

# Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

## Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

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



**The Rose Garden at Montisfont Abbey**

### **IMPORTANT - YOUR HONEY SHOW NEEDS YOU!**

**Saturday 13th September** at The Hewitt Room, Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham. Exhibitors need to have their entries at the hall between **9:00am - 10.30am** so that all the judging can be finished before the show **opens to the public at 2:30pm**. Show schedules and entry forms can still be downloaded from the Bromley branch website. Please try to make at least one entry, or at least visit the show just to enjoy the friendly atmosphere between **2:30pm - 5pm**.

### **Ashford Show**

Peter Bashford and I made the annual pilgrimage to the Ashford branch honey show, between us we came away with seventeen prize cards. The show judge Revd Francis Capener used to say "Not that blasted P.Bash again" now he's saying "That blasted Turner and Bash again". Joking aside we were made very welcome and we both had a terrific day, we both won a raffle prize too.

### **My Bees**

I have extracted all my honey and have a huge pile of empty sticky supers now under threat from wax moth. I keep newspaper between each one and periodically make comb inspection and kill any wax moth larva by hand just to keep them in check until

next spring.

### **Varroa**

I'm using Apiguard for the first time as an end of season treatment. Two main disadvantages of using Apiguard are 1. You can't feed bees before or at the same time and 2. The treatment can only be used if the maximum day temperature was not below 15°C. After about 24 hours large numbers of mites were falling out the front entrances. I noticed the bees seemed over active, strongly fanning to try and remove the smell of Thymol (the main active ingredient). Note: the removal of the honey supers is essential or you will taint the honey.

I have heard reports of pyrethroid resistant varroa found outside the previously known affected areas in the South West of England and in Wales.

The second new pyrethroid resistance discovery is near Market Drayton, Shropshire. This is getting closer to home and I wouldn't be surprised if London and Kent were to be the third. At this moment Apiguard is the only other licensed treatment we have against varroa which I have found to be extremely effective when correctly used.

### **Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association [www.diablobees.org](http://www.diablobees.org)**

I have just been reading the Diablo Bee newsletter which Jeff Peacock kindly sends since our Barry travelled to the USA attending their bee meetings. I read that MDBA have a honorary award of Beekeeper of the Year which is something I would like to see adopted by Bromley branch at our AGM in November.

### **Honey for Sale**

Godfrey Munro of Park Beekeeping Supplies has asked me to remind members about the special **Kent Tamper Evident Seals** he sells at 250 £.3.95 or 1000 £.15.00.

### **Internet**

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

URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/newsletters/septbbk03.htm>

#### **Last year Bromley and Orpington honey show**

URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/newsletters/octbbk02.htm>

#### **Apis-UK-The free Beekeeping web magazine and newsletter.**

Apis-Uk August issue No.16 prints to 20 sides of A4. Contents: Editorial; Beekeeping news; Bee press; Obituary Ian Coleman; Articles: Beekeeping in Serbia; Natural Ways of Improving Varroa Containment (part 3) Ian Rumsey; Matt Allen on nudes, violence and genetic freaks; Me and Mini Nuc's Peter Springall; Poem of the month; Fact file Drifting Drones; Readers letters: Bob Buntine, Brian Hughes, Courtney Etheridge, Ross Gregory, Mark Winston; Beekeeping courses starting 2004; Updated beekeeping events diary and lots more Total D/L. 198KB.

URL: <http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters/apis-uk0803.htm>

### ***Steven Turner***

### **Apiary News**

Our new display tent has now been used three times and has proved very successful.

It is due for another outing at Dave Harris' Farm at Shooters Hill on **Sunday the 14th September**. On the subject of Dave, you will be pleased to hear that he has had his operation and all went well. He is not ready to receive visitors yet but Clive and I plan to call on him some time next week. I gather he will be in hospital for about three weeks.

The next Branch event will be the Honey Show on Saturday the **13th September**. As I have said many times before, showing is an excellent way of getting you in the habit of preparing your honey fit to sell or even give to your friends, so do enter and for the newcomers amongst us an entry in the novices class. I have seen honey being offered for sale which was not even fit for feeding back to the bees.

Another event not to be missed is a visit to Robin and Jenny Spon-Smith's home on **Sunday the 21st September at 3:00pm** to witness and perhaps help recover a colony from a tank where they took up residence earlier this season. I have carried out this task on many occasions in the past and it's not so daunting as one would expect. Bowls of warm water and cloths to rid ones hands of the yellow stickiness goes without saying, but please give Robin and Jenny a ring on 020-8663-1364 if you intend coming in order that they can come to terms with the catering.

There is a site at Eden Park Road available for up to six hives. If you are interested give me a ring and I will put you in touch with someone.

Our landlords The Kent House Leisure Gardens are running a trip to the RHS gardens at Wisley on **Sunday the 12th October**. The coach leaves the main gate at 9:30am and tickets are £7 (7 quid for beenettors) an alternative pick up point will be at Crystal Palace.

Don't forget the summer series of apiary meetings has now finished until next April and we now carry on with the winter series which take place on the first Sunday of each month until next June. See you soon.

***Peter Springall***

## **Diary Dates**

**Saturday 13th September 2003 - The Bromley and Orpington Honey Show and Beekeeping exhibition.** Opens to the public at 2.30pm FREE ENTRY.

Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham, Kent. See quality products of the hive; buy pure English honey; things for kids to do; watch the bees at work safely behind glass in the demonstration hive; beekeeping exhibits and more. Refreshments available. Honey Show Schedule and entry forms from the URL:

<http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/news/honeyshow2003.htm>

**Sunday 21st September 3:00pm - Bromley branch meeting at the home apiary of Robin Spon-Smith.** 77 Bushey Way, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6TH E-Mail: [rss@spon-smith.com](mailto:rss@spon-smith.com). Please email Robin so he has a idea of the numbers attending.

**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>

**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**

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](http://www.busybusybee.demon.co.uk)

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

Collect from Steven Turner 153 Thornsbeach Road, Catford, SE6 1HB Tel: 020-8698-0313

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