

# Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

## Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

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



### Bromley and Orpington Honey Show 2003

Thank you to those members who supported our branch honey show and congratulation to all the prize winners. Our Chairman Tom Winks was awarded the new John Pearce trophy for his honey. To attract more member participation next year we shall be introducing a members only class for 2 jars (any colour) with a big prize such as a complete bee hive worth over a hundred pounds, the entry fee for this new class would be £1.00. The full honey show report from Peter Bashford will be published on the Bromley website in due course.



### 1st Prize Winning Honey

Do make the effort to enter honey shows to gain the necessary disciplines to be able to produce the highest quality products fit for sale to the public. Can you prove that your honey meets the highest standards?



### **The Bromley branch AGM**

Our AGM next month is on **Tuesday the 18th November 2003 at 7:30pm** (sharp). We should all be interested in our branch affairs, how its managed, where the money is spent etc. A good turnout is essential for the health of the branch. This is your opportunity to voice your opinions and make suggestions on how the branch can be improved for the benefit of its members. Tea and cakes are served during the interval. Honey show winners will also receive their trophies and have their official photograph taken for the branch website. New officers are elected so have nominations ready. You will enjoy the evening.

### **Membership Subscription**

It is once again that time of the year when I have to ask you to renew your membership of the K.B.K.A. The membership renewal form is enclosed in this mailing. Please fill it in straight away and return it with your subscriptions for County and Apiary club, as well as the correct extra Bee Diseases Insurance premium to cover your additional colonies. It is important that I receive your subscriptions promptly as late payment may lead to an interruption in your receipt of Beecraft.

**Peter Macan** Hon. Branch Treasurer.

### **Internet**

Improved web version of this newsletter with pictures URL:

<http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/newsletters/octbbk03.htm>

**Apis-UK**—The free beekeeping web magazine and newsletter. Apis-Uk September issue No.17 prints to 21 sides of A4. Contents: Editorial; Beekeeping news; Bee press; Articles: Natural Ways of Improving Varroa Containment (part 4) Ian Rumsey; Feeding Honeybees John Yates; The Bees at the Horniman Museum Peter Springall; Mite resistance Max Watkins; Poem of the month: A Flight of a Bee Veroljub Vukašinovic; Factfile: Attracting honeybee swarms; Honey recipe: Andalucian; Historical note: Drowning bees; Letters: David Yale, Keith Hooker; John Carlisle; Beekeeping courses 2004; Diary of events. Total D/L. 213KB. URL:

<http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters/apis-uk0903.htm>

**Honey and diabetics** URL: <http://www.kohala.net/bees/diabetics.html>

### **Cooking with honey**

The first thing to consider when using honey to cook with is that it is judged to be twice (2 X) as sweet as sugar. Therefore, to get the same sweetness as sugar, you use one half as much as you would of sugar. Honey is about 18% water. If you round that off to 20% you can easily figure that about 1/5th of the honey you add to your recipe is

water. Therefore, you cut back on the moisture in your recipe by 20% (1/5th).  
Examples from the URL: <http://www.kohala.net/bees/formula.html>  
**Steven Turner**



### **Apiary News**

September turned out to be quite an interesting month. Our first meeting of the winter series coincided with the open day at the allotments and of course crowds turned up to see the bees, members and public mingled, altogether a very pleasant time had by all. The NSPCC made a total of 1,700 quid out of the day which exceeds all past results. The following weekend saw two events, on the Saturday our branch Honey Show the results of which are published elsewhere and on the Sunday up went the tent again for the show at Woodlands Farm, Shooters Hill. Literally thousands visited our tent (sorry Pavilion) and we sold out of honey by 1:30pm with another 2 hours to go. All credit to the ladies and gent on the candle making who took a grand total of 264 quid. What an enjoyable day for all who took part. Not forgetting Barry's timely tea, bacon rolls and flan thank you Barry and Liz.

To top it all, Clive found himself on TV in the Richard and Judy programme on Wednesday the 17th. He tells us he only got his hands in the frame but it would still be nice to see the great epic if someone happened to record it.

The final event of the month was a visit to the home of Robin and Jenny Spon-Smith where we re-housed a colony that had taken possession of a tank as a swarm earlier in the year.



As expected some of the combs were stuck to a box inside and when we lifted the tank a few of the combs were left behind. However this didn't make too much of a problem and all the combs containing brood were rescued and tied into fresh frames and placed in a brand new brood chamber on the old position. Fifty minutes later the tea appeared by which time we were ready to leave the bees to get on with it. Again a most pleasant and successful time had by all. Thank you once again Robin and Jenny for your kind hospitality.







We were planning to take off David's honey this coming Monday but I have just heard that he is due for yet another operation, but even so the news is hopeful and we all wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

You will no doubt have noticed that this newsletter is a little early. The reason for this is that Clive, who prints and distributes it each month, is off for a visit to the other side of the world and would find difficulty in contacting us from Oz.

October brings a quiet month just the **meeting at 11:45am on the 5th**, but the following weekend our landlords are running a Coach Trip to the RHS Gardens at Wisley on **Sunday the 12th October** leaving the main gate at 9:30am the cost per seat is 7 quid which includes entrance to the grounds. There is a restaurant but I usually take a picnic, what ever you do I can assure you that you will have an enjoyable day.

Don't forget to get your entries in for the **National Honey Show** as soon as possible and put aside the evening of **Tuesday the 11th November** at 6pm to come along and help me and my team put up the stands. If you are available during the show **12th-15th** your help with the stewarding would be much appreciated. Please contact The Secretary Francis Capener at 1 Balric Road, Folkestone, CT20 2NR. Tel 1303254579. I guarantee you will enjoy being part of this great organisation.  
***Peter Springall***

### **Diary Dates**

**Sunday 5th October 11:45am - The branch morning apiary meeting.**  
Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management. Tea and biscuits provided.

**13-15 November 2003 - The National Honey Show.** The National Honey Show will be held at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street. You can download the schedule of classes from the National Honey Show site from the support pages URL:  
<http://www.honeyshow.co.uk>

**Tuesday 18th November 2003 7:30pm - The Bromley branch AGM.** Tea and biscuits provided.

**For more information**

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Visit our site [www.kentbee.com/bromley](http://www.kentbee.com/bromley)

**Advertisements**

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

**David Harris**

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**FREE Six large (very heavy) concrete slabs idea for standing hives on**

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