

Diary Dates

Sunday 5th November 2006 - Branch apiary meeting starts 11.45am Tea and biscuits provided.

Saturday 11th November 2006 - Kent Beekeeper's Association Autumn Lecture. *Beekeeping Challenges for the Future* by Ivor Davis, Chairman of the BBKA at West Kent College, Tonbridge. The Kent Beekeeper's Association aims to inform beekeepers in the South East. As part of a series of important lectures the group is delighted that Ivor Davis has agreed to talk to us this autumn. Ivor Davis will focus on the current issues for beekeepers in the UK, both political and environmental, and bring us up to date on the negotiations the BBKA is having with the Government and its agencies. He will then look at the management of varroosis – as this is the key issue that weakens our colonies and makes them susceptible to other problems. The lecture will then address future issues including diseases, management methods and the short term effects of a warmer UK. Ivor will conclude by suggesting how we beekeepers can ensure that beekeeping remains in a healthy state in this country and why this is so important for our wellbeing and the environment. This will be followed by a forum session where you can pose your own questions, or raise issues that you feel need to be addressed. The lecture starts at 3pm with doors open at 2pm for refreshments, a browse around the bookstall and catching up with old friends. Cost £2.00 in advance or on the door. Cheques should be made payable to KBKA. For further information and purchase your ticket in advance contact: Terry Hardy, Kent Education Group Secretary, 6 Springrove Cottages, Goudhurst Road, Marden, TN12 9JU. Tel: 01622 832066 or theresa.hardy@virgin.net.

Tuesday 21st November 2006 - Cheese and wine social evening and branch AGM. Starts 7.30pm at the branch apiary club house.

For more information

Peter Springall 020-8690-3906 Mobile: 07779 970104

Email: ps@zbee.com

Tom Winks Chairman 020-8777-3144

Clive Watson 020-8658-3786

Steven Turner (editor) 020-8698-0313 Email: crow@zbee.com

Visit our website www.kentbee.com/bromley

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update Published by the Bromley Beekeepers Association

Welcome to the **November 2006** issue of Bromley News.

It has been an interesting season for my bees, with the late spring and dry summer and warm autumn which has made hive management challenging this year. I hope that your bees are looking as good as mine as we go into winter. Don't forget to fix mouse guards firmly in place before the cold evenings.

We hope that everybody has renewed their branch membership on time for the continued protection offered by the insurance and to receive their monthly Bee Craft. If you need a replacement renewal or membership form download and print a copy from our website URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/membership.htm>

The branch cheese and wine social evening combined with the AGM is on **Tuesday 21st November** starting at 7.30pm in the branch clubhouse. This meeting is vital for the invigoration of the branch and needs everybody's support. We have a number of officer vacancies which you may like to consider and make your interest known to the Chairman Tom Winks in advance of the AGM. Tel: 020-8777-3144.

Officer Vacancies

Social Secretary - arrange social events like outside apiary meetings and perhaps beekeeping quiz nights. This needs to be self funding.

Outside Events Manager - organise the summer outside events arranging people power to help with the setting up and transport of the equipment. This is an important function of the branch to inform the public about bees and beekeeping.

Newsletter Editor - Produce a regular branch newsletter. Members need to be informed of meetings and events plus current local beekeeping news. All you need is a computer and a word-processor programme like Word or Publisher and an email address.

THE BROMLEY BRANCH NEEDS YOU!

Rolt Method of creating small Nuclei with new young Queens

Three important criteria must be fulfilled to raise really good queens:

1. The queen must be reared from a newly hatched larva.
2. A good force of young nurse bees is essential.
3. An abundant supply of royal jelly must be available at the right time.

The method outlined below fulfils these criteria and was greatly used by Arthur Rolt, one time apiarist at Rothamsted and CBI for Somerset 1944 – 1968.

1. In spring contract the brood nest to nine combs and insert division boards at the flanks.
2. About the second week in May insert a marked frame of drawn brood comb in the centre of the brood nest.
3. Exactly 18 days later add another marked frame of drawn brood comb. Place it next to the first one. The brood chamber now has a full complement. (National).
4. 48 hours later prepare a nucleus as follows:
 - a) The two marked frames are removed and placed with their bees into the nucleus box taking care not to take the queen also.
 - b) A third comb, this one containing stores, is placed with them.
 - c) Shake in the young bees from two more brood combs.
 - d) Insert a division board, close and make up the combs in the parent stock.
 - e) The bees will select several cells to become queens.
 - f) Feed slowly after a couple of days.

Queens will emerge by 13 days from making up the nucleus. To make use of more than one cell:

- a) Make up other nuclei three days before the queens are due to emerge.
- b) 48 hours later each nucleus should be supplied with a ripe queen cell.

New queens will emerge within another 48 hours. These queens will normally mate very quickly and be ready for use in the apiary. On the other hand the nuclei could be allowed to expand and develop into full colonies.

David Charles,

National Honey Show, October 2006

New Beekeeping Buddy System

New beekeepers that join the Bromley branch often need help and support in their first few years of beekeeping. Attending branch meetings can help us all get better acquainted .

We need at least 20 experienced Bromley branch members to voluntarily agree to be a beekeeping buddy. This will involve giving advice and offering practical assistance if necessary. This information will be on a password protected web page that only Bromley members will have access to.

To be added to the beekeeping buddy list please send your profile with a current photograph to Steven Turner 153 Thornsbeach Road, Catford, SE6 1HB. Or email st@zbee.com

Profile information that would be useful:

1. Full name and postal address
2. Email address
3. Phone Number
4. Number of years keeping bees
5. Special interests and expert areas
6. Photograph (or email JPG image)
7. Availability (evenings/weekends etc)

If you have experience keeping bees you would qualify to be a buddy. We can draw up rules if required. We hope that this arrangement will give new members the extra confidence they need to be successful with their bees.

Steven Turner