

# north staffordshire beekeepers association January 2012 Newsletter

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

To The Members

next meeting  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012**  
The Friends Meeting House Miller Street,  
Newcastle-u-Lyme ST5 1JD  
7.00 for 7.30  
**NSBKA Annual General Meeting**



List of meeting details will be published in the next NewsLetter but make a note in your diary that the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** evening of each month is reserved for **NSBKA Meetings**.



## “Chairman’s Chat” – January 2011

First of all I must thank everyone who contributed to our December social to make such a feast, all ably organised by Pat Twigg and her unsung helpers. Before the meal we were treated to a great talk on Staffordshire butterflies by Dave Emley from Keele University. I just wish I could remember the names of the quite familiar butterflies depicted in his remarkable pictures, but may have to resort to buying yet another guide!

Our next meeting, which will be held at The Friends Meeting House on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.30pm, will be our AGM. I had hoped I would be able to offer a new constitution for you all to consider, but unfortunately the considerable work undertaken by a sub-committee to prepare this has not been agreed by the committee as a whole. We have therefore decided to carry on for the time being with our old constitution, and put the matter back in the hands of the new committee to be elected at the AGM. We will, however, put two new items on the Agenda for you to consider. The first will be the election of trustees, and the second the proposed change in the membership year to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. The reason for this proposed change will be explained at the AGM, but our present subs will not be renewed until 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2013, and annually thereafter, providing you all agree to this.

I do hope you will all try to attend the AGM as there are various vacancies to be filled. My wife and I are leaving the district to relocate to Dorset, subject to selling our home, so I will not be standing for re-election to the Chair, Trustee or Committee as a result. It is vital for the well-being of our association that we have a regular supply of new blood to run the show, so please do volunteer, if you have any free time.

Lastly, do keep checking your bees during the Winter. Make sure they have enough food, that they are free from vermin and if you decide to treat for Varroa then early January is a good time for oxalic acid treatment.

May I wish you all good health and a great new beekeeping year!

Cheers Dave Cheek ([davidcheek@talktalk.net](mailto:davidcheek@talktalk.net)) 01630 647584

## NSBKA Annual General Meeting

The Association exists to promote beekeeping and within the Association, we try to organise and promote activities for you the members.

Whilst any member is totally free to make comment or suggestion at any time, the AGM is your main opportunity to have your say about what we do, how we do it and what you would like from your Association. So come along and make your voice heard.

All of the AGM documentation i.e. the minutes for last years AGM, the Annual Trustees Report and the Financial accounts have been loaded on the Association website. For those members who do not have access to the Internet, if you contact Nick Mawby on 01538 387506, Nick will post you a copy. Copies will also be made available at the meeting in for reading before the meeting.

### **The agenda for the AGM is:**

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION** - *Registered Charity no 511576*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 4h JANUARY 2012**

**Quaker Meeting House, Miller Street, Newcastle, Staffs at 7.30pm**

#### **AGENDA**

- 1** President's Welcome
- 2** Apologies
- 3** Amendments to, and approval of, Minutes of 2011 AGM (previously published)
- 4** Presentation of the accounts and Treasurer's Report (previously published)
  - a. Questions to the treasurer
  - b. Questions for the account inspectors
  - c. Approval of the new categories of membership
- 5** Questions from members on the Officers' and Trustees' Reports (previously published)
- 6** Proposal from the committee  
'The membership year of the association will commence on 1st February.' 'To bring this into effect the current membership year due to end 30th September 2012 will be extended to 31st January 2013. The financial year end will remain unchanged at 30th September.'
- 7** Any other matters arising from the minutes
- 8** **Election of Officers**
  - President
  - Vice-Presidents
  - Chairman
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Assistant/Minutes Secretary
  - Membership Secretary
  - Programme Secretary
  - Honey Show Manager
  - Editor of Newsletter/Combings
  - Social Committee Representative
  - BBKA Delegate
- 9** Election of Members of the Committee
- 10** Election of two accounts inspectors
- 11** Election of Trustees
- 12** Any other Business
- 13** Date of Next Committee Meeting
- 14** Presentation of Cups

## **Mead making course – Harrogate 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

A course is being organised in association with the Yorkshire Beekeepers. For more information contact either *Mrs Erica Osborn MA - 61 Broadheath Drive, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6EU, England* Telephone 0208 467 4639 – email [erica.Osborn@talktalk.net](mailto:erica.Osborn@talktalk.net) or **DT (NSBKA)**

## NSBKA Christmas Social – Thank You and YOU and YOU!

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, it feels a long time from Christmas but for many of our members, it marked the start of the Christmas festivities when they enjoyed an excellently informative talk and picture show from Dave Emley followed by a magnificent feast of good food and drink and Harry Potter proportions.

Events of this type do not just happen by chance and whilst all members contributed to the feast a great deal of organising, preparation work, shopping and cooking was undertaken by Pat Twigg to provide the fundamentals for the buffet. The fundamentals ranged from bread and butter to joints of beef and ham which she carefully cooked and prepared in advance to lots more including the salt and pepper pots.

It is too easy for us to take these bounties for granted so thank you Pat for all of your hard work.



**Pat Twigg working hard**

On the basis that behind every leader are the back-room supporters and for Pat, her support comes from her hard working husband John. John works tirelessly at every meeting in the background helping to wash-up and that task is increased at the Christmas Social.

John is not normally shy but he just stood at the sink and worked throughout most of the evening and his hard work must be recognised and we have to thank John for all of his hard work – it gets done and John does not make a fuss – thank you John.



**Lots of excellent food for all to enjoy**



**John Twigg – the shy unsung hero!**

Everyone who attended the meeting enjoyed the evening and were overwhelmed by the quality, volume and variety of the food and drink provided for them to enjoy.

It would normally be wrong to identify any person or item of food provided but on this occasion, an exception must be made for Jen Cheek's trifle which should have carried a health warning!

Many enjoyed it but anyone who ate it, even immediately saw stars.



**The reason for the evening – YOU**



### Continued:

The reason for that was attributed to the fact that Jean's hand slipped when she was putting the sherry into the trifle! DC's view was that Jean had used the barrel of sherry rather than a bottle.

Social events of this type only work if everyone supports them and on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011, a good number of the membership supported the event and made it an evening to remember for the right reasons.

Thank you and here's to the next Social event. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

**DT**

## Beekeeping help required in Uttoxeter

I am enquiring whether it would be possible to set up a beehive on the conservation area of our school ground. I don't have any experience of beekeeping so was wondering whether one of your members could set up a hive and we could use it as a teaching resource. We have a small farm at the school and teach GCSE Environmental Land Based Science. Would it be possible for a local beekeeper to keep a hive at the school to start with and provide demonstrations to the pupils until our staff have developed the necessary expertise? Our school is **in Uttoxeter, just off the A50 between Stoke and Derby**. Contact Justine North Email address is: [north@tahs.org.uk](mailto:north@tahs.org.uk). For more info contact Nick Mawby

Thank you for your time.

**Justine North**

## BeeBase – Why use it?

Recently, we have had contact from Dave Bonner who is the RBI (Regional Beekeeping Inspector) for our area of the UK and I asked him to write an article providing you with more information about Beebase. Fundamentally, Beebase is a “tool” which has been created by the National Beekeeping Unit based at York which is part of FERA (a Government organisation):-

In England approximately 20% of BBKA association members are NOT registered on Beebase. There is a misconception that when a Beekeeper joins the BBKA, the BBKA automatically registers them on Beebase. This does not happen; individual members have to register on Beebase.

But why should a Beekeeper register on BeeBase? Beebase is much more than the tool used by the Bee Inspectors to help control Brood Disease.

Anyone in the world can access Beebase ‘Public Pages’ by just going to this link:- <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm> or Google “BeeBase” to find the link.

Within the site there is a vast amount of information about Bees, Beekeeping, dealing with Varroa and information about where foul Brood diseases are being found.

You can download information leaflets and the NBU Brochures on Varroa Management and Brood Diseases.

Once registered a Beekeeper can log-in to Beebase and will then be able to see details of their own Apiary sites and details about inspections carried out on the sites by the SBI. They can manage their apiary sites by adding new sites, or amending existing ones if locations move etc. You can even keep records of your own inspections on the system, so all the information is in one place.

Beekeepers can register on Beebase using <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/public/register.cfm>. Confidentiality is assured (<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm?pageid=95>)

Bee Inspectors use the data on BeeBase to focus on areas where there is a high risk of disease and use that information to arrange Inspection visits. For example if EFB is found at a site then Beebase immediately produces a ‘RED’ list (high priority) of all those apiary sites within 3km of the disease site for the SBI to arrange to inspect. There is then an ‘Amber’ list of the sites between 3km and 5km of the disease.

Normally we find out about apiary sites when a Beekeeper tells us about them, then we update Beebase with that information. After inspections we have to record the details of that inspection on Beebase. Beekeepers can view these results for their own apiaries.

Access to individual records on Beebase by a Beekeeper is secured by a User name and Password and that protects their information from others so confidentiality is maintained. When a Beekeeper registers they will be given that user name and password. So, for example, if a Beekeeper requests that his details are put on Beebase by filling out a form, then their details will be on Beebase but they still need to get their user name and password by registering.

Beebase also highlights apiary sites within the risk areas for Exotic Pest accidental imports e.g. near airports, military bases, ports, and distribution centres etc. This allows the SBIs (seasonal bee inspectors) to maintain surveillance inspections throughout the season watching for Small Hive Beetle in particular.

The greater the number of Beekeepers registered on BeeBase then the stronger the system is for protecting us all from disease outbreaks, helping us to stop any outbreak from getting out of control and for protecting us from the potential impact of any discovery of SBH, by finding it early, before it can get established.

So if you are not registered, please do so by visiting: Beekeepers can register on Beebase using <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/public/register.cfm>. Confidentiality is assured and to check, visit (<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm?pageid=95>)

We are frequently asked “Why not just use Association Membership lists and update BeeBase yourself from those?”

We cannot do that unless the Association’s constitution allows those lists to be handed to the NBU for that purpose. Many Associations are now introducing an ‘Opt Out’ box on their Subscription Renewal forms i.e. When renewing their subscription a member is assumed to agree that their details can be passed to the NBU for BeeBase registration, unless they tick the box to ‘Opt Out’.

I hope the above is useful for you and please, please, please register on Beebase if you are not already there because the more beekeepers that are on Beebase the better protection that everybody gets.

**Dave Bonner**

**Western Region Regional Bee Inspector (acting) & SBI - Leicestershire & Rutland**

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