



# The British Beekeepers' Association

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## Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> 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 & Dist	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 Chirnside	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 Richard
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

## BBKA Enterprises

## Correspondence Course

## Members Register

## Press Officer

Norman Carreck

Roger Cullum-Kenyon

Chris Utting

Jan Davis

Christine Gray

## Tellers

Mick Smith

Peter Spencer

Maurice West

Clive Joyce

## Visitors

Rob Andrews

Mark Ball

David Bancalari

M T Blake

Chris Broad

Sally Bucknall

Paul Cain

Neil Champion

Wendy Cummins

Robin Dartington

Liz Duffin

Jackie Greaney

Alan Hodgson

J Hughes

N Hughes

M S Jordan

Alan Kime

Dan Muggleton

C McDevitt

David Ramsden

Sandra Rickwood

Julian Routh

Val Sullivan

P Sutcliffe

Lilian Valentine

Jan Walker-Moore

Lancashire

Somerset

Worcestershire

Isle of Man

Sussex

Herefordshire

Buzzworks

Hampshire

Twickenham

Devon

Spring Convention

Spring Convention

Nottinghamshire

Exam Board Candidate

Cornwall West

Twickenham

Surrey

BBKA Executive Candidate

Cumbria

Vale and Downland

West Suffolk

# **BUSINESS MEETING**

## **President's Welcome**

Tim Lovett, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the 49<sup>th</sup> 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 Hoult, 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 48<sup>th</sup> 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) questioned an error in the wording of the proposition, Martin Smith to check.
- 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 need 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.

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 (Lancs), seconded Mike Duffin (Bournemouth):

**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 in 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 Eastal, 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 (Steve Mathews). 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 54      AGAINST: 2      ABSTENTIONS: 1

The amended substantive proposition was then put to the vote.

**PASSED:** FOR: 44      AGAINST: 12      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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 BBKA does not endorse any antibiotic product. Ivor Davis (Avon) felt that more scientific information was required, Mike Duffin (Bournemouth) 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 Steven 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), 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 South Dorset).

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 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.

DRAFT

## 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	John Dyer Mike Withers George King Reg Titheridge John Cossburn
	Meon Valley Romsey	
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