



NEWSLETTER



Dear Member,

Some 25 of your fellow “beeks” attended our **Extraordinary General Meeting** on **Tuesday 17th October** and further 5 watched on Zoom. It was quite disappointing that more members weren't able to attend the EGM either in person or online. However, there was a solid turnout with many familiar faces who – in the end - made very useful contributions to the ‘open forum’ discussion.

With an eye to shaping the future role of the Club in the lives of its members and the local community, the EGM considered a range of topics ranging from how best to:

- Encourage greater engagement among members, new and old.
- Enhance our community outreach - especially to schools and young people.
- Extend networking with other Divisions and like-minded organisations.

Suggestions put forward included:

- Reducing cliques and helping people to integrate by having rotating hosts and “welcomers” for new members at meetings.
- Fostering closer relationships with beginners to by offering new opportunities to learn and discovering ways to utilise each individual's skill set.
- Creating membership interest and working party groups by leveraging digital technologies.
- Holding more activities at the Club – especially external speakers, members question time meeting and vital topic presentations.

You can view a video of the EGM by clicking here <https://youtu.be/2Z6EEClcNIQ>

Next month, a summary of all the ideas put forward at the EGM will be circulated to all members along with a questionnaire and a general survey of members and their views.

The results of these activities will be used to create a **Club Plan for 2025** which is

Intended to be circulated to all, for agreement at this year's **Annual General Meeting** on **Tuesday 19th November**.

Please do take the time to read and comment on these items. Come along to our meetings and consider getting more involved or send me an email at chair@epsombeekers.co.uk. It is only by active engagement from within, that this Club will continue to thrive.

Best wishes

Stuart

Stuart Gendall, Chair, EBKA

Notices

• **Next Club Meeting**

The next "Bee Workshop" will be held at the Clubhouse at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 1st October**. In a follow up from last month's workshop, Liz Knee will be continuing to discuss how to prepare your colonies for winter successfully. She will focus on hive ventilation and insulation.

Nick Fry and John Fatcher will be showing us some of their equipment used to insulate hives and talk about technology to monitor temperature and humidity *in situ*.

There will also be time to discuss any current issues with your bees and recap any information to help you get them winter ready.

At our EGM it was suggested that we hold bimonthly Club Meetings throughout the year (perhaps on different days). The Committee is looking into that. For the time being our Club Meetings will revert to one a month on the first Tuesday of the Month from November.

• **Why not join a Study Group?**

If you have passed your Basic Assessment and are looking to progress further along the BBKA exam structure, then why not consider joining the Study Group for Module 1 Honey Bee Management?

The intention is to meet once a week or so to go through the syllabus and look at some past papers ... with a view to taking the exam in March 2025.

For more information, contact Howard at education@epsombeekers.co.uk.



• Don't Forget to Renew your Club Membership

The 2023/24 BBKA membership year is coming to an end on 30th September. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to renew your EBKA membership for 2024/25 as soon as possible.

Members benefit from insurance, a monthly digital or print magazine (with a fully searchable online archive) as well as access to our Club facilities, mentoring, education and social activities. If you've any questions, contact our Membership Secretary, Kim Broughton at membership@epsombeekers.co.uk.

• Appeal for Shows Committee Volunteers

Beekeepers from Surrey Divisions continue to attend a number of local and county shows and promote awareness Beekeeping and the threat of the Yellow Legged Hornet.

We always get great feedback from the public who increasingly value our input on everything from what to plant in the garden to support bees, to why local honey tastes so much better than the stuff from the supermarket.

If you've enjoyed taking part in your local county shows and would be keen to engage with the public on a wider scale, the BBKA Shows Committee team are seeking more volunteers to help share the BBKA story and promote the importance and understanding of beekeeping to a wider audience.



The role can be incredibly fulfilling and fun, offering access to some brilliant shows - if you're interested in finding out more, contact BBKA's Outreach officer, [Kirsteen Thorne](mailto:kirsteen@epsombeekers.co.uk).

Shop News

October marks the beginning of the Winter Season for beekeepers and the ordering season for Association shopkeepers. For our Epsom shop it all starts with the **Annual Stock Count on Monday 7th October**.

Please note that all orders placed during September must be collected by **12:30pm on Saturday 5th October**. Any uncollected orders will be cancelled while we count stock. You will need to re-order after **Tuesday 8th October** for collection **Saturday 19th October** or thereafter. If you have any questions, please email shop@epsombeekers.co.uk.

The weather forecast is now showing daytime temperatures of high teens and low twenties. However, overnight temperatures are dropping below 12 °C. This will impact the efficacy of the **Thymol** based varroa treatments so if you haven't yet treated your bees,

please plan to use **Apivar** – which can be left in place for 10 weeks to ensure efficacy or **Apibioxal** either sublimation or dribbling.

These easy-to-use treatments are available at the Epsom Shop:

- **Apivar** £33 for 5 treatments, NB. These cannot be split at the shop so get together with a friend if you have less than 5 hives.
- **Apibioxal** £13.50 for 35g – about 10 treatments – great for sublimating or dribbling onto colonies.



Once treated your bees may need top up feeding. Across much of the Epsom area, the ivy has already finished flowering. So, you may want to switch to Ambrosia syrup. The key benefits of using it include:

- There's less work making it up (and less mess for the "other half" to complain about in kitchen!),
- It's a mix of Fructose & glucose – there's less crystallisation in the comb and bees need less water to be able to use it, and
- It's high sugar concentration leads to less mould in the feeder as bees take it down to store.

A 12.5kg "jerry can" of Ambrosia is available for £27 to members. For more information about Ambrosia syrup click [here](#). Place your order in advance using our [On-line Shop](#).

A reminder that the Apiary shop will be operating on **Winter opening times** through to end of March 2025 now. We look forward to seeing you whenever there is an Association meeting and on the first and third Saturdays of each month:

- Tuesday 1st October: 7pm to 7:30pm
- Saturday 5th October: 11:30am to 12:30pm
- Saturday 19th October: 11:30am to 12:30pm
- Tuesday 5th November 7pm to 7:30pm

And finally, Helen Worwood will be completing handover of shop matters (and the keys!) to Nigel Edwards during October. We thank Helen for all her hard work at the Shop which has helped make it the success it is. And, we wish Nigel well as he gets to grips with his new role. Nigel and the team will be placing the orders for everything we need to keep your bees well housed, healthy and happy. Please do continue to support them. Every penny you spend goes back to the Association helping improve our learning about these wonderful buzzy critters.

• **Thank You to the “Jarring Team”**

Big thanks to everyone who helped jarring the club honey - including Chi, Helen & Barry, Chris & Val, Orlanda, Kate & Hubby, Angela and Gill & John. Your cheerful, energetic

and careful efforts saw us assemble over 300lbs of sweetness which we can sell to make great contribution towards our funds! Thanks again for a delightful and productive time.

AH Week Boosts Public Awareness

BBKA Outreach officer, [Kirsteen Thorne](#), is sending a big thank you to everyone who helped to raise awareness during **Asian Hornet Week** (Monday 2nd to Sunday 8th September).

By sharing ideas, resources, social media posts, or contributing towards the media coverage – teams around the country generated a great deal of national publicity and discussion about the dangers of the insect invader.



One such collaborative effort involved teams from across Kent, Jersey, the NBU and central BBKA who contributed to a detailed feature “**The Killer Hornets**” which was broadcast locally by BBC South East on 6th September and then made available to audiences across the country via the BBC iPlayer. You can listen to the feature by clicking this link [iplayer/the-killer-hornets](#).

There were also interviews on ITV Meridian, BBC 5 Live breakfast and BBC Surrey - which included Epsom’s very own Helen Worwood whose moment of fame starts 1:40 minutes into the following [link](#). Apart from broadcast media, a large number of organisations, councils and online news sites and specialist media shared BBKA press releases and AH spotting sheet on their digital channels, and BBKA social media communications during the week were further picked up on and shared on a number of other external stakeholder platforms.

• Rise in YLH Sightings

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in Yellow Legged Hornet sightings across the southeast, most recently a confirmed sighting in [Southampton](#). A total of **18 nests** have been found and destroyed this year. For more visit [National Bee Unit’s Rolling Update](#).

The NBU Bee Inspectors have observed that the hornets are now feeding on both tree borne fruit and fallen fruit and flowering ivy so an alert will be published on [BeeBase](#) asking beekeepers to lookout for insects feeding on this type of forage.

• New YLH Co-ordinators

There have been some personnel changes in Surrey’s YLH Co-ordinator team. County Co-ordinator, Helen Worwood has welcomed new members **Alex Haswell** at Croydon and **Nick Fry** at Epsom. Thanking outgoing team members Anna Slade, John Futchter and

Jonathan Brookhouse, she said: “Your support getting us to the place where we are is much admired by our neighbouring counties, and we are really beginning to see the benefits of this “together everyone achieves more” approach.”

Surreys AHAT Co-ordinators are shown in the table below. To contact one of them, click on the map at [BBKA AH Teams](#).

County			
Helen Worwood (Epsom)			
Division			
Croydon	Alex Haswell	Epsom	Nick Fry
Farnham	Julie Trice	Guildford	TBC
Kingston	Avis Marshall	Reigate	Andy Robinson
Weybridge	Andrew Halstead	Wimbledon	Gareth Morgan

And don't forget ...



For regular updates and information on your Club's activities log on to the [Members' Section](#) of the Epsom Beekeepers' website.

The password is **Ewell**.

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