

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

Welcome to the **June 2003** issue of Bromley News.



Shire-horses at Woodlands Farm

I treated myself to a bigger memory card and tripod for my digital camera and took some great shots at the Woodlands Farm open day last month. David Harris has twenty hives in a number of apiary sites all nicely blended in around the farm. The open day was a fantastic success for David's honey sales and Woodlands farm.



During the sunny spells a number of hives swarmed, with so many beekeepers on site we managed to capture all the swarms that day. See photo below of Tom Winks demonstration skep borrowed from the beekeeping display and with the swarm captured.



This season I have been trying out a new smoker fuel from Thorne's called **CC Smoker Fuel**. I have been very impressed with the smoke produced, it has a nice smell and doesn't make your eyes water like the packing cardboard I normally use. The other advantages are: no sticky tar choking up the smoker and the fuel can be easily re-lighted and doesn't gets wasted. I quote the description from the thorne catalogue.

" Direct from a cotton processor in the USA this clean, raw cotton waste consists of short fibres and cotton seed husks that are compressed under high pressure. The Cotton Cartridges (CC) are the ideal shape for a smoker fireboxes. When alight it produces a cool white smoke, free of all chemicals. Probably the best smoker fuel we have come across"

I used a blow lamp to light the small cartridges before dropping them into the smoker. I recommend we all switch to this low tar fuel on health grounds alone.

The Bromley and Orpington Honey Show 13th September 2003

Peter Bashford has produced the new show schedule which is available only online. <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/news/honeyshow2003.htm> The honey show is open to other branches. Members not online can request a copy from Peter Bashford 020-8656-7990.

Swarm Story

On May 17th we took a very large swarm in our garden, apparently from one of our own hives. We tried to run it into a 4 frame (14x12) nuc box, with two frames of fresh foundation. For two days the bees clung to the outside of the box (see pics), presumably because the box wasn't big enough for the bees. As nobody came to collect the swarm, and we didn't want to lose it, we put on top of them (over the nuc box) an old water tank. The bees have stayed, and seem very happy there. At the end of the season we will probably use the bees to replace the weaker of our two colonies. However, moving the bees and harvesting their honey should be an exciting exercise! Robin & Jenny Spon-Smith Email:rss@spon-smith.com



**The Watertank Hive
Invented by Robin & Jenny Spon-Smith**

New Library Books

Thanks to a generous donation from Northern Bee Books we now have up-to-date beekeeping books suitable for beginners, contact the editor if you would like to borrow any of the following new books:

Guide to Bees and Honey (New edition with Varroa Update) - One copy
 Principles of Practical Beekeeping Robert Couston - Three copies
 Bees at the bottom of the garden Alan Campion illustrated by Gay Hodgson - One copy
 Beekeeping In a Nutshell:
 Starting Out Matthew Allen - Four copies
 Fun with Bees Matthew Allen - Four copies
 The Beekeepers Toolbox Matthew Allen - Four copies
 Manipulations Matthew Allen - Four copies

The Kent County Bees and Honey Show

Schools are encouraged to enter the inter schools competition for the School Challenge Shield won last year by St.Mary of Charity Infants. Entries close 4th July. If you fancy volunteering to do some stewarding contact Sally Hardy 020-8699-7065. Download Show Schedule and entry forms from the Kent Beekeepers Association website www.kentbee.com

Internet

Improved web version of this newsletter with pictures

URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/newsletters/junebbk03.htm>

Apis-UK-The free Beekeeping web magazine and newsletter

Contents: Editorial; Beekeeping news; Bee press; Articles: The Icpbr Bee Protection Group; Biannual Beekeeping Chapter One Ian Rumsey; Isenrings Varroa-Killer Walter Isenring; Varroa Control Using Drone Brood Trapping; Book review: Form and function in the honey bee; New Book: Making nests for Bumble Bees; Letters to the editor: John Haywood, Karen Oland; Updated beekeeping events diary and lots more Total D/L 393KB URL: <http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters/apis-uk0503.htm>

Steven Turner

Apiary News

One swarm I collected near the Chinese Garage has turned out to be a drone layer. All the newly drawn out combs ruined with drone cells. It's quite a large colony and I am hoping for a swarm to unite it to which seems the only way to put things right. The queen rearing is now in full swing with all the stands of mini nuc's in production. I still have a couple of mini nucs waiting empty so another pair of stands will have to be set up within the next few days.



This First Sunday in June will be the last Sunday morning meeting until September but of course there are still the afternoon meetings on the 15th June, 20th July and 17th August. After that we go back to the First Sunday mornings again until next

April. Quite simple actually.



The serious business of displays really starts on **Saturday the 7th of June** with the annual event at Blackheath Village Fair. Anyone with honey or a little time to spare please contact Tom Winks on 020-8777-3144

I was pleased to hear from Sally who although not completely recovered is back in harness doing great work for the County Honey Show. On that subject if anyone can spare some time to help out with the job of stewarding at the show please contact Sally 020-8699-7065 who will be delighted to get your name down on her list. The days are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 11th-12th and 13th July and of course if you can spare some time on the Thursday 10th with the setting up that would be much appreciated too.

Honey at the moment is just trickling in but if this weather holds for another couple of weeks we will be in line for a bumper crop. Just hold your breath.

Peter Springall

Diary Dates

Saturday 7th June 2003 - Blackheath Village Fayre Bromley beekeepers beekeeping exhibition and honey sales. Opens to the public at 12:00 midday. We need branch volunteers to attend at 10:00 to help construct the displays and remember to bring your top quality honey for sale.

Sunday 15th June 2003 3:00pm

The branch afternoon apiary meeting. Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management. Tea and biscuits provided.

Fri, Sat & Sun 11, 12 & 13 July - Kent Honey Show and Beekeeping Exhibition at the Kent Agricultural Show, County Showground, Detling. Schedule and entry forms from www.kentbee.com

Saturday 13th September 2003 - The Bromley and Orpington Honey Show and Beekeeping exhibition. Opens to the public at 2.30pm FREE ENTRY. Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham, Kent. See quality products of the hive;

buy pure English honey; things for kids to do; watch the bees at work safely behind glass in the demonstration hive; beekeeping exhibits and more. Refreshments available. Honey Show Schedule and entry forms from the URL:
<http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/news/honeyshow2003.htm>

For more information

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Steven Turner (editor) 020-8698-0313 [E-Mail](#)

Visit our site www.kentbee.com/bromley

Advertisements

(free to members or £10.00 for non-members)

David Harris

Is now an approved Thorne agent able to supply all beekeeping needs at a discount.



49 Shawbrooke Road, Eltham SE9 6AL. A telephone call before calling is much appreciated 020-8850-7826 Web: www.busybusybee.demon.co.uk

FREE Six large (very heavy) concrete slabs idea for standing hives on

Collect from Steven Turner 153 Thornsbeach Road, Catford, SE6 1HB Tel: 020-8698-0313

Pollen Trap for Sale

Unused - I'm not able to say if its suitable for WBC or National hives, buyer take risk therefore only asking £5.00. Contact Steven Turner as above.

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