



# Annual General Meeting



Our 44th AGM will be held on **Tuesday 21st March**. The venue is again 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 your Association.

Additional agenda items or nominations for election of the executives (president, chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer and secretary) to your Committee should be advised to the Association Secretary **no later than 14th March**.

## Graham Elliott

Hon. Secretary West Sussex Beekeepers' Association  
[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

### Inside this issue:

<i>Bee Market &amp; Auction</i>	2
<i>Sussex (East) Spring Symposium</i>	2
<i>South of England Show</i>	3
<i>Lecture by Prof. Jamie Ellis</i>	3
<i>Around the Divisions</i>	4
<i>Dates For Your Diary</i>	4
<i>Jim's Jottings</i>	5
<i>West Sussex BKA website</i>	7
<i>Notice &amp; Agenda of AGM (members only)</i>	8
<i>Chairman's Report (members only)</i>	9
<i>Minutes 43rd AGM 2016 (members only)</i>	10
<i>Treasurer's Annual Report (members only)</i>	11

## Bee Market & Auction - 22nd April

---

Following closely on the success of our Annual Convention the next major event for the Association is the Annual Bee Market & Auction, under 8 weeks away on **Saturday 22nd April**. The first 180 lots have already been registered.

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 refreshments. So if you can spare some time please contact me.



If you have surplus **BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT** you wish to sell the *Rules & Guidance Notes* and *Entry Form* may be downloaded from the website: [www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html) or contact me for copies.

Closing date for entries is **12<sup>th</sup> April**, but please do not delay in registering your lots as the first 300 lots only will be accepted.

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 or [woodbugs23@gmail.com](mailto:woodbugs23@gmail.com) 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.

**Graham**

[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

01403 752493 Mobile 07761 349281

## Sussex (East) BKA Spring Symposium - 4th March

---

Sussex Beekeepers will be holding an afternoon event at Herstmonceux Village Hall, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, BN27 4JX on **Saturday 4th March** from 1pm to 5:30pm.

The speakers are Dr Mike Williams presenting 'The bee sting, how it works and its effect on humans and particularly their immune system'; Steve Rochester on 'Anaphylactic Shock' and 'Managing Aggressive Colonies' by Jonathan Coote.



Admission is free but a donation to 'Friends of Eastbourne Hospital' would be appreciated.

[www.sussexbee.org.uk](http://www.sussexbee.org.uk)

## South of England Show 8 - 10th June

---

The South of England Show is held annually at the South of England Showground, Selsfeld Road, Ardingly, RH17 6TL.

The Bees & Honey Show event is an extremely popular visitor attraction staged within a marquee at the Show organised by the South of England Agricultural Society. SEAS is a registered charity whose aims are to showcase farming, agriculture and the countryside ... perfectly aligned with the charitable aims of the BBKA and its Associations and Divisions.

The Bees & Honey Show provides a perfect venue for introducing and informing a public eager to understand more about honeybees and beekeeping; by meeting, talking with and watching live demonstrations of beekeeping practices provided by beekeepers from throughout the region. Could you help by passing on your passion for beekeeping to an enquiring public?

The Bees & Honey Show provides an excellent opportunity for beekeepers throughout the South of England to practice, develop and hone your skills at preparing Competition Entries for the Honey Show Classes. Would you like to take part in the competitive Classes? Full details and an Entry Form are on the Show's website: [www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-south-england-show/bees-honey/](http://www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-south-england-show/bees-honey/)

The Bees & Honey Show organisers welcome offers of help or participation as stewards, with free entry to the entire South of England Show and time off from Bees & Honey stewarding duties to walk around the show-ground. Visit the website for appropriate contact details, or respond directly to [chief.steward@deodar.org.uk](mailto:chief.steward@deodar.org.uk).



## Evening Lecture by Prof. Jamie Ellis

---



An evening lecture has been arranged with Prof. Jamie Ellis during his UK lecture tour. The date is **Tuesday 4th April** at the Leconfield Hall, Market Square, Petworth, GU28 0AH.

Jamie Ellis is the Gahan Associate Professor of Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida, USA. He has a BS degree in Biology from the University of Georgia and a PhD in Entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa. At the University of Florida, Jamie has responsibilities in extension, instruction and research. Regarding his extension work, Jamie created the AFBEE program (African Bee Extension and Education Program), the UF, South Florida, and Caribbean Bee Colleges, and the UF Master Beekeeper Program. As an instructor, Jamie supervises PhD and masters students in addition to offering an online beekeeping course. Currently, Jamie and his team have over 30 active research projects in the fields of honey bee husbandry, conservation and ecology, and integrated crop pollination. Jamie is also a trustee of the International Bee Research Association.



The evening lecture will start at 7:30pm sharp so please be in your seats no later than 7:20pm. All welcome and entry is free to WSBKA members. More details next month.

## Around the Divisions

---

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

### Central Sussex Division

Details from Melvyn Essen: [chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk) or website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

### Chichester Division

**Tuesday 14th March** - 'Spring Preparation' - advice from experienced beekeepers at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, PO18 8BE at 7:30pm.

Details from: [secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk) or website: [www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk)

### Wisborough Green Division

**Tuesday 14th March** - 'AGM' - followed by a talk from Roger Patterson. North Hall, Loxwood, RH14 0SF at 7:30pm.

Details from Sue Elliott: [secretary@wgbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wgbka.org.uk) or website: [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk)

### Worthing Division

**Thursday 9th March** - Monthly Meeting at the Ferring Village Hall, Ferring Street, Ferring, BN12 5JP at 7:30pm. Speaker is Dr. John Feltwell on 'The Asian Hornet'.

Further details from Len Lewis: [secretary@worthingbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@worthingbeekeepers.org.uk) or the Division's website: [www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk)

### ... and Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 4th March** - *Sussex (East) BKA Spring Symposium*. Herstmonceux Village Hall, Hailsham Rd, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, BN27 4JX. See article in this newsletter.

**Saturday 11th March** - *WGBKA Beginners' & Improvers' Day*. Pulborough Village Hall. Full details on the Division's website: [www.wgbka.org.uk/Beginners\\_Day.html](http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Beginners_Day.html)

**Tuesday 4th April** - Evening lecture by Dr Jamie Ellis at the Leconfield Hall, Petworth, 7:30pm. See article in this newsletter.

**Friday 7th - Sunday 9th April** - *BBKA Spring Convention*. Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB. See article in last month's newsletter.

**Saturday 22nd April** - *WSBKA Annual Bee Market & Auction*. Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough, RH20 1DL. Details in this newsletter and on the website.

**Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th June** - *South of England Show*, including the very popular Bees & Honey Show. Ardingly Show-ground near Haywards Heath. See article in this newsletter.

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





# Jim's Jottings

*Chairman, Jim Norfolk bows out from the role with his last article for the County News as Chairman*



The 2017 WSBKA Convention maintained or even surpassed the standards set in previous years. The ability to attract top speakers and a full audience at Lodge Hill always makes for an interesting day. I would have liked to attend all the seminars but had to pick two and chose Professor Steve Martin on Chemical Communication in the Beehive which showed just how well adapted *Varroa* was, being able to mimic a change of host type within 3 hours. It means that in a world of touch and smell, *Varroa* becomes invisible to bees. No wonder they are so difficult to dislodge.



My other choice was Remote Hive Monitoring by Wilma Markellie of Arnia. This is something that has always interested me but I lack the technical ability to set it up. I think as prices fall and the range and quality of data improves, this is equipment that more beekeepers will invest in. However, it is no substitute for good husbandry, rather an aid.



So I come to the main speakers in reverse order. The sheer brilliance of his detective work on pollen conducted over a lifetime from buried Vikings to more recent corpses show that plant remains and in particular pollen provide clues to solve murders that Sherlock Holmes would have been impressed by. Dr Michael Keith-Lucas has since turned his attention to melissopalynology or the study of pollen in honey. So now they can test whether that jar of lovely English honey has foreign pollen in and is fake and whether expensive Manuka honey is indeed Manuka. This can only be a good thing for the ordinary British beekeeper who strives hard to produce a good quality genuine local product.

Then there were the pesticides from Professor Dave Goulson. I wonder, are neonicotinoids the new DDT? Those who can remember the 60s will recall Rachael Carson's Silent Spring, which did so much to alert the world to the dangers of widespread pesticide use. However, to get them banned required the smoking gun to be found and for DDT it was the build-up of its breakdown product DDE and the mechanism by which it caused egg shell thinning which led to it being banned. There was no stopping the powerful bird lobby. While the smoking gun for neonics is not there yet, a mountain of circumstantial evidence is steadily building up. This complex topic was presented in a very clear way by Dave Goulson and it must surely only be a matter of time before the weight of evidence becomes overwhelming. The problem is that there is always some other plausible reason that can be put forward. Loss of wild habitat, introduction of exotic diseases all must play a part and it becomes almost impossible to see the wood for the trees. We await the smoking gun. Meanwhile economics may intervene since a number of studies have shown that prophylactic dosing with chemicals gives little extra yield and so in the majority of situations is not worth the extra cost. Maybe it will lead to the return of IPM, only intervening in severe cases.



IPM is of course one of the practices for dealing with *Varroa*. I make no pretence about my obsession with the little brown mites, as many will be aware. What Professor Steve Martin did with his talk was to give us the history and context for the current thinking. No-one is better at presenting a narrative than someone with actual experience.

Steve was there at the NBU when *Varroa* arrived in the UK and in the intervening years has been associated with the idea that while *Varroa* may eventually take down a colony it is the viruses and particularly DWV, which are the real killers. Over the last quarter of a century, techniques have improved, becoming more and more sensitive while speed and set-up cost have gone up exponentially. Interestingly we have not found many new viruses since the pioneering work on honeybee viruses by Leslie Bailey and Brenda Ball at Rothamstead. Perhaps the defining moment for DWV and *Varroa* was Steve's work in Hawaii, tracking the migration of the mite from infected to uninfected islands and the subsequent changes in DW virus from a diverse number of strains to just one, strain A. Recent research has identified strains B and C. Strain B appears to protect bees from strain A and was identified in Ron Hoskins' Swindon bees last year.

So we come to the ReViVe project funded by BDI and BBKA associations and to which WSBKA is contributing £3,600 over 3 years. They have the first year's samples and they are being analysed. A good spread of treated and untreated colonies have been submitted from all over the country. The analysis is on-going and a mass of data is being generated. A parallel study by Salford University on samples from the USA shows a spread of A, B and C strains of DWV over there. The next question is what is the relationship between these strains? Does A tend towards B in a stable population of bee colonies, if colonies carrying the more virulent A are allowed to die out and what might be the role of hybrid A-B strains? Should we perhaps be culling colonies identified with Strain A? What happens if A is introduced to a B area and vice versa? may also be related to bee movements. Can moving bees with upset years of careful husbandry in which non-virulent strains We won't get rid of *Varroa* and eventually it will co-exist much as it does with *Apis cerana*, but we may be able to manage the viral load.



tified with Strain  
The whole issue  
the wrong strain  
have evolved?

A virulent virus spreads rapidly through a population but every host colony it kills is an evolutionary dead end. The virus strains that eventually dominate, will be those that do not kill their host colonies and so go on to replicate and spread to other colonies. The natural trend must therefore be towards less virulent forms within an area. Killing *Varroa* with chemical treatments and keeping colonies alive which would otherwise fail prevents this climax being reached and so perpetuates the virulent strains. In the end Steve Martin believes it is the bees and mites themselves who hold the answers. Stable relationships are evolving with numerous documented examples of untreated bees in various parts of the world, and countless undocumented feral and managed colonies round the country. The search is on. The answer may be to stop treating for *Varroa* and let nature run its course, but is it a brave or a foolhardy beekeeper who takes this step risking their bees in the process? A professional bee-farmer could not afford to do this and must treat prophylactically but an amateur beekeeper could take the time to identify which colonies do not need treating.

**Jim**

[chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



**We're on the web:**  
**[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)**

#### 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 or our facebook page please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, *no later than the 20th of the preceding month.*  
[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



Follow us  
On  
Facebook

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



# WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



President: **Mrs Pauline Ford**  
Chairman: **Mr Jim Norfolk**  
Vice Chairman: **Mr Roger Patterson**

Hon. Secretary  
**Mr Graham Elliott**  
Tel 01403 752493  
Email: [secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Hon. Treasurer  
**Mr Stephen Boyce**  
Tel 01444 881248  
Email: [treasurer@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Life Vice-Presidents: **Mrs Christine Stevens, Mr R Patterson, Mr R Noakes,**

**NOTICE** is given to all Members of West Sussex Beekeepers' Association that the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting is to be held in Pulborough Village Hall, Pulborough, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017, 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 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM, held at Pulborough on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016
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 the Chairman who under the constitution must retire this year.

### **Present Holders:**

President – **Mrs Pauline Ford**  
Chairman – **Jim Norfolk** (retiring)  
Vice Chairman – **Roger Patterson**  
Treasurer – **Stephen Boyce**  
Secretary – **Graham Elliott**

6. To appoint the Accounts Scrutineer for 2017
7. Any Other Business (as notified to the Secretary)



## **WSBKA Chairman's Annual Report 2016 - 2017**

This is my third AGM and how time has flown by. West Sussex BKA are still going strong with our 4 divisions and numbers largely unchanged as new beekeepers balance those who have moved on. I think that is something of an achievement with a number of propositions at the 2017 BBKA ADM asking for divisions to leave their Associations and set up on their own. In my time as chairman, there has been no grand plan, no great vision of the future. What I have set out to do is carry on where the previous chairman left off and hopefully hand on to the next an association which functions well. That functioning is not down to me but to the people who organise our various events and also the members of the executive committee. The auction and the convention are the jewels in our crown the two main areas where we come together to put on top class events. The auction is a difficult one coming as it does in April and can thus be highly weather dependent. 2016 proved to be a cold day, which will have led to some people leaving earlier than usual and so fewer bidders. As a result the revenue was down while costs also went up. Hopefully 2017 will prove a better year weather wise.

The Convention I feel has continued to strengthen and 2017 proved to be one of the most successful yet. The attendance was also good. This does not happen by chance and reflects the hard work put in over the year by the planning team.

One area we could seek to improve on is the declining exam entries and that this took place on my watch makes me feel I should have somehow encouraged more people to enter. We have had excellent support from our examination officers, Roger and Marion Brooks, a pity we could not give them more to do. They are stepping down at this AGM and I would like to record my thanks for all their work over the years.

A new venture for us this year has been the ReViVe project to which we have pledged £3,600 over 3 years. The project is linked to BDI funding of Salford University looking at the distribution of Varroa and deformed wing virus strains. We were only able to submit samples from two of our divisions but there has been good coverage across the country, with a mix of treated and untreated colonies. We await detailed reports of their findings.

Congratulations to Eric Slade (WG) 70 years and Ted Hickford (Chi) 50 years, who received BBKA long service awards.

**Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the West Sussex Beekeepers' Association held at Pulborough Village Hall, Pulborough, West Sussex on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7:30pm.**

**Present:**, Mrs C Stevens, Mrs P Ford, Mrs S Elliott, Ms D Rowland, Mr T Moore, Mr R Patterson, Mr G Allan, Mr G Wheatley, Mr L Lewis, Mr J Norfolk , Mr S Boyce, Mr M Essen, & Mr G Elliott

The President opened the meeting promptly at 7:30pm and welcomed the committee and one member.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None received.

**2. Minutes of Meeting**

Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved and signed by the President.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

A copy is attached to these Minutes and had been circulated in advance. The Treasurer was again thanked for the excellent, detailed accounts. Steve commented that the reduced surplus reflected the committee's decision to give more benefit to the members. The financial commitment to help fund the BDI research (ReViVe) over the next three years was also noted in the report. Adoption of the report was proposed by Christine Stevens, seconded by Jim Norfolk and carried nem con.

**4. Chairman's Report**

A copy is attached to these Minutes and had been circulated in advance. Jim was thanked for his attendance at a number of BBKA meetings during the year. He in turn thanked the committee for the work they undertook on behalf of the Association and the interaction with the BBKA. With Roger's departure from the board of BBKA Trustees we look forward to developing a relationship with the new link Trustee, John Hendrie. Adoption of the report was proposed by Gordon Allan, seconded by Roger Patterson and carried nem con.

**5. Election of Officers**

**5.1 President - Mr Melvyn Essen**, proposed by Debbie Rowland, seconded by Steve Boyce.

**Mrs Pauline Ford**, proposed by Christine Stevens, seconded by Gordon Allan.

Subsequently, Mrs Ford was elected by a majority vote.

**5.2 Chairman – Mr James Norfolk**, proposed by Roger Patterson, seconded by Gordon Allan and re-elected nem con.

**5.3 Vice-Chairman – Mr Roger Patterson**, proposed by Jim Norfolk, seconded by Steve Boyce and re-elected nem con.

**5.4 Treasurer – Mr Stephen Boyce**, proposed by Christine Stevens, seconded by Graham Elliott and re-elected nem con.

**5.5 Secretary – Mr Graham Elliott**, proposed by Jim Norfolk, seconded by Len Lewis and re-elected nem con.

**6. Appointment of the Accounts Scrutineer**

Miss Claire Smyth was re-appointed scrutineer for 2016/7, proposed by Steve Boyce, seconded by Gordon Allan and passed nem con. Steve was asked to express our thanks to Claire.

**7. Any Other Business**

Nothing had been advised to the Secretary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:45pm.

# West Sussex Beekeepers Association

## Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st December 2016

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
WSBKA Capitation	357.00		375.00	
Convention Surplus/(Deficit)	216.48		(92.76)	
Auction Surplus	912.64		1,004.15	
Bank interest	-		13.76	
		1,486.12		1,300.15
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Pulborough Hall Hire	160.50		126.50	
Website expenses	60.45		49.90	
Training and Exam expenses	47.81		111.16	
National Honey Show	60.00		30.00	
BBKA Delegate expenses	-		282.10	
Secretaries expenses	25.46		7.70	
Treasurers expenses	-		20.00	
Michael Palmer lecture	-		361.74	
Keith Delaplane lecture	-		265.47	
BDI ReVive funding year 1 of 3	1,200.00		-	
Grant to pupil referral unit	100.00		-	
Microscope depreciation	50.00		43.00	
		1,704.22		1,297.57
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<u>(218.10)</u>		<u>2.58</u>

## Balance Sheet - 31st December 2016

<b>Fixed assets:</b>	Microscope at net book value	100.00	150.00
<b>Current assets:</b>	HSBC current account	10687.73	10,816.83
	Cash in hand	34.60	34.60
	Accruals and prepayments	(23.00)	16.00
		<u>10,799.33</u>	<u>11,017.43</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>	Accumulated funds	11,017.43	11,014.85
	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(218.10)	2.58
		<u>10,799.33</u>	<u>11,017.43</u>

## Contingent liability note:

On 15th September 2015 the Executive committee agreed to support BDI research funding into Bee diseases up to a maximum of £1,200 per annum for a period of three years to be paid out of accumulated funds. £1,200 has been paid in 2016 leaving a balance of up to £2,400 to be paid over the next two years.

On 26th July 2016 the Executive committee agreed to donate up to £400 to the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers 2017 contingent upon the organisers securing commercial sponsorship for the event.

Hon. Treasurer



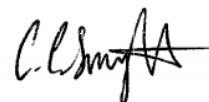
Stephen Boyce

Date

31/01/2017

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

13/02/2017