

## **Education report for 2023 AGM**

This is a core function of the Federation and individual associations have extensive provision for their members. Education is a standing item on the agenda at Middlesex committee meetings, and a lot has been accomplished since Covid restrictions eased. Thanks are expressed to association officers and committees who kept things going during the pandemic.

Some items discussed in 2022 and for associations to note going forward:

**BBKA exams:** Procedure for application for BBKA exams changed last year- all applications are made through the Local Exam Secretary for the county, and we need to elect a new Exam Secretary today. Middlesex also needs a new Education Secretary. The system uses eR2 and members need to email their details and BBKA membership number to the Middlesex Exam Secretary and they will be sent a link to register, apply and pay. This process alerts the association that a candidate has applied and there will be a need to organise Basic, Bee Health or written modules to take place at the due time. Associations are asked to monitor membership records as only members recorded as Active Approved on eR2 may be sent the link to apply for exams.

**Basic assessment:** BBKA website says applications may be made up to one month before the assessment. In practice this is insufficient time for associations to make the necessary arrangements- book an assessor, liaise with the apiary manager to ensure colonies meet the specifications for the assessment and arrange for the apiary manager to be present on the day. Assessors and Exam Secretary would prefer an earlier closing date, and this is under discussion. This would also give candidates time to prepare for the assessment.

**Exam results for 2022.** Congratulations to members who passed assessments:

Lots of credits & distinctions.

13 Basic certificates. 1 member achieved General Husbandry & Qualified Beekeeper status.

1 member passed Module 1. 1 member passed Module 7.

Applications for modules this year are comparable to pre pandemic. 6 members have applied to take modules online. Applications for practical exams still in progress.

**Food hygiene course-** Level 2 Food Hygiene course with beekeeping element available from Hertsmere Council at Boreham Wood. 30 places available and filled. Thanks are expressed to Pat Morgan for organizing the course and Pat Dutson for organising receipt and payment of fees; the arrangement to allow members to pay Middlesex Federation by bank transfer worked well and may be repeated next year. Going forward, the suggestion is for Middlesex to run a food hygiene training day and invite an external speaker to deliver the beekeeping content, followed by signposting members to do a Level 2 Food Hygiene course with their local authority.

**Microscopy group** has been running each month at Middlesex University, Hendon, although attendance is reduced since Covid restrictions have been lifted. New members to the group are welcome. The group has been on hold over winter and looking to resume in spring, possibly with a new venue. If anyone knows of a suitable venue available, please let me know.

**Bee Health day with Regional Bee Inspector and team of Seasonal Bee Inspectors.** Several members attended the SE Regional Forum on 25 January with Bee Inspectors. Following this, and after discussion with Bee Inspectors, we have agreed to organise a Bee Health Day in June. Our thanks are expressed to Julie Parker and Tom Bickerdike SBIs for their support during the season, and in organising this event.

Mary Hunter. Secretary- standing in as Exam and Education Secretary.