

Surrey Exam Secretary report 2016/2017

This year there were candidates for the basic assessment from six of Surrey's 8 divisions. All 37 candidates passed, many gaining a credit which is awarded when a candidate achieves a of 75% or more. The numbers were slightly up on 2016 when there were 34 passes). One Junior Certificate was awarded (in 2016 there were 6).

There were also successful 2 candidates in the General Husbandry practical assessment (2 in 2016). No-one took the Advanced Husbandry Assessment.

One candidate passed the Microscopy Assessment in November 2016.

When combining results for the November 2016 and March 2017 written modules, candidates passed a total of 20 modules.

You will be aware that from 2018 BBKA is offering two new practical assessments, firstly Honey Bee Health and secondly Queen Bee Breeding. Both assessments have been trialled in 2017 with members of Farnham BKA acting as guinea pig candidates for the Honey Bee Health assessment itself. All 6 candidates passed the assessment.

The Honey Bee Health assessment is intended to fill in what some people perceive as the large leap between the Basic Assessment and the General Husbandry Assessment and from comments I have received I believe there will be a good take up for this new assessment which will put pressure on both assessors and branch apiaries where the assessment will take place.

As always my thanks go to Epsom division for use of their facilities in March and November for the written modules and to the many assessors not only from Surrey but beyond who give up their time and experience to assess candidates for the practical exams.

Celia Perry

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