

Council Meeting 4th December

The meeting was cancelled due to the weather and items were held over to the next meeting in March. Issues that couldn't wait such as the BBKA ADM were discussed at an executive committee meeting called for early January.

BBKA Examinations

The BBKA modules are being held on Saturday 19th March at Lynsted Church near Sittingbourne starting at 9:15 am. If you would like to join the group please send fee £20 per module and application form to John Hendrie by 10th February.

The Executive Committee agreed to continue the refund the fees of successful candidates for the Basic Assessment in 2011. Again applications with fee of £15 to John Hendrie, ideally by 14th April. Application forms can be downloaded from the BBKA web site: http://www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations_and_assessments.php

BBKA ADM 2011

The 51st Annual Delegate Meeting of BBKA was held on Saturday 15th January There were sixty voting delegates, only a few Associations were not represented, and in total over a hundred people attending, including the BBKA executive and visitors. Clive Watson represented KBKA again. New Executive members elected are David Aston, Douglas Brown, Roger Patterson and Michael Sheasby for 3 years and Michael Young MBE for one year. For the Examinations Board Tom Canning Pam Hunter and Pete Sutcliffe elected for three years.

This year for the first time electronic voting was employed. Each delegate had a handset with buttons to press for Yes, No or Abstain. The names were on the main screen so everybody could see who had forgotten to press a button. This was the first year I can remember because there were sixty votes on every item voted. If somebody had left early their name would have shown up for every subsequent vote. The system was easy to use and very fast and was probably the main reason the meeting finished the earliest in living memory. After BBKA had explained the reasons for increasing the capitation from £14 to £15 this was carried by 49 votes to 6 with 5 abstentions. This will need to be considered when Council considers our new subscription from October when it is discussed at the meeting in March.

The reports were agreed unanimously. The Accounts for year ended 30th September 2010 were agreed with none against. The budget for 2011 was agreed with one against.

The delegates confirmed the BBKA policy on intellectual property and their ability to talk to all organisations by 48 votes to 7 with 5 abstentions. The proposition concerning commercial endorsements was amended to say "That the BBKA cease any commercial relationships with agrochemical or associated companies relating to the use of the BBKA logo, for the endorsement of pesticides (for money or any other form of remuneration) as soon as contractually possible. This was carried by 56 votes to 3 with 1 abstention. This confirms BBKA continue with its current policy.

The proposal to introduce a category of Junior Membership produced some interesting discussion about Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks. This would not be a problem for BBKA as they are remote from the individuals, but local associations might need to have members checked if they have juniors at meetings where the parent or guardian is not present. It was agreed by 53 votes to 6 to introduce the Junior category next year.

Cleveland BKA, The Instrumented Hive Product and National Diploma in Beekeeping Board were all elected as members of BBKA.

It was announced that Peter Hutton of Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Branch was being awarded his long service certificate for fifty years of beekeeping.

John Hendrie

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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COUNTY NEWSLETTER

February 2011

More Examination Success

Adrian Davis from Deal, a member of the Canterbury Branch was awarded his BBKA Certificate for Microscopy. Our congratulations to the first Kent Beekeeper to pass this examination.

South East Honey Survey 2010

The summary of Alan Byham's survey is given here. The number of responses was similar to last year at 240 which again makes some of the averages sensible. 94 from the 240 did not give prices for honey but I am still happy to accept the figures and include the average honey take per colony. Some of these beekeepers do not sell any of their honey and may feel they are being excluded from the survey. If this applies to you please just make a note on the form. The average take per colony was better than last year at 44lbs per colony, nearly equalling that of 2008 (47lbs). The early nectar flows were good and in many areas there was also a good main summer crop. Again, as last year the honey flow stopped abruptly around the middle of July, allowing me to extract supers, dry them and have my first varroa treatment on by 8th August. This sudden and relatively early cessation of the summer flow now seems to be a feature of rural beekeeping in the South East area. Of course, I know that for those of you in urban areas, the flow may well continue into August and September but this does then give you difficult choices about the timing of varroa control.

Average Honey Yield per colony: 240 replies ranging from 0.0lb to 211.0 per colony 2010 average = 44lb (2009 = 35lb)

Direct Sales Price (Flower): 146 replies ranging from £2.00/lb to £10.00/lb 2010 average = £4.31/lb (2009 = £3.96/lb)

Wholesale Honey Price (Flower): 50 replies ranging from £2.50/lb to £6.00/lb 2010 average = £3.73/lb (2009 = £3.50/lb)

Bulk Honey Price (Flower): 6 replies ranging from £2.00/lb to £3.50/lb 2010 average = £2.43/lb (2009 = £2.40/lb)

Cut comb: 18 replies were received ranging from £3.50/lb to £10.00/lb. 2010 average = £7.45/lb (2009 = £7.78/lb)

These results are compiled from beekeepers owning between 1 and 100 colonies with total yields between 0lbs and 8000lbs. The highest yield per colony (211lb) came from a beekeeper with one colony, well done to them! There is the usual wide variation in reported average honey yields – from 0 to 211lbs per colony. In fact 10 responses gave a zero return, some of which were new to the craft this season, I hope that they will be able to respond next year with improving figures. The average yield, 44lb, is a reasonable increase over the previous year's figure (36lb), which, may be explained by the wet winter leaving plenty of groundwater, for the warmer, drier weather of the summer.

Alan Byham

CALENDAR February 2011 – April 2011

Branch Events

Ashford

- Fri 4th Feb 7:30 pm John Hendrie will talk about 'Swarm control'.
Fri 4th Mar 7:30 pm. Meeting to be advised.
Meetings at St. Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road, Kennington, TN24 9LN.

Bromley

- Tues 15th Feb 7:30 pm Chris Deaves will talk on 'Beekeeping Beyond the Beginning'.
Tues 15th Mar 7:30 pm Peter Bashford will talk on 'Preparing for the Show bench'.
Tues 19th Apr 7:30 pm Pam Hunter will lecture on subject to be confirmed.
Meeting at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.

Canterbury

- Wed 2nd Feb 7:30 pm Preparation for the New Season
Wed 2nd Mar 7:30 pm Commercial Beekeeping.
Sat 2nd April 2:30 pm Apiary Visit.
at [Stelling Minnis Village Hall, Bossingham Rd, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AG](#)

Dartford

Instruction course in Beekeeping commenced end of January
Contact William Mundy on willmumby8@tiscali.co.uk

Gravesend

No meetings notified. Contact Lesley Fancote for events - 01474 702666

Mid Kent

- Tues 15th Feb 7:30 pm Michelle Fountain Will talk about her recent experiences in New Zealand with black currant pollination.
Tues 15th Mar 7:30 pm. Lecture Crop Protection in Fruit Crops and its threat to Bees.
Meetings at East Malling Research Centre New Road, East Malling, ME19 6BJ

Orpington

- Wed 16th Feb 7:30 pm Rudi Repka will talk on 'The Demaree Swarm control Method'.
Wed 16th Mar 7:30 pm Dr Nikki Gammans will talk on 'Plight of the bumblebee' (£2 charge)
Atomwide Ltd. 3 Ravensquay Business Centre, Cray Avenue, Orpington, BR5 4BQ

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

- Tues 15th Feb 7:30 pm Bob Smith will talk on Swarm Control & Shook Swarm Techniques.
Tues 15th Mar 7:30 pm John Hendrie will talk on 'Simple queen rearing'.
Meetings at St Edith's Hall Kemsing TN15 6NA
Sat 19th Mar 2:00 pm First summer meeting at Hilbert Road Apiary, Tunbridge Wells.
Sat 26th Mar 2:00 pm First summer meeting at Barrwood Apiary, Shipbourne.

Sidcup

- Thurs 10th Feb 7:00 pm Three films about bees at Baldwyn's Apiary
Sat 12th Feb 2:00 pm Afternoon meeting at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm.
Sat 19th Feb 2:00 pm Norman Carreck will talk about Bee Losses & CCD in the USA at Baldwyn's
Then Every Saturday meetings alternately at Ruxley Apiary and Baldwyn's Apiary.

Weald

- Sat 19th Feb 3:00 pm Moyra Davison will explain 'How to prepare exhibits for shows'.
Sat 19th Mar 3:00 pm Jennifer Mengham will talk on 'The History of Honey'.
Sat 30th Apr. 3:00 pm Spring Inspection by Mike Cooper.

For details contact Nick Mengham 01233 840660 or 07884 231514

Westerham

- Wed 23rd Feb 8:00 pm Alan Byham will talk on 'Winter into Spring'.
Wed 23rd Mar 8:00 pm John Hendrie will talk on 'Communication in Bees'.
Wed 27th Apr 8:00 pm John Williams will talk on 'Honey - Hive to Jar'
Meetings at Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue, Westerham,
Sat 9th April 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Microscopy at the John Fryth Room, St Mary's Church,
Westerham Church. Details from Nick Withers. 01883 722194

Whitstable

No meetings notified - Please contact Julie Coleman for events - 01227 751719.

County and Other Events

- Sat 6th Feb 2:30 pm Jean Mozley, 'Beekeeping the next stage' £45. details 07952 739795
Sat 12th Mar 10:00 am Council Meeting at Detling Village Hall, Detling
11 - 12 Mar Ulster BKA Conference at Green mount Campus, Co. Antrim.
12th March Cambridge 1 day seminar at Chesterton Community College, Cambridge.
£17.50 including Lunch Details David J Abson 01223 834620.
BBKA Module Examinations. £20 per module.
Sat 19th Mar 2:00 pm. Medway Open Lecture Norman Carreck NDB on Bee Research.
Sat 19th Mar Central Association AGM and lecture day at Roots & Shoots, London.
Sat 2nd April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh.
16 - 18 April 10:00 am Council Meeting and AGM at 11:30 am. Detling Village Hall.
Sat 28th May Kent Show at Detling.
15 - 17 July Irish Summer School at Gormanston near Dublin.
26 - 31 July 10:00 am Council Meeting at Detling Village Hall.
Sat 8th Oct National Honey Show at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey.
27 - 29 Oct

Medway Beekeepers' Association 10th Annual Beekeeping Lecture

Lecture on "Update on Bee Research" by Norman Carreck NDB. Secretary of the NDB Board and Researcher at Sussex University working for Professor Ratnieks. Norman is also technical adviser for the British Beekeepers Association.

Starts 2:00 pm on Saturday 19th March at Cliffe Village Hall.

Location: The Hall is situated opposite St Helens Primary School on the B200 (Church Street). Look out for the yellow Medway Beekeepers signs.

There is no admission charge, Refreshments will be provided and Everyone is welcome!
Just buy a few raffle tickets to help defray costs Further details – contact Alex Barker on 01634 406360.

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

There are a number of courses being run by some of the branches and you can find details on the web site.

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