



DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No 270675

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General Secretary's Annual Report 2019 on behalf of the Executive Council

The DBKA President, Chris Smith welcomed everyone to the 2018 Devon Beekeepers' Day and mentioned that the Day was an opportunity to recognise the significant achievements of members, Branches & the Association throughout the previous year.

EC Meetings - there had been 5 EC meetings in 2019, 4 at Meldon Village Hall and one at Betty Cottles Inn, Okehampton. There had been a significant number of Branch Officer and Committee member changes at the 2019 Branch AGMs in November. Ken Basterfield had stood down as DBKA Education Officer during the year. Chris Smith would be standing down as DBKA President at the 2019 Devon Beekeepers' Day, as would Tony Lindsell as DBKA Chairman.

DBKA Governing Document - several minor amendments to the Document had been made.

eR2 - the BBKA eR2 system had continued to see improvements and additional functions during the year. The most significant of which was the introduction of on-line membership.

Bee Health Day - the Bee Health Day hosted by Tiverton Branch had been very successful and very enjoyable.

Asian Hornet - the Asian Hornet continued to maintain a high profile, and Jersey saw an alarming rise in the number of nests discovered and destroyed. We had received a grant of £2500 from the Foxgloves Charitable Trust for work on Asian Hornet initiatives. Our Asian Hornet Action Teams continue to develop their preparedness and are working with neighbouring Associations to ensure a consistent approach across the South West.

Devon Beekeepers' Day (DBD)/AGM - the EC had decided to capitalise on the success of the 2018 DBD. To improve accessibility to more members the location would rotate on an area basis - broadly the Exeter area, the Plymouth area, and the North Devon area. The DBD being brought closer to the start of the FY had been a success. A Q&A forum would be part of the Day, but not part of the AGM. The raffle would continue, and it had been agreed that proceeds from it would be distributed 50% to the DBKA President's Fund and 50% to BBKA General Funds. Each Branch would be asked to mount a display of its activities, highlighting good practice and Branch initiative. Opportunities would be explored for both trade support and a Pop-Up Shop. All examinations' certificates would be presented on the Day.

National Honey Show - DBKA's 20yr endowment with the Show for the 2 sponsored classes started this year. We were represented on the NHS Council by Chris Utting and Jack Mummery.

BeeCraft Magazine - we are the holder of 84 shares in this magazine and the 3 required trustees had been appointed by the EC as shareholders - Alan Binge, Christopher Smith, and Tony Lindsell.

Schools & Educational Establishments - the EC agreed to introduce a new membership category for those schools and educational establishments who wish to keep bees in their own right and wish to take a full part in all aspects of DBKA. They would also have on-line access to the "Bees in the Curriculum" area of the BBKA website, and access to the Junior Assessment without charge.

Training & Educational - the EC had formed an Education Sub-Committee and its Terms of Reference had just been agreed.

Devon County Show - This year saw a few new classes introduced which worked well. Some 420 competition entries which resulted in more prizes, awards, and monies paid out. John Roberts won the Blue Ribbon. The marquee was awarded the DCS Features Silver Medal. Okehampton Branch won the Stevenson Trophy. Torbay Branch won the Divisional Cup. Some publicity had been provided by both BBC and ITV News. Some succession planning is now in place.

BBKA - the BBKA had finalised its move to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). BBKA EC meeting summaries are now published on the BBKA website. There is also a spreadsheet of ADM propositions in order to track progress.

South-West Beekeepers' Forum (SWBKF) - three meetings had been held in Somerset during the year; its main focus had been on the way forward for BBKA and its members; the eR2 membership system; the BBKA ADMs; and the continued Asian Hornet threat.

Barry Neal

General Secretary

1st December 2019