

Introduction to Beekeeping Training **9 October 2004 10am to 4pm Venue to be confirmed**

A day of ideas for people interested in the development of beekeeping, consisting of lectures and demonstrations on:

- Presentation techniques
- Using the BBKA Basic syllabus
- Assessing the student's needs
- Valuation of courses

This day will provide you with the materials and skills to run an introductory course or give you increased confidence in your association demonstrations.

If you are interested contact John Hendrie to reserve a place.

Terry Hardy Education Committee Secretary

Beekeeping Courses for 2005

'Beekeeping course for Beginners' at Tonbridge Adult Education Centre. Course number 7035 TON-04-A 24th Feb 2005 to 31 March 2005 19:30 to 21:30 on Thursdays. The six week course follows the basic BBKA examination. To enrol please call 0845 606 5606 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. To enquire about course content etc. please call 01892 530688 evenings or 07941 37589 daytime. Tutor Peter Hutton

June 2005, a practical course at Upper Hayesden, Tonbridge for beginners, further information from Peter Hutton.

Introductory Course in Beekeeping—10 sessions plus 2 practical commencing January 2005. £2.50 per session Tutor Terry Clare. To be held in Gillingham, Kent. Contact Terry Clare, 89, Chalky Bank Road, Rainham, Gillingham. ME8 7NP for details

Introductory Course in Canterbury starting January 2005. Tutor Peter Oldreive, 85, Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury. CT2 0EF 01227-710232 for details.

Swarming 2004

This has been an exceptional year for swarms as many of you might know, Peter Hutton has recorded in excess of 1500 telephone enquiries from May 1st to July 16th. Most of the early May swarms hived themselves into chimneys and other parts of buildings only to be poisoned at some later date. Some of those swarms are still alive and only just about to be poisoned. Last week Peter removed two such colonies, one with no stores in Sevenoaks and one with 20lbs of honey, by the time you read this he will have removed two more colonies from a factory roof in Edenbridge, both strong colonies he expects to find in excess of 40lbs of honey. Had these colonies been poisoned some of you beekeepers in the vicinity may well have suffered secondary poisoning of which you might be unaware or have the distressing experience of your colonies being affected adversely. The second round of swarming is getting underway now.

John Hendrie

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A company limited by guarantee, Registered No. 238630 Registered Charity No. 222946
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No. 14 COUNTY NEWSLETTER June 2004
Bumper Edition for June!

There is quite a lot of information provided this month so it won't fit into the usual four pages so it has been decided to produce a one-off eight page issue. We hope you will find the news interesting. Please see the report on this year's County Show on page 7. We dodged most of the showers and had a successful show.

Pyrethroid Resistant Varroa found in East Kent

Varroa resistant to treatment using Bayvarol and Apistan has been found at three apiaries at Sandwich in East Kent. At the time of writing these notes there are no other reported cases in Kent, although there are now cases in Surrey as well. Varroa spontaneously mutates to the pyrethroid resistant type and it can happen anywhere at any time. It is likely we will have pyrethroid resistant varroa throughout Kent by this time next year. Most of us should be able to use Bayvarol and Apistan this Autumn and it is likely it will be the last time it will be completely effective. For the future we will need to use a combination of treatments and the Ministry through the good offices of Alan Byham (RBO) together with Nick Withers and Bob Smith (SBOs) are running IPM (Integrated Pest Management) workshops throughout the County this year and next year to teach us all how to continue to live with varroa. If you haven't already attended a workshop ask your Branch Secretary when your Branch workshop is likely to be held.

GIFT AID

When you receive your subscription renewal form you will see a GIFT AID DECLARATION. Please sign this because the KBKA will be able to reclaim tax on the non-beecraft part of your subscription and any donation you make. This is a legal way the government gives money to charities. There are only two classes of people who shouldn't sign the declaration:

- (a) Non-Taxpayers ie you don't pay any income tax (Junior members will be in this category)
- (b) Government supporters ie you wish to give the government as much money as possible.

There were 74% of members who signed the form last year. We must be able to do better than this because I find it difficult to believe we have 26% of our members as non tax payers. With the increase in the price of BeeCraft next year we need as much money as possible to ensure we don't make a loss on the year.

Even if you signed a gift aid declaration last year please sign this one too, it makes claiming the money a lot easier.

Thank you

CALENDAR –August, September, October 2004

Branch Events

Canterbury, Gravesend, Mid-Kent, Weald, Whitstable

No meetings notified

Ashford

- Sun 8th Aug. Demonstration by Brian Palmer and Barbeque at Branch Apiary
Sat 14th Aug. 10 to 4 IPM workshop with Dover & District BKA at Alkham Village Hall.
Pre-booking with Elizabeth Gordon-Sales 01303-251971
Sat 4th Sept Honey Show and Beekeeping Exhibition 2:00 pm at Bilsington Priory
Fri 1st Oct 7:30 pm Frank Wood's Gardening Adventures. St. Mary's Church Hall

Bromley

- Sun 15th Aug 3:00 pm The Branch afternoon apiary meeting. Tea and biscuits provided.
Mon 30th Aug Cudham Village Fayre, Cudham. Fayre open 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm.
Sun 5th Sept 11:45 pm The Branch morning apiary meeting. Tea and biscuits provided.
Sun 11th Sept Bromley and Orpington Honey Show and Beekeeping Exhibition and crafts
Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham. Open at 9:30 am. FREE ENTRY
Sun 3rd Oct 11:45 pm The Branch morning apiary meeting. Tea and biscuits provided.
Apiary meetings at Kent House Road Allotments, 91a Kent House Road, Sydenham. SE26
Opposite Woodbastwick Rd., park in Kent House Rd. and walk up alleyway.
Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management if weather permits

Dartford

- Sat 25th Sept Honey Show with Sidcup Branch Acacia Hall, High Street, Dartford

Orpington

- Sun 11th Sept Bromley and Orpington Honey Show and Beekeeping Exhibition and crafts
Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham. Open at 9:30 am. FREE ENTRY

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

- Sat 14th Aug 2:30 pm Barrwood Remove Honey Crop & Insert Bayvarol
Sat 21st Aug 2:30 pm Hilbert Road Apiary Extract Honey Crop & Insert Bayvarol
Sat 18th Sept 2:30 pm Barrwood Remove Bayvarol & Winter Feeding
Sat 25th Sept Honey Show at Otford Church Hall Judge: Moyra Davidson, East Sussex
Sat 2nd Oct 2:30 pm Hilbert Road Apiary Remove Bayvarol & Winter Feeding

Sidcup

- Every Saturday at 3:00 pm Activities and Tea Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm,
Maidstone Road, Sidcup

- Sat/Sun 4/5 Sept Garden Festival Hall Place, Bexley Apiary Closed
Sat 25th Sept Honey Show with Dartford Branch Acacia Hall, High Street, Dartford
Sat 2nd Oct 2:30 pm Ruxley Dividend meeting at Apiary
Sat 23rd Oct Apiary Closed for National Honey Show
Sat 30th Oct Last meeting and Season closes

Westerham

- Sat 7th Aug In the apiary at Langhurst, Guildables Lane, Edenbridge. Demonstration by Geoff
Close, Sean New and Nick Withers.
Directions: Travelling south through Crockham Hill (B2026) take the first right into Dairy
Lane. A little over 1 mile turn left at T junction; the apiary is before the first house on the left
after about 3/4 mile.

Museum of the French Revolution and Maison d'Apiculture at Vizelle in a stately home, with an enormous park, which was the birthplace of the Revolution.

The general impression left with me was how much beekeeping is part of the local agricultural economy in this part of France. Grants are available for young persons with relevant formal training to set up in business and obtain suitable equipment. The weather is always an issue, of course, and we were told that 2004 had been too dry for good nectar flows - eg. the robinia trees had failed to produce nectar this year, and one beekeeper had lost bees through spray damage when his bees went to an alternative nectar source.

It was a most enjoyable holiday with a good mix of activities for the bee enthusiast and the tourist in all of us, and I hope to go again in June next year, but there is also the attraction of Apimondia 2005 in Dublin from 21-26 August 2005 - perhaps both are possible !

For details of Apimondia 2005 see www.apimondia2005.com

DETLING 2004

Another County Show has passed by. The three days went very rapidly due to the unstinting hard work by many Kent Beekeepers from most of the Associations across Kent. The event was a great success largely due to the great skills of Peter Baker, Sally Hardy, Mike Wall and Dave Wood for masterminding the event and arranging us stewards in the right place at the right time. I would like to thank everybody for their help without which we could not project beekeeping in such a positive light. There was a huge amount of interest from possible new members to our craft and if everyone who expressed an interest in Terry Clare's Autumn beginners class turns up he will have to cram nearly 100 people into a room capable of holding just twenty! Good luck Terry. As an ordinary helper in the bee tent I must pay special thanks to Lesley Fancote from Gravesend Branch for managing such excellent catering for so many. The choice of menu and hot food was much welcomed by everybody and helped ensure the success of the event over three days.

The competition was efficiently organised by Mary Hill and there were 153 entries from 21 exhibitors. Liz and Mike Duffin from Hampshire with Elizabeth and Leslie Gordon-Sales from Folkestone judged the show. Our thanks to all concerned. The cup winners are listed below with a full set of results on page 5.

John Hendrie

CUP WINNERS

**Sir Reginald Tower Rosebowl and
B.B.K.A. Blue Ribbon (Best entry in Show)**

Tony Masters

The Agricultural Society's Trophy

(Highest points in classes 1-9)

Peter Bashford

The Philpot Trophy

(Branch or Association with highest points)

Ashford

The Margaret Calder Plate for Cookery

**Janet Kendall
and Dorothea Cowan**

Beeswax Cup

Peter Bashford

Novice Cup

Adam Russell

Mead Cup

Peter Griffiths

Challenge Trophy

(Winner of Exhibition Class)

Lesley Fancote

Beetour 2004

John Bassendine from Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Branch reports on the 25th Bee Tour arranged and organised by Brian Palmer.

At the end of June 2004 I went to Grenoble area of south-east France on the 25th beekeeping tour run by Brian Palmer, the former County Beekeeping Instructor for Kent. The group of 47 came from all over UK, including Guernsey, and a few of us had been on all 25 trips to different parts of Europe, with an emphasis on France. It was my first trip with the group and we travelled in a comfortable modern Neoplan coach (from Buzz Lines of Folkestone !), with part of the outward journey by TGV from Paris to Grenoble. We spent four nights at the superb Logis de France Hotel Les Mesanges at Uriage-les-Bains, an attractive spa town in the mountains south-east of Grenoble, with one night in Grenoble and one near Dijon. The hotel has a pool which some of us used each evening. We were given a tour of Uriage by an English resident, visited the local market, and added a commercial tour of the Grenoble old town area. Grenoble is in the Val d'Isere & the city is very flat, but has the Isere River and is surrounded by spectacular mountains. We were fortunate with the weather for the whole trip except for rain on the first evening, most of which was in any event spent in various local restaurants. The Grenoble area is partly in Savoie and Dauphine, and we were entertained royally by local beekeeping groups & commercial producers. Beekeeping & other highlights included :

A cable-car trip from a ski resort to the peak of Chamrousse at 2250 metres, where we saw many alpine flowers and great views.

Lunch in the open air at the vineyard of Daniel Billard, Vins de Savoie, 73800 Myans (04.79.28.02.87).

We toured his production unit and sampled his wines & cheeses - one favourite was a local cheese Tome des Bauges, which has AOC status (appellation d'origine controlee), as we are used to with French wines.

Church of the Black Virgin at Centre Spirituel de Myans, based on events in the 13th century, where we were able to go up the tower and have great views of our vineyard lunch location and the surrounding valley & mountains.

Royal jelly production at Chemin de Drouilly, 73800 Les Marches with Bruno Casset (04.79.28.00.89), who is in a consortium who sell all their production within France, & have benefited from the recent EU ban on Chinese imports. His season is c. 4 months long in the summer and he has docile Carniolan bees.

Migratory beekeeping based in Lans en Vercors, with M. Houdry (04.76.95.66.72), who has c.500 hives, also with Carniolan bees. I bought dandelion honey from him - dandelion is a salad crop in the region. He produces his honey with a mixture of French and US machinery.

Parc des Bauges - we saw the national park visitor centre in the village of Ecole, and an isolated breeding site for alpine black bees high in the Bauges mountain massif. The park authority are keen to establish viable colonies in the high alpine zone to be part of the local ecology.

Ruchers de Allobroges at 30 rue de la Jaquere, 73800 Les Marches where we saw the new HQ of the Societe d'Apiculture de Savoie, with a shop, museum of world beekeeping and many other facilities for members and the public.

Escargot (snail) production with Laurent Coutable at Darbe, 73800 Les Marches (04.79.28.11.82) - new knowledge for all of us. I bought escargot mousse and snails in preserve, but have not yet tried them !.

Walnut oil milling with old machinery with Denis Faure at the "Moulin a Huile" in the village of Chatte, 38160, Dauphine (04.76.64.59.65). He is an enthusiastic young man, who demonstrates the process and is the fifth generation (since 1830) of his family of millers in this location - again I succumbed to purchases !

County and Other Events

Sat 11 th Sept 2004	KBKA Council Meeting at Detling Village Hall
Sat 2 nd Oct 2004	BBKA Annual Open Forum at Stoneleigh
21 st —23 rd Oct 2004	National Honey Show RAF Museum, Hendon, North London
Sat 4 th Dec 2004	KBKA Council Meeting At Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling
Sat 15 th Jan 2005	BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting, Stoneleigh
Sat 12 th March 2005	KBKA Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling
Sat 19 th March 2005	BBKA written Examinations at centres as required
Sat 16 th April 2005	BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh
15 th -17 th July 2005	County Show at Detling

Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover October, November & December. Please note that all details should be sent to John Hendrie, KBKA General Secretary, 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9JT or email: jdh@bbka.freereserve.co.uk by 10th September with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.

Visit the Kent Beekeepers web site: www.kentbee.com

Congratulations

David Ribbans of the Whitstable Branch has obtained a Distinction in Module 1, Honeybee Management and a Credit in Module 2, Honeybee Products and Forage in the BBKA March Examinations. Julian Audsley of Canterbury Branch has obtained his Basic Certificate. Our congratulations on these excellent achievements.

The National Honey Show Welcomes New Beekeepers

As reported above the National Honey is being held at a new location this year—the RAF museum at Hendon so it will be worth making a visit and spending a little time in the museum as well. The nearest tube station is Colindale on the Edgware branch of the Northern Line. If you can travel to London Bridge by train you can pick up a tube direct to Colindale otherwise taking a train to Charing Cross or Victoria will require a change at Camden Town or Euston.

The National Honey Show are offering free admission for members who joined Kent Beekeepers' Association during 2004. You will need to let me know that you intend to visit the National so a list can be drawn up to allow free entrance at Hendon. Tickets are not being issued in advance so you will need to be on the list and you will need to identify yourself on arrival (Passport, driving licence or similar) I need to know by 30th September so the list can be sent in.

In addition to this offer, all first-time exhibitors and those who have not exhibited within the last ten years will not be required to pay any entry fees for the first four classes entered in this year's show.

Let's see if Kent can win the Smallholder Shield this year.

John Hendrie

Special Invitation from Bromley Branch

You are invited by Clive, Jack and Peter to the Annual Beekeepers BBQ at Dorset Road Allotments Elmers End. On Saturday 21st August 2004 at 4.00pm. Bring your own drinks and please ring 020 8658 3786 for more details and in order that we can cope with the catering.

Many thanks PETE

Council Meeting June 5th 2004

The Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2003 were presented to the meeting by Anne Fletcher, these show a profit for the year of £1379 compared to a loss of £93 for the previous year. Branch Administration had reduced by about £800 largely due to an increase in the use of email for distribution of information. All Branch trophies are now included in the fixed assets so the value of tangible fixed assets has increased from £5307 last year to £22053. The Fixed Asset register is now maintained by Anne Fletcher so she should be advised without delay of new capital purchases in the Branches. KBKA are planning to 'self insure' trophies of little value and insure the silver trophies using an insurance company. It was considered inappropriate to expect members to insure trophies on their house contents policy, yet the risk of losing some of the non silver trophies was considered small, there have only been two claims in the last twenty years.

It was confirmed that the subscription rate for the new year would remain at £31. Half year subscriptions have been discontinued. The grace period for paying subscriptions has been reduced to two months, this is still very generous compared with most organisations. The effect of late payment will mean insurance cover being discontinued and may result in you missing one or two copies of BeeCraft. Subscriptions must be paid by 30th November.

Dave Wood reported a very successful display at Detling for the schools day in May. We are very grateful for the helpers who made this event such a success.

The reformed Education Committee gave its first report. It is planned to hold an event in the Autumn, see the advert in this edition of the newsletter.

The have been changes in the management team at BeeCraft following the resignation of Alison Mouser. John Hendrie is the BeeCraft Company Secretary and Sue Hull at Peterborough is the Administrator. For KBKA John Hendrie is the single point of contact for BeeCraft and BBKA News distribution changes, this includes changes of address.

Bee Diseases Insurance have increased the premium rates by five pence per colony and are keeping a minimum of two colonies in Association subscriptions, this means most KBKA members will be paying 80 pence per colony compared with 75 pence last year. The rates are given in the Subscription Renewal form accompanying this newsletter.

At the Annual General Meeting the accounts and Annual Report were approved unanimously with grateful thanks to the Treasurer for all the work she has done. We think we are now complying with the law again by including the fixed assets, but will have to watch for more changed that may be required by Company law and the Charities Commission. Jim Weedon was unanimously re-elected as President.

Can you help?

Can you put me out of my misery. I recently (2-3 months ago) read an article on how to convert a steam wallpaper stripper into a wax melting machine. Any idea where I read it.?? I have searched high and low and cannot find it. I have enquired of John Phipps BKQ editor – he does not remember it. I have tried Jeremy at NBB – no reply, and I have contacted Claire Waring ref Beecraft – she is not aware of it. I know I did not dream it. With my 10 weeks of sick leave, I should have plenty of time to develop a similar system, but I don't see any point in starting from scratch if there is already a system out there.

If anyone saw the article could they please contact John Edwards-Winsor on 01959 522503

FOR SALE:

Nationals £65 and Smiths (New Roofs) + 2 supers £60 and Deep National 14 x 12 + 1 super £75

Can deliver. Contact Jean Mozley 01795 890215

Results from the Honey Competition at the 2004 County Show at Detling Congratulations to all successful exhibitors

Class	1st	2nd	3rd	VHC	HC	C
1 Light Honey	P.Bashford	T.Walton	M.Hill	A.Masters		
2 Medium Honey	A.Masters	P.Bashford	M.DeLaRue	Ba Walker		
3 Dark Honey	P.Bashford	K.Flynn	J.Cowan			
4 Set Honey	A.Masters	J.Cowan	M.Hill	A.Russell	K.Flynn	
5 Cut comb	M.Hill			B.Farrow		
6 Frame	A.Masters	R.Kimpton	P.Bashford			
7 Producers	A.Masters	P.Bashford	J.Cowan	K.Flynn	BaWalker	
8 Wax blocks	P.Bashford	K.Flynn	BaWalker			M.DeLaRue
9 6 Wax Blocks	P.Bashford	K.Flynn	BaWalker		H.Kendall	
10 Novice	A.Russell	L.Fancote	R.Kimpton			
11 Sweet Mead		P.Griffiths			BaWalker	
12 Dry mead	M.Sansom	K.Flynn	P.Griffiths	P.Bashford	BaWalker	
13 Photograph	M.Hill	S.Resner	K.Flynn		H.Kendall	BaWalker
14 Candles	K.Flynn	P.Bashford		M.Hill	D.Cowan	BaWalker
15 Gift clear	P.Bashford	J.Cowan	K.Flynn	M.DeLaRue	M.Hill	
16 Gift set	A.Masters	A.Rusell	M.Hill	T.Walton	J.Cowan	
17 Gingerbread	D.Cowan	J.Griffiths	K.Sansom	P.Bashford	J.Kendall	S.Resner
18 Flapjacks		D.Cowan	M.Hill	J.Kendall	J.Griffiths	
19 Marmalade	J.Kendall	M.Hill	S.Resner	BeWalker	J.Griffiths	
Exhibition Hive Products	L.Fancote		P.Bashford	S.Resner	BeWalker	J.Kendall