

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

Welcome to the **May 2004** issue of Bromley News.



Bromley Members at BBKA Spring Convention Stoneleigh

It was in May thirteen years ago when I got my first swarm. Members of the Bromley branch who would like bees should register with the swarm coordinator by filling in a swarm form available from Clive Watson. If you're already on the swarm list be in a high state of readiness, have an empty hive setup in the chosen apiary site. It's important you wear a full bee suit as the temperament of the bees will be unknown, take a step ladder with you and some large cardboard boxes and a white bed sheet plus a tree pruning saw and secateurs. If you are lucky the swarm will be easily accessible i.e. hanging in the lower branches of a tree or brambles. Sometimes all you need to do is hold a cardboard box under the swarm and shake the branch and all the bees will fall into the box. Put the box on the ground and let the flying bees enter the box, when you're happy you have most of them put the sheet over the box for transporting home and hive them that evening (if its not too cold or raining). First timers may not have the confidence to collect a large swarm in which case call on another beekeeper/branch member to help you. Everybody wants the prime swarms as these draw out fresh foundation quickly and produce big surplus honey crops. Good luck.

Sending larva to CSL National Bee Unit

I was very concerned that one of my stocks were showing signs of EFB. Past bee inspectors had given me some small sample pots which I used to send off some larva for testing at the Central Science Laboratory. Within a week I had a report confirming no evidence of Foulbrood. After looking at the advisory leaflet CSL sent me on foul brood disease recognition and control I think the problem is a combination of sacbrood and bald brood. I'm hoping the disease will be cured by a 100% comb change and a new queen. You can download the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advisory leaflets from the URL:

<http://www.csl.gov.uk/science/organ/environ/bee/factsheets/>

Resistance test kits

Clive Watson has test kits available if you are worried that your bees are pyrethroid resistant.

Quoted from the NBU website "When you carry out a resistance test, please send the test data to the NBU laboratory at Sand Hutton- even where these are negative, or where too few mites were present to obtain a valid result. By pooling the results from many beekeepers we can get a much better picture of the changing distribution of pyrethroid resistance, and this helps us improve the information and advice we provide to other beekeepers".

The Kent County Bees and Honey Show

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 16th - 18th July 2004 (entries close 9th July) - Kent County Bees and Honey Show, organised by the Kent Bee-Keepers' Association in conjunction with Dover, Medway and Thanet Beekeepers' Associations at the Kent County Showground Detling, Maidstone. Judges: Honey Mr. M. Duffin, Cakes & Wax Mrs. E.Duffin, Schools Mr. & Mrs. L.Gordon-Sales. Entries Secretary: Mrs.M.Hill, Old Whittington, Old Wives Lees, Canterbury , CT4 8BH Tel: 01227 730477. Show Supervisor: Michael Wall 020-8302-7355. Chief Steward: Sally Hardy 07802763048. Download show schedules and entry forms in PDF format from the URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/kentnews.htm>

New Forest & Hampshire County Show

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 27th - 29th July 2004 - The Showground, New Park, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7QH, organised by the New Forest Beekeepers' Association. If you would like a schedule contact Mrs Margaret Davies, 80 Leybourne Avenue , Ensbury Park , Bournemouth BH10 6HE. Tel: 01202 526077 E-mail: marg @ jdavies.freemove.co.uk

Internet Resources

Apis-UK Online Beekeeping Newsletter

Apis-UK April issue No.23 prints to 26 sides of A4. Contents: Editorial; Beekeeping news; Bee press; Research News; Articles: Brussels does it again John Yates; Patent of a bee hive 2361616 Ian Rumsey; Pleasure and pain Mathew Allen; Danish beekeeping tips; Poem of the Month; Recipe of the Month; Fact File; Historical Note; Readers Letters: Chris Clayton, Norman Carreck, Ian Armstrong, Brian Hughes; Diary of events and more. Total D/L 310KB. URL: <http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters04/apis-uk0404.htm>

Steven Turner



Apiary News

Seven of us made our way in two cars to the BBKA Convention at Stoneleigh where we met up with another eight from our branch. There is an increasing interest in beekeeping and it showed in the crowds that attended the event. A good time had by all.

The weather last weekend had us believing that the queen rearing program could go ahead, the three days of wonderful weather was short lived, we are now back to our usual summer weather which has put the damper on all our plans.

Robin Spon Smith has made a start and has left a four frame nucleus box at the branch apiary in the hope of rearing a new queen which will be mated at that site in the hope that the good temper shown by the stocks there will show in the new queen as has been so in the past.

The turnout of 20 for the meeting on the third Tuesday of last month was somewhat disappointing. When I announced the subject would be Making Mead there appeared to be quite an interest. Those of you who couldn't make it certainly missed a good evening especially when the samples came around.

Hopefully we will be able to make a start on the queen rearing this Sunday but I must say it doesn't look at all promising at the moment.

The meeting on the third Sunday of the month the 16th coincides with the allotment Open Day so don't be surprised if there are still people milling around during the meeting. Perhaps we can get the public interested in producing a few new queens.

Peter Springall



Diary Dates

Sunday 2nd May 11:45am - The branch morning apiary meeting. Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management if the weather permits. Tea and biscuits provided.

Sunday 16th May 3:00pm - The branch afternoon apiary meeting . Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management if the weather permits. Tea and biscuits provided.

Sunday 16th May - Woodlands Farm Trust Open Day. Shooters Hill. More details from Tom Winks.

[Saturday 5th June - Blackheath Village Fayre , Blackheath. Assembly 10 am, Fayre opens 1-5 pm . CANCELLED EVENT]

For more information

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Visit our website www.kentbee.com/bromley

Advertisements

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

Bumble Gear

Give yourself a treat, or your wife, maybe a girlfriend. Keep up with the Jones's or those European beekeepers. Food quality stainless steel buckets with lids **£15 each**. This is half price, no handles coming off when heated. Tel: 020-8395-6852

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

[Back](#) | [Click here to print this page](#) Page updated May 23, 2004