

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

Published by the Bromley Beekeepers



Cover pictures from the April winter evening lecture at the club house.

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

This season my bees are well advanced, two hives have attempted to swarm, I chose to split them to make up some extra stocks, I had a number of empty hives and so was able to deal with the swarming urges this way. You can always unite stocks at the end of the season and select the best queens for next year.

I thought the April evening lecture given by Barbara Dalby "Cooking with honey using a microwave" was brilliant, Barbara proved that you can do three things at the same time without burning the supper! Barbara has written a "Nutshell" about microwave cooking with honey published by Northern Bee Books at £1.50 inc. p&p.

This year's BBKA Spring convention at Stoneleigh was very exciting, I've heard that over 16,000 beekeepers came through the door which is an incredible number. Some beekeeping suppliers sold out before lunch time. I was promoting the new Apis-UK beekeeping newsletter on the Beedata stand by handing out FREE pens and 10% discount vouchers for shopping online. This gave me an opportunity to talk to a lot of other beekeepers from around the country which was great fun.

Apis-UK is a FREE web beekeeping newsletter/magazine edited by David Cramp in Spain of which I'm the web editor.

I treated myself to a huge Skep and a bumble bee nest box and three Langstroth framed queen excluders plus a full bee suit from BBWEAR which I will be modelling at the next apiary meeting!

Steven Turner

Honey Wanted

We are looking for more local beekeepers to sell their honey at our markets. Local honey really sells well at our markets and we offer low fees to beekeepers. We have

markets in Blackheath, Peckham and East London as well as markets in other parts of London. Please could you see if any of your members are interested in this proposal. Thanks. Mark Handley, London Farmers' Markets, 6 St Paul Street London N1 7AB
Tel: 020-7704-9659 Fax: 020-7359-1938 Email: info@lfm.org.uk



Varroa seen in decapped Drone Brood photograph © Tom Winks

This is a small account of what Barry & I did when Clive & Peter were on bee tour. It was a good turn out on Sunday, we only opened the members hives at the back, the first hive had a good stock of bees with a lot of brood, but when I cut off some drone cells we found lots of varroa on the drones. The next hive had only a hand full of bees, but had some brood. We looked at the swarm installed on Good Friday, we found lots of eggs and lovely new white wax.

Peter Bashford

Internet News

The Oxford Bee Company Ltd supply Ladybird, Red Mason bee nest and Bumblebee nest boxes. <http://www.beedata.com/news/obcpresrelease.htm>

Apis-UK the FREE beekeeping web magazine. Officially launching at Stoneleigh 27th April. <http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/index.htm>

Some hints on the art and mystery of Skep Making by Karl Showler
<http://www.beedata.com/data2/skeps.html>

UK beekeepers database of local honey producers
<http://www.beedata.com/localhoney/>

The kent Beekeepers Association <http://www.kentbee.com/>

Send the editor your favourite beekeeping website and description and we will include a link next month.

A Review of the 70th National Honey Show 2001 DVD

As a young, keen and enthusiastic beekeeper, I was quite disappointed with this 50 minute poorly filmed amateur DVD of the 70th National Honey Show 2001. The DVD informs its viewers of how honey, honey products are judged and the benefits of general honey production. The biggest criticism of the DVD is the poor lighting and sound quality, with constant background noise, making it difficult to fully appreciate this DVD. The poor lighting, makes it difficult to appreciate the quality of some of the excellent entries. It was disappointing to see the lack of young people in attendance at

the show. Hopefully, this will change in the future.

Despite the above criticisms, this DVD is still an informative and enjoyable amateur video, which is a must for all those beekeepers entering honey and honey products. To fully appreciate this DVD, I would recommend attending this year's show.

Ed Thomas (Welsh Beekeeper & Biomedical Scientist)

The National Honey Show DVD can be played on any CDR compatible DVD player or computer with DVD CDR software. Available for education purposes FREE



Apiary News

Barbara Dalby gave the final lecture of the winter series. A most excellent talk it was too. With everything to hand she demonstrated Honey Cookery with the aid of her microwave in a most professional manner and needless to say her efforts were much appreciated when it came to the tea break. Thank you once again Barbara for a most enjoyable talk.

The first meeting of the summer season saw a good turnout and I am pleased to say that there was plenty going on. All the stocks we looked at were doing well but the highlight was Robin Spon-Smith's Nucleus Hive in which we are rearing him a new queen. All appears to be going well but it will be a week or two before we know how successful the exercise has been.

The queen we put in the mini nuc disappeared the following day and without her support the rest of the bees returned to their old stock. You can't win them all. A couple of days later Clive turned up with a large swarm which we ran into the very weak club hive but since then the weather has closed down and swarms seem to be taking a bit of a rest, but no doubt it will all start again with a vengeance.

The Stoneleigh Convention was once again well supported by Bromley Members.

Unfortunately Phil Reynolds was poorly and Peter Bashford who had arranged to travel with him had to make his own arrangements. Fortunately a good train service got him there from Croydon before us and he was able to get a lift from Coventry Station with a group visiting another exhibition on the same site. I am told that there were 16,000 visitors to the show and at the end of the day most of the traders had virtually sold out. A good time had by all.

Our meeting on the third Sunday of May the 19th coincides with the Open Day at the allotments so no doubt some of the visitors will be joining us as they did last year. Keep piling on those supers.

Peter Springall

Diary Dates

Saturday 11th May 2002 - West Sussex Beekeepers' Association Annual Bee Market and Auction at Brinsbury Agricultural College, Pulborough. Further details from the co-ordinator David Staples, 14, Northfield Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1QY (with SAE please) or phone 01903 539205

Sunday 19th May 2002 - Apiary meeting coincides with the "Open Day" at the allotments.

12-14th July 2002 - Kent County Bees & Honey Show at the Kent Agricultural Show, Detling. Come and steward and see the show. Contact Jane Mannings, 1 Crowdleham House, Heaversham Road, Kemsing TN15 6NG Tel: 01732-763811

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](#)

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