



The British Beekeepers' Association

National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

Tel: 02476 696679; Fax: 02476 690682; e-mail: bbka@britishbeekeepers.com

To: All Secretaries and Delegates of Area Association Members, Specialist and Corporate Member Associations, Executive Committee Members and other BBKA Officers.

16th November 2009

Dear BBKA Delegates and Secretaries

50th Annual Delegates' Meeting 16th January 2010

Please find enclosed the following papers for the meeting:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Standing Orders and Voting at the ADM
- 3) Minutes of the 49th Annual Delegates Meeting
- 4) Executive actions on the Resolutions of the 2009 ADM.
- 5) Annual Reports
- 6) Examinations Board Report
- 7) Financial Commentary and Statements for the year ending 30th September 2009 including Budget 2010 – 2012
- 8) Nominations for the President, Executive Committee and the Examinations Board
- 9) Applications for membership of the BBKA
- 10) Propositions for consideration
- 11) Statutory form Financial Statements for the Year Ending 30 September 2009

Please note the meeting will start **promptly at 10:30am**

Upon arrival all Delegates must sign in to receive their Delegate Package containing:

- a) Expense Claim form for those Delegates wishing to claim travelling expenses.
- b) Voting Paper
- c) Voting Card

The Delegate attending must be the person identified on the 2010 ADM Delegate Registration form or notified by separate email or letter. If no update has been received it will be taken that the 2009 Delegate remains in office. *A late change of Delegate will only be recognised if I am notified, in writing, by a responsible Officer of the Area Association not later than 10.00am on the day of the meeting.*

Tea and Coffee will be available from 10.00am – Please bring your own lunch.

I look forward to meeting you all at the ADM

Yours sincerely

Mike Harris
General Secretary



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**The 50th Annual Delegates Meeting of the BBKA will be held on
Saturday 16th January 2010 at the National Beekeeping Centre,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. CV8 2LG**

Commencing at 10.30am prompt

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Appointment of Tellers
- 3 Adoption of Standing Orders Pg 5
- 4 Minutes of the 2009 ADM Pg 9
- 5 Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2009 ADM
- 6 Executive Actions taken on the Resolutions of the 2009 ADM Pg 21
- 7 Annual Reports for the year ended 30 September 2009 Pg 23
- 8 Examination Board Report 2009 Pg 33
- 9 Financial Commentary & Statements for the year ended 30 September 2009,
Budget Report and appointment of Independent Reporting Accountant Pg 37
- 10 Elections: Pg 45
 - a) President
 - b) Executive Committee (4 vacancies for 3 years)
 - c) Exam Board (3 vacancies for 3 years – 2 vacancies for 1 year)
- 11 New Applications for Membership to the BBKA Pg 51
- 12 Recommendations for Honorary Membership, Honorary Fellowship and Service Awards
- 13 50 Years of Beekeeping Awards
- 14 Propositions for Consideration Pg 53

Date and place of next meeting to be advised following first Executive meeting
23rd January 2010.

BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

STANDING ORDERS COVERING THE ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING 2010

Certain Clauses of the BBKA Constitution are applicable to the running of the ADM. Delegates should familiarise themselves especially with Clauses 11, 12, 14, 24 and Annexe B.

Clause 11 governs the appointment and duties of Delegates to the ADM.

Clause 12 relates to the calling and conduct of the ADM.

Clause 14 regulates the voting at the ADM, both the 'Card Vote' procedure and the 'Registered Membership Vote' procedure.

Clause 24 specifies the conditions to be met by any Proposition that alters the BBKA Constitution.

Annexe B states who shall be Chairman of the ADM and the business to be transacted.

Attendance at the ADM. Annexe A states that all Classes of membership have the right to attend the ADM. Only Area Association Members, the Executive Committee and Specialist Members have the right to submit Propositions for consideration. Each AAM may have only one Delegate and only Delegates have the right to vote.

Speaking at the ADM. Only Delegates, Officers and members of the Executive shall have the right to speak at the ADM. If any other person wishes to speak he or she should request permission from the Chairman, preferably before the meeting, and stating the Proposition or subject, and whether it is in lieu of a Delegate. It is important that each speaker should identify himself or herself both by name and affiliation.

Voting at the ADM. Clause 14 governs the voting at the ADM. Card votes are taken at the meeting on the basis of one vote for each Area Association Member by the Delegate holding up his or her voting card. Registered Membership votes are counted on the basis of one vote for each Registered and Partner Member of an Area Association Member. Any Delegate may demand a Registered Membership Vote immediately after any vote taken.

A member of the Standing Orders Committee will be stationed close to the Chairman and may be consulted by the Chairman at any time on procedural matters. The Chairman may request a temporary suspension of Standing Orders during a debate in order to clarify and fix the text of an amendment to the Proposition under discussion.

STANDING ORDERS

1. The items on the agenda shall be taken in order and no item shall be interrupted, except by a Proposition to Suspend Standing Orders under SO 15f, except that during the discussion of the Propositions the Chairman may either invite or allow a proposal to take the propositions in a different order. This discretion does not extend to any proposition relating to capitation and/or membership fees immediately following the Finance Report. At the completion of the interrupting business the Chairman shall propose Resumption of Standing Orders.
2. No speaker may speak for more than five minutes except with permission from the Chairman. A speaker shall stand (unless he or she requires a wheelchair) when speaking and shall address the Chair. *When the Chairman stands all other members and delegates shall either resume their seats or remain seated.*
3. No Proposition or Amendment may be spoken to except by the mover until it has been seconded. After it has been seconded the Chairman shall offer the Executive the option of making a statement at that point. Any such statement may, as well as offering explanatory material, be a statement of the Executive's attitude

to the Proposition. If the Executive declines to do so it shall still be able to exercise the option later in the debate. Officers and members of the Executive (except for the member nominated to put the EC's view) may only speak on matters of fact unless the Chairman grants special permission, in which case the individual concerned must make it clear that his or her remarks are a personal opinion.

4. A delegate who speaks shall direct his or her speech directly to the Proposition or Amendment being debated, or to a Proposition (under SO 15) or Amendment to be proposed by himself or herself, or to a Point of Order.
5. Each Delegate may speak only once to any Proposition and only once to any Amendment to that Proposition, and the Proposer may exercise a right of reply at the end of the debate, but in doing so may not introduce any new matter into the discussion. The provisions of this SO shall not preclude a Delegate who has already spoken from raising a Point of Order or, with the permission of the Chairman, providing an explanation of some material of his or her speech that he or she believes to have been misunderstood. The Chairman, at his discretion, may allow a second contribution to the debate by a Delegate.
6. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a Point of Order; the speaker shall resume his or her seat until the Point of Order has been disposed of.
7. A Proposition or Amendment once made and seconded shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the Meeting in a vote.
8. Every Amendment shall be directly relevant to the Proposition on which it is moved and shall not be a direct negative.
9. Any number of Amendments may be proposed, but no Amendment may be proposed until all prior Amendments have been disposed of, and no second or subsequent Amendment may be a repeat or paraphrase of an earlier one.
10. **URGENCY PROPOSITIONS** No Proposition, or Amendment arising from that Proposition, shall be accepted or moved if it has not first appeared on the agenda, unless '**LEAVE OF URGENCY**' is granted by the Meeting. An Urgency Proposition shall be given in writing to the Chairman before the Meeting, and the text shall be displayed or circulated to the Delegates. Urgency Propositions should (a) address a matter of major concern and (b) that matter should have come to the proposer's notice unavoidably too late to be included in the normal procedure.
11. **POINTS OF ORDER** Points of Order may be made at any time. They must be made briefly in the form of a question to the Chairman. If accepted by the Chairman, a Point of Order has priority over any other ongoing business before the Meeting. The purpose of a Point of Order is to draw the Chairman's attention to a *possible* breach of Standing Orders.
12. **CLOSURE OF DEBATE** This SO provides for closing a debate where it shows no sign of ending naturally. SO 15(c) and 15(e) specify means to close or modify a debate without disposing of the business permanently.
 - (a) Any debate may be closed by the Chairman, or by a Delegate putting the Proposition '**THAT THE QUESTION NOW BE PUT**'. This, if accepted by the Chairman and seconded, shall be put to the Meeting without debate. If passed, discussion of the Proposition shall stop and the vote be taken. This procedure is intended to curtail discussion if the meeting decides that all the relevant facts, opinions, etc have been expressed and that the matter may be safely disposed of. It is NOT intended to be a device to suppress the expression of opinion.
 - (b) Any Delegate may propose '**THAT THE MEETING PROCEED TO NEXT BUSINESS**'. The Chairman may refuse, but if he accepts and the proposition is lost, the business must be taken to a conclusion. If he accepts and it is passed, no vote is

taken and the meeting moves on to the next business. If the Chairman refuses, the proposition may be put once more in the course of the debate, and the Chairman may accept or again refuse at that point. NEXT BUSINESS is intended to avoid the Executive being charged with impossible, illegal or trivial time-wasting business, or where the meeting decides that the business cannot be safely concluded at the meeting or be disposed of under SO15(c).

13. No proposition shall be admitted that has the effect of overturning a decision taken by the ADM in the previous three years, whether it is to rescind a duly passed Proposition or to reverse a decision properly taken to rescind an earlier Proposition, unless EITHER the Executive Committee approve its being admitted, OR it is supported in writing by at least one quarter of Area Association Members of the BBKA and Clause 12 of the Constitution has been complied with.
14. Except as provided by SOs 10, 13 and 15, no Proposition shall be put to the ADM unless Clause 12 of the Constitution has been complied with.
15. The following Propositions may put at the ADM without the prior notice prescribed by Clause 12 of the Constitution.
 - (a) To appoint a Chairman of the Meeting
 - (b) Propositions relating to the Accuracy of the Minutes, Closure (incl SO12 (a) and (b), Adjournment, Order of Business or Next Business.
 - (c) To refer business to the Executive
 - (d) To seek leave to withdraw a Proposition.
 - (e) Amendments to Propositions that do not negate the Proposition, and that the Chairman accepts.
 - (f) To suspend Standing Orders. Suspension of Standing Orders is normally invoked to enable the meeting, with the help of the Standing Orders Committee, to thrash out the wording of an amendment to a Proposition, but generally it allows the ADM to rearrange matters to improve the conduct of the ADM.
 - (g) To adopt Reports and recommendations of Committees or Officers and to move any resulting resolutions.
16. For the purposes of Clause 10.2.2 of the Constitution an Area Member Association shall be in arrears with payment of its capitation if any part thereof or any other money due has not been paid by the 31st December of the year preceding the ADM concerned. (NB. This date is 13 full weeks after the Secondary Date specified in the Constitution, and thus has one week's slack over the 8 weeks arrears and 4 weeks notice specified by Clause 10.2.2)
17. Any proposition passed at the ADM shall not take effect before the end of the meeting.

VOTING AT THE ADM

The Annual Delegates Meeting is the policy-making forum of the BBKA. Propositions submitted by Associations are debated and voted on to decide the policy of the BBKA. The ADM is an expensive function for the BBKA, and it is important that it should be both efficient and flexible with a good quality of debate.

It is a matter for each Association to decide whether to mandate its Delegate on which way to vote on any proposition, or to allow the Delegate to act as its representative. Associations are encouraged to take a middle view on this, allowing their Delegates freedom on most issues, reserving the mandate for those on which the Association's governing body has strong views. This will tend to increase the quality of the debate.

12 April 2008



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Minutes of the 49th Annual Delegates' Meeting

held at 10.30 am, on Saturday 10 January 2009
at the National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park

Present

President: Tim Lovett. Chairman: Martin Smith

Executive Committee Trustees:

Pat Allen, David Aston, Michael Badger, Chris Deaves, Brian Dennis, Roger Patterson, Brian Ripley, Bob Robinson, Michael Sheasby

Officers:

General Secretary: Mike Harris Treasurer: Angela West BBKA News Editor: Sharon Blake
BBKA Examination Board Secretary: Val Francis

Office Administrator: Letitia Hammon. Office Assistant: Pat Edwards

Minutes Secretary: Margaret Anderson

Delegates:

Avon	Ivor Davis	Ludlow & Dist.	A J Easteal
Berkshire	Stan Green	Manchester & Dist.	John Charlton
Bournemouth & Dorset S	Michael Duffin	Medway	John Hendrie
Buckinghamshire	John Catton	Middlesex	Pat Dutson
Cambridgeshire	Doug Brown	Mole Apiary Club	Colin Ball
Cheshire	Sydney Hollinshead	Newbury	Michael White
Chesterfield & Dist.	Mike Ashford	Newcastle & Dist	-
Cornwall	-	Norfolk	Ian Watkinson
Cornwall West	Rodger Dewhurst	Northamptonshire	Paul Ash
Cumbria	Stephen Barnes	Northumberland	Geoff Davies
Derbyshire	Mike Cross	Nottinghamshire	Andrew Barber
Devon	Glyn Davies	Oxfordshire	Ian Gourlay
Dorset	Chris Slade	Peterborough & Dist	J Cox
Dover	Leonard Mole	Sedbergh	-
Durham	David Gray	Shropshire	P Hampson
Essex	Dick Thomas	Shropshire North	Paul Curtis
Gloucestershire	-	Somerset	Judith Hall
Gwent	Les Chirside	Staffordshire North	David Teasdale
Hampshire	Jim Stuart	Staffordshire South	Tony Burton
Harrogate & Ripon	Mike Rowbottom	Stratford-upon-Avon	Terry Hitchman
Herefordshire	Brenda Allan	Suffolk	Barry Walker-Moore
Hertfordshire	Peter Mathews	Surrey	Bob Maurer
Huntingdonshire	Paul Howe	Sussex	Becky Champion
Institute of N Ireland	-	Sussex West	Ray Noakes
Isle of Man	Judith Cain	Thanet	Roger Thomson
Isle of Wight	-	Twickenham &	
Kendal & South		Thames Valley	Neil Hilbery
Westmorland	-	Vale and Downland	Maurice Bichard
Kent	Brian Palmer	Warwickshire	Bob Gilbert
King's Lynn	John Woodford	Wiltshire	Graham Rendall
Lancashire & NW	Ray Dowson	Worcestershire	John Gowar
Lincolnshire	Dean Martin	Wye Valley	Ian Hydes
London	John Chapple	Yorkshire	Tom Robinson

Specialist Member Associations

Association of Bee Appliances: Paul Smith

Bee Craft: Andrew Gibb

National Honey Show: Malcolm Haynes

Past Presidents

Michael Badger

Glyn Davies

Ivor Davis

Ian Preece

Honorary Members

Michael Badger

Jill Chirnside

Eric Fenner

John Hendrie

Clive Joyce

Gerald Moxon

Peter Spencer

Claire Waring

BBKA Technical Com

Norman Carreck

BBKA Enterprises

Roger Cullum-Kenyon

Correspondence Course

Chris Utting

Members Register

Jan Davis

Press Officer

Christine Gray

Tellers

Clive Joyce

Mick Smith

Peter Spencer

Maurice West

Visitors

Rob Andrews

Mark Ball Lancashire

David Bancalari

M T Blake Somerset

Chris Broad Worcestershire

Sally Bucknall

Paul Cain Isle of Man

Neil Champion Sussex

Wendy Cummins Herefordshire

Robin Dartington Buzzworks

Liz Duffin Hampshire

Jackie Greaney Twickenham

Alan Hodgson Devon

J Hughes Spring Convention

N Hughes Spring Convention

M S Jordan Nottinghamshire

Alan Kime Exam Board Candidate

Dan Muggleton Cornwall West

C McDevitt Harrogate and Ripon

David Ramsden Twickenham

Sandra Rickwood Surrey

Julian Routh BBKA Executive Candidate

Val Sullivan Cumbria

P Sutcliffe

Lilian Valentine Vale and Downland

Jan Walker-Moore West Suffolk

BUSINESS MEETING

President's Welcome

Tim Lovett, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the 49th Annual Delegates' Meeting, introduced the Executive Committee, Officers, and Office Staff. The attendees were asked to remember members who had passed away during the past year particularly Harry Taylor, who had died recently.

1 Apologies for Absence

David Charles, Julia Cooper, Mary Dartnall, Donna Derek, Mark Hault, Geoff Hopkinson, Pam Hunter, Stephen Palmer, Rowena Pearce, Roy Pearson, Jo Schup, Adrian Waring, Colin Weightman, Michael Young.

2 Appointment of Tellers

Tim Lovett explained the procedure for voting. Clive Joyce (Chief Teller), Mick Smith, Peter Spencer and Maurice West (Assistant Tellers) were appointed by the Meeting. Mike Harris confirmed that as no Associations were in arrears, all 57 Delegates present were eligible to vote.

3 Adoption of Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were adopted unanimously. Michael Somers acted as Standing Orders Adviser during the meeting.

4 Minutes of the 2008 ADM

The Minutes of the 48th ADM, held on 12 Jan 2008 were accepted as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

5 Matters Arising

Item 8: Annual Accounts for the Year ending 30 September 2007:

Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate and Ripon) asked for information about Gift Aid. Martin Smith clarified that Associations with income of less than £5,000 a year do not need to be registered as a charity.

6 Executive Actions taken on the Resolutions of the 2008 ADM

Report on the Executive Actions had been circulated previously.

01/08 Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate and Ripon) pointed out that this motion had been amended at the previous ADM and the wording shown did not record the agreed amendment.

04/08 Tim Lovett confirmed that Small Hive Beetle would be within the scope of the Bee Health Research Concepts.

08/08 Brian Palmer (Kent) was concerned that the advice leaflet to assist with identifying and dealing with bees in public places was not as expected. To be referred to P&P and E&H sub committees.

7 Annual Reports for Year Ending 30 September 2008

Reports had been circulated from the Chairman, General Secretary, Education & Husbandry, Finance Committee, Publicity & Promotions, Technical Committee, Royal Show Working Party, Spring Convention Working Party, Public Affairs Committee, Apimondia 2013 Working Party, BBKA Enterprises Ltd, and CONBA UK. The Chairman invited comments and questions.

Finance

Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate and Ripon) asked why income tax had been paid. Martin Smith explained that Enterprises had made a loss in the current year, money had been transferred to BBKA and the intention was to reclaim the tax. Martin Smith reported that the value of the investments had reduced by £3,700 since 30 September 2008. Martin Smith announced the retirement of Angela West, BBKA Treasurer, who would be leaving the BBKA in June and was thanked on behalf of the membership for her service to the BBKA.

Royal Show

David Teasdale (North Staffs) raised concerns that the BBKA could do more at the Royal Show to promote beekeeping and encourage new members. He was invited by Tim Lovett to offer himself to join the Royal Show Working Party.

Spring Convention

Tim Lovett updated the report on the Spring Convention and advised that the programme has not yet been finalised, but wristbands for entry would be on sale from Saturday 17 January, Members were urged to book early for courses.

Public Affairs

Tim Lovett presented and expanded on the report. The Government position has not changed, with no commitment for research funding yet, although a further £90,000 will be made available this year. The figure requested by BBKA needs updating. The Wellcome Trust Frontiers Meeting in October indicated that the Trust is ready to receive bids relating to bee health research. The campaign has been a great success, but the BBKA needs to maintain public awareness. CCD is in the USA and Europe, Nosema is here, high winter losses and a poor summer have resulted in a decline in honey production of around 50%. Defra is not yet ready to act and awaits the results of the National Audit Office report. 'Honey Bee Research Concepts', written for the Government, Institutions and Researchers will be published in mid February and will list and enumerate the research and work needed to be done. Fund raising will be for specific purposes and the BBKA will be seeking sponsorship of research into areas such as Varroa, viruses, Nosema, Foul Brood, Small Hive Beetle, husbandry, bee breeding, pesticide impacts, medicinal honey, habitat and nutrition. Tim Lovett thanked the delegates for the work and support of their membership.

Len Mole (Dover) asked about Defra's geographical area of funding and Tim Lovett clarified that this was limited to England and Wales. Terry Hitchman (Stratford-upon-Avon) asked about representation to Members of the European Parliament. Tim Lovett confirmed that the BBKA is represented in Europe by CONBA. In response to Ray Noakes' (West Sussex) question, Tim Lovett confirmed that queen rearing would be included as an area of research.

Martin Smith asked that the time and effort expended by members of this committee, spearheaded by Tim Lovett was recorded and due thanks given.

Apimondia

Tim Lovett reported that it was unlikely that BBKA would make a bid for Apimondia 2013. This was due to concerns over the requirement to use the Apimondia appointed central conference organiser. Chris Slade (Dorset) asked if there were plans to attend Apimondia 2009. Tim Lovett responded that this would be dependent on the decision to bid.

Enterprises

Martin Smith introduced Roger Cullum-Kenyon as Managing Director of BBKA Enterprises Ltd.

Acceptance of Reports

The vote to accept the Reports en bloc, proposed by Mike Cross (Derbyshire) and seconded by John Charlton (Manchester) was **passed unanimously**.

8 Report of the Examinations Board

The Report, circulated prior to the Meeting, was adopted unanimously, having been proposed by Sydney Hollingshead (Cheshire) and seconded by Richard Thomas (Essex).

Val Francis, Examination Board Secretary was invited to present the Surrey Shield to the Association with outstanding performance in Basic Assessments. Referring to the Examination Board Report, Val explained that the award was decided by the BBKA Executive Committee. Essex, Surrey, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire were all highly commended but this year the award would go to a smaller association and was based on

the % of the membership passing the basic. The Surrey Shield was presented to Rodger Dewhurst on behalf of West Cornwall Beekeepers Association.

The vote to accept the Examination Board Report was proposed by Sydney Hollinshead (Cheshire), seconded by Richard Thomas (Essex) and **passed unanimously**.

Tim Lovett thanked everyone involved in the work of all the committees for their time, commitment and support throughout the year.

9 Annual Accounts for BBKA, BBKA Enterprises, year ended 30 September 2008, and Budget Report 2008 - 2011

Martin Smith explained that the draft accounts, previously circulated had now been independently examined and agreed with only minor typographical corrections. Copies of the signed accounts were available. Martin Smith asked for questions on each of the reports in turn.

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2008

Dean Martin (Lincolnshire) questioned the need for a large reserve and the impact this might have on Charitable Status. Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate and Ripon) also commented on the high value of reserves. In clarification, Martin Smith stated that the BBKA holds reserves representing between 1 and 1.2 years' worth of expenditure. He accepted that the figure of 2 years' expenditure stated as an aim in the notes to the accounts was not likely to be reached (or indeed necessary) in the foreseeable future and undertook to have the question of the reserves considered in more detail.

The vote for acceptance of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2008 was proposed by Judith Hall (Somerset) and seconded by John Chapple (London) and **Passed**: FOR: 56 AGAINST: 1 ABSTENTIONS: 0

BBKA Enterprise Accounts

Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate and Ripon) questioned the cost of the fixed assets and their depreciation. Martin Smith clarified that BBKA Enterprises had purchased items for the BBKA on which Enterprises reclaimed the VAT.

The vote for acceptance of the BBKA Enterprises Limited Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2008 was proposed by Ray Dowson (Lancashire), seconded Mike Duffin (Bournemouth and Dorset S):

Passed: FOR: 54 AGAINST: 2 ABSTENTIONS: 0

BBKA Budget Report

Martin Smith presented the Budget Report for 2008 – 2011 The anticipated growth in membership and overhead costs per member were illustrated, showing that there would be no need to increase capitation in 2010; this did not take into account any costs relating to moving to a web-based membership register or other capitation linked propositions

Dean Martin (Lincolnshire) commented on the surplus of £29,000 and asked about a possible reduction in capitation. Martin Smith responded that in the past the BBKA had been at break-even point, but this year received higher income than expected. It was considered prudent to build up the contingency. A decision to increase capitation is not effective until the following year. Executive expenses would rise as the mileage rate had been increased from 1 October 2008 to 30p per mile and this constituted a large part of the expenses. BBKA News costs have increased due to the increase in membership but advertising income has fallen. Brian Palmer (Kent) asked about the Apiary costs and Chris Deaves (Executive) responded that the Apiary was refurbished using funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, a small amount of the grant remains and covers Apiary costs.

The vote for acceptance of the BBKA Budget Report 2008–2011 was proposed by Mike Ashford (Chesterfield), seconded by Glyn Davies (Devon) :

Passed: FOR: 55 AGAINST: 1 ABSTENTIONS: 1

David Teasdale (Staffordshire North) asked the delegate for Harrogate and Ripon for the reasons for voting against the acceptance. Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate & Ripon) responded that the concerns were that expenditure should be reduced and better controlled.

10 Elections

10.1 Executive Committee

Tim Lovett read the list of candidates: Robert Andrews, John Hendrie, Pam Hunter, Brian Dennis, Christopher Deaves and Julian Routh. Stephen Palmer had withdrawn his nomination. There being six nominations for four vacancies, each standing for three years, a vote was required.

Those elected were: John Hendrie, Pam Hunter, Brian Dennis and Christopher Deaves.

10.2 Examinations Board

There being 4 nominations for 5 vacancies (3 for a 3 year term, and 2 for a 2 year term) a vote was required to determine length of office.

Those elected were: Gerald Collins, Ivor Davis and Tom Salter each for a 3 year term and Alan Kime for a 2 year term.

11 Ratification of the Appointment of the General Secretary

The ratification of the appointment of Mike Harris to serve as General Secretary was proposed by John Chapple (London), seconded by Sydney Hollinshead (Cheshire) and accepted unanimously. Tim Lovett wished Mike Harris a long and successful period of office.

At this juncture Martin Smith spoke about the new marketing strategy being launched by the Co-operative. The Co-operative has a keen interest in bees and beekeeping and part of the marketing strategy involves the production of a film to be shown to Co-operative members at various venues. Martin will provide further information when available, he asked that members who attend an event let him know and suggested that, members should take along information about BBKA including '10 Things to Do to Help Honeybees'.

Martin Smith gave a brief update about the support given by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Individual WI groups have put forward their resolutions for consideration for presentation at the NFWI AGM on 3 June 2009. At present the resolution to increase funding for research into bee health is on the short list of Public Affairs Resolutions. The NFWI is a large organisation of over 200,000 members and BBKA Delegates are encouraged to volunteer to speak to local WI groups.

Tim Lovett proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to re-order the Agenda, to take Agenda Item 12, Applications for Membership, after lunch. This was agreed unanimously.

12 Long Service Awards (Agenda Item 14)

Mike Harris read the list (attached) of those members who, during the year, had achieved Long Service Awards. Tim Lovett presented Becky Champion with her certificate; the others were presented in absentia.

Tony Easteal, on behalf of Ludlow and District presented the Ludlow Association plaque to Tim Lovett, which he gratefully accepted on behalf of the BBKA.

13 Proposal to Confer Honorary Membership

The citation for Honorary Membership to be conferred on Dr Ivor Davis, was given by Tim Lovett. This honour was proposed in recognition of Ivor Davis' exceptional service to beekeeping and the work of the BBKA.

The meeting accepted the proposal to confer Honorary Membership with great acclaim endorsing the citation with a standing ovation for Ivor Davis.

At this point the Meeting was suspended for a lunch break.

14 New Applications for Membership to the BBKA (Agenda Item 12)

Application for Specialist Membership for Buzzworks

Proposed by Hertfordshire (Peter Mathews) and seconded by Cumbria (Stephen Barnes). Robin Dartington (Buzzworks) outlined the objectives of Buzzworks. Peter Mathews (Hertfordshire) endorsed and commended Buzzworks as a future showcase of beekeeping education. After questions from Chris Slade (Dorset) the application was put to the vote: **PASSED**: FOR: 55 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

Application for Area Association Membership for Central Sussex BKA (formerly Horsham and Crawley)

Proposed by Kent (Brian Palmer) and seconded by David Teasdale (Staffordshire North). On a point of information Ray Noakes (West Sussex) stated that no division had been asked to leave West Sussex BKA, as any divisions moving away would weaken the Area Association. Judith Hall (Somerset) asked for details of the anomalies, which could not be provided by Brian Palmer (Kent). John Hendrie (Medway) explained that the examination application process would be more straightforward if CSBKA did not have to go through Surrey BKA. On a point of information Brian Palmer (Kent) stated that Central Sussex BKA is not a member of West Sussex BKA, but is affiliated to Surrey BKA.

The proposition was put to the vote:

LOST: FOR: 18 AGAINST: 22 ABSTENTIONS: 17

Brian Palmer (Kent) requested a membership vote which resulted:

LOST: FOR: 2,586 AGAINST: 6,380 ABSTENTIONS: 2,622

15 Propositions for Consideration

Tim Lovett reminded Delegates that these votes determine BBKA policy and that decisions are reached by the membership according to the democratic process as laid down in the Constitution and Standing Orders.

01/09 BBKA Executive Committee Proposition

'That the BBKA move, during the period October 2009 to April 2010, to a web-based membership system, subject to the Executive consulting with area associations and other interested parties to finalise the data-base and system specification and being satisfied that the project is cost effective, sustainable and affordable, and the costs associated with this move and operating the new system are funded by a capitation increase of £1.00 per member, effective 1st April 2010.'

Martin Smith proposing for the Executive explained the background to the proposal and illustrated the likely costs based on quotes from 3 providers. The merits and disadvantages were presented and led to discussion. The Proposition was seconded by Tom Robinson (Yorkshire). Ivor Davis (Avon) declared an interest as he had written the current system He advised caution against proceeding to a new system which would not have the checks currently in place and may prove expensive with on-going changes to the system. Dean Martin (Lincolnshire) felt there would be few advantages and Lincolnshire would opt out, therefore gaining no benefit for the increase in capitation. David Teasdale (Staffordshire North), Mike Cross (Derbyshire), Neil Hilbery (Twickenham and Thames Valley) and Alan Kime spoke against the proposition. Doug Brown (Cambridge) saw the benefits but the felt the continual increase in capitation was unacceptable. The proposition was put to the vote.

LOST: FOR: 8 AGAINST: 48 ABSTENTIONS: 1

02/09 BBKA Executive Committee Proposition

'That the BBKA Executive continues to engage in dialogue with agrochemical companies and suppliers of bee husbandry products (referred to collectively in subsequent propositions below as 'such companies') with the objective of improving the health and welfare of bees and beekeeping.'

Seconded by John Charlton (Manchester)

Bob Gilbert (Warwickshire) proposed an amendment, seconded by Chris Slade (Dorset) to add *'and the prevention of residues in all beekeeping products eg wax, pollen, propolis'* Tim Lovett accepted the amendment, which was put to the vote.

LOST: FOR: 23 AGAINST: 30 ABSTENTIONS: 4

Ivor Davis proposed an amendment, seconded by John Cox (Peterborough) to strike out *'and suppliers of bee husbandry products'*,

Tim Lovett accepted the amendment, which after brief debate was put to the vote,

PASSED: FOR: 44 AGAINST: 12 ABSTENTIONS: 1

The amended substantive proposition was then put to the vote.

PASSED: FOR: 54 AGAINST: 2 ABSTENTIONS: 1

03/09 BBKA Executive Committee Proposition

'That the BBKA Executive may, after appropriate appraisal of products, make representations to such companies and related regulatory authorities, with the objective of improving the safety and efficacy of their products in relation to bees.'

Seconded by Sydney Hollinshead (Cheshire).

Bob Gilbert (Warwickshire) proposed an amendment to the Proposition by adding *'to include a minimum of 2 years' field trial in a climate of full disclosure'* after *'...appropriate appraisal of products'*.

After further debate Tim Lovett refused the amendment and debate on the unamended Proposition continued.

On a point of information Chris Deaves (Executive) advised that CONBA had been making representation to the EU that the field trial data for honey bees be augmented. There are reservations about the trials and it is hoped that the protocol will be revised.

The Proposition was put to the vote:

PASSED: FOR: 54 AGAINST: 2 ABSTENTIONS: 0

04/09 BBKA Executive Committee Proposition

'That the BBKA Executive may, after appropriate and satisfactory appraisal of the such companies' stewardship of the methodology of application and use of products, allow such companies to use such wording as may be agreed with the Executive, including use of the BBKA logo, to describe the BBKA's opinion as to the proper application and use of such products as regards the health and safety of bees.'

Seconded by Glyn Davis (Devon)

Norman Carreck (Technical Committee) gave an outline of the history of BBKA's product endorsement and emphasised that products have gone through approval processes before being released and that the BBKA would not be able to finance its own testing.

During discussion Dean Martin (Lincolnshire), Neil Hilbery (Twickenham and Thames Valley), Brian Palmer (Kent) and Geoff Davies (Northumberland) raised concerns over the expertise needed to approve a product. David Aston (Chair of Technical Committee) was called upon by Tim Lovett to clarify how the Technical Committee looks at all the data available on each product, including the data not always in the public domain, before any recommendation is made to the BBKA Executive.

David Teasdale (Staffordshire North) urged Delegates to trust that the Executive had access to the data and would work on the behalf of Members.

The Proposition was put to the vote

PASSED: FOR: 35 AGAINST: 21 ABSTENTIONS: 1

Neil Hilbery (Twickenham and Thames Valley) called for a Membership vote.

PASSED: FOR: 7,255 AGAINST: 4,056 ABSTENTIONS: 56

At this point the Meeting was suspended for a tea-break.

At the resumption of the Meeting a presentation of flowers was made to Angela West as a token of thanks for the tireless work she had undertaken for the BBKA during the last 11 years. Angela was warmly applauded by the meeting.

05/09 BBKA Executive Committee Proposition

'That the BBKA may accept payment for granting a licence for use of its logo as described in proposition 04 (above)'

Seconded by Mike Cross (Derbyshire)

Martin Smith confirmed that £17,500 is currently received by the BBKA, through sponsorship payments to BBKA Enterprises Ltd. Neil Hilbery (Twickenham and Thames Valley) was against the Proposition and had concerns about liability should a product prove dangerous in the future. Tim Lovett on a point of information from the Chair responded that though liability is complex, liability lay firstly with the manufacturer. Geoff Davies (Northumberland) had concerns about the amount of BBKA income which might become dependant on sponsorship. Glyn Davies (Devon) suggested that if the BBKA did not accept payment then it would be allowing free use of the logo. After further debate, the Proposition was put to the vote:

PASSED: FOR: 31 AGAINST: 22 ABSTENTIONS: 4

Neil Hilbery (Twickenham and Thames Valley) called for a Membership vote.

PASSED: FOR: 6,508 AGAINST: 4,530 ABSTENTIONS: 550

Tim Lovett proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to move to Proposition 08/09.

06/09 BBKA Executive Committee Proposition

*'That any money received by the BBKA as a condition of granting a licence for use of the BBKA logo, as set out in **Proposition 05** (above), shall be ring-fenced for bee research.'*

Seconded by Mike Cross (Derbyshire)

Ivor Davis (Avon) and David Teasdale (Staffordshire North) spoke against the Proposition stating that the Trustees should be responsible for the application of funds. Bob Maurer (Surrey) proposed an amendment to the Proposition, to remove 'ring-fenced for bee research' and add 'used for special activities, capital projects etc including research and not used to defray normal running costs for the BBKA'.

After discussion Tim Lovett refused the amendment and the unamended Proposition was put to the vote:

LOST: FOR: 13 AGAINST: 43 ABSTENTIONS: 1

07/09 BBKA Executive Committee Proposition

'That, in the event that either any one of propositions 02-05 above fails or proposition 06 is passed, the Capitation for members shall be increased by £1.00 effective 1st April 2010.'

Mike Somers (Standing Orders) advised that as Propositions 02/09 to 05/09 were passed and that 06/09 had been lost so Proposition 07/09 should not be put and was thus withdrawn.

Propositions from Area Associations

Tim Lovett noting the hour and the time wisely spent in debate on the preceding propositions, whilst not wishing to curtail debate, reminded Delegates that under Standing order 15c, Delegates could refer business to the Executive, but only if willing to do so.

08/09 Proposition from Devon Beekeepers Association (Glyn Davies)

'That BBKA urgently seeks to negotiate with Defra and allied apicultural agencies for the establishment of a national beekeeping authority, to be jointly managed and funded by BBKA and these agencies and with powers to determine priorities in funding, disease management, research and training standards.'

Seconded by Len Mole (Dover)

Glyn Davies (Devon) presented the Proposition. Martin Smith stated that the Executive was in full agreement. During discussion Judith Hall (Somerset) though in favour questioned the feasibility. Maurice Bichard (Vale and Downland) felt more information was needed.

The Proposition was put to the vote:

PASSED: FOR: 35 AGAINST: 18 ABSTENTIONS: 4

09/09 Essex Beekeepers' Association (Dick Thomas)

'That the BBKA shall endorse the use of an antibiotic approved for the treatment of EFB only when:

- 1. the incident is found early or late in the season, and*
- 2. treatment is subject to an agreement to shook swarm procedure together with the necessary after-care, namely colony monitoring and adequate feeding, and preferably – requeening'..*

Seconded by John Woodford (King's Lynn)

On a point of information, Martin Smith stated that the use of the word 'endorse' in this context, implied 'supporting the use of'. In response to Dean Martin (Lincolnshire) Martin Smith confirmed that the BBKA does not endorse any antibiotic product. Ivor Davis (Avon) felt that more scientific information was required, Mike Duffin (Bournemouth and Dorset S) and Brian Palmer (Kent) questioned the effectiveness of antibiotic treatment.

The Proposition was put to the vote:

LOST: FOR: 9 AGAINST: 42 ABSTENTIONS: 6

10/09 Kent Bee-keepers' Association (Brian Palmer)

'That the BBKA request the appropriate Authority to supply the relevant local Area Association(s) with the location of all outbreaks of Notifiable Diseases to Honey bees to the 2 kilometre grid square as given on the Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales.'

Seconded by Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate & Ripon)

After discussion Paul Ash (Northamptonshire) moved that the Proposition now be put, seconded by Sydney Hollinshead (Cheshire). The meeting approved overwhelmingly and thus the vote was put:

PASSED: FOR: 46 AGAINST: 10 ABSTENTIONS: 1

11/09 Peterborough and District Beekeepers' Association (John Cox)

'Honey bees are recognised as food producing animals and are vital in the pollination of food crops. We therefore propose this ADM instructs the BBKA Executive to approach the appropriate Authority with the view to giving bees the protection they deserve.'

Seconded by Stephen Barnes (Cumbria)

The Proposer requested permission from the meeting that the Proposition be referred to the Executive which was agreed.:

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE

12/09 Sussex Beekeepers' Association (Becky Champion)

'That the BBKA as a matter of urgency, clarifies the effect of the new premises exemption definitions contained in the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 or otherwise issues an interim statement.'

Seconded by David Teasdale

Becky Champion thanked the Executive for the response to the Proposition.

On a point of information, Chris Deaves (Executive) referred members to the BBKA website where information is available on both the UK FSA Regulations and the EU regulations, the interpretation of the regulations for 'primary' and 'small scale' producers. It is unlikely that there will be a further statement from the FSA.

It was proposed by Paul Ash (Northamptonshire), seconded by John Hendrie (Medway) to refer the Proposition to the Executive and **agreed** unanimously.

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE

13/09 Twickenham and Thames Valley Bee-Keepers' Association (Neil Hilbery)

'That the BBKA shall not remove material from web forums and other similar media except by reason of it becoming obsolete or being defamatory, obscene or otherwise unlawful.' Seconded by David Teasdale (Staffordshire North)

Neil Hilbery explained that the Proposition had arisen from what appeared to be a 'knee-jerk' reaction from the BBKA Executive to move and thereby lose information on the website.

On a point of information Martin Smith took responsibility for the decision to move the text concerned and reiterated that the BBKA Executive needs to retain control of the content of the website. Following debate the meeting voted on the Proposition.

LOST: FOR: 14 AGAINST: 26 ABSTENTIONS: 14

14/09 West Sussex Beekeepers Association

'That the BBKA encourages research into the causes of problems with the performance of queens; in particular, early supersedure and 'disappearing'.

West Sussex requested this Proposition be referred to the Executive;

Proposed: Mike Duffin (Bournemouth and Dorset S), Seconded: Len Mole (Dover) and voted unanimously to refer to the Executive, it being stated that queen quality was an integral part of the Research Programme.

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE

15/09 Yorkshire Beekeeping Association (Tom Robinson)

'That Sub-clause 10.1.1 of the BBKA Constitution be amended to read as follows:

"Any beekeeping association or federation may apply to join the BBKA subject to the conditions set out in Clause 7.1 above provided that at the time of application its membership consists of a minimum of fifty (50) capitations as Registered, Partner or Country Members and that it is proposed and seconded by AAMs and is elected by the delegates at a duly convened Delegate Meeting".'

Seconded by Mike Duffin (Bournemouth and Dorset S).

Tim Lovett reminded Delegates that the proposition was an amendment of the Constitution and that under Clause 24 the proposition required a two-thirds majority to succeed.

Following brief debate, Terry Hitchman (Stratford-upon-Avon) proposed that the question now be put to vote, seconded by Bob Gilbert (Warwick), which the meeting approved. The voting on the substantive proposition was:

LOST: FOR: 14 AGAINST: 38 ABSTENTIONS: 2

Mike Somers reminded Delegates that no further similar proposition which seeks to reverse this decision may be put for 3 years subject to Standing Orders.

16/09 Yorkshire Beekeeping Association (Tom Robinson)

'That Registered and Partner Membership of the BBKA be conditional on BBKA members registering with the National Bee Unit database "BeeBase" and that the BBKA should campaign to get non-association registered beekeepers to enrol with "BeeBase".'

Seconded by Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate and Ripon)

In discussion, Martin Smith reiterated the Executive comment that this was felt to be impractical. Mike Rowbottom (Harrogate and Ripon) supported wholeheartedly the Proposition. Dean Martin (Lincolnshire) was concerned that members would be compelled to register. Neil Hilbery (Twickenham and Thames Valley) informed that following an inspection by the NBU, the beekeeper's details are entered onto Beebase and cannot be accessed, other than through registration. The view was expressed that this approach would result in a reaction to BeeBase and would be counter-productive. The vote was taken:

LOST: FOR: 3 AGAINST: 50 ABSTENTIONS: 0

In closing the meeting, Tim Lovett thanked everyone who had been involved in putting on an efficient meeting and the Delegates for the quality of debate, their good humour and courtesy shown and in general for attending and supporting the ADM.

The Meeting closed at 5.55 pm.

Date of next Meeting to be advised.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE ADM 2009

Bucks County BKA	North Bucks South Chilterns	Andrew Beer Viola Crowe Ron Crocker Reg Hook
Cornwall BKA	Wadebridge	William George Lyne
Cumbria		Llew Patch
Hampshire BKA	Andover Meon Valley Romsey	John Dyer Mike Withers George King Reg Titheridge John Cossburn
Lincolnshire BKA		Arthur Adams
Manchester BKA		Les Horton
Mole Apiary Club		Ivan Chick Barrie Thomas Dominic Krzysiak
Nottinghamshire		Barrie Ellis David Kemp
Oxfordshire		Victor Merry
Peterborough		Leslie Dunham George Newton
Sussex BKA	Hastings & Rother	Becky Champion John D Harris
West Sussex	Chichester	Stewart Hanwell Roy Robinson
Yorkshire BKA	 Richmond	Bill Bell Ken Barron Jim Elliott Peter Schollick

Executive Actions on the Resolutions of the 2009 ADM

11/09 Peterborough and District Beekeepers' Association (John Cox)

'Honey bees are recognised as food producing animals and are vital in the pollination of food crops. We therefore propose this ADM instructs the BBKA Executive to approach the appropriate Authority with the view to giving bees the protection they deserve.'

Seconded by Stephen Barnes (Cumbria)

The Proposer requested permission from the meeting that the Proposition be referred to the Executive which was agreed.:

Following the meeting and on behalf of the Executive Brian Dennis requested clarification from P & DBKA on exactly what they were attempting to achieve and has only recently received this clarification (Sept 09). P & DBKA wish the BBKA Executive to negotiate with FERA for better protection of bees from unscrupulous pest control companies. This will be carried forward and discussed with FERA. In addition, the General Secretary has contacted the National Association of Pest Control Technicians (NAPT) one of the largest pest control organisations in the country, and has agreed to host their annual meeting next March at the NBC. This will give the BBKA an opportunity to explain honeybee swarm collection alternatives, coordination and improve communications.

12/09 Sussex Beekeepers' Association (Becky Champion)

'That the BBKA as a matter of urgency, clarifies the effect of the new premises exemption definitions contained in the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 or otherwise issues an interim statement.'

Seconded by David Teasdale

Becky Champion thanked the Executive for the response to the Proposition.

On a point of information, Chris Deaves (Executive) referred members to the BBKA website where information is available on both the UK FSA Regulations and the EU regulations, the interpretation of the regulations for 'primary' and 'small scale' producers. It is unlikely that there will be a further statement from the FSA.

It was proposed by Paul Ash (Northamptonshire), seconded by John Hendrie (Medway) to refer the Proposition to the Executive and agreed unanimously.

There has been further discussion with the FSA in the early part of this year. This has resulted in minor changes to the information available for download on the BBKA website, in particular it confirms that 'honey co-operatives' are not classified as 'small primary producers' and hence DO come within the scope of the act. Previously the position was ambiguous.

The Executive doubts that there will be any further change unless a court action is brought and judgement made, so BBKA policy should be to refer members to the current document.

14/09 West Sussex Beekeepers Association

'That the BBKA encourages research into the causes of problems with the performance of queens; in particular, early supersedure and 'disappearing'.'

West Sussex requested this Proposition be referred to the Executive;

Proposed: Mike Duffin (Bournemouth and Dorset S), Seconded: Len Mole (Dover) and voted unanimously to refer to the Executive, it being stated that queen quality was an integral part of the Research Programme.

Following the 2009 ADM the BBKA issued the Honey Bee Health Research Concepts document describing the research required into this area of beekeeping. Programme 5, Queen Quality, highlights the problems experienced and describes the areas where, with more scientific data, we will be able to improve queen performance. The document was shared with DEFRA, now FERA, and we are working to see adoption and investment in this research area.

Annual Reports for year ended 30th September 2009

Chairman's Report

Martin Smith

2008/9 has been a very busy year for beekeeping in general and the BBKA in particular. We have continued to enjoy huge public support for our craft and the interest in beekeeping has never been greater. You will see from the various reports with these papers that the activity levels of the Association have increased substantially. I would like to draw your attention to a few points.

Financially the BBKA has been able to strengthen its position this year. We received a substantial donation (£50,000) which is referred to in the finance report. This has been used to increase the BBKA's own research fund and also to provide general funds which will be used for strengthening the support we are able to offer for education. In addition you will see that the trading activities of BBKA Enterprises have started to increase and the company is now able to make a contribution towards the BBKA over and above the money we receive from endorsements. We received income from corporate membership for the first time this year. Finally the Spring Convention was a great event – now stretching over 3 days, and I am pleased to say that due to the efforts of the committee it produced an increased surplus this year.

Membership of branches and Associations has increased during the year and as a result BBKA numbers have increased at a greater rate than in previous years. We were also able to welcome a number of new groups. Overall membership is now 16,000, an increase of 4,000 on last year.

As you know the BBKA Executive decided to withdraw from the implementation of the Government's Healthy Bees Plan in September 2009. At the same time we stressed we had no problem with the overall objective, merely the way it was being implemented. We do however continue to work closely with FERA on its implementation. As a result of this withdrawal we stepped up our work on our own plans to increase the educational effort of the BBKA for its membership. In this regard I would expect some of the surpluses generated in 2008-9 to be spent in 2009-10 in implementing these plans.

Considerable effort was spent during the year lobbying to ensure that the £10m fund to be administered by the BBSRC on 'Insects and other Pollinators' is spent first on bees and specifically on honey bees. We have had a lot of support from other bodies such as the Women's Institute in this regard. You will see more details on this in the report from the Public Affairs committee.

Our world class Examinations Board continues to respond to the challenges of increased numbers of candidates. I can confidently predict they will have more work, yet again, next year.

The office staff has risen to the challenge of the increase in membership without complaint and are to be congratulated on a job well done this year. There is then the huge number of people who spend large amounts on time helping to run the BBKA. Some receive honoraria but most do not. It would be wrong to single any one person out – you all know who you and I thank you for the unstinting work you do.

Finally our bees – our survey indicated that the winter losses were still well above the long term average – but less than the previous winter. During 2009 I think a lot of people concentrated on improving the quality of their stocks ready for a fantastic 2010. I hope the new season lives up to your expectations.

General Secretary's Report

Mike Harris

In 2009 we all witnessed a phenomenal surge in interest in bees and beekeeping. It seemed every other day another honey bee article appeared in a national newspaper or on prime time TV. On the days following such events the office is always inundated with prospective beekeepers wanting to get involved and everything else takes a backseat while we try to direct the callers to the correct Branch or Association. The results can be seen in the membership growth – 12000 to 16000 – a trend which shows no signs of slowing down. That's more than 6000 Welcome Packs despatched, 6000 membership cards produced, 6000 new entries on the Register and 4000 more BBKA News to ship. I would like to record an enormous thank you to the Office team led by Margaret Anderson and supported by Letitia Hammon, Jan Davis and Pat Edwards for dealing with every caller in an calm and efficient manner thereby making my life very much easier. Thanks Team.

As to the rest of the General Secretary's activities, my main 2009 objective was to get the long awaited Library up and running which I have nearly completed. The room is ready, the books are on the shelves but not yet necessarily in the right order – we now need to decide if it is to be a reference or lending library. Reference is easy and could be operational in the near future. Lending will require more resources but if it's a service the membership wants it would be worth the investment and an excellent use of all the books we have been given over the years.

On Angela West's retirement earlier this year the accounting function was transferred to the National Beekeeping Centre. To undertake the day to day operations we contracted Anna Blythe, a local book keeper, to assist and she has settled in remarkable quickly – another excellent addition to the team.

The Forum held in early October attracted over ninety members and focussed on the development and delivery of beekeepers' education. The day's proceedings have been well covered elsewhere. The results from the questionnaire feedback indicated a high level of satisfaction with the event, however, there were some concerns over publicity and administration which I will need to address for next year's Forum.

And finally, I have attended several shows this year and thoroughly enjoyed every one. It is a privilege and an honour to be invited to these events and many apologies to those I wasn't able to attend but please don't stop inviting me.

Education and Husbandry Committee Report

Chris Deaves, Chairman.

I have summarised below the activities that E&H has dealt with over the year. While these are all valuable in their own right, we are trying to concentrate the committee's resources on two major threads – increasing opportunities to conduct beekeeping (e.g. in schools and on allotments) and re-generation of education, both in terms of content and on capacity. This will continue to be the emphasis for next few years.

1. Library conservation work is ongoing – seven valuable volumes have been rebound. Book donations have been consolidated and fully catalogued. A sale of surplus volumes to members is in progress.
2. About twenty-one 16mm films in the BBKA's possession (and six audio tapes by Eddie Woods) have been transferred to DVD format and will form part of the BBKA media loan library, which is undergoing a change of management.
3. There is a possible concern with sting sensitivity being increased by certain medications – E&H is considering seeking medical opinion prior to revising the sting leaflet.

4. Five other leaflets have been re-released:
 - a) Abandoned Hives – minor editing
 - b) Allotment Beekeeping - minor editing
 - c) Swarm Collection – changes to deal with forager bees
 - d) Selling Honey - changes to reflect removal of fixed weights
 - e) Nucleus Standard – minor editing
5. Work on promoting beekeeping on allotments has continued following the survey in the previous year. The 'Bees on Allotments' advisory document has been improved and is now available in the members' area of the website. There have two requests for this information from overseas (Belgium and Canada).
6. A variety of FSA and other consultation documents have been considered and responded to. The most recent has been on food traffic-light labelling again (you may remember the activity about a year ago - it hasn't gone away). A response has been submitted – copies are available on request.
7. E&H has been considering the longer-term development of beekeeping education, both in terms of delivery methods/content and in terms of increasing access to basic education. This follows on from the BBKA submissions to DEFRA as part of the BHS consultation process.

We have considered topics such as:

- a) Working with the Exam Board to discuss extending access to beekeeping education via the state 'QCF' education providers.
 - b) A survey of Member Association training needs.
 - c) Should we try to create regional structures to support education in MAs?
 - d) How to use FE institutions' own skills to get courses etc. accredited.
 - e) Use of the BBKA syllabus for beekeeping education in the UK to help institutions designing courses with a beekeeping content.
 - f) How to make qualified teachers competent to teach beekeeping and the converse.
 - g) Understand more about the need for teacher qualification in various circumstances.
 - h) Discussion with CLEAPSS regarding safety guidance for beekeeping education in schools – a draft document is awaited.
8. The HQ apiary was again used for planned assessor training, Advanced Husbandry assessment and 'Farming Today'. The Syngenta area has been re-seeded. The hedge is establishing well with few failures. The Dartington hive failed over the winter.
 9. We are in discussion with Omlet Ltd. regarding the advice to provide to trainers of people using their BeeHaus bee hive.
 10. We have tried to increase awareness to prevent the use of PDB. Wax moth and comb storage advice has been updated and material published in BBKA News and the website.
 11. We have run an Education Day as the major part of this years' Open Forum slot. Much remains to be done over the next few years but many valuable resources and ideas have been identified.

Finally, no report on E&H would be complete without a special thank-you to Brian Dennis who, as Hon Sec., has managed to make sense of and record wide-ranging discussions so that we have been able to actually remember what we have to do.

Publicity and Promotions Committee Report

Brian Ripley, Chairman

There can be few people with any access to the media, be it visual or written, who are not aware of the plight of the honey bee, its problems and its requirements. Fulsome praise is due from this Executive, my committee, and I suggest, the Membership in congratulating Tim Lovett and Christine Gray for demonstrating their expertise in getting our message across.

Of course the level of interest has strained some Associations' ability to handle the increasing membership which has also placed demands on Stoneleigh with reprints of information leaflets and new member packs required as demand has exhausted supply.

As interest has grown during the year, the P&P Committee has looked at a number of actions/initiatives to try to develop products to take advantage of the increased level of publicity. While we will see some small impact in 2009 we believe these initiatives will see growth in future years.

Our 2010 calendar, initially aimed as a trial to members, has been made available to the WI and dependant upon its level of success should be repeated in 2011. We believe it important to give an opportunity to members of the public who support bees and beekeeping and seek a way to contribute to helping resolve some of the problems currently being experienced.

Our Healthy Hive Guide, a quick guide to what goes on inside a bee hive, is aimed at assisting members to identify what looks different from the norm and will be of particular help to new beekeepers in future years. This publication, which won the Gold Medal in the Multimedia Competition at Apimondia, we see as being part of a range of products being offered under the Healthy Hive banner and sold via BBKA Enterprises.

We believe that many of our leaflets are becoming 'tired' and we expect to see an update during 2010 and the development of a new house style that will give them a new look.

We had another successful show at Chelsea winning the prestigious Silver Gilt Medal and congratulations must go to Philippa O'Brien and all who assisted both in building the display and helping to man it.

Our success at Chelsea resulted in an invitation to attend the Hampton Court Show where a special children's event was being staged.

The final Royal Show was a major success and money saved from the budget for Chelsea was made available to our Royal Show Committee to improve the stand and make it easier to locate.

The BBKA web site, britishbee.org.uk continues to serve our members as well as the general public and needs to remain fresh and current, Steve Turner Web Manager is to be congratulated for continuing to do this successfully.

BBKA News has again maintained its high standard. Articles need to be commissioned, need to be relevant, interesting and informative and reach the reader in a format that can be understood. Thanks for this should go to Sharon Blake, Editor, and all of those people who continue to write articles that should help us better understand our bees.

During 2009 Dr Christine Knott, resigned as Assistant Editor owing to work commitments and our thanks must go to her for her help. We have welcomed Mrs Adela Booth who has taken on the role of attracting advertisers to our various publications, necessary if we are to restrict the cost burden on central funds, and we wish her every success in this venture.

Technical Committee Report

David Aston, Chairman

In early 2009 the BBKA published its Research Concepts document which continues to be the only document in the public domain comprehensively setting out the research needs for beekeepers and honeybees in the British Isles.

It was hoped that this document would help catalyse the release of funds for research and technical development to help provide solutions to the problems beekeepers and their bees face. Members will have read how the research funding issue has developed during the course of the year following the publication of the Healthy Bees Plan.

Throughout the year the committee has advised the Executive on the writing of letters of support requested by grant applicants. Some members of the Technical Committee are anonymously involved in helping the funding bodies assess applications for grants and obviously these activities cannot be publically reported.

The BBKA carried out a winter colony loss survey for 2008/9 and the main results of the survey were presented in BBKA News. As well as the headline loss figures the survey has also given a picture of beekeeping practices and this will be very helpful as the BBKA further develops its education, training and competency programmes to help beekeepers.

The publicity about honeybees and their problems has prompted a lot of interest in people offering all sorts of ideas and materials; assessing them and then responding takes time and effort.

Neo-nicotinoids and other pesticide issues have a high profile and the Technical Committee has sought to be able to offer advice to the Executive. This requires us to be aware of any data which demonstrates that there have been significant problems with honeybees in the British Isles involving neo-nicotinoids or other pesticides. The Technical Committee has expressed the need for work to be done on developing protocols for assessing the sub-lethal effects of pesticides on honeybee behaviour and has had discussions with the regulatory agencies and companies on this subject. The need for such work was identified in the Research Concepts document.

The Committee also monitors developments in the application of GM technology in the British Isles and advises the Executive on potential bee related aspects.

During the course of the coming year the BBKA will be seeking to establish and support research projects which will help provide answers to some of the problems our bees face. Finally I would like to thank all who have contributed to the work of the Technical Committee during the past year, especially those members from organisations other than the BBKA who give their time and expertise.

Royal Show Working Party Report

RASE Stewards of Beekeeping

Claire Waring/Clive Joyce

Although expected for a number of years now, the announcement from the RASE that this Royal Show was to be the last came as a shock; with more than a little sadness to all of us who had taken part for the last few years.

But all clouds have a silver lining and this was no exception. The Show's visitor numbers were up, with a total of 17,500 over the four days. There were near record entries to the honey show of around 380 exhibits, maybe due to the extensive advertising this year's committee sanctioned, or maybe the higher profile beekeeping has had from the campaigns on the plight of the honey bee, or was it the new competition classes (Nucleus of bees or Black jar class for honey)? We will never know.

We had a number of high profile visitors, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent who took a great interest in all the exhibits and trade stands and really did enjoy his honey ice cream. Lord Bryan Davies, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who took particular interest in the live bee demonstration, whilst Lord Davies talked of the plight of the honey bee and the steps the government should be taking to help.

In Warwickshire we may well have a new beekeeper following the visit of Lady Dunne, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, who stated that she would be steering her husband towards the art of beekeeping on his retirement from the job of representing the Queen.

A number of foreign agricultural ministry representatives also visited the marquee showing interest in the Honeys from around the world, Bees Abroad and the BBKA stand.

We "the Beekeepers" as described by the RASE are very much appreciated by them and due to our special relationship, the RASE always ensured that our prize giving was attended by someone of note, This year was no exception, none other than the wife of the Chairman of the RASE, Mrs Hugh Oliver-Bellasis.

The overall spectacle of beekeeping was helped by the open hive events that punctuated the proceedings three times a day for the whole of the show. For this, different demonstrators were used each day and for those visitors who missed this spectacle, an observation hive was always available with a steward to explain the wonders that could be seen.

Last but not least two skep makers and a candle maker performing their crafts throughout the show, telling tales of country pursuits long since past.

I realise I am prejudiced but I did feel this was the best show we (the BBKA) have staged for a long time. The Royal Show with its 170 year tradition of a honey show has ended, however the RASE is anxious to keep alive the honey show and may provide an event in which it may once again flourish.

I have deliberately not mentioned names of any committee members or stewards who took part, as the high quality of the show was due to the combined effort of the whole team. I will just thank all concerned.

Spring Convention Working Party Report

Tim Lovett, Chairman

The 32nd Spring Convention held on 17 – 19 April 2009 reflected the increased interest in beekeeping nationally, and the large numbers taking up the craft. Foot-fall was in excess of 2000 delegates over the three days. The nett out-turn was thus a healthy surplus of almost £15,000. Almost without exception courses and seminars were fully subscribed, notably both Microscopy Courses and the Queen Rearing event. The hive building workshop was a great success, again reflecting the influx of new beekeepers and their desire to assemble their new equipment properly. Greater use was made of the Arthur Rank Centre which helped siphon-off delegates from the main convention areas. Lectures were well attended and only in one case did we underestimate the 'draw' of a lecture which was relieved by arranging a repeat session over the weekend. Ivor Davis faced with some unforeseeable drop-outs, through sickness, filled the gaps with excellent replacements. The trade exhibition was a sell-out and there is continuing pressure for more and more space, which is hard to achieve in the present venue. Existing exhibitors' businesses are growing and want more space; like-wise the importance of the event is attracting new exhibitors. The Conservation Hall is also a problem for us, given that the refurbished Oak Tree Restaurant (in the old Granary Hall) means that we again face difficulties in staging this important, enhancing element. The 2010 event will feature more of the same with some new elements. Ruth Homer has taken on the Courses and Workshops portfolio and is bringing new ideas. To embrace the growing numbers of younger beekeepers with families we will be staging non-beekeeping activities and propose to run a proper crèche (The Brood Box) to allow parents to attend lectures without their children if they wish. I would like to thank all the Spring Convention team for their hard and sustained work; it's an all year round job and we are fortunate to be able to draw upon an enthusiastic and dedicated group.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Tim Lovett, Chairman.

The pace set by the Committee has in no way slackened during the year. Beekeeping has risen to a yet higher profile with ever growing demands on the Committee, the Executive and our experts and advisers. Whereas 2008 was characterised by the highly successful campaign to raise awareness of the need for bee health research, 2009 has been the year in which we have begun to see the fruits of that campaign in terms of the establishment of the £10.5 million BBSRC administered Insect Pollinator Initiative research fund. Although we still nurture concerns, shared with many politicians and the influential Public Accounts Committee, that honey bees must receive the lion's share of this fund, we should not deny ourselves the satisfaction that the campaign has been a notable success and has delivered. The BBKA stands full square behind this fund and seeks to influence its proper application to meaningful honey bee health research. In some contrast, the £2.3 million facilitated through the campaign for the NBU has been rather more problematic, in that the vast majority has been committed by FERA to projects which have not been discussed with the BBKA and other stake holders. Indeed, it is the failure of FERA to consult that has caused the BBKA to concentrate its resources on its own clearly needed educational project rather than invest effort to FERA's project board. The BBKA is again squarely behind the principles of the Healthy Bees Plan but differs in how this can best be delivered.

Other highlights during the year have been the adjournment debate in the Commons and a similar debate in the Lords. Our position at Westminster is strong and well understood, being further underlined by the establishment of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Honey Bees which has a programme of meetings underway; the BBKA provides the secretariat to this group. The £50K grant from the Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust further indicates the recognition that the BBKA has achieved and we should not forget the overwhelming vote at the Women's Institute AGM in favour of honey bee research funding. The scene is set for further progress and we must maintain a united front in order to tackle

the issues that confront us and the work that will be required to secure our profile in the light of the forthcoming General Election.

I would like to thank Martin Smith, the Executive, office staff, our indefatigable Press Officer Christine Gray and the advisers we call upon for their unstinting support and input in this challenging period.

BBKA Enterprises Ltd Report

Roger Cullum-Kenyon, Managing Director.

We continue to introduce new items to our small range on offer to BBKA Members. The Healthy Hive Guide – a pictorial field guide for new and improving beekeepers, has been in development during the year and will be launched in October at the National Honey Show. Part funding for production of this comprehensive resource has been provided by BDI, Vita (Europe) Ltd and others. Dr Ivor Davis provided original photographs whilst the NBU supplied all the pests and disease images. The Healthy Hive Guide was awarded a Gold Medal in the prestigious bi-annual 2009 Apimondia multi-media competition – held this year in Montpellier, southern France.

The 'Virtual Hives' – introduced in their two formats have been successful. We have now supplied 73 full hives and a small number of the 5 frame NUCs. The introduction of additional frame sets covering common pests and diseases, mentioned in my last report, has been thwarted by the availability of suitable high-resolution images.

The BBKA Calendar has been selling well, and by late October we had already received orders for over 800 copies. We will continue with this and other printed items in the future when suitable images become freely available. Other items launched during the year were the set of A2 posters for use at local shows, as an eye-catching aid to beekeeping for visitors. Our educational CDs are proving very popular and a new DVD by Gillian Sentinella – The Honey Bee – is starting to sell well.

In common with other charities and many commercial organizations – trading has been difficult over the last 12 months. Some of the items we introduced in small numbers to test the market have not been as successful as we had hoped. However we will continue to look for items more suited to beekeepers' needs and introduce them as appropriate into our winter or summer catalogues each year.

A non-exclusive link has been forged with Habitat Aid – a company selling high quality products to help create suitable habitats for wildlife and bees in gardens, smallholdings, farms and estates. Half of their profits go to specialist charities such as the BBKA. BBKA Enterprises Ltd will look for further productive and 'bee friendly' income streams in the future.

During the year BBKA Enterprises Ltd has been active at the ADM, Spring Convention, the Royal Show and the Forum where sales have produced modest receipts. As a result of our trading activities during the year a surplus has been produced for BBKA education, research and general funds, details of which can be seen in the financial accounts included with the information to delegates. Budget information is also included in the pack showing further projected increases in trading and consequent increases in donations to the BBKA.

Council of National Beekeeping Associations Report (CONBA)

Tim Lovett

The Council of National Beekeeping Associations met twice during the year; firstly on 27 March in Wales and secondly at Weybridge during the NHS on 29 October 2009. The organisation provides a valuable forum for discussion and liaison between the various national associations, reviewing current issues and developments such as the Healthy Bees Plan and the Research Campaign. The Federation of Irish Beekeepers and the Bee Farmers Association have heretofore enjoyed 'observer' status. It is thought that their full membership of the organisation may enhance the authority with which the group lobbies the COPA-COGECA committee, the route into the EU. Changes to membership and voting require amendment of the Constitution. CONBA has thus discussed and subsequently produced a revised draft Constitution which is now to be circulated to member associations for their approval. Once so approved CONBA will vote on the changes at its next meeting in April 2010 during the BBKA Spring Convention.

CONBA was to have been the 'sponsoring' organisation for the BBKA's possible bid for Apimondia 2013. As indicated at the 2009 ADM it was thought unlikely that the bid would be pursued given the uncertainties over the nomination of a corporate (i.e. Apimondia) professional conference organiser (PCO), rather than the preferred traditional route working on a risk-share basis with a local PCO. No bid was submitted and this matter is thus closed.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXAMINATIONS BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2009

The uptake for examinations has continued to increase in 2009. There were 441 successful Basic Certificate candidates this year compared to 410 in 2008, continuing the upward trend with 50 Areas submitting candidates. Module entries also increased from 204 modules sat in 2008 to 264 in 2009. A detailed analysis of the results is given below.

At the Board Meeting in January, Tom Salter was appointed as Chairman. Margaret Thomas continues as the Moderator with John Hendrie as Assistant Moderator.

The Board held four meetings during the year and a Moderation weekend in December to agree the Module papers for 2009. Stands were manned by members of the Examinations Board at the National Honey Show in October 2008, at the Spring Convention in April 2009 and at the Royal Show in July 2009.

An additional meeting was held in January to carry out revision work on the modules. The examinations were changed some 10 years ago from two 3 hour papers at an Intermediate level, one practical and one scientific, followed by two 3 hour papers at a Senior level, again one practical and one scientific, which covered the complete syllabi largely as they stand today. To encourage more beekeepers to attempt the examinations and improve their beekeeping, the Modular system was introduced and the old syllabi divided into seven appropriate topics. The new 1½ hour examinations, to preserve the standard of the old examinations, were to be set at a level of the old senior examinations. As anatomy and physiology was considered the most difficult and totally new to most beekeepers, Module 4 was the only Module set at an intermediate level requiring only basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology. It has now been decided that from 2011 onwards, Module 4 will be removed as it has been under subscribed, and the two-tier system has not been understood. In addition Module 8 will become a more synoptic module with the title Honeybee Management, Health and History. It is expected that this will be the last module to be completed by candidates and it will revisit some of the more important objectives of earlier syllabi.

There was a small increase in examination fees for 2009. The Modules have increased to £18 each, the Microscopy Certificate to £35 and the Correspondence Courses increased to £45 each module.

This year has also seen the introduction of sew-on embroidered badges for the practical assessments. A bronze badge is awarded for the Basic Certificate, a silver badge for the General Husbandry and there is a gold badge for Master Beekeeper. It is hoped that these will raise the profile of the qualifications.

The Correspondence Courses continue to offer an invaluable opportunity for candidates to prepare for their examinations with 66 applicants studying 88 modules in 2008/09. This year, of the 189 passes in the Modules, 55 of them were Correspondence Course students. All three candidates gaining the Master Beekeeper Certificate and 7 of the 16 achieving the Advanced Theory this year were correspondence course students. There are now 27 tutors available.

All eight module examinations were held on March 21st 2009 at 35 centres across the country.

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2009

The individual Examination Results have appeared in the BBKA News and will continue to be published as they become available.

The Robert Hammond Award for the best Intermediate Candidate was awarded to

Joanna Schup Whixall Shropshire

The Wax Chandler Award for the best Master Beekeeper candidate goes to

John Everett Rockland St Mary Norfolk

Examinations and Assessments Report 2009

2008(2007)	Applied	Assessed	Modules	Passed	Pass rate
Modules	205(148)	183(133)	264(204)	189(154)	72%(75%)
Basic Certificate	497 (481)	450 (419)		441 (402)	98% (96%)
General Husbandry	28 (15)	24 (14)		20 (10)	71% (71%)
Advanced Husbandry	5(4)	5 (4)		2 (2)	40% (50%)
Microscopy	16 (21)	2 to date (18)		2 to date(16)	? (89%)
Junior Certificate	1 (2)	1 (2)		1 (2)	100% (100%)

Individual Module Results

189 passes out of 264 module examinations – pass rate 72%

Module	Candidates	Pass	Credit	Distinction	Fail	Pass rate
1	71(59)	21	15	5	30	58%(83)
2	51(38)	17	19	3	12	76%(68)
3	53(31)	14	17	5	17	68%(77)
4	9(9)	1	1	6	1	89%(67)
5	29(25)	7	7	8	7	76%(64)
6	14(24)	7	3	3	1	93%(71)
7	21(9)	5	9	4	3	86%(100)
8	16(9)	7	2	3	4	75%(78)
	264(204)	79	73	37	75	72%(75)

2008 Figures in brackets

Other Certificates Awarded 2009

Intermediate Theory Certificates	15
Advanced Theory Certificates	16
Master Beekeepers	3

Basic Passes by Area and % of membership

Name	Passes	Members	Percentage
SURREY	43	600	7%
DEVON	29	703	4%
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	25	307	8%
SOMERSET	22	525	4%
YORKSHIRE	21	872	2%
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	18	305	6%
CHESHIRE	18	271	7%
LANCASHIRE & NORTH WEST	16	440	4%
MIDDLESEX	13	350	4%
WARWICKSHIRE	13	330	4%
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	12	291	4%
HAMPSHIRE	12	712	2%
CORNWALL WEST	12	57	21%
ESSEX	11	423	3%
HARROGATE & RIPON	10	255	4%
TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY	9	156	6%
DERBYSHIRE	8	155	5%
WILTSHIRE	8	244	3%
LONDON	8	62	13%
DORSET	8	261	3%
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	7	124	6%
NORFOLK WEST AND KINGS LYNN	6	87	7%
SUFFOLK	6	320	2%
NEWBURY	6	95	6%
WORCESTERSHIRE	6	261	2%
SUSSEX	6	312	2%
SHROPSHIRE NORTH	6	45	13%
NORFOLK	6	210	3%
LINCOLNSHIRE	6	248	2%
HEREFORDSHIRE	5	59	8%
WYE VALLEY	5	58	9%
CUMBRIA	4	159	3%
BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET S	4	61	7%
SUSSEX WEST	4	215	2%
MANCHESTER & DISTRICT	4	117	3%
KENT	4	470	1%
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	4	363	1%
STRATFORD ON AVON	3	66	5%
AVON	3	231	1%
DURHAM	3	141	2%
OXFORDSHIRE	3	194	2%
BERKSHIRE	3	168	2%
CHESTERFIELD	2	92	2%
GWENT	2	90	2%
CORNWALL	2	213	1%
ISLE OF WIGHT	1	99	1%

BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (BBKA)

FINANCIAL OUT-TURN FOR YEAR TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 and BUDGET/PROJECTIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT THREE YEARS

2008/09 OUT-TURN VERSUS BUDGET AND PRIOR YEAR

Enclosed with delegates packs are two sets of BBKA Accounts and one of BBKA Enterprises Ltd (Enterprises). The BBKA Accounts comprise those that are prepared to satisfy the Charities Commissioners' reporting standards (a 'one size fits all' for charities in general) and need to be formally approved. These are included at the end of the information provided to delegates. A set of Financial Statements (including those for Enterprises) that are designed to be more informative to members and are used by the Executive to monitor financial performance during the year are set out within this section. The two sets of accounts agree, but follow a different analytical path to arrive at the same net result. The following comments address the Financial Statements referred to above.

Membership numbers grew by 39% in 2008/09 generating income of £197K, being £26K in excess of budgeted expectations. The Spring Convention attracted a much bigger attendance than budgeted, generating a surplus of almost £12K over budget. Overall, income exceeded budget by almost £45K and the previous year by 40%.

Total expenditure rose by 20% over the previous year and only £8K over budget. The main increases were in the direct services to members, which are more sensitive to increases in numbers of members to be serviced.

The surplus of income over expenditure of £45k was consequently £8K over budget and almost £10K over the previous year. To this is added a major and exceptional donation of £50K of which half has been allocated to the Research Fund. A transfer of £23K has been made to the Stoneleigh building reserve fund, which will accumulate over the life of the ground lease of the Stoneleigh building to provide a fund sufficient to rebuild it in 2098.

The BBKA has a strong Balance Sheet with net liquid assets totalling £250K.

The schedule analysing Reserve Accounts and their movements provides the transparency requested by members. The Research Fighting Fund was spent substantially and successfully and the unused balance transferred to the Research Fund.

The policy with regard to Reserves is set out in the Trustees Report in the Accounts prepared to comply with the Charities Commission requirements. No value has been ascribed in these accounts to the considerable time devoted to the BBKA by Trustees and many other volunteers, other than the modest honoraria paid to a few key volunteers.

The Financial Statements for BBKA Enterprises Ltd demonstrate the progress being made to develop its catalogue of merchandise and the sales income this has generated. The policy now and in future is to donate each year an amount equal to the taxable profit of BBKA Enterprises Ltd to the BBKA, so as to legitimately avoid the payment of Corporation Tax by BBKA Enterprises Ltd. The Accounts of BBKA Enterprises Ltd should, in due course, be approved at the next AGM of Enterprises.

2009/10 BUDGETS AND PROJECTIONS

A new form of expense analysis has been adopted this year to provide more relevant and useful information to members, the executive and officers. It analyses expense by cost centres, which show the costs of providing various key services to members and the costs of supporting and managing those activities and the affairs of the BBKA. This analysis will provide improved budgetary control across the organisation.

Income

The budget summaries below, show an increase in membership over the current levels, but at less than the rate of increase that we have had in the current year. We are assuming an increase of 50% of that rate in 2008/9 and a similar level in subsequent years.

At the same time we are anticipating a strong growth in income from corporate memberships and a continued increase in contribution, by way of donations, from the trading activities of BBKA Enterprises. A budget for BBKA Enterprises is also attached for the first time, as its trading activities are growing significantly.

The actual figures for 2008/09 exclude the large £50,000 donation to the BBKA received during the year, because it is a non-recurring item and would distort comparisons. Full details are disclosed in the attached 2008/09 financial statements.

Expenditure

The substantial growth in membership over the past two years provides the BBKA with the opportunity to invest in a number of important initiatives which will further benefit its members. These are budgeted/projected as follows:

- BBKA News – an upgrade in printing quality and/or frequency of publication
- Education & training – a project to deliver to associations packages of education and training aids to help with the rapidly growing numbers of aspiring beekeepers, to assist in the ongoing development of beekeeping competencies and to encourage other educational agencies to participate by offering education and training courses to beekeepers.
- Website – enhancements to the BBKA website to improve its utility, after consultation with members and other users.
- Public affairs – funding for a continuation of the very successful programme (previously funded from the Fighting Fund over the past two years) which so successfully raised public awareness of bees and beekeeping and has led to the continuing increase in membership that is benefiting associations and the BBKA.

Inevitably the costs of supporting the growing activities of the BBKA are also rising, as additional part-time staff has to be recruited to handle the growing member-generated workload in the office at Stoneleigh. Volunteers continue to play vital roles, but member associations will be well aware of the difficulties in recruiting volunteers to take on duties these days.

The first budget for Enterprises is also attached and this shows continuing growth in merchandise sales and continuation of the revenue stream from trademark licensing. If the latter is discontinued, an alternative source of revenue will need to be developed or the donations to BBKA will diminish.

Conclusion

As the BBKA is projected to remain in surplus, no requirement for an increase in capitation is foreseen within the period under review.

BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY STATEMENT 2008/09 - issued on 10 November 2009

	12 months to 30/09/09	Budget for year	Variance favourable (unfavourable)	2007/08 comparative
Income - see attached analysis	239,936	195,055	44,881	171,658
Expenditure - see attached analysis	194,466	186,826	7,640	161,757
<i>Surplus of income over expenditure</i>	<i>45,470</i>	<i>8,229</i>	<i>37,241</i>	<i>9,901</i>
Major Donation/Legacy (non-recurring)	50,000	0	50,000	16,567
Transfers to:-				
Research fund	-25,000	0	-25,000	0
Stoneleigh Building Reserve fund	-23,651	0	-23,651	0
Unrestricted surplus for the year	46,819	8,229	38,590	26,468

Note: Major Donation/Legacy comprises:

- 2008/09 - donation from Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust
- 2007/08 - legacy from the late George Knight's estate

INCOME REPORT 2008/09

	12 months to date actual	Budget for year	Variance favourable (unfavourable)	2008 Actual
<i>Number of members contributing</i>	15,578	11,700	3,878	11,218
<i>Effective capitation rate</i>	13.50	13.50	0.00	13.00
Capitation Fees	180,581	159,300	21,281	145,840
Individual/corporate memberships	14,382	9,950	4,432	4,638
Specialist memberships	600		600	
Gift Aid on capitation	1,894	2,000	-106	150
<i>Total income from membership</i>	<i>197,457</i>	<i>171,250</i>	<i>26,207</i>	<i>150,628</i>
Spring Convention (net surplus)	14,915	3,000	11,915	6,003
Donation from BBKA Enterprises	15,920	13,000	2,920	16,000
Net investment gain - unrealised	3,144	0	3,144	-19,443
Investment income	3,402	2,000	1,402	2,277
Bank interest	2,770	1,500	1,270	5,003
Sundry donations, commissions & sales	1,706	2,550	-844	8,853
Exam Board (net surplus)	623	1,755	-1,132	2,337
Total Income	239,936	195,055	44,881	171,658

EXPENDITURE REPORT 2008/09

	12 months to date actual	Budget for year	Variance favourable (unfavourable)	2008 Actual
BBKA News (net)	45,297	28,650	-16,647	23,024
Insurance - members	15,855	15,000	-855	19,634
ADM & Forum	6,331	5,500	-831	4,587
Year Book (net)	2,282	2,400	118	2,225
Winter Survey	1,605	0	-1,605	
<i>Sub total - Direct services to members</i>	<i>71,370</i>	<i>51,550</i>	<i>-19,820</i>	<i>49,470</i>
Staff Costs inc accounts contractor	37,674	32,098	-5,576	28,868
HQ office & building expenses	26,388	29,378	2,990	22,732
Executive travel expenses	19,680	23,500	3,820	19,335
Publicity & Promotion (inc Shows)	13,366	6,000	-7,366	8,266
Printing and stationery	6,058	7,000	942	4,449
Telephone & Post	6,101	6,500	399	5,642
Depreciation	3,853	2,500	-1,353	2,403
Royal Show (net deficit)	2,330	0	-2,330	-117
Accountancy, legal & professional fees	2,573	750	-1,823	353
Provision for doubtful debts	2,075	0	-2,075	0
Honoraria (now charged to cost centres)	0	19,500	19,500	18,527
Sundry expenses	2,999	3,050	51	1,839
Contingency		5,000	5,000	
			0	
Total expenditure	194,466	186,826	-7,640	161,767

RESERVE ACCOUNTS - FUND MOVEMENTS

	Balances at 30-Sep-08	Receipts 12 months to date	Expenses 12 months to date	Transfers between Reserves	Balances at 30-Sep-09
Restricted funds:					
Research fund	28,368	7,948	0	26,713	63,029
Research fighting fund	5,588	1,323	5,198	-1,713	0
Apiary fund	1,409	0	1,005	0	404
Total restricted	35,365	9,271	6,203	25,000	63,433
Unrestricted & dedicated funds:					
General fund	253,944	289,936	194,466	-48,651	300,763
Stoneleigh building renewal fund	26,349			23,651	50,000
Total unrestricted & dedicated	280,293	289,936	194,466	-25,000	350,763
Total Reserves	315,658	299,207	200,669	0	414,196

NOTE:

£50,000 donation from the Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust (included in General fund rece has been allocated 50% to the Research fund and 50% to the General fund

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Cash at Bank - see attached analysis	289,510	
Debtors and prepayments	21,164	
Due from BBKA Enterprises	2,920	
Current Assets		<u>313,594</u>
Capitation and subscriptions received in advance	108,320	
Creditors and accruals	11,824	
Due to BBKA Enterprises	7,483	
Current liabilities		<u>127,627</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>185,967</u>
Investments - see attached analysis		64,115
Net liquid assets		<u>250,082</u>
Fixed Assets net of depreciation		164,114
Net Assets/Reserves - see analysis below		<u>414,196</u>
Unrestricted reserves:		
General funds		300,763
Dedicated - Stoneleigh rebuilding renewal fund		50,000
Restricted reserves:		
Research fund		63,029
Apiary fund		404
Total Reserves - see attached analysis		<u>414,196</u>

BBKA BUDGET & PROJECTIONS	Actuals 2008/09	Budget 2009/10	Projection 2010/11	Projection 2011/12
INCOME:				
<i>Members contributing</i>	15,578	17,640	18,640	19,840
<i>Effective capitation rate</i>	£13.50	£14.00	£14.00	£14.00
Registered members	180,581	223,252	239,200	260,500
Individual members	9,382	11,534	13,000	14,000
Corporate & specialist members	5,600	10,700	15,800	21,000
Gift Aid	1,894	2,000	1,000	1,000
<i>Total membership income</i>	197,457	247,486	269,000	296,500
Donations from BBKA Enterprises	15,920	25,010	28,280	32,680
Spring Convention - income	64,238			
- expense	49,323			
- net income	14,915	9,000	9,000	9,000
Bank & investment income	6,172	5,500	5,500	5,500
Net investment gains	3,144	0	0	0
Minor donations & other income	1,706	2,000	2,000	2,000
Exam Board surplus	623	0	0	0
Total Income	239,937	288,996	313,780	345,680
EXPENSES:				
Member services:				
BBKA News	45,297	65,100	71,000	77,000
Education & training initiative	0	23,000	25,000	27,000
Insurance	15,855	17,600	19,400	21,000
Website	9,472	16,830	3,000	3,300
ADM & Forum	6,331	5,900	6,100	6,300
Surveys - winter losses etc	1,605	2,500	2,700	2,900
Membership cards, welcome packs etc	2,546	2,200	2,500	2,800
BBKA Year Book	2,282	2,080	2,500	2,700
Members register	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200
Educational leaflets	230	560	1,000	1,200
Exam Board (net)	-623	-120	0	0
<i>Sub total</i>	84,995	137,650	135,300	146,400
HQ salaries & office operating expenses	69,340	75,380	82,000	90,000
HQ building running expenses	18,989	31,250	32,200	33,000
Governance (ie Exec & professional fees)	16,753	16,900	17,500	18,000
Public affairs activities	0	10,600	11,000	11,500
National Shows	5,994	3,000	3,300	3,500
Apiary at Stoneleigh	0	1,500	1,600	1,700
Contingency		5,000	5,000	5,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	196,071	281,280	287,900	309,100
HQ rebuilding provision	23,500	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total expenses	219,571	286,280	292,900	314,100
Surplus of income over expenditure	20,366	2,716	20,880	31,580
Note:				
Expenses charged to:				
Research Fighting Fund	5,198	Closed		
Research Fund (research projects)	0	20,000	20,000	20,000
Apiary Fund	1,005	Closed		

BBKA ENTERPRISES LTD - BUDGET 2009/10

	Actual 2008/09	Budget 2009/10	Projection 2010/11	Projection 2011/12
Merchandise sales	21,091	50,214		
Cost of sales (excluding P&P)	11,727	23,430		
Gross margin	9,364	26,784		
%	44.4	53.3		
Merchandise sponsorship income	0	1,000		
Provision for sales/gross margin shortfall		-5,000		
Total income from merchandise sales	9,364	22,784	30,000	40,000
Sales & marketing expenses:				
Bespoke Packing (net)	0	0		
Postage (net)	-154	0		
Advertising & promotion	-1,283	-3,000		
Show expenses	0	-500		
Other expenses (Travel/Accom. etc)	-4,023	-4,000		
Staff costs	0	-4,000		
Net income from merchandise sales	3,904	11,284	15,000	20,000
Management fees	-1,787	-2,674	-3,120	-3,720
License income	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500
Depreciation	-2,128	-100	-100	-100
Board, legal & accounting expenses	-608	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
Sundries	-961	0	0	0
Profit/loss before donation to BBKA and corporation tax	15,920	25,010	28,280	32,680
Donation to BBKA (to be determined)	-15,920	-25,010	-28,280	-32,680
Corporation Tax (if any)	0	0	0	0
Balance transferred to reserves	0	0	0	0

Nomination for the President

(Vacancy for two years)

Martin Smith

To be President of the BBKA requires more than the ability to keep bees or to be well known and respected by the associations, beekeeping is in the middle of a vast change that requires the holder of the position of President to be able to:

Meet and talk to Government and Government Agencies about a sometimes complex problem, clearly, with the added ability to explain ideas.

To be capable of using and understanding modern technology and how it can be utilized to move an organization forward quickly.

To command respect both within and without the Executive

To be capable of meeting and explaining to the media the problems and opportunities of beekeeping in a manner that is both clear and concise

I believe that Martin Smith has shown both at a local level and nationally that he has the above attributes and I present the following as additional information that supports the above.

Martin Smith has been a beekeeper for 25 years and keeps between 5 and 8 colonies. A qualified Chartered Accountant Martin is Managing Director of a long established family run engineering business selling woodworking machinery.

He has been Secretary of Lancashire & NWBKA for the past 6 years.

Elected to the Executive of the BBKA in 2004 during which he has been Chairman of Promotion & Publicity Committee, Chairman of Finance, Vice-Chairman and finally Chairman of the BBKA for the past two years.

Martin has been a catalyst for change helping to bring a more businesslike focus to its operations by:

Encouraging the co-option of specialists to BBKA Committees, this has broadened the expertise on committees, expedited the decision making processes and brought new ideas. This includes encouraging a more devolved style of management – the executive can no longer do everything.

On the finance front:

Instigated and implemented financial reporting for both the Executive and the ADM that enables non financial people to get a grasp of the financial position of the organization. This change in particular has given a clear and full disclosure of the BBKA budget to the associations, which has ensured that associations have been able to see whether they are getting value for money from their capitation.

Set up and managed the move to the new capitation arrangements

As President I believe that Martin will continue with the good work already successfully started.

Nominations for the Executive Committee

(4 Vacancies for three years)

David Bancalari

David is a committee member of the West Norfolk & Kings Lynn BKA, WBG and SBKA. He is particularly interested in communication and has sought to nurture members by improving the quality and frequency of contact through newsletters, websites, phone-arounds, magazine distribution, multi-media training and, encouraging membership feedback. He writes the national Bee Farmers Association bulletin and regularly contributes to beekeeping magazines as well as spending time on EU Brussels and EPBA beekeeping committees.

David is keenly interested in the approval process for pesticides and is building links with ICPBR, the body whose recommendations are used by the EU in deciding approval protocols.

Having a wide circle of contacts and a multi faceted approach he brings understanding, cohesiveness and an ability to support and respond to our growing membership.

Stephen Brain

Stephen has kept bees for 20 years and is President of Blagdon Branch of Avon Beekeepers. He has been chairman and Treasurer of the Branch and Treasurer of Avon when Gift Aid was introduced. He is Treasurer for Somerset Smallholders' Association. In 2000 he gained the Advanced Theory Certificate with Credit and is studying for the Microscopy examination.

He is key to the Branch teaching programme and teaching at the local college introduction classes and practical apiary sessions for new members.

Stephen's working career is in the high-tech microelectronics industry where he has worked in European management, project and design management. He is a member of the Chartered Quality Institute and has project-managed EU funded collaborative projects across Europe.

Stephen's range of business skills and experience will support the BBKA both in its internal work and in its engagement with members and other bodies in the UK and further afield.

Tom Canning (Also standing for the Examinations Board)

He was introduced to beekeeping aged seven by an old estate gardener/beekeeper and has maintained this interest until now, currently working eleven hives. In 1997 and 1999 He sat and passed the FIBKA preliminary and intermediate examinations for certificates of proficiency in beekeeping. His main interests are practical beekeeping, preparing honey for sale and shows. To date he holds 190 top place show cards which include a blue ribbon award, three Apimondia show cards and a London Honey Show award. He has had experience in queen rearing.

He is a graduate of two universities and been Vice-Headmaster of a 756 pupil secondary school and headmaster of a 475 pupil school. His profession included sitting on various curriculum development and examination committees.

In 1976 he was selected to represent Ireland on a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange scheme to Western Australia. He was a commissioned officer (Captain, retired) in the Ulster Defence Regiment and served in South Armagh. This additionally afforded some experience in Army curricular, examination and lecturing work.

When Vice - Principal he was a member of Armagh Round Table and later President of Lurgan Rotary Club. At present he is President of Armagh Probus Club. His professional career has given him a superabundance and variety of committee work, educational development programmes and examination systems.

Robert Carpenter Turner

Robert Carpenter Turner, a beekeeper for 25 years, has been a seasonal beekeeping inspector for the last 3 years, covering South Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and North Hampshire.

Robert was Chairman of North London Beekeepers' Association for 12 years and played a major part in raising the membership from about 10 to over 100. He initiated classes for beginner beekeepers, which developed into an adopt-a-hive scheme of supervised beekeeping in the association's apiary. He also served as Membership Secretary and press officer. As President of the Middlesex Federation, he encouraged greater participation of associations in Federation events. He had 6 years' experience as the Federation representative to the BBKA Annual Delegates' Conference.

Robert has worked in the performing arts and photography; he has exceptional organisational and communication skills and media experience. As an inspirational beekeeping teacher, he has demonstrated an ability to inspire others with his enthusiasm.

Dawn Girling

Dawn Girling first came to my attention when she was the Chairman of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, one of the larger and more successful of the forty-seven Wildlife Trusts in the British Isles; there she organised a governance review which resulted in constitutional change.

She has extensive knowledge of how charities are and should be governed and has been at various times a trustee of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, Ipswich & District Domestic Violence (multi-disciplinary) Forum, and is currently chairman of Suffolk Environmental Trust, which distributes the Landfill Communities Fund in the county.

In addition, she has participated in work undertaken by the Charity Trustee Network and the Charity Commission. Dawn's background is in the Health Service professions and Project Management contracted to facilitate strategic planning in several organisations.

She is also a Magistrate, Performance Artist, Writer and of course, an enthusiastic Beekeeper.

Sheridan Hillis

Having taken a degree in Economics at Queen's University, Belfast, he went onto study International Relations at the Institute of Politics in Paris. On leaving university he embarked on a career in Freight Forwarding and finally spent some time as a director of a logistics company in Hong Kong, before returning home to Northern Ireland.

Since his early childhood when he watched from a distance whilst his mother tended her three hives, he has had an interest in beekeeping. In Northern Germany, helping relatives move hives from their suburban base to the Luneburger Heide for the heather nectar flow. So it was that when he returned home to Northern Ireland after a career in the Far East that he took up beekeeping.

He quickly realised that beekeeping had become complicated by disease and pesticides and the promotion of beekeeping to the public by the interests of safety and insurance. His appreciation therefore is to the Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers and the BBKA for their work on these issues. He greatly appreciates the work and efforts of Chris Deaves as the BBKA Safety Officer on safety for the public showing of bees.

He currently has six hives on the farm he owns with his brothers in the Lagan Valley on the outskirts of Belfast.

He attended Apimondia in Montpellier, and it is his intention to be at Apimondia in Argentina and is an INIB Committee Member

Charles Oliver-Bellasis

Charles has been President of Basingstoke BKA for over ten years: he has kept bees since 1970.

Professionally he is a Chartered Surveyor and is partly retired; he graduated from Cirencester in 1963 and has worked within the farming community since then. He has therefore a deep and committed knowledge of farming and the countryside. In the past he has been Chairman and member of Hampshire Country Landowners Association Committee, Chairman of Basingstoke National Farmers Union, Chairman of the Game Fair 1989, and a member of the Environment Agency Thames Region Flood Defence Committee. Currently he is a member of the Hampshire Woodlands Forum, he is the Lord Chancellor's Appointment as lay member and drainage member of the Agricultural Land Tribunal SE Region, and is a member of the Kennet Valley Fisheries Association.

He is currently very concerned about the recent changes in beekeeping and wishes to contribute to whatever evolves.

Brian Ripley

Brian joined the Executive of the BBKA in 2006 and is currently Chairman of the Publicity and Promotions Committee. During his time as a Trustee he has been responsible for a significant increase in the activities undertaken by the P&P committee. In addition he has worked extensively on developing the range of educational products that BBKA Enterprises now offer for beekeepers.

He is keen that the BBKA continue to develop its ability to generate additional sources of revenue to be able to support the growing range of services it offers to the membership.

A beekeeper for 10 years Brian is Vice-Chairman of Alnwick and District Beekeepers Association (ADBKA) a branch of Northumberland BKA.

He applied for and won a grant for £19000 from LHI in co-operation with Northumberland Wild-life Trust for bee conservation and for ADBKA to create a training apiary of 20 hives, instrumental insemination equipment, books and videos.

Brian retired in 2000 as Managing Director of Dunlop Hose and was previously a Group Managing Director within the Unipoly Group of which Dunlop was part.

Beekeeping takes up a good portion of his spare time, managing with others the local training apiary, his own hives. He is planning a busy year ahead in 2010 undertaking queen rearing and colony improvement.

Outside of beekeeping Brian is still involved in business as Deputy Chairman of Blyth Harbour Commission and on the committee of his local bowls club

Julian Routh

Julian is a Master Beekeeper who has kept bees for over 30 years and now runs 10 hives. He has been Chairman of both his Branch and County and is active in organising honey shows. He lectures on beekeeping subjects and also judges small honey shows. Over many years he has been an active steward at the Spring Convention and will have taken money off many beekeepers as he has run the entrance as team leader, he also stewards and demonstrates at the Royal Show.

Julian is very keen on training the craft of beekeeping and has been involved in local training for many years and is a Basic and General Certificate Assessor and a Correspondence course tutor.

Julian took early retirement in 2008 and wishes to spend time putting much back into beekeeping at a higher level and putting many years experience and technical expertise to a use for British Beekeepers. In April 2009 Julian was co-opted on to the BBKA Education and Husbandry Committee and has played an active role.

Nominations for the Examinations Board

(3 Vacancies for three years, and two for one year)

David Aston NDB

The continuing improvement of beekeeper skills and competences through education and training will be essential to maintain beekeeping and to ensure healthy bees. David wishes to continue to contribute to this process and seeks re-election to the BBKA Examination Board.

Kenneth Basterfield NDB

Beekeeping qualifications:

BBKA Preliminary, Intermediate, Senior and Senior Practical, NDB 1997

Introduced to beekeeping at the age of 6 years. Began building a commercial beekeeping enterprise on graduating in 1971, reaching 150 hives by 1980. Ran this as a semi-commercial basis in parallel to day job. Stock selection and breeding from the best locally adapted performers. Tried out most of the management techniques on large scale trials leading to Modified Commercial single depth boxes with multiple brood boxes and no queen excluders.

Beekeeping Education

Organised various courses for association members, grafting, dissection, disease

Lecturer on beekeeping.

Running Introductory days, beginners courses, module study groups

Examiner for BBKA Basic and Adv. Husbandry

Examiner for National Diploma Board (NDB) in Beekeeping

Member NDB Board. from 1998

NDB Advanced Course Director at Hartpury College and then at the NBU, York, from 1998

Tom Canning (also standing for the Executive Committee)

He was introduced to beekeeping aged seven by an old estate gardener/beekeeper and has maintained this interest until now, currently working eleven hives. In 1997 and 1999 He sat and passed the FIBKA preliminary and intermediate examinations for certificates of proficiency in beekeeping. His main interests are practical beekeeping, preparing honey for sale and shows. To date he holds 190 top place show cards which include a blue ribbon award, three Apimondia show cards and a London Honey Show award. He has had experience in queen rearing.

He is a graduate of two universities and been Vice-Headmaster of a 756 pupil secondary school and headmaster of a 475 pupil school. His profession included sitting on various curriculum development and examination committees.

In 1976 he was selected to represent Ireland on a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange scheme to Western Australia. He was a commissioned officer (Captain, retired) in the Ulster Defence Regiment and served in South Armagh. This additionally afforded some experience in Army curricular, examination and lecturing work.

When Vice - Principal he was a member of Armagh Round Table and later President of Lurgan Rotary Club. At present he is President of Armagh Probus Club. His professional career has given him a superabundance and variety of committee work, educational development programmes and examination systems.

Pam Gregory NDB

Specialist in bee diseases working for the UK National Bee Unit from Sept 1975 – July 2002. Consultant specialising in beekeeping for poverty alleviation since 1997. Currently partnering two large-scale beekeeping development projects in Malawi and Uganda. Developed website and resource box material for Bees for Development 2009

Regional Bee Inspector - UK National Bee Unit (1995 – 2002).

Seasonal Bee Inspector - UK National Bee Unit (1982 – 1995)

Scientific Officer - UK National Bee Unit (Trawscoed 1975-1979)

Beekeeping qualifications

Qualified as Master beekeeper (June 1986). Instrumental Insemination and Bee Breeding-Berlin, Germany (1988). National Diploma in Beekeeping (June 1991). Specialist training in Varroa control at Celle Beekeeping Institute, Germany (June 1992);

Teaching, communication, event organisation.

Designs, plans and delivers specialist courses for a wide range of clients including local and national beekeeping associations, environmental bodies and specialist University departments both in the UK and internationally for over 10 years eg:

Microscope course teaching and technical support for UK National Diploma Students (1995- 2002).

Certificate of merit from the Apimondia International Association of Beekeepers for technical training material produced (October 2001).

Richard MacRae

Richard MacRae has completed his studies for the Modular BBKA Exams and is working toward the Practical Certificates. He is taking an active part in training the many beekeepers in our area who are taking up beekeeping.

His background as a retired Headmaster with knowledge of mainstream educational system would be an invaluable asset to the Examination Board in their work.

This Citation has the full support of his tutor, who commends his enquiring and questioning mind, his enthusiasm and willingness to expand his knowledge and ability make constructive suggestions.

Pete Sutcliffe

Pete Sutcliffe has been keeping bees for 25 years – following in his father's footsteps and now has around 20 hives. He is Chairman of his local Branch (where he has inaugurated courses for beginners and for the Basic Exam), Librarian/Archivist for the County Association and editor of the 'Cheshire Beekeeper' and 'E News'.

Having retired from the Deputy Headship of a large secondary school, he now has more time to devote to beekeeping, and would like to offer his considerable experience of setting, scrutinising and marking exams to the Board. He is at present an examiner for a vocational foreign-language qualification, and works for a teacher-training agency.

He has just achieved his Advanced Theory Certificate, and thus has had six years' recent experience of the BBKA examinations system – on the receiving end. This has made him very conscious of the role these exams can play in encouraging the best practice in beekeeping.

Applications for Membership of the BBKA

Rutland BKA

Proposition

That Rutland Bee Keeping Association be elected as a member association of the BBKA.

Supporting Notes:

We the RBKA wish to become affiliated to your Association for 3 main reasons

- 1) To be part of a national body, having a voice to protect and support our member beekeepers
- 2) To be able to offer our members insurance provided through a national and recognised body
- 3) To use a teaching syllabus and information of the highest standard allowing our new members to be trained to a level allowing all new bee keepers to take as the norm, the BBKA Basic Examination.

Presently our membership stands at 60.

Supporting Associations

North Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire.

Lancashire & North West BKA

Proposition

That Lancaster Beekeepers Ltd, a registered charity be elected as a member association of the BBKA.

Supporting Notes:

Lancaster Beekeepers Ltd (LBKL) has been formed by the members of the Lancaster Branch (which has around 140 registered & partner members) of Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association to assist in its ability to develop the aims and aspirations of beekeeping in the Lancaster area. In particular the group wishes to access substantial EU funds for the development of an apiary. These funds are not available whilst the group remains as a branch of a larger organisation which has a wider geographical coverage (i.e. the whole of Lancs and the North West) than the grants apply to.

L&NWBKA strongly supports the application by this newly formed group and anticipates continuing to work closely with beekeepers in the Lancaster area. One of the strengths of beekeeping groups in the L&NWBKA is the interaction between groups within the association and neither LBKL nor L&NWBKA see this changing as a result of this application for direct membership of the BBKA.

Bees for Development

Proposition

That *Bees for Development* be accepted as a Specialist Member of the BBKA

Supporting Notes:

Bees for Development Trust (Charity No 1078803, established 1999)

Our goal is to relieve poverty by means of beekeeping and to raise awareness of its value, all over the world.

We emphasise the benefits of beekeeping for the world's poorest, most marginalised rural people. Beekeeping delivers nutrition, income and environmental benefits, and supports sustainable livelihoods based on natural resources.

What we do

- Deliver practical projects to help people practice sustainable apiculture and earn income through sales of honey and beeswax
- Answer enquiries from beekeepers in poor countries without local sources of technical information
- Maintain the world's only independent beekeeping information resource for developing countries
- Publish and distribute *Bees for Development* Journal to 130 countries, keeping beekeepers informed and up-to-date
- Provide resource materials for groups and libraries
- Maintain a network of 8,000+ individuals, groups and institutions so people can learn and share knowledge world-wide.

Propositions for Consideration

01/2010 North Staffordshire Beekeepers Association

a. That, as a matter of urgency, this ADM requests the BBKA Executive to review the capitation payments system with a view to introducing a system to allow pro-rata payments to make allowances for persons joining their Association during the last three months of the BBKA financial year to encourage people to become members during the current BBKA membership/financial year making it more equitable.

b. That the Executive be empowered to introduce such a provision for pro-rata payments forthwith, i.e. in line with the 2010 primary and secondary dates as set-out in the BBKA Constitution, providing such provision is found to be practical in administrative terms AND that it is a simple pro-rata payment to cover the last three months of the year, not exceeding 25% of the annual capitation figure that is payable.

c. If implemented during the 2010 financial year the Executive will be obliged to put forward a proposition to amend the Constitution at the 2011 ADM to regularise the matter for future years

Supporting notes

There appears to be a prevalent trend that if a person expresses a request to join an Association in the last three months of the “year”, that they will be encouraged to wait until the start of the new financial year.

Currently, as there is no allowance or pro-rata payments system, then a person/Association would be expected to pay the full amount of capitation fee even if it was just one day’s membership. The current system is not equitable and acts against actually getting new members “signed-up” which if left or delayed might result in the loss of a potential new beekeeper.

This proposition is required because some Associations are reluctant (either directly or overtly) to encourage people to join if there is only a small number of months remaining of the capitation year.

The period of time/months is arbitrary but we would suggest the last three months of the year.

Executive Comment

While understanding the rationale, the executive considers that the proposition introduces a number of issues that make it unnecessarily difficult for the BBKA to administer and ignores the simple ways that other Area Association Members already work. The secondary date of the 1st September was chosen to pick up all the new members that joined during the summer and therefore gained the benefit of membership for the major part of the beekeeping season. If an association feels that the current £14 capitation plus their own membership fee for a new beekeeper joining in July or August is too much then they could consider dropping their own fee for the period as some associations already do, or if they are not yet keeping bees even subsidise the £7 for Country membership.

02/2010 Avon

That BBKA should discuss with BDI Ltd the possibility of collecting the basic BDI capitation (on behalf of BDI Ltd) alongside BBKA capitation payments from Associations.

Supporting notes

Time now required by Association and branch officers to update the register, correlate payments to BBKA and prepare BDI returns may soon remove hope of many Associations finding volunteers for this work, eventually leading to the disintegration of the register. Anything that can be done to reduce the load will help prevent this.

BBKA's biannual billing could be used to collect current basic BDI of all registered full and partner members. Adding this to the computation of bills is preferred to separate BDI billing at the same time.

A simple manual filing system of copy invoices according status of 'unpaid' or 'due to BDI' and a monthly settlement to BDI should suffice.

Officers would only issue receipts and make a return to BDI for extra colony insurance saving considerable time

Cost estimate of £500 and timescale of 3 months. Annual costs are minimal

Executive Comment

We will consult with BDI, the administrator of the members register, our accounting staff and with a sample of associations to determine the administrative/cost effectiveness of collecting basic BDI via the membership register returns, and advise members of our findings.

03/2010 Twickenham & Thames Valley BKA

The BBKA shall cease to endorse pesticides and insecticides as soon as contractually possible.

Supporting notes

This arises subsequent to Martin Smith's editorial comments in BBKA News of February 2009 which reads:

'The second two propositions (discussed at the 2009 ADM) were concerned with whether to grant a license to use our logo (paraphrased as endorsing) and whether to receive funds to the granting of such a license. These were debated in detail with reasoned arguments both for and against being made by the delegates. It was clear that most associations had held detailed debates at both local and area levels and their delegates had been given very clear instructions. Both of these propositions were passed, but not overwhelmingly as with the first two. It was clear that a significant minority of the membership is uneasy with this policy and this is something that the Executive will have to consider in its future dealings with these companies.'

Executive Comment

The debate behind this single proposition was split into 5 separate propositions at the 2009 ADM. This proposition seeks to overturn two of those propositions. In addition the proposition in relation to allocation of funds received is rendered obsolete.

It would not however overturn the first two propositions that the BBKA should engage with the Agro-Chemical industry and should evaluate specific compounds. Engagement and evaluation is costed at £2,500 per annum – to allow for meetings and time expended.

The papers issued prior to the 2009 debate were widely circulated and extensively debated. The Executive's position has not changed in the intervening year and delegates are referred to our supporting papers in last years ADM papers for the detailed arguments for each of the five 'hurdles'. There have been no reported incidents in relation to the products endorsed in the last twelve months.

Further amplification is provided here concerning the comments made in the Chairman's letter of February 2009. The 2009 ADM debate on whether to endorse centred the benefits to bees that accrued from such endorsements in terms of farmer education. These benefits have not changed in the last twelve months. Having said this the Executive do not intend, in the light the disquiet of a significant minority as expressed in the votes at the 2009 ADM, to expand the policy and would therefore not consider a request to endorse any new pesticides beyond the four products currently endorsed.

For the continued clarification, the types of pesticides endorsed are synthetic pyretheroids. The BBKA does not endorse any neonicotinoids, (which caused been deaths in Germany / Slovenia in early 2009) and has called for more research into the possible sub-lethal effects of these products in our research concepts document.

As a point of information were the motion to be passed the contractual position means that the income from endorsements would be as follows

2009-2010 £17,500
2010-2011 £5,500
2011-2012 £nil

04/2010 North Staffordshire Beekeepers Association

That, the BBKA Executive examines options to officially recognise the value to retain the use of the skills and knowledge of past or retiring Executive committee members and to ratify any such process developed by the Executive at the next ADM.

Supporting notes

The logic that BBKA Executive members have to step down after a period of time is an excellent way of encouraging new blood into the management of the BBKA and (where necessary) loosing people who perhaps were not up to the task.

It is a fact that we must NOT return to a situation where Executive Committee Members "have a job for life", however, we must not loose touch with those willing and able people whose work has benefited the BBKA and knows some of the "history of events".

Co-opting people is a useful option for individual tasks but should not be done for long term work which in effect is increasing the size of the Executive by the back-door. We need some system that officially allows the Executive to officially retain the services of those willing people who have benefited the BBKA rather than simply "putting them out to grass".

Executive Comment

As this is already the policy of the executive committee we feel that perhaps the practice just needs to be explained. We have for a number of years recognised that the knowledge and skills of retiring EC members need to be retained when useful. We do co-opt members onto sub-committees and retain services of others by using clause 5.2.6 of the constitution to award honoraria to people with particular skills that are needed to support the BBKA. We consider that the constitution provides adequately to retain those skills we need without need for further procedures.

05/2010 Dorset County BKA

This meeting expresses its regret at the action of the Executive in withdrawing from the (Fera) Healthy Bees Project Board. By the vote of this meeting, the Executive are instructed to rescind their action and rejoin the Project Management Board at the earliest possible opportunity.

Supporting notes

During recent years members have been encouraged to actively campaign for more support and funding for beekeeping from Government. Funding was made available to complement the Healthy Bees Plan published by Government early in 2009. This funding is time limited so that delays in implementation could result in less being achieved. By the action of withdrawing from the Project Management Board, the Executive have effectively disenfranchised the BBKA membership. Members pay their subscriptions in the belief that their interests will be best represented by the Executive — non engagement can never be the best option.

Costs of this motion are zero as expenses are payable to Project Board members. Other than their time to attend to Project Board matters, no other time commitment is required.

Executive Comment

The campaign run by the BBKA and strongly supported by the membership was for improved research funding. It has been a notable success. Some £10.5 million has now been made available under the Insect Pollinator Decline initiative and the Executive remains fully committed to this project. The Executive remains firmly committed to the basic principles of the Healthy Bees Plan (HBP) but has major difficulty with the way FERA has committed the £2.3 given to FERA/NBU without stakeholder involvement. Faced with the flawed structure of the Project Board and clear evidence that FERA was not listening or consulting, the Executive decided reluctantly after many months of negotiations to withdraw from the Project Board, to concentrate on the urgently needed education project. This decision was made in good faith and on the clear understanding of the ADM's mandate to the Executive to get on and manage the Association's affairs. Compelling the BBKA to return to the Project Board prematurely without exacting any change in its structure, governance or a change in FERA's approach to consultation is potentially disastrous and will dramatically weaken the position of strength and influence that the BBKA has achieved, with strong continuing public, media and political support. Much of what has been gained in recent years will be undone.

The background is set out here. As soon as the first announcement of funding was made by Hilary Benn in January and subsequently on publication of the Research Concepts document in February, the BBKA requested meetings with Defra. Further pressure for a meeting to review the application of the £2.3 million funds for the NBU and to review the Research Concepts was applied at the launch of the HBP at the beginning of March. A meeting was finally convened in York on 15 April, some three months after the initial request. At this meeting we asked for details of how the NBU funds should be applied but little was forthcoming. A further meeting in London on 20 May still failed to produce any solid information, although by now it was becoming clear that a large chunk was being committed to hiring more seasonal inspectors and there was talk of appointing an education officer. We held a meeting with senior FERA management in London on 17 June when we were promised information. The business case in 'redacted' form was made available to us in a meeting on 2 July. Whilst it contained limited information, this document and questioning revealed that of the £2.3 million given to the NBU, most of it had already been committed, without discussion or consultation with stake-holders, for increased inspectors, the disease survey (at an unrealistic and costly 99% confidence level), BeeBase and the now, two part-time education officers. Just some £350K remained for the implementation of the HBP. The BBKA expressed grave concerns over the emerging structure of the HBP Project Board structure which did not conform to the Government's own 'PRINCE2' format, combining 'stakeholders' and 'suppliers' in the same group, rather than providing for separate fora in which these groups could form their views

and transmit them to the project director to deliberate and instruct the project manager. A further meeting was convened at York with senior FERA officers to revisit these issues and on the basis of some reassurances, the BBKA committed to attend the first Project Board Meeting, held in London on 23 July. At this meeting, it quickly became clear that because of its composition it would be easy to override the opinions of major stakeholders such as the BBKA, due particularly to the presence of other Government representatives. The structure failed to recognise the fact that the BBKA represents by a large margin the biggest single group of beekeepers in the UK. The BBKA's proposal for a more conventional project structure was over-ridden with little discussion. FERA had decided how it wanted to run matters and was not open to negotiation or suggestions that might improve the chances of a successful outcome.

From the foregoing (6 meetings) it will be clear just how much effort for so little gain was put into trying to achieve a firm and proper basis for the implementation of the HBP. FERA clearly wanted it all its own way and once having secured our involvement in the Project Board, felt confident that it could drive matters down its own chosen route. It was also very clear by this point that it would fall largely to the BBKA to fill the various groups on education, science and communications etc. Given that the BBKA had already identified an urgent need to develop its own educational activities, the realisation began to emerge that we did not have the capacity to work on both FERA's plans and our own, and that it seemed likely that we would have to make a choice in favour of supporting our own project, avoiding being bogged-down in the machinations of government bureaucracy and control.

Further stark illustration of FERA's unwillingness to consult emerged during August when some £100K was 'found' by Defra to facilitate bee research. Instead of seeking advice on what this should be dedicated to (based perhaps, one might have hoped, on the BBKA Research Concepts document) FERA put forward work on Nosema and Small Hive Beetle, with which we had some but not full agreement and a surprising Social Science Study of beekeepers, for which we expressed total negativity, being a waste of funds urgently needed for other work. This episode was further compounded by pressure for instant decisions; 'we have to spend the money now or it would be lost' was the message! Indeed this has been a feature of the whole sorry story, in that FERA justifies its actions by stating that they had to spend the money straight away, rather than as we would prefer, agree the right priorities to be dealt with first. It was this last episode that 'broke the camel's back' and caused the Public Affairs Committee to recommend to the Executive that we attend the Project Board meeting on 8 September but to advise them of our withdrawal.

We remain in contact with FERA and look to them to fulfill their proposed changes to the structure and governance of the board. In the meantime the BBKA is concentrating on the all important Education Project which we believe will deliver more in terms of bee health than staying in the time consuming and resource sapping project board in its present form. The BBKA Executive is constantly urged to get on and manage, and in all modesty has delivered well to the membership. To second guess difficult decisions will not help the standing of the BBKA and the prospect of compelling the BBKA to return to the Board will massively weaken our position and achieve nothing to the good. It is of course the Executive's intention to continue in close contact with FERA and may return to the Board in due course but that decision must be predicated by a clear and sustained change in FERA's approach to consultation; this requires confidence to be rebuilt over-time. Compulsion will only ensure that FERA will continue in its present style, lose our hard-won position of strength and enable FERA to ignore the views expressed by the BBKA on behalf of the vast majority of beekeepers it represents.

06/2010 Avon Beekeepers Association

That the BBKA develop new train the trainer material to assist Associations to train beekeepers to a standard expected by the Certificate of General Husbandry.

Supporting notes

There is no doubt that the BBKA is the premier UK organisation for providing generalised training material for educating beekeepers. Not all Associations and their sub units have sufficient knowledge of the standards expected to gain the general certificate in Beekeeping husbandry to develop courses to prepare their members for this level yet, there is a need to encourage many more beekeepers to gain this qualification so that they can help their fellow members to improve their general standards of husbandry. This information can be most effectively prepared under the stewardship of the BBKA and then distributed to member Associations together with practical train the trainer sessions hosted by the BBKA.

Cost estimate of £3,000 and timescale of 12 months

Executive Comment

The Education & Husbandry standing committee fully agrees that such trainer material should be developed. It will form part of a larger framework of educational development which will include training resources for the student and trainer and development of the trainers themselves at various levels.

Over the last few months (and including the input gathered at the Open Forum in Oct 2009) E&H had been assessing and prioritising the need for educational material. Some of this need has included support for Associations in "what happens after the Basic...?"

Material for GH trainers will be developed during 2010 as far as resources and funding permit, along with other material with agreed priorities.

We note the cost and elapsed time estimates provided by Avon BKA. If this Proposition is accepted by the ADM, these estimates will be considered as part of the planning process, but will not be taken as constraints.

07/10 Harrogate and Ripon Beekeepers Association

That BBKA publish annually on its website the mark schemes for the modules.

Supporting notes

It is normal practice with examinations eg GCSE's and A Levels for mark schemes to be published.

Mark schemes for previous years are very helpful to tutors and to candidates as they help them to understand the breadth of knowledge and the depth of detail required to obtain the marks.

It would help in keeping people up to date as knowledge develops, and many previously reliable books become outdated. In addition they highlight key words that are essential to explanations.

If agreed we hope that they would be published on the members area of the website and be freely available.

Examination Board response to the Executive

It must first be pointed out that the Examinations Board operates independently of the Executive Committee. However the Examinations Board is prepared to respond to this proposition. The view of the Board is as follows:

While it recognises that some exam boards do make marking schemes generally available and that there is value to tutors and students in this approach, the nature of the BBKA syllabi and exam paper mean that the range of questions one can ask is very limited and it is not difficult to work out much of what could turn up eg Varroa control in module 3 or swarm control and prevention in module 1. Therefore there is concern about a potential tendency for lazy beekeepers to invest in a series of papers and their marking schemes and by going through them they soon pick up and learn by rote most of the information required to pass a future exam without a deep understanding that comes from the hard work and time invested reading beekeeping books, going to lectures, completing a course of instruction etc. In fact the Open University doesn't publicise marking schedules when the pool of possible questions is too small. There are also exam boards with a limited question bank (eg Institute of occupational health) that collect all the exam papers in so the bank material is not available.

The Board could widen the syllabus or change the pattern of the exam to counter the rote memorising of answers to the commonly asked questions by deploying more open essay questions and giving marks for style, communication, logical order of subject material, explanations for methods chosen etc. However, the Board recognise that an examination with this format of questions in the current examination time of an hour and a half would not allow the breadth of syllabus to be examined as does the current style of examination and essay type questions may not be popular with many candidates.

The marking schemes are extensive and in some instances allow for a number of possible answers. They are also enhanced during the marking and moderation process since the original version is not considered exhaustive or totally exclusive and so if published would cause confusion rather than clarity.

The Board would be prepared to develop a marking scheme for a specimen paper which would demonstrate how the papers are marked and the kind of answers required for each of the three sections.

08/2010 Avon Beekeepers Association

That the BBKA revamp their web site so that it is more user friendly, intuitive and has the ability to hold confidential information accessible to individual Association officers.

Supporting notes

The current website is not easy to navigate and it is not always clear where key information is located. There are occasions when it would be useful to have confidential information on the website that is only accessible by the BBKA office and specific officers in an Association. These pages could be encrypted and password protected. The BBKA website is the most popular website when entering beekeeping into Google and should remain there. It will lose its ranking if it is found difficult to access information. With the revamp there should be made available more space to supply information on bee health, good husbandry, IPM and many other beekeeping issues to help new and not-so-new beekeepers as a trusted source of information.

Cost estimate of £15,000 and timescale of 6 months

Executive Comment

The existing web-site was set-up a number of years ago and has served us well under the direction of our web-master Steve Turner. With the growth of the BBKA, the level of service demanded by the membership, the range of educational materials and services that need to be offered, it now seems to be appropriate to commission a new web-site. This should use up to date architecture, which will enable better access for the public, the shop, a secure members' area and further levels of security to enable accessibility by appropriate groups such as the Trustees and Committee Members. The new web-site should be designed to enable easier updating by authorised parties and have flexibility built-in, to enable further growth over time. The site should be built commercially and managed by our existing web-master.

09/2010 Avon Beekeepers Association

That the BBKA create a pack of display material for shows that can be purchased by Associations based on the material used at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower shows.

Supporting notes

The current display material provided by BBKA to Associations is in need of revision and any display material requires replacement about every five years. The display material at Chelsea and Hampton Court was developed by Philippa O'Brien and Twickenham BKA. It is highly professional and informative. Rather than re-invent the wheel the BBKA should adopt this material and provide it for hire or purchase by Associations suitably mounted on robust formers. The major cost will be obtaining the copyright and preparing say 10 copies for use by Associations.

Cost estimate of £2000 and timescale of 4 months

Executive Comment

The panels that were produced for Chelsea 2009 and those lent to the BBKA by Twickenham for the Hampton Court Flower Show are of a very high standard. They were produced by Laura O'Brien and the Executive is prepared to undertake to negotiate with her to make them available for reproduction in an appropriate form for purchase by Associations.

10/2010 BBKA Executive Committee

Amendment to constitution

Annexe B clause 13 to read:

13 debate and vote on the various Propositions submitted by the Area Association Members, Specialist Members and the EC, excluding any proposition that has the effect of overturning a decision taken by the ADM in the previous three years, whether it is to rescind a duly passed Proposition or to reverse a decision properly taken to rescind an earlier Proposition, unless EITHER the Executive Committee approve its being admitted, OR it is supported in writing by at least one quarter of Area Association Members of the BBKA with the submission of the proposition and Clause 12.1 of the Constitution has been complied with;

Supporting notes

The addition to the clause is taken directly from the current standing orders. It is felt that standing orders should be concerned with the conduct of the ADM not on definitions of what is a valid proposition and that the proper place for such a clause should be the constitution. This amendment has no significant effect on any current meanings of the constitution or the ADM standing orders except to make it clear that the support needs to be with the submission as defined in clause 12.1 of the constitution.

If this amendment is accepted then Standing Order 13 will effectively be removed as of the end of the meeting and SO14- 17 will be renumbered 13-16

Cost implications: None

11/2010 BBKA Executive Committee

Amendment to the constitution clause 18.3.5 to read:

18.3.5 candidates may be Registered Members, Partner Members, Country Members, Individual Members or Honorary Members only;

Supporting notes

It is considered that the exclusion of Country Members from the eligibility to serve on the Executive or Exam Board was an oversight. It will unnecessarily exclude well qualified ex-beekeepers.