

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

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



February Apiary Meeting

Beekeepers are now coming out of hibernation after a long winter (well some of us are). This week we have had a dry spell and some sunshine which has enabled me to get out in the garden and do some pruning and weeding for a change. Going by the lack of activity at the hive entrances the bees are not as advanced as in previous years. I don't feel any urgency to make the first inspections until the weather warms up a bit more. However I would recommend getting those supers on early, so the brood nest can expand with young bees rather than getting choked with honey and encouraging swarming.

Branch members should have received a membership card from the British Beekeepers Association with BBKA News by direct mailing this month, if you haven't had yours contact Clive Watson ASAP.

For interest I have scanned a 1954 Bromley branch membership card which you can view on the Internet version of this newsletter. Some of our longer serving members might recall with nostalgia the time when you could buy beekeeping equipment in Boots the Chemists.

Barry Mills has established contacts with Diablo Beekeepers in the USA. Beekeepers are the same the world over, and we can only gain by these cultural exchanges. The Lip Balm recipe and the Italian mite control articles have been taken from the Diablo Bee January 2003 newsletter. <http://www.diablobees.org/>

<p>A complete service for Apiarists at <i>Boots</i> 148-150 HIGH STREET BROMLEY (KENT) <small>(Tel. Ravensbourne 6685-89)</small></p> <p>Hives, Appliances, Books, Frames and Foundation. Chemicals, Extractors, Ripeners, Honey Jars</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: small;"> <p><i>The Beekeeping Department at this branch is under the personal supervision of Mr. A. C. Beardshaw (Member K.B.K.A.)</i></p> </div> <p>AGENTS FOR THE LEADING MANUFACTURERS</p>	<p>KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION</p> <p>BROMLEY BRANCH</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Membership Card 1954.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Hon. Branch Secretary: A. O. F. TAYLOR. Briar Cottage, Malins Way, Beckenham, Kent.</p> <p>Hon. Treas. & Apiary Club Secretary: J. HIGSON. 57, Queen Anne Avenue, Bromley, Kent.</p>
---	---

<p>MEETINGS 1954/55.</p> <p>1st. May Saturday 3.30 p.m. 15th. May Saturday 3.30 p.m. 5th. June Saturday 3.30 p.m. 19th. June Saturday 3.30 p.m. 3rd. July Saturday 3.30 p.m. 17th. July Saturday 3.30 p.m. 7th. Aug Saturday 3.30 p.m. 21st. Aug Saturday 3.30 p.m. 4th. Sept Saturday 3.30 p.m.</p> <p>Informal meeting at the Apiary Club at rear of Kent House Hotel, Kent House Road, Beckenham.</p> <p>Demonstration of Swarm Control by Mr. W. Wright at Apiary Club.</p> <p>Informal meeting at Apiary Club.</p> <p>Demonstration by Mr. J. A. Riccomini at Apiary Club. (Also Western Division outing to Sussex.)</p> <p>Visit to Ruxley Apiary (see County Notices for travel directions.)</p> <p>Informal meeting at Apiary Club.</p> <p>Demonstration by Mr. J. L. Sargeant (County Instructor of Beekeeping.) at Apiary Club.</p> <p>Informal meeting at Apiary Club.</p> <p>Demonstration at Apiary Club. (to be arranged.)</p> <p>Informal meeting at Apiary Club.</p>	<p>18th. Sept. Demonstration by Mr. Voysey-Martin Saturday at Apiary Club. 3.30 p.m.</p> <p>14th. to 16th. Oct. National Honey Show. Thursday to Saturday</p> <p>24th. Nov. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Wednesday 7.30 p. m.</p> <p>WINTER LECTURES AT CENTRAL HALL Winter Lectures will be held at Central Hall, Bromley on Thursdays in 1955 at 8.00 p.m. as follows:- 13th. Jan. 10th. Feb. 10th. Mar. 14th. Apl. Details will be announced in County Notices.</p> <p>NOTE All the Meetings shown on this Fixture Card should be confirmed by reference to County Notices. Members are also reminded that they may attend Lectures and Demonstrations in any part of the County of Kent as notified in 'Bee Craft' each month.</p> <p>REMINDER Your Annual Subscription will become due on 1st. October. Please remit to Treasurer promptly.</p> <p>COMMITTEE</p> <p>CHAIRMAN Mrs. E. F. SANDIFORD. VICE-CHAIRMAN Col. H. C. RALLS. Messrs. Andrews, Cheetham, Crowe, Forbes, Hart, Hazelden, Hedges, Holt, Hunt, Kirby, Overton and Sandiford.</p>
---	---

Bromley branch membership card 1954

Italian mite control

Dust the brood area right on top of the frames (no need to lift top box off, just tilt up, sprinkle, set back down). Now we've opened the hive, dust with a mixture of 1 cup confectioners sugar mixed with 4-6 finely chopped cloves of garlic or 1 tablespoon of powdered garlic.

Do this twice, 10 days apart, as often through the year as you like. The garlic will kill Varroa mites (I've read). The bees don't like the garlic, and try to move it out of the

hive, making contact with the mites. The mites also lose their grip on the host bees when dusted with powdered sugar. Kinda strange - Italian bees that don't like garlic. Sorta like a British bee that doesn't drink tea.

Lip Balm Recipe

3 teaspoons grated beeswax

5 teaspoons vegetable oil (canola, sunflower, etc)

6-7 drops essential oil (sweet orange, peppermint, etc) honey, as sweetener (1/2 teaspoon or less)

Melt the beeswax and vegetable oil together in a saucepan or double boiler, stirring constantly. When melted (this is very fast), remove from the heat and add the essential oil and honey. Mix well. Allow to harden, continuing to mix occasionally to ensure the oils and wax don't separate.

Internet

Improved web version of this newsletter with pictures

URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/newsletters/marchbbk03.htm>

Apis-UK The free Beekeeping web magazine and newsletter

Contents: Editorial; beekeeping news; Feeding Honeybees - John Yates; Facts as Strange as Fiction - Ian Rumsey; Acarine Disease: fact or fiction; book reviews; beekeeping equipment; Beekeeping in the Tropics; readers letters - Kenneth Elmore, Cristian Constantinescu, Julian Lush, John Owen, Thomas Mozer; historical note.

URL: <http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters/apis-uk0203.htm>

The British Beekeepers Association have produced a new downloadable leaflet "An Introduction to IPM Integrated Pest Management for Beekeepers" (Manage bees with minimum medication) (or MMM) Download from the URL:

<http://www.bbka.org.uk>

The Bees for Development new website now open for business URL:

<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org>

Steven Turner



Peter Springall given fondant to a 5 frame nuc running low on stores.

Apiary News

Yet another hazard looms on the horizon in the form of the Small Hive Beetle. This little pest burrows into the comb, decimates the brood and creates general mayhem within the hive. I gather it has not yet reached these shores but we all know what that means, it's on its way.

Lionel handed me a little snippet at the last meeting that was reported in his Farmers Weekly that sounds interesting. A new fungus has been discovered which will aid our fight against our old enemy. The fungus can produce spores that can stick to the varroa mite. Preliminary results of a government funded study by Horticultural Research at Wellesbourne are seen as encouraging. Let us hope this turns into reality in the not too distant future.

Did you see the report in last Saturday's Daily Mail that bees can now be trained to sniff out explosives in our never-ending fight against the terrorist? It appears that bees can be trained to detect many other substances as well, their sense of smell being far superior to that of the traditional dog.

Last month's talk by James Morton was well received. It was made even more interesting by the question sheet he handed around. Some of the points on the sheet were not immediately obvious but it certainly makes one think.

Five of the Mini Nucs are still surviving, if only we get a spell of warm weather they will be able to get down to a little brood rearing as the numbers within these little hive are getting precariously low.

Our meeting on Tuesday the 18th will be a talk by Maurice Field on keeping bees healthy without medication. I wonder how that can be done?! Come along and find out and I can recommend the tea and biscuits.

Now is the time to get plenty of supers on. Never let the bees think they are getting short of space and lets hope the supers are all full by the end of the season.

Peter Springall

Diary Dates

Saturday 1st March 2003 3:00pm Medway Beekeepers Association presents Brenda Ball of Rothamsted "The Varroa Virus Story". Brenda is famous for her work on bee viruses and varroa. Come and hear what a virus is and how it works in terms that we all understand. Location: Presentation Suite, Civic Centre, Strood. Easy access from M2, M20, A2 and A228. Free entry, refreshments and unlimited parking. All beekeepers and their friends are invited.

Sunday 2nd March 2003 11:45am

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

Winter evening lecture

Tuesday 18th March 2003 7:30pm

Maurice Field will talk on "Managing bees with minimum medication".

Sunday 6th April 2003 11:45am

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

Winter evening lecture

Tuesday 15th April 2003 7:30pm

Martin Buckle "Doing things with beeswax".

For more information

Peter Springall 020-8690-3906 Mobile: 07779970104 [E-Mail](#)

Tom Winks Chairman 020-8777-3144

Clive Watson 020-8658-3786

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

Visit our website www.kentbee.com/bromley

Advertising

Advertise in this space for as little as £10. Contact the editor

[Back](#) | [Click here to print this page](#) Page updated February 28, 2003