



DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No 270675

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General Secretary's Annual Report 2018 on behalf of the Executive Council

The DBKA President, Chris Smith welcomed everyone to the 2018 DBKA President's 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 2018, all at Meldon Village Hall. Ruth Neal had stood down as DBKA Show Chairman & Secretary; the role had been taken over by Liz Westcott. Eunice Goodwin had become the Holsworthy Branch Delegate following the sudden death of Graham Jones. Colin Sherwood finished his year of EC membership as Immediate past-President.

DEFRA Consultation on Health & Harmony - the Chairman had responded to the DEFRA Consultation on Health & Harmony: the future of food, farming & the environment in a Green Brexit.

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

Data Protection - implementing the new GDPR requirements had not gone quite as well as anticipated as it had been discovered that the member data on the master DBKA database contained errors and was incomplete. The Data Protection Officer had arranged for each Branch to review and update their member data. Requests for GDPR Consent were still ongoing.

Finance - a copy of the report and the accounts for the financial year ending 30th September 2017 were displayed at the AGM with the Treasurer explaining the details of the report and an accompanying summary. It had been a successful year with the budget continuing to be met. Membership numbers had been slightly higher than the previous year. There would not be any change in DBKA subscriptions for 2019. The Finance Sub-Committee had the responsibility to address any issues arising with reserves. Other matters occurring during the year included the President's Fund distribution; the reduction of the Devon County Show insurance premium; Beekeeping Magazine costs being in line with that anticipated; and the £1 Branch Levy for Beekeeping Magazine not being collected next year.

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

Asian Hornet - DBKA members & the NBU had assisted Jersey beekeepers with their Asian Hornet problem. Tracking, co-ordination and communication issues had been identified. The NBU would have to take the next step.

Devon Beekeepers' Day/AGM - the originally planned Devon Beekeepers' Day had to be cancelled because of inclement weather. The AGM was subsequently held prior to an EC meeting on 7th April. The Devon Beekeepers' Day would now be held on Saturday 15th December 2018 in order to move it closer to the start of the DBKA year. It was also decided to move the venue around the County with Plymouth being the host this year.

National Honey Show - we were represented at the 2018 National Honey Show by Chris Utting and Ruth Neal. DBKA continued its sponsorship of 2 classes, and will enter into a 20yr endowment with the Show for the 2 sponsored classes; a saving of some 30%.

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 - Christopher Smith, Tony Lindsell and Alan Binge.

Devon County Show - a remarkable event this year for several reasons. First, the sun shone non-stop for all 3 days of the event. Secondly, neither Ruth nor Barry Neal were present at the show, which hadn't happened for many years & by coincidence, it was also the last show that Ollie Allen, the Devon County Agricultural Association Show Secretary, would organise before she retired. With the experience, enthusiasm and flexibility of stall managers and a long list of stewards & volunteers the Show was judged a success. Several last minute changes were made to the layout

in order to fill the marquee and allow plenty of room around the Candle Rolling stall. Numbers of visitors to the marquee were in line with recent years and all the national and local events happening on the Saturday didn't seem to affect attendance. The number of entries to the competitions continued to disappoint. The standard of entries in the Stevenson Trophy by 3 of our branches was outstanding. The Live Bee Handling was very popular as usual and even the certificates ran out at one stage. A stand organised by the Asian Hornet Action Team about the threat of the Asian Hornet to the UK was very attractive and generated much interest. Barry Neal had stood down as DBKA Chief Steward for the Show; the role had been taken over by Harriet Brooks.

BBKA - EC delegates had wondered where DBKA was going in respect of our membership of BBKA. Concern had been expressed over BBKA's lack of communication, and poor progress of propositions agreed at BBKA Delegate Meetings. There had been general concern about incorrect, misleading, and outrageous statements. The BBKA Constitution was being revised. There had been no update on the progress of the 2 Propositions put forward to the BBKA 2018 ADM concerning the importation of honey bees particularly relevant to the situation of the small hive beetle in Italy. It had been agreed by the EC that DBKA would submit a proposition that should the revised BBKA Constitution as approved not include a requirement for BBKA minutes of EC and other BBKA committee meetings to be published on the BBKA website (Members' Area) for all members to see, then the following amendment should be made:

"Minutes - Charity trustees must keep minutes of all elections and appointments of officers and trustees; proceedings at general meetings of the CIO, and of the Charity trustees and committees of Charity trustees including the names of the trustees present at the meeting; the decisions made at the meetings and by the Charity trustees otherwise than in meetings; and where appropriate the reasons for the decisions. The minutes of general meetings of the CIO, and Charity trustees and committees of Charity trustees meetings, both draft and final, shall be available on the BBKA website as soon as they are written, for all BBKA members to see."

South-West Beekeepers' Forum (SWBF) - three meetings had been held in Somerset during the year; its main focus had been on the proposed revised BBKA Constitution.

Barry Neal

General Secretary

15th November 2018