

# Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

## Published by the Bromley Beekeepers



**Cover picture** Garden apiary in Catford.

Welcome to the **March 2002** issue of Bromley News.

This time of year I would normally be looking through brood boxes and doing some early spring cleaning on my hives, but so far I have only managed to lift the crown boards. Without checking the brood nest I can't say if all my stocks have come through the winter, pollen loaded workers entering the hive can be deceptive and not always proof of laying queens.

The Bromley bee book library is now on a computer database, some books are overdue and I will be chasing those people soon. To save time, could I ask members to look under the bed for any bee books belonging to the library you had forgotten to return. This way I don't have to impose any fines!

About 5 years ago I planted a *Abeliophyllum Distichum*. Its a beautiful slow growing shrub with masses of almond-scented white flowers in early February. When associated with Winter heathers it turns the heads of passersby. My bees were working hard on these plants when the sun was on my front garden.

I managed to obtain 50 fumigant strips made by **Vita (Europe) Ltd** and thought you might like to read about them. I'm afraid I don't have any information as to when we will be able use this treatment legally in the UK. This was reproduced from their website: [www.beekeeping.com/vita](http://www.beekeeping.com/vita)

**Folbex® is a fumigant designed for the diagnosis and control of honey bee mites. The active ingredient, bromopropylate, is impregnated into paper strips. Fumigation with Folbex® strips leads to dispersion of very fine airborne particles of active material inside the hive.**

**Folbex® has a proven efficacy against both varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*) and to the mites causing acarine disease (*Acarapis woodi*) while being very well tolerated by the treated bee colonies. *Acarapis woodi* live in the trachea of bees. It punctures the walls of the trachea so that the infested bees finally die as a result of the impairment to their flying activity.**

**Five reasons to use Folbex®:**

1. Easy application
2. High efficacy (95-100%)
3. Dual acting ( active against both *Varroa jacobsoni* and *Acarapis woodi*)
4. Very well tolerated by bees
5. Posses no risk to users

**Internet News**

**Apitherapy**

check out Peter Dalby's website: [www.pebadale.net](http://www.pebadale.net)

**The Scottish Beekeepers Association**

have a new web address since our February newsletter:

[www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/](http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/)

**The Kent Beekeepers Association**

have a website with a message forum and a swarm coordinators listing and other useful branch information: [www.kentbee.com](http://www.kentbee.com)

**Steven Turner**

**Apiary News**

Once again the weatherman thwarted us on the first Sunday of February. Too cold and miserable to open up but the tea and biscuits went down well. Many years ago the date of the first Sunday was chosen because we noticed that as a rule that particular day was always pleasant and indeed we went on for many years basking in the sun on the first Sunday. Let us hope that things return to normal soon and allow us to get on with our beekeeping.

As you know, we lost the meagre stock in the observation hive, but all the others show themselves at the slightest sign of sunshine and I was even joined by a bee in the greenhouse when I was potting up the Sweet Williams. Although there was not a flower to be seen she busily inspected every single plant and having satisfied herself there was nothing to be found smartly turned around and flew out of the door.

I gather that the talk on Bee Therapy by Peter Dalby was well received although one visitor who had come to find out what Bee Venom could do for his arthritis was put off for life with the mention of anaphylactic shock and possible fatal results. I noticed that the footnote about it not happening yet was in the main lost while people were recovering from the shock of dying from a single beesting.

This month's talk will be by that well known and eloquent speaker Brian Palmer who

will be giving us the low down on last year's BeeTour and also the Apimondia Symposium that took place in South Africa last year. I for one look forward to seeing the pictures on the big screen. I gather he will be giving a repeat at his own branch two days later, I just hope he doesn't expect us to turn up for that one too as we usually help to swell his meetings by about seven or eight.

Time to start thinking about getting your supers ready. Never let your bees get short of space or even think they are. Any stocks that appear to be doing well get the supers on this month, and don't forget, we will buy all the honey you can produce.

***Peter Springall***

## **Diary Dates**

### **Tuesday 19th March**

This evening lecture starts **7.30pm** at the club house.

Brian Palmer talks about the 2001 BeeTour and Apimondia Symposium that took place in South Africa 2001.

Anybody is welcome to attend this FREE lecture which would interest beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike.

### **For more information**

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