

Council Meeting 8th March 2008

Ten representatives from eight Branches together with the four officers attended the Council meeting in March. We had two visitors including one from Demark undertaking research into British Beekeepers! There was discussion on the items to be included in the new British Beekeepers' Association leaflet on giving advice about the types of bee likely to be found in public places and gardens and how to deal with them. This leaflet is aimed at non beekeepers for distribution at publicity events. Advice for beekeepers on the limits covered by the third party insurance cover was also suggested.

Brian Palmer presented an excellent report on the BBKA ADM, sadly advising that the capitation fee was rising from £13 to £14 in October.

James Cash reported a satisfactory financial position. As he will be away for most of April, branch Treasurers are being asked to send their returns to John Hendrie for the period to end of March. As the BBKA and BDI payments made at the end of April will only include payments listed on the returns from October to March we cannot wait until the Treasurer returns to England otherwise there would be delays in possible compensation payments made by members but not received by the County nor sent to BDI.

With regards to the subscription from October this is likely to be £38 or £39 depending on the amount branches need. Representatives will be discussing this at their committee meetings and will make the decision at the June Council meeting. In either case the subscription will be less than the current £40.

David Wood advised that we still need a new Secretary for the Honey Show committee as Peter Baker is retiring. There are four meetings each year. (*volunteers please!*)

Julian Audsley said the Education Committee will be putting an education page on the kbka website amongst other things this will advertise courses. Margaret Thomas will be the speaker at the lecture day on Sunday 16th November.

Further information about the move to Weybridge, Surrey for the National Honey Show was given, we hope it will be well supported by Kent beekeepers as access is easy.

Two very successful workshops demonstrating the use of organic acids as treatment methods for varroa were reported. There had been 80 participants at Wye.

The following Officers were appointed for the next year:

Chairman - Clive Watson, **Vice-Chairman** - David Wood, **General Secretary** - John Hendrie, **County Treasurer** - James Cash, **Membership Secretary** - John Hendrie.

The following elections were made to the committees:

Executive Committee: Peter Hutton, Mike Wall, William Mundy, vacancy.

Honey Show Committee: P. Baker, Dr. J. Cowan, B. Farrow, Lesley Fancote, Mary Hill, Sally Hardy, Margaret May, W. Mundy, W. Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Weedon, M. Wall, D. Wood.

Education Committee: Terry Hardy, K. Erhardt, Lesley Fancote, J. Audsley and T Tong.

John Hendrie

Kent Show 11th to 13th July

The schedules for the Kent Show will be available for download from the KBKA website in May. If you do not feel able to enter why not volunteer to be a steward? You get free entry to the Show for working half a morning and half an afternoon. The rest of the time is your own. If you are interested please contact Sally Hardy, Chief Steward 01797 222570.

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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COUNTY NEWSLETTER

April 2008

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of KBKA will be held on Saturday 28th June 2008 at the Margaret Calder Pavilion Detling at 11:30 am or when the Council meeting finishes if later. The formal notice and agenda will be published in the next issue of the County Newsletter. The meeting is purely a formality to comply with legal requirements, but anyone wishing to attend the AGM is welcome to sit in at the Council meeting as well.

National Honey Show has New Venue

The National Honey Show is moving from Hendon to St. Georges College at Weybridge, Surrey. The Hendon venue appeared to be unpopular with many beekeepers and this new venue hopes to solve some of the problems. There is good access by Road, one mile from junction 11 of the M25, and a short walk from Addlestone railway station. The dates have been changed to fit in with college half term 30th October to 1st November 2008. Please make a note in your diary **NOW**. Further information to follow.

Wax Moth Treatment

We are often asked about treatment for Wax Moth and the following note from the BBKA about using Certan™ may be of interest.

It has been known for some time that the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* is a specific pathogen of the larval form of moths and butterflies. (Lepidoptera) . It kills the caterpillars once they are infected. "Certan™" is the proprietary brand name of a live culture of the bacterium. The culture is appropriately diluted with water and sprayed onto combs.

Control is effective and self-perpetuating while there are larvae hatching and available to be infected. Winter kills off the wax moth larvae and also the bacterium. This treatment has an appeal as a biological control; however, it should not take the place of hygienic management. Clean hives and clean equipment together with regularly changed combs should not make wax moth a problem. Varroa floors under a bee-proof mesh have proved to be rich breeding grounds for Wax Moth. This clearly demonstrates the control exerted by bees themselves. Floors sprayed with Certan™ about monthly during the active season have shown no sign of wax moth.

Glyn Davies

CALENDAR April - June 2008

Branch Events

Ashford

- Sun 6th Apr 2:30 pm Spring Inspection.
Sun 4th May 2:30 pm Open Day for Beginners.
At the Branch Apiary, Cheeseman's Green
Sat 7th June Outing to France. Visit to Musée de l'abeille d'Opale near Hesdin.

Bromley

- Sun 6th Apr 11:45 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Tues 15th Apr 7:30 pm John Hendrie on Swarm Control.
All meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.
Opposite Woodbastwick road, 91a, Kent House, Sydenham, Kent

Canterbury

- Sat 12th Apr 2:30 pm. Vincent's Apiary Spring Inspection, transfer from national deeps to 14x12.
Queen marking, etc.
Sat 10th May 2:30 pm. Sue's Apiary using Langstroth hives. Disease inspection and swarm control.
Directions: joan.mcallister@virgin.net or phone 01304-824660

Dartford - No meetings notified.

Gravesend

- Sat 26th Apr 3:00 pm Good Practice for Routine Hive Inspection, Record Keeping, Queen Clipping and Marking. Harold Manley, 5, Telegraph Hill, Higham,
Sat 17th May 3:00 pm Bob Smith will demonstrate at Pam Aisbit's apiary.
Sturston Farm, Rowdown Lane, Knatts Valley.
Sat 14th June 3:00 pm Routine inspection and making increase at Brian, Lesley and Neil's apiary.
For directions contact Lesley Fancote 01474 702666.

Mid Kent

- Sun 27th Apr 2:30 pm. Spring Examination Nick Withers.
Sat 17th May All Day Introduction to Beekeeping Course Brian, David, Mick, Peter.
Sun 25th May 2:30 pm. Creating and taking a swarm Bob Smith & Nick Withers.
Sun 29th June 2:30 pm. Queen Rearing inserting eggs into nuclei Brian Palmer.
Meetings at The Branch Apiary, Contact Barbara Harris for details 01622 880440

Orpington

- Sat 5th Apr 2:30 pm. Opening of the apiary at High Elms. Then weekly meetings.
Mon 5th May 9:00 am May Fair at Petts Wood Memorial Hall.
Sat 17th May 1:00 pm Demonstration at Coolings Nursery – Main Road site.
please bring along spare bee suits.
Sat 14th June 2:00 pm Apiary AGM at High Elms apiary.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

- 12th Apr, 26th Apr, 10th May, 24th May, 14th June, 28th June: Barrwood Apiary meetings.
3rd May, 7th June, 28th June: Hilbert Road apiary meetings.
17th May 2:30 pm Joint meeting with Weald Branch at Hilbert Road apiary.
All meetings start at 2:30pm. See Branch newsletter for full details.

Sidcup

- Meetings every Saturday at Ruxley Apiary. See Branch news to check time of meeting.
Thurs 5th June 8:00 am Removal of honey crop.

- Mon 9th Apr 8:00 am Distribution of queen cells.
All meetings at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm, Maidstone Road, Sidcup, DA14 5AW

Weald

- Sat 26th Apr 3:00 pm. A guide through the hive in spring. Bob Smith.
Sat 17th-May 2:30 pm Visit to Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells, Hilbert Road Branch Apiary.
Sat 14th-June 3:00 pm Uniting colonies and general beekeeping—Nick Mengham.
Ring Nick Mengham for details and directions 01233 840660.

Westerham

- Sat 10th May 2:30 pm. At John and Margaret Williams' home apiary at 132 Sutherland Avenue, Biggin Hill. Demonstration and discussion led by Jim Grierson from Cudham.
Sun 8th June 2:30 pm. At Diana Pickard's apiary at The Quornden Wood Cottage, Emmetts Lane, Ide Hill. Demonstration and discussion led by Bob Smith from Rochester.

Whitstable

- Sat 12th Apr 2:30 pm John Hendrie will talk on 'Bees and Communication'.

County and Other Events

- 18th April BBKA Members Day at Stoneleigh.
19th April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh.
20th April BBKA second Members Day at Stoneleigh.
10th May West Sussex Bee Market and Auction at Brinsbury College, Pulborough.
Auction commences 1:00 pm. Details Dave Staples 01903 539205.
5th - 7th June South of England Show at Ardingly, Haywards Heath, Sussex.
Entry forms to: Mrs. A. Gill, 143, Smallfield Road, Horley, RH6 9LR
Forms are available from John Hendrie.
28th June Council Meeting at 10:00 am at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
28th June AGM at 11:30 am at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
11th - 13th July Kent County Show at Detling.
21st - 26th July Irish BKA Summer Conference at Gormanston near Dublin.
11th October Council Meeting, Detling Village Hall.
30th Oct- 1st Nov National Honey Show at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey.
Sun 16th Nov 2:00 pm. Margaret Thomas NDB from Essex as guest lecturer.
13th December Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling

FREE ENTRY

The National Honey Show is again offering FREE entry to NEW beekeepers. This applies to all members who have joined the Kent Beekeepers' Association since 1st October 2007. The list of eligible members is sent to NHS in August and you will then be sent your entry ticket. All applications to John Hendrie by 31st July. It doesn't even cost you anything to apply as your request will be accepted by e-mail. This year there will be seminars as well as lectures so come and see the new location.

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

Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover June - August and please note that all details should be sent to John Hendrie, KBKA General Secretary, 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9JT or email: bibba26@tiscali.co.uk or 01732 833894, by 20th May with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.