ KSRC

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Check out the website for a varied selection of beekeeping courses in Sittingbourne. The website is [www.ksrcbees.org.uk](http://www.ksrcbees.org.uk) and the bookings page allows electronic course bookings, using PayPal. See what is on offer...

## buzz Discount

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Buzz Beekeeping Supplies is offering WSBKA members 10% discount when purchasing online from [www.buzzbeekeepingsupplies.co.uk](http://www.buzzbeekeepingsupplies.co.uk). For the discount code please ring me on 01403 752493 or email [grahammt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahammt@tiscali.co.uk).

**Graham**



## Mr Bees Discount

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Mr Bees is offering WSBKA members a 5% discount on their quality nucs throughout the 2014 season. Available in National, 14x12 and Commercial sizes. British 2014 queen and brand new professionally made nuc box included (or correx box if you prefer a cheaper option). Based in Suffolk but can deliver also. Phone Tim: 01394 274386 Mobile 07503773630 or email for further details: [mrbees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mrbees@hotmail.co.uk).



[www.mrbees.co.uk](http://www.mrbees.co.uk)

*Please note that WSBKA does not endorse or recommend either 'buzz' or 'Mr Bees' and passes on details of the above discounts for members' information only.*



## An Opportunity - British Beekeepers' Association Situation Vacant



### Honorary Treasurer

BBKA is currently recruiting a volunteer with a background in finance and accounting who can bring essential skills to the role and to the team, ensuring that the Association continues to develop.

Key responsibilities include:

- Maintaining an overview of BBKA's financial affairs
- Ensuring that the proper financial records are maintained
- Advising on preparation of budgets, accounts, financial statements including accountant liaison
- Ensuring accounts are prepared and disclosed in the form required by funders and relevant statutory bodies, e.g. Charities Commission
- Presenting the formal accounts at the Annual Delegates Meeting
- Accountable to the Chair of Finance and attend regular committee meetings and those of the Executive Committee, when invited
- Maintaining regular communication between meetings
- Providing guidance to staff on financial procedures as agreed

A job description can be found on the website [www.bbka.org.uk/contacts/vacancies](http://www.bbka.org.uk/contacts/vacancies). To apply please send your CV with a covering letter outlining your suitability to: Jane Moseley, BBKA Operations Director & General Secretary by email: [jane.moseley@bbka.org.uk](mailto:jane.moseley@bbka.org.uk). Closing date: 31st March 2014



### 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 BKA BEE MARKET & AUCTION**  
**BRINSBURY CAMPUS, PULBOROUGH**  
**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**ENTRY FORM**

**Closing date for entries 16<sup>th</sup> April**

Please return form to Graham Elliott, Robins Croft, Chalk Road,  
Ifold, Loxwood, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 0UB  
[grahammt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahammt@tiscali.co.uk)

**I wish to enter the following for sale in the above auction and confirm my acceptance of the rules stated**

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Official Use</u>
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Details – Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Acct No: \_\_\_\_\_

Acct Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please continue on additional sheets as necessary.

Payment will be to your nominated bank account only.

A regular feature of the Auction is the **PLANT STALL** organised by Sue Cooper. There is usually a wide range of plants available, and these come from a variety of donated sources. So, when you are taking cuttings, dividing plants, or transplanting seedlings, please remember the stall and keep some spares aside. Please contact Sue on 01798 870 461 for more details.

For Rules and Guidance Notes see website [www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/auction/index.shtml](http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/auction/index.shtml)

West Sussex Beekeepers Association v.1 Jan14

# WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



President: **Mrs Christine Stevens**  
Chairman: **Mr Tom Moore**  
Vice Chairman: **Mr Roger Patterson**

Hon. Secretary  
**Mr Graham Elliott**  
Tel 01403 752493  
Email: [grahammt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahammt@tiscali.co.uk)

Hon. Treasurer  
**Mr Stephen Boyce**  
Tel 01444 881248  
Email: [sboyce@taxms.co.uk](mailto:sboyce@taxms.co.uk)

Life Vice-Presidents: **Mr R Patterson, Mr R Noakes**

**NOTICE** is given to all Members of West Sussex Beekeepers' Association that the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting is to be held in Pulborough Village Hall, Pulborough, on Tuesday 25th March 2014, commencing at 7.30pm. It is hoped that as many Members as possible will attend to support the Association.

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM, held at Pulborough on 26th March 2013
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Chairman's Report
5. Election of Officers. All Officers are prepared to continue if re-elected with the exception of President and Chairman who have reached the end of their period of office.  
**Present Holders:**  
President – **Christine Stevens**  
Chairman – **Tom Moore**  
Vice Chairman – **Roger Patterson**  
Treasurer – **Stephen Boyce**  
Secretary – **Graham Elliott**
6. To appoint the Accounts Scrutineer for 2014
7. Life Membership
8. Any Other Business (as notified to the Secretary)



## **Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the West Sussex Beekeepers' Association held at Pulborough Village Hall, Pulborough, West Sussex on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7:30pm.**

**Present:**, Mrs C Stevens, Miss P Tilney, Mrs P Ford, Mr L Lewis, Mr T Moore, Mr R Patterson, Mr G Allan, Mr R Flenley, Mr G Wheatley, Mr J Norfolk, Mr S Main, Mr S Boyce, Mr J Scrace, Mr D Coutts, Mr R Ramsden, Mr M Essen, Mr G Sitton, Mr P Scruby & Mr G Elliott

The President welcomed the 3 members from Central Sussex BKA.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Miss C Drewett, Mr N Dingemans, Mr J Glover

### **2. Minutes of Meeting**

Minutes of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were approved and signed by the President.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Copy attached to these Minutes. The Treasurer reported that both Association events were profitable in the year. The report was adopted nem con.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

Copy attached to these Minutes and had been circulated in advance. The report was adopted nem con.

### **5. Election of Officers**

**5.1 President – Mrs Christine Stevens** was re-elected nem con, Richard Flenley seconding Roger Patterson.

**5.2 Chair – Mr Tom Moore** was re-elected nem con, Richard Flenley seconding Christine Stevens.

**5.3 Vice-Chair – Mr Roger Patterson** was re-elected nem con, Gordon Allan seconding Tom Moore.

**5.4 Treasurer – Stephen Boyce** was elected nem con, Tom Moore seconding Christine Stevens.

**5.5 Secretary – Graham Elliott** was re-elected nem con, Tom Moore seconding Pat Tilney.

The retiring Treasurer, Mr David Coutts was thanked for his 5 years of service to the Association.

### **6. Appointment of the Accounts Scrutineer**

Miss Claire Smyth was appointed scrutineer for 2013/4 nem con. Stephen Boyce seconded Christine Stevens.

### **7. Expansion of the West Sussex BK Association**

Central Sussex BKA had approached WSBKA with a view to rejoining the Association following a number of years affiliated to Surrey BKA. Three members of the Division were in attendance and CS Chairman, Melvyn Essen gave a brief overview of Central Sussex' activities.

The benefits recognised include better regional cover of beekeeping activities in West Sussex and better integration of West Sussex beekeepers coming together at meetings, the annual bee market and convention. Members had been asked for their views and comments received from Wisborough Green members had all been positive. The formal acceptance of CS into WS will take place at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

### **8. Any Other Business**

Nothing had been advised to the Secretary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:58pm.

Signed by President

Mrs Christine Stevens

Date

## **WSBKA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013-14**

As we reach the end of my third and final year as Chairman of WSBKA I will report not just on the last twelve months, but briefly summarise the three years that I have been in office.

In the 2013-2014 year the Association has continued, at local level, to provide support and activities for our Divisions, in particular through central membership administration, the holding of a Convention and an Auction, and through administration of the BBKA examination system for our members. We have also participated in the national operation of BBKA, putting forward the interests and opinions of our members. All these activities involve a lot of input from a loyal band of members and officers, giving freely of their resources of time and energy for the benefit of members. I really hope that the broader membership appreciate these efforts. Nobody should have to take on any role for too long, so we are always on the lookout for others to take on some responsibility for a period.

In the last year we owe particular thanks to Christine Stevens and her team (Chrissy, Pauline and Gordon) for organising another excellent Convention and a lecture evening; to Graham Elliott for another successful and profitable Auction, in addition to his duties as Secretary and in producing our monthly newsletters; to Pauline Ford for her efficient management of the Divisions' BBKA membership lists (a job she does unknown to most members); to Roger and Marion Brooks for administrating, scheduling and invigilating the BBKA Modules and Basic Assessments (another job that many do not realise is done, and which they carry out with quiet efficiency); to Stephen Boyce for so ably taking on full responsibility for the money and accounts; to Roger Patterson for leading several Winter Learning days, as well as the Better Beekeeping day we hosted in association with BIBBA; and to all members of the committee who have helped in the running of our Association.

I have attended a BBKA Chairmans' Day and the Annual Delegate Meeting, at both of which I spoke and voted in the interests of our members. BBKA is our organisation, and it is important that we play our part in its operation, just as it is vital that all our West Sussex Divisions take part in the running and success of WSBKA. I have been particularly pleased that this year we have had Central Sussex Division back with us as full members, and we look forward to developing friendship and co-operation in the years ahead.

The climate has not been kind to bees or beekeepers in recent years, and 2013, though we had a good summer, did not get off to a good start and ended more or less under water. In tough times, beekeepers need to work together to cope, improving skills and supporting each other. I believe that we have done this in WSBKA and the Divisions, and it is important that we all contribute to the continuing success in the coming years.

As to the last three years, how has WSBKA fared? Much of what we do has continued on an established pattern, with an experienced team working for the benefit of members. We have coped with a peak in membership numbers, and along with a slight change in emphasis in BBKA we have increased the numbers raising their skill levels, as demonstrated by successes in the Basic, in Modules and at General Husbandry and beyond. We have become four Divisions instead of three. We have strengthened our financial position – and now need to consider how we can apply our funds to the benefit of our members and their bees and beekeeping. We have helped members get through some of the most challenging seasons in many years. All of these things demonstrate the importance of a strong Association, working with and for its membership.

I would like to thank all members for their support over the last three years, and I look forward to continuing to 'do my bit' for WSBKA in the future.

**Tom Moore**  
**21<sup>st</sup> February 2014**

# West Sussex Beekeepers' Association

## Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st December 2013

	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
WSBKA Capitation	388.00		305.00	
Convention Surplus/(Deficit)	(174.70)		80.68	
Auction Surplus	799.08		752.54	
Bank interest	27.14		49.25	
Donation	0.11		48.92	
	<u>1,039.63</u>		<u>1,236.39</u>	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Lecture	151.06		185.30	
BBKA Handbooks	-		75.00	
Pulborough Hall Hire	101.50		99.61	
BBKA Delegate expenses	107.20		371.21	
Training and Exam expenses	246.60		-	
National Honey Show	25.00		75.00	
Secretaries expenses	-		9.45	
Treasurers expenses	-		13.38	
	<u>631.36</u>		<u>828.95</u>	
<b>Surplus</b>	<u>408.27</u>		<u>407.44</u>	

## Balance Sheet - 31st December 2013


### Current assets

HSBC current account	2,153.37	1,772.35
HSBC bond	7,554.39	7,527.25
Cash in hand	54.30	54.19
	<u>9,762.06</u>	<u>9,353.79</u>

### Represented by:

Accumulated funds	9,353.79	8,946.35
Surplus for the year	408.27	407.44
	<u>9,762.06</u>	<u>9,353.79</u>

Hon. Treasurer



Stephen Boyce

Date 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2014

The accounting records produced have been examined by me and found to be in accordance with the income and expenditure account and balance sheet above.

Hon. Scrutineer



Clair Smyth

Date

20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014