

## LS 2020-03-20 Positive Thinking 24 from Margaret Wilson

Dear Member,

This month I delayed the letter so that I could give you some news about the March Executive Meeting held last weekend. 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020. What I did not expect was the Corona Virus disrupting not just the BBKA meetings and events but the whole of the UK.

I was unable to be there personally for the meeting as I was third in contact with someone who had the virus, so I attended the meeting on our GOTO system which worked quite well. I am pleased to say that I have not developed any symptoms of the virus as a consequence of that contact.

During the meeting we had discussions about the eR2 Year Book which is now on line and the access requirements of some of our members. We also discussed the option of making the BBKA News magazine easy to download to a phone or tablet and perhaps an app. No decisions yet as we need to be sure of the direction our members wish us to go.

The staff at the BBKA have also been hard at work managing the applications to banks for the new CIO organisation, you would not believe the amount of work that is needed just because you changed your name, but the staff have been up to all the changes and it is business as usual. They even agreed to attend the Tradex show on Saturday and to promote our special issues and of course the BBKA as well. We did ask if they were still happy to go because of our concern about transmission of the virus, but they all said they were happy to go and meet our members at the event, so I do hope that those of you who went to the event said Hi to the staff there.

Just recently we were approached by a company who offered to make a film about queen rearing, it all sounds good and after asking members at my own association they were all for it, so I hope that mirrors all the associations. It would be good to have the several methods of queen rearing on film so that it can be shown across the membership. It is another way of stopping queen imports, if we can train enough beekeepers who are then able to rear enough of our own queens. This is still work in progress and if we agree to go ahead it will not be available this year, but perhaps by the next ADM, fingers crossed.

We had prepared three extra special editions to be ready for the Spring Convention, they are Honey, Colony Management and Integrated Pest Management. Our thanks to the BBKA team and the authors who again have given their work without reward, you could liken our authors to our bee's, not in it for themselves but for the good of the colony (or membership). These special editions will be available to buy on the webshop next week.

You will already know there will not be a Spring Convention this year because of the Corona Virus, it was a hard decision to take but the health and safety of all concerned had to be the priority. There will be a cost to the BBKA for the cancellation, obviously not budgeted for, but I am sure that you will agree that under the current circumstances, it was the right thing to do.

Tom Seeley had informed us that he would not be coming over to the UK so would not be at the Spring Convention. He agreed to make some videos of his intended talks and let us have them so in due course, we shall all be able to enjoy those.

We usually attend a couple of major shows, one at RHS Chatsworth and the other one at Windsor this year, Country File Live, we will have to see what transpires about those as they are later in the year. Thankfully we receive the show stand the shows as a gift so no cost if we do not attend.

We have at last accepted a quotation for the extension to the head office building, this will start later this year, when hopefully the bees are not flying so much and of course any training courses using the building have been completed.

On World Bee Day, 20<sup>th</sup> May, there is an event in the centre of London and I am happy to say that two of our Trustees will be there, Gareth Morgan and Pam Hunter have volunteered to go, that is of course if the event is not cancelled because of the Corona Virus.

Just heard that all exams are to be cancelled this year, all as a result of the advice from the Government. It is sad for those who have studied to get through the exams and I can only offer my sympathy, but we do need to restrict the virus as much as we can so that our vulnerable people have a better chance of missing it.

We are all aware of the difficulties because of the Corona Virus, can I ask that all our associations and branches are very mindful of the advice being given by the Government on a daily basis. If there are meetings or events planned in the near future, please be conscious of the consequences of the Virus being transmitted from person to person in enclosed area.

Best wishes

Margaret Wilson, President

[margaret.wilson@bbka.org.uk](mailto:margaret.wilson@bbka.org.uk)