

# Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

## Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

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

I'm winding up this seasons beekeeping with a few observations on my own bees. I took longer than usual to remove the anti-varroa treatments as it wasn't too cold or windy, making full hive inspections possible. I then found it was easier to remove the strips without rolling the bees. If you are just pulling the strips with snip nose pliers, you should be especially careful to avoid rolling the queen by using plenty of smoke above the strip to drive her away.

One particular colony on my allotment apiary was packed with bees and had completely filled every frame with stores so little room was left for the queen to lay, in fact I could only find a few square inches of brood. I did consider swapping some of the combs with another hive but decided against any action to see how it wintered.

### Next Year

I make a point of changing all the combs on two hives each season. I start this is early in the spring by putting a new brood on top of the old box with new frames and foundation. The bees will move up drawing out the combs. When the queen is laying in the top box I remove the old box and shake all the bees from the old combs in to the new brood chamber. This re-energizes the colony and produces some nice combs with good brood patterns not the patchy ones you often have with old combs. I have tried to keep spare combs for nucs but find it a waste of time due to the ravages of wax moth, so I prefer now to just dispose of the old combs, I'm sure this helps me keep healthy bees.

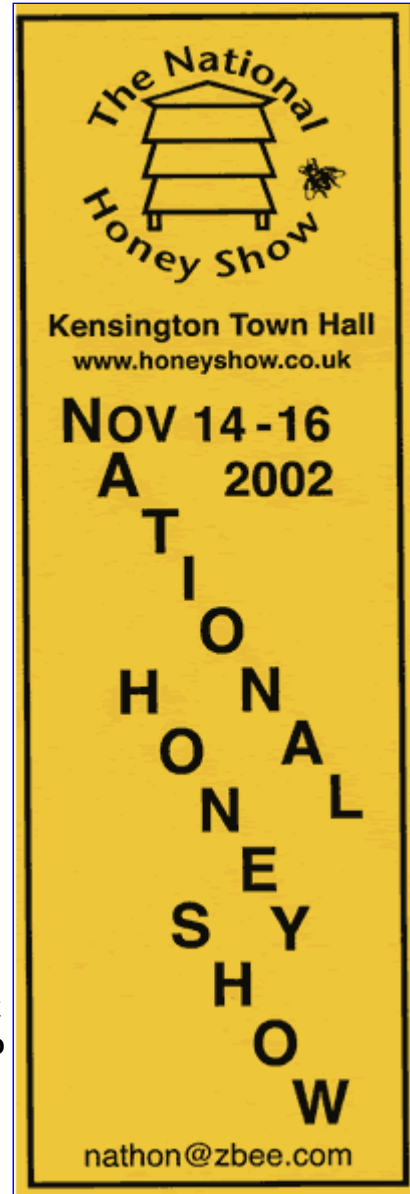
### The National Honey Show

This annual event is nearly upon us again, I'm sure the publicity has reached you all, so you won't be needing any reminders of the dates and opening times! If you would like a poster to put in your car window, download this pdf file

<http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/files/nhs2002poster.pdf>

I have entered 9 classes this year and preparations are well under way as I switch into highly competitive mode.

When you talk to top showers like Bromley branch member Peter Bashford, who has been very helpful and often let slip one or two secrets of his success. I asked about his filter cloths and he suggested that you can buy plain cotton cloth from the Alders



department store.

The cloth I bought was plain brown and looked fine enough and worth a try. I warmed the 28lb bucket of honey in my thermostat controlled warming cabinet (old fridge) and was intending to pour through 2 metal filters and then the fine cloth filter and all in one go! I should have remembered what Peter Bashford said about the time honey takes to go through the cloth he uses. What a disaster, honey was pouring out the side of the metal filter rather than through the cloth filter. About 15lbs of my best honey went flooding over the work surfaces and cooker. This was a major set back, I should have taken more care with unfamiliar equipment. What Fun!

**I hope you will visit the 2002 National** this year as it could be the last one at Kensington Town Hall, this prestigious venue cost thousands of pounds to hire for four days. Each year the charges go up and visitors numbers go down. The future of the show is threatened and may have to be relocated to another venue out of London.

### **Internet News**

#### **Improved web version of this newsletter**

URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/newsletters/novbbk02.htm>

**People aiming to lower their cholesterol** should turn to honey and almonds as well as fruits and vegetables, scientists say. Two separate studies suggest the foods could be beneficial because both help lower cholesterol. Researchers discovered honey contained as many antioxidants - which combat the free radicals which can damage cells - as spinach, apples, oranges or strawberries. Read the full story from the URL: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/2203073.stm>

### ***Steven Turner***

#### **Apiary News**

Clive and I paid Dave Harris a visit last week at home and I am pleased to say that he looks a whole lot better than when we saw him in the early part of October. Needless to say he was pleased to receive us and was hoping to get some more visits from members. Give him a ring on 020 8850 7826, I'm sure he would be delighted to hear from you.

Of course November is a very important month with the National Honey Show just around the corner and don't forget! if you have the time come along on **Tuesday evening the 12th anytime after 6.00pm** to lend a hand fixing up the staging. It is very important that we get the stands all ready to receive the exhibits on the following day and any help will be much appreciated.

**On Tuesday the 19th November** is the **AGM of the Branch**, followed by the AGM of the Club when among other things we can discuss our successes on the show bench.

If you haven't yet fitted your Bavarol or Apistan Strips do it at the first opportunity, but don't forget to remove them six to eight weeks later. I do not usually put these strips in every year but Robin and I were surprised to see many dead and half dead varroa mites coming out of the front door of his nucleus hive after strips were applied.

At the moment I am laid up with a very painful leg. "Nerve trouble" said the Doctor, "take two tablets four times a day and come back and see me if you're not better in a fortnight". I can't stand for more than two minutes at a time, so if I'm missing at the meeting this Sunday you'll know what it's all about

***Peter Springall***

### **Diary Dates**

#### **Sunday 3rd November 11.45am**

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

**14th-16th November - The National Honey Show** at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, Kensington High Street, London. <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/>

#### **Tuesday 19th November at 7.30pm**

Annual general meeting on at branch HQ (where we have our apiary meetings).

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### **For more information**

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