



# BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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## STARVATION WARNING



Winter is moving along very nicely although it has been very wet and damp with not many cold, frosty and sunny days. More and more on the warmer days, where the temperature has risen to around 8 deg - 10deg, our bees have been flying. This tells us several things. First and foremost the colony is still alive. If you have been carrying out a regular hefting of the hive, you will have noticed it is getting a little lighter each time. This is normal as the bees are consuming the stores in the hive. The queen is becoming active, laying more, which in turn means the workers have to generate more heat to rear the brood.

We are coming up to the most critical time for our colonies. Most of the winter stores will have been consumed by now. Do not think that the bees are flying and therefore they will be bringing in stores, they will not. Maybe some pollen from early flowering bulbs such as crocus and snowdrops and maybe a few other early flowering shrubs. Take a look around your area and see what's about (not much), and what there is will not be in a large enough quantity to do any good; there is virtually no nectar around.

The last thing any of us want to do is get a colony through the winter only to have them starve in the early spring. It is time to put a block of fondant or candipolline on the colony. I put mine on the crown board over the vent hole, but you can put it straight over the frames, either way is good. Please don't put a block of food on and think that's it. One of my colonies consumed a 1.2 kilo block of fondant in a week.



Keep hefting and checking for food. Here's looking forward to a good beekeeping season.

Newsletter Editor: Penny Ward

E-mail: [badbkanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:badbkanewsletter@gmail.com)

### Committee Members and contact details:-

Club President :	Ken Logue
Chairperson:	Richard Matkin 01283 812958
Secretary:	David Coates 01283 713603
Membership & Honey Show Secretary:	Cath Ambler 07973 369888 cath.ambler @gmail.com
Treasurer :	Sam Hampton sam.hampton@btinternet.com
Education /Training :	Suzanne King suzanne.king21@btinternet.com
Website Manager :	Alan Ambler http://burtonbka.org.uk
Sue Coates	susan_coates@talktalk.net
Shelia Pirie	smpirie@hotmail.co.uk
Hamish Low	hamish51151@gmail.com
Kathy Shaw	kathylambshaw@gmail.com
Kevin Shaw	ozzy@live.co.uk
Bob Hurd	pat_bob@talktalk.net

### Club Meeting Dates for your Diary 2018

Henhurst & District Recreational Club	19th February
Henhurst Hill,	19th March
Burton-On-Trent,	16th April - Celia Davies
Staffordshire,	21st May
DE13 9TB	



### Events Programme : February 2018 - April 2018

#### **BIBBA : Sustainable Beekeeping: A Future without Imports**

**When** : Saturday, Feb 17, - 2018  
**Where** : Eden Project, Bodelva, Par PL24 2SG, UK  
**Web page** : [bibba.com/event/sustainable-beekeeping-future-without-imports/](http://bibba.com/event/sustainable-beekeeping-future-without-imports/)

#### **Beetradex 2018**

**When** : Saturday March 3, 9:00am – 4:30pm  
**Where** : Hall H3 Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth CV8 2LG, UK  
**Web page** : <http://www.beetradex.co.uk/>



# WHAT'S ON



## SWARM MANAGEMENT

ONE DAY COURSE FOR BEEKEEPERS

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 9.00am – 4.30pm

*“Essential training for every beekeeper who wants to improve his beekeeping, and gather more honey from his/her colonies.”*

Tickets £20 available via:

Eventbrite <http://www.burtonbka.eventbrite.co.uk>

Or email [dave.coates32@gmail.com](mailto:dave.coates32@gmail.com)



**BURTON** and District  
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Tony Harris Short  
Course Director  
NDB will cover

Understanding  
Honeybee Swarm  
Behaviour

Swarm Prevention  
and Control  
Techniques

Bait Hives and  
Collecting Swarms

### PRIORY CENTRE

Church Street  
Stretton  
Burton on Trent  
Staffs DE13 0HF

You can book your place on  
this course through  
Eventbrite

at

[www.burtonbka.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.burtonbka.eventbrite.co.uk)

or

contact Daves Coates

at

[dave.coates32@gmail.com](mailto:dave.coates32@gmail.com)

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**BBKA Exams & Modules for 2108**

### PLEASE REMEMBER

If you are interested in taking any BBKA exams

this year and would like more info,

please contact

either Dave Coates or Suzanne King.

Telephone & email contact details can be found

on page 2 of the newsletter.

## GRAND RAFFLE

**WE WERE UNABLE TO DRAW THE RAFFLE AT THE AGM**

**TICKETS WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE TO BUY**

**AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 19TH 2018**

**FOR THE GRAND PRIZE OF:-**

**QUEEN EXCLUDER, ONE SUPER, CROWN BOARD AND A ROOF.**

**TICKETS ARE £1 EACH**

**BUY AS MANY AS YOU LIKE, THE MORE YOU BUY, THE BETTER  
YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING!**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ANY OF OUR MEETINGS OR**

**SEND A CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO**

**“BURTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION”**

**WITH A S.A.E TO:**

**CATH AMBLER, THE PADDOCKS, 49 ROSETREE LANE,**

**NEWHALL, DERBYSHIRE, DE11 0LN.**

[cath.ambler@gmail.com](mailto:cath.ambler@gmail.com)



## January 2018 AGM in Brief

### Chairmans Welcome - Richard Matkin



The Burton and District Beekeepers Association AGM was held on Monday 15th January 2018 at the Henhurst Recreation Centre, Swadlincote. Our chairman Mr Richard Matkin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Reflecting back on the past year, which has been our first year as an independent Association, Richard was pleased to report that in all ways taking the step to independence had been a good choice. The Association now has a membership of 113 people, the highest yet recorded for our club and our meetings were continually well attended. This year had seen the club drawing on home grown talent and the experience and knowledge of our own committee members, with three of them giving talks to our own club members and many visitors from neighbouring associations.

Looking to the future, we are aiming to build on this foundation of sharing knowledge by acquiring our own training apiary, which will support both newcomers and experienced beekeepers alike. One of the targets for the coming year is to identify a suitable site and look at purchasing our own ground for a training apiary. In 2017 visit were made to eight other Association apiaries, which enabled our committee to gain valuable insight into what worked, and what we would like to avoid when setting up our own training apiary.

Richard also considered the needs of the club members at present and how best to encourage members to get the most from the association meetings, for example, our Christmas party night, which didn't attract the usual high number of attendees. Richard asked for feedback and ideas from all club members as to how we could improve this event - the date, the food, the entertainment etc were all discussed and the need to make this annual event a fun evening and good social opportunity for club members to enjoy.

Richard then ended his report by announcing that, after 13 years service Mr Bob Hurd had asked to step down as club treasurer. Bob was thanked for his service in this role and everyone was reassured that he is to stay on as a valued member of the club.

### Secretaries Report. - Dave Coates

Dave Coates gave a full secretaries report, reflecting positively on the benefits of becoming an independent association and the strength of membership numbers. He also looked at Education as a key factor and was pleased to report that 7 members had taken BBKA Module exams last November, the results being anticipated by the end of January. Thanks were expressed to McMurty & Harding Vets as Ashbourne for kindly permitting the use of their conference room as an examination room, which had worked particularly well, and to Suzanne King our Education secretary, for her time and effort in helping run the Module one course. He confirmed that the Association fully intended to continue to offer BBKA courses again in 2018 and anyone interested in taking a course should contact Suzanne or Dave to express their interest.

He also looked at key areas for improvement and raised the annual Honey show as something we would also like to see wider member participation with. Traditionally held in September, there were over 100 entries this year, but from a small number of members. A discussion on how to encourage more members to get involved, both to improve competition and entry numbers followed. Ideas such as changing the date of the show possibly being slightly later in the year, along with the current members involved giving some time to "new exhibitors" to give tips on presentation etc, may help. A talk on Show advice was also considered as being a "Topic of discussion" for a monthly meeting prior to the show.

Dave ended his talk by introducing Sam Hampton as the new Club Treasurer.

## Treasurers Report - Sam Hampton



Sam handed out copies of the Associations Year End financial report and accounts to those present. The report included a detailed breakdown of :-

- Reference and Administrative Details
- Report of the Committee
- Achievements and Performance and Financial Review
- Report of the Independent Examiner
- Year End Accounts for the Association
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities At 31 December 2017

Those present were invited to comment and discuss the accounts and ask any questions. Sam then explained that one of the targets for 2018 was for the Association to apply for Charitable Status. The benefits and reasons behind this were highlighted as:

1. Ownership of assets is more straightforward, particularly over time, when committee members change regularly.
2. Gift Aid can be recovered on some elements of an Associations income
3. It makes raising funds form larger "Giving Charities" easier.

Those present were asked to pass a resolution supporting the proposal of the Burton and District Beekeepers Association becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ( CIO).

Those present voted in favour of the proposal. - Sam Hampton is to move forward on this vote and apply for charitable status.

Other issues discussed were:-

- The Association Shop—This is to continue as before and will be available to members at monthly meetings.
- Fund Raising towards the Training Apiary. The first event is set to be held on 3rd February 2018 in the form of a Pig Race to be held at Hanbury Village Hall. It is hoped further events will be planned though out the coming year.
- Election of Officers : It was proposed to those present that the committee be re-elected back in on mass. This was voted on, approved and seconded on the night.
- The committee expressed a wish for wider committee membership, especially as the need for trustees would arise once charitable status was approved. Those present were invited to propose members or join the committee. A new member, Mr Nigel Collier, was proposed and voted onto the committee.
- The date for next years AGM to be confirmed - consideration being given to this being held in February 2019.
- The newsletter editor - Penny Ward will have a trial run at publishing the newsletter bi-monthly to enable it to be more up to date with information.

The meeting was closed by our Chair, Richard Matkin who expressed a wish for all to have "More Honey and less Swarms" in 2018.

## Events Feedback:



## Christmas Party.

The Christmas party was held on 11th December 2017,. This year it was also our Association Presentation night for the annual Honey show. Committee members had kindly cooked and prepared a feast of curry with baked potatoes which was enjoyed by everyone present and was followed with a wide selection of indulgent puddings,, I do

recall that quite a few of those present had so much trouble in deciding which pudding to have that many had no option other than to sample several of these!.

Entertainment was provided by our own table top magician, who delighted and puzzled us with up close magic as well as giving a stage performance once we had all eaten.

This was followed by the presentation of the cups to winners of classes in our Annual Honey Show in September. This year we were also able to award the Blue Ribbon Prize as we had succeeded in having over 100 hundred entrants.

A good night was had by all and thanks must go to the committee for organizing both an entertaining evening and a very tasty meal all round.



## Pig Race and Pie & Peas Supper Night.



Our first Training Apiary fund raising event was held on 3rd February 2018 at Hanbury Village Hall. Many of those who had bought tickets were more than a little unsure as to the precise nature of this event and attended with both trepidation and curiosity. This uncertainty however had not put those who wished to attend off and the event was a complete sell out. With support from many local businesses ( a list of these can be found in a special Thank you section on the back page of this newsletter) our prize table

boasted over 30 prizes and we raised a respectable £255 on the raffle before the night had even begun. Everyone was at risk from being chosen to jockey one of the six cheerfully painted "pigs" and although the lady who kindly showed us all how to race them did not make it look too difficult, many of us found it to be a lot harder than it looked. However, the atmosphere of excitement, and elation when a well backed pig crossed the finish



line never diminished as the night wore on. A most satisfying and tasty Pie & Pea supper was served at half time, and once everyone had recharged, the second half of the evening only seemed to have everyone more involved than before . The ultimate race was an Auction race and the support given



from those in the hall was unquestionable. Our chairman Richard Matkin stood at the end of the evening and thanked everyone for their support. And the organisers for running it. Once all the costs for the event had been paid the amount raised on the evening was £1499.00p, everyone agreed it was a good evening out and a good start to our fund raising. It is hoped many more events both small and large will be held during 2018 to help raise funds for our training apiary. If you have any ideas and would like help, please contact me at the newsletter or any member of the committee.

## Education Opportunity.

### A Practical Bee keeping Course for Beginners and Improvers

#### THE COURSE.

To be run over six Sunday mornings, starting on 8th April. The training will begin at 10.00am and finish at 12.30pm. Notes will be supplied as will protective clothing if needed. Both discussion and practical sessions are designed to give wide-ranging knowledge and confidence in order for students to become competent beekeepers. Each session will include hands-on experience with the bees.

#### THE DATES.

8th April, 15th April, 22nd April, 29th April, 6th May and 9th May.



#### THE TRAINERS.

Kathy and Kevin Shaw have both kept bees for over forty years and currently operate a honey farming business with out-apiaries situated in Staffordshire and Derbyshire. The Shaw's are both disease assurance scheme for honeybees accredited having been audited by the National Bee Unit inspectors. Keeping healthy bees and keeping up to date with scientific advances regarding honeybee pests and diseases are key to successful beekeeping in the 21st Century according to the Shaw's.

#### THE COST.

£125 per person.

To book a place please email;

[info@beeworthyhives.co.uk](mailto:info@beeworthyhives.co.uk) or ring

01889 562196 evenings, or 07714022971 during the day.

## Buy & Sell

Over Wintered five frame nucs, containing an August queen, on British standard or 14x12 frames also available from mid April. £175 each. Contact details as above.

If anyone is interested in purchasing an observation hive, please speak with Mr Brian Burton as he has one available for sale, or please pass your enquiries on to me at [badbkanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:badbkanewsletter@gmail.com) and I will forward them to Mr Burton.

### Topic For Debate:

### **APIVAR**

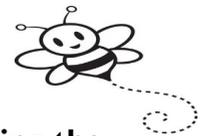
<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/amitraz-red-flags-or-red-herrings/>

Apivar has been approved as a varroa treatment in the UK. but there is concern that the effects of the active ingredient Amitraz isn't good on the bees. When using any varroa treatment we should think about the reactions of chemicals on both bees, the brood as well as the hive, the wax and the environment. We are all aware of neonics and other aggro-chemicals and the risks of these to our colonies. But reports state that when combined with neonics, amitraz increases the negative effects by 20 times other chemicals 5 times, so maybe this needs thinking about. It is claimed that Amitraz breaks down into DMPF which lingers in beeswax, this is listed as a reproductive and development toxin. It can cause birth defects, which is not great if you make any products using the wax. Whilst we don't think the levels would be high enough to cause these defects, it's still not nice. If anyone would like to research this further or comment on this article, please email me at :-

[badbkanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:badbkanewsletter@gmail.com)



# THANK YOU'S



Thanks goes to the following businesses for supporting the fundraising towards our Training Apiary at the **PIG RACE EVENT**.

Useful websites:-

**DAVE CUSHMAN**

[www.dave-cushman.net](http://www.dave-cushman.net)

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**ROGER PATTERSON**

Honey recipes

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

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**BEE CONNECTED**

[beeconnected.org.au](http://beeconnected.org.au)

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**BEE BASE**

[www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)

<https://bibba.com>

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**BURTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

[burtonbka.org.uk](http://burtonbka.org.uk)



**M.W CHIMNEY SWEEP**

MARK WARING

DERBYSHIRE N TEL: 01335 330352

Trained and certified by the Guild of Master Sweeps



# Into Bikes Ltd

Marchington Industrial Estate, Stubby Ln, Marchington, Uttoxeter ST14 8LP



Coopers Square  
Burton upon Trent  
MEET, SHOP, ENJOY



Raffle Prizes were kindly donated by:

**Marston's Brewery  
R V Tractors  
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Hallmark Tractors  
J. Harvey  
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**L. M Millward  
MW Chimney Sweep  
Alans MOT Centre  
V. Bridgett  
M. Templesmith  
Sue's Chocolates**

Plus many individuals and club members on the night - Thank you

# BBKA Examinations Board

Dear All,

Here we are at the start of another new year and as usual here is a round up of last years' activities. There are changes to procedures and the two new qualifications are open to all this year.

A lot of hard work by one and all so many thanks and Happy New Year. Regards Val

## Syllabus and Procedural

### Changes for 2018 Module deferrals:

This is more a warning of future enforcement, too many candidates have been leaving notification to the last minute! So this is the relevant extract from the Procedure Manual which will be available on the Website –well worth a read.

- 11.2 Candidates who do not turn up for Examinations or Assessments will forfeit their fee for that Examination/ Assessment unless the Board Secretary has been advised in writing **at least two (2) week** in advance of the Examination or Assessment.
- 11.3 In the event of illness, injury of the candidate or sudden death of an immediate family member occurring within two (2) weeks prior to the Examination or Assessment full details shall be submitted to the Board Secretary immediately. The Board will then decide whether the Examination or Assessment may be rescheduled or whether the fee is forfeit. This paragraph will be applied sympathetically.

**Applications:** only the candidate now needs to sign the application form. Hopefully we'll be introducing online applications once the new membership system is up and running.

### Two new qualifications:

Assessors will be trained in March/April. For the Bee Health they will be invited from those experienced Basic Assessors who also hold Module 3 Certificate. The **Bee Health Certificate** will be organised by the local exam secretary in the same way as Basics – guidelines will be sent out in April. The **Bee Breeding Certificate** will be organised centrally like the other higher practical assessments.

**Invigilator remuneration:** there is to be a change in the way module invigilators are remunerated. Due to the cost of cheques and postage, in future the invigilator will receive a £10 Marks & Spencer Voucher with the initial paperwork. We hope the invigilators will appreciate the range of items from M&S and not having to bank a cheque.

**Assessor payments:** as you are already aware we are also trying to pay as many assessor remunerations as possible by BACS so please let Jacqueline in the office have your sort code and account number if you haven't done already.

## Examination Dates 2018

ALL MODULE Examinations - March– 24th 2018

*(Applications in by 10th February 2018)*

ALL MODULE Examinations - Nov– 10th 2018

*(Applications in by 30th September 2018)*

### Future module dates

**2019** March 23rd November 9th

**2020** March 21st November 14th

Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry  
8/9/10th June and 29/30 June 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> July depending on numbers *(Applications in by 28th February 2018)*

General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry date by arrangement with the Examinations Board Secretary *(Applications in by 28th February 2018)*

Microscopy Certificate  
**24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 other dates as required**  
*(Applications in by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018)*

BEE HEALTH CERTIFICATE  
By arrangement with the Local Examinations Secretary  
*(Applications in by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 last date for Assessment 31<sup>st</sup> July)*

BEE BREEDING CERTIFICATE  
date by arrangement with the Examinations Board Secretary *(Applications in by 28th February 2018)*

Basic and Junior Certificate date by arrangement with the County Examinations Secretary  
*(Applications 1 month before assessment last date for Basic Assessment 31<sup>st</sup> August)*

### Web Site

The new web site has been launched this week. Access to Exams and Learning is in the Members Area. We are still working on adding everything and dealing with teething problems but everything should settle down in a couple of weeks.

Module exam papers have been an issue. We are now selling the papers in bundles of 6 papers for £5. They will still be available individually from the Spring Conference and National Honey Show or from BBKA National Office.

### Module Results March 2017

Module	Number	Pass	Credit	Distinction	Fail	Pass Rate
1	97	35	28	12	22	77%
2	30	9	5	2	14	53%
3	25	11	5	5	4	84%
5	45	12	21	5	7	84%
6	50	20	11	4	15	70%
7	35	11	8	2	14	60%
8	26	16	5		5	81%
	308	114	83	30	81	74%