

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

Welcome to the **August 2001** issue of Bromley News.



At last my supers are filling up! The cooler weather seemed to convince the bees winter was coming early and focus the need for foraging rather than swarming, a preoccupation for my bees this year. When I inspected my hives during July I saw live varroa on worker bees. Experts say if you see them this indicates mite numbers are very high and treatment shouldn't be delayed. Clive Watson will be bulk purchasing varroa treatments this month, the price is expected to be between £12-£13 to treat five hives. The greater the order the cheaper the price, please phone Clive with your order no later than August 20th. Mobile Tel: 0777-1990034 or Home Tel: 020-8658-3786.

The Club honey extractor is available for hire to members. Please book this through Clive.

This month is critical for hive management and will need carefully planning.

- 1.** Remove all honey supers from hives by August 24th
- 2.** Make sure all hives get treated with varroa strips between August 25th - 31st for six weeks as per instructions on the box.
- 3.** Select frames for light, medium and dark honey for extraction separately for the honey shows.
- 4.** Start preparations ASAP for showing honey for the next three major honey shows.

Honey Show Dates

The **Ashford branch** honey show **Saturday 1st September 2001**, you can download a schedule and get directions from the URL:

<http://www.kentbee.com/kbbka.htm#news>

The **Bromley and Orpington branch** honey show **Saturday 8th September 2001**, you can also download extra schedules and entry forms from the same URL. Please note a printing error with "class 19" the second "class 19" is now 19a.

The **National Honey Show** in London **15th-17th November 2001**. Schedule

available from the website URL: <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk> during August 2001.

Internet

Search Engine for UK Local Honey Producers - This is a 100% automated online UK database URL: <http://www.beedata.com/localhoney>

The charity The Troy Trust website URL: <http://www.beedata.com/troytrust>

Beedata Beekeeping events and news URL: <http://www.beedata.com/news.htm>

The Kent Beekeepers Association Website URL: <http://www.kentbee.com>

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Apiary News

St Bartholomew's Day August 24th is the traditional day for harvesting honey. In our district I have never found the crop fully sealed at this time as nectar continues to dribble in for another month. This however is no excuse for not taking off enough to enter in the Branch Honey Show. If you don't want to get the extractor wet at this time, there is always the possibility of scraping some of the sealed product into a kitchen strainer, place in a very warm place and allow the honey to drain into a suitable vessel and then decant into your show jars. This runny honey is probably the best you can produce as it has not given up it's aroma as it flies out of the combs and down the extractor walls. I have won many prizes by this method.

On the subject of shows, don't forget our own event on **Saturday the 8th of September**. This takes place a week after the Ashford Show which is well worth a visit and perhaps even entering.

For the fifth time since I joined in 1962 I had to miss a branch meeting. That was of course on the third Sunday of July when together with several others I helped to man our stand at the Foal Farm Open Day which proved to a most pleasant event although due to our position we failed to attract all the visitors who turned up for the day. I gather the meeting went off well under the able direction of Clive although with so many of us at the show, visitors were a bit thin on the ground.

Members' Diary Dates

We can look forward to three events this month. **Saturday 18th August at 7:00pm** you are invited to the annual BBQ at the apiary of Jack and Clive in Dorset Road, Elmers End, and if you have visitors, bring them too.

Sunday the 19th at 3:00pm brings the last of the summer series of (afternoon) meetings and of course the First Sunday (mornings at 11:45am) winter series start again in September.

For the second year we are staging our display on the Cricket Ground at Cudham on **Bank Holiday Monday the 28th August**. Please try and pay a visit and don't forget to bring along some of your honey for sale. You will get £2.04 after commission and every jar sold helps Branch funds.

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