

Council Meeting 1st December 2007

Eleven representatives from ten Branches together with the four officers attended the Council meeting in December. Discussions with BDI mean we hope compensation payments will be quicker in the future. English Nature are suggesting there is no such thing as a native honey bee in the UK. BIBBA is undertaking a survey to establish whether *Apis Mellifera Mellifera* is in fact a native species.

It was agreed to leave prize money unaltered for the Kent Classes at the National Honey Show in 2008. (£6, £4 & £2 for first, second, third).

Clive Wason had been thanked by Alan Byham for hosting the Organics acid workshop at Bromley. There had been visitors from other associations as well as a number of branches of KBKA. Meetings involving many branches should be encouraged.

The propositions for consideration at the forthcoming BBKA ADM in January were discussed and Brian Palmer duly briefed.

John Hendrie

BDI Compensation rates for 2008

The rates of compensation for property insured are:-

British Standard Brood Frame	£1:80	Crown Board	£11.00
All other Brood Frame sizes	£2:40	Glass Quilt	£13.10
British Standard Shallow Frame	£1.30	Wire Queen Excluder	£13.90
All other Shallow Frame sizes	£1:80	Slotted Steel Queen Excluder	£5.80
Saleable Honey (30lb maximum)	£1.50/lb	Plastic Queen Excluder	£4.00
Open Mesh Floors	£10.00		

Subject to Condition - Excellent/As New, Good, Poor

No other property will be paid for ie hives are not covered

You must be insured for all colonies owned at the time of inspection otherwise any payments made will be void.

Examinations Secretary

Following the resignation of Peter Hutton as Examinations Secretary for KBKA there is a vacancy to be filled. The job description is as follows:

- To be the single point of contact for KBKA with the BBKA Examinations Board Secretary.
- To receive applications for Exams from KBKA members.
- To make arrangements for the Basic Assessment. (There is a list of Basic Assessors on the BBKA web site)
- To make arrangements for the location and invigilation of the written exam in March.
- To report on Examinations to KBKA Council.
- To promote and advise KBKA members on the BBKA Examinations system.
- To arrange presentation of Certificates to successful candidates.

Further details from John Hendrie.

BBKA written examinations 15th March 2008

Anyone wishing to sit modules on 15th March should send their application to John Hendrie not later than 15th February. Application forms and further details on the BBKA website. bbka.org.uk, or from John Hendrie.

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A company limited by guarantee, Registered No. 238630 Registered Charity No. 222946
Registered Office: National Beekeeping Centre, RASE, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. CV8 2LG



No. 36

COUNTY NEWSLETTER

February 2008

Alexander Charles Girdler (known as Jack)



Jack was born on the 26th June 1917 the youngest of five children. He had a very varied working life starting first as an apprentice engineer in Powerhouse (Halix) plastic factory at Hale End Near Chingford. He joined the Merchant Navy and qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering and Chief Engineer.. He was at sea when war was declared; during this time his ship took bombs and ammunition to Basra and Iraq as well as a train at one time to Australia. On the return journeys they brought back food etc from places such as New Zealand, Argentina, Australia and many other countries. In 1945 he left the Merchant Navy and returned for a short time to work back at Powerhouse. He then went into the Civil Service Ministry of Works; being posted to Woomera Australia on the Blue Streak Rocket project.

Subsequently he came back to England into the Prison Commission dealing with security. Jack retired at 61 years at which time he took up beekeeping, having been very interested in it for a long time. He started with the Croydon Beekeepers before joining the Bromley Branch; he took a beekeeping course at Hadlow with Brian Palmer. For eight years Jack and his wife Ethel were wardens for the caravan club in Shropshire; during which time he took his bees with him. Jack and Ethel both made extensive trips to Australia at one time doing over 24,000 miles. Jack met Ethel his wife while working at Powerhouse and they had been married over 66 years. We shall all miss Jack and he will always be remembered as a kind and gentle man. Our thoughts are with Ethel and their family at this time.

Barbara Watson.

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, 2 miles 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.

CALENDAR February to April 2008

Branch Events

Ashford - No meetings notified.

Bromley

Sun 3rd Feb 11:45 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Sun 2nd Mar 11:45 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Sun 6th Apr 11:45 am Morning apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
All meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.
Opposite Woodbastwick road, 91a, Kent House, Sydenham, Kent

Canterbury

Wed 13th Feb 7:30 pm. Practical Beekeeping. Bring your practical problems for a solution
Wed 12th Mar 7:30 pm. Spring preparation and Pest management - Bob Smith SBI
All meetings at Stelling Minnis Village Hall.

Dartford - No meetings notified.

Gravesend

Sat 16th Feb 3:00 pm. Using beeswax to make candles, polishes and cosmetics such as handcream.
Venue 30 Hadley Close, Meopham by kind invitation of Enid Lander.
Sat 15th Mar 3:00 pm. Natural Methods of Varroa Control as experienced by different members
and review of queen trapping method, St Mary's Church Hall, Sole Street Meopham.
Sat 26th Apr 3:00 pm. Good Practice for Routine Hive Inspection, Record Keeping, Queen
Clipping Marking. Harold Manley, 5, Telegraph Hill, Higham,

Mid Kent

Thurs 21st Feb 7:30 pm. Richard Moyes from Kent Wildlife Trust will talk on "Other Bees"
Thurs 20th Mar 7:30 pm. Pam Hunter from Horsham will talk on Navigation and Foraging.
Meetings at The Bull at East Farleigh.

Orpington

Wed 20th Feb 8:00 pm. Talk at Atomwide's offices - Mavis Righini - Hedgehogs
Wed 19th Mar 8:00 pm. Talk TBA See next Branch Newsletter for details.
Sat 5th Apr 2:30 pm. Opening of the apiary at High Elms.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

Tues 26th Feb 7:30 pm. Beekeeping in the Suburbs - Rudi Repka.
Tues 18th Mar 7:30 pm. Australian Beekeeping & Varroa Update. Nick Withers SBI.
Meetings at Quakers Meeting House, 30 Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks.

Sidcup - No meetings notified.

Weald

Sat 23rd Feb 3:00 pm. Practical session - Nick Atkins.
Sat 15th Mar 3:00 pm. Spring inspection talk and demonstration.
Sat 26th Apr 3:00 pm. A guide through the hive in spring
Ring Nick Mengham for details and directions 01233 840660.

Westerham

Wed 27th Feb 8:00 pm. collecting swarms, a film by Geoff Close, plus advice on swarm collection
Wed 25th Mar 8:00 pm. Quiz for all as well as a social evening with drinks and nibbles
All meetings at Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue, Westerham.

Whitstable - No meetings notified.

County and Other Events

Sat 2nd February Beekeeping Course Suitable for Beginners, Improvers, and Non - Beekeepers
At:- Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2BF. assemble from 9.00
for 9.30-5.00 p.m. Booking:- Andrew Riley, April Cottage, Byworth, Petworth, GU28 0HL.
andrew_riley@btinternet.com 07917 101 386 Cost £25 including lunch & refreshments.

1st March Medway BKA Open Lecture at Strood Civic Centre.
David Kemp RBO, will talk about his time working with Brother Adam.

8th March Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.

8th March Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' One-day meeting, "Keeping our Bees Alive
Speakers: Mike Brown, (Central Science Laboratory) "Colony Collapse Disorder -
an Update"; Ben Emmett "Town or Country bees?"; Dr. Max Watkins (Vita Europe)
"Developments in Honeybee Health"; Terry Clare (BIBBA) " Safeguarding the
Future - a Trident Approach". Trade stand. Tickets £15 (includes lunch and
refreshments) from Dr. D. J. Abson, 6 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford, Cambridge,
CB22 4NT. S.A.E. appreciated (01223 834 620).

15th March BBKA written examinations at centres as required.

18th April BBKA Members Day at Stoneleigh.

19th April BBKA Spring Convention at Stoneleigh.

20th April BBKA second Members Day at Stoneleigh.

28th June Council Meeting and AGM 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.

WANTED - ELECTRIC COOKER

The electric cooker at the Margaret Calder Pavilion has reached the end of its useful life and has ceased to work properly so needs replacing. As you know we only have use of the building for another few years so we are reluctant to buy a new cooker. Is anyone having a new kitchen installed? If you have an old cooker that is to be chucked out then we may be interested. Could you contact the honey show secretary, Peter Baker if you can help. 01732 883163 or Lesley Fancote 01474 702666.

New e-mail address

Last February I changed my email address to tiscali, but until recently have been able to receive messages on the old freeserve account. I am told a few people may not have updated their address books. The freeserve account is no longer valid although you may not receive an error message. If you have sent any messages to me since Christmas on the freeserve account please re-send them to my tiscali account. Thank you.

John Hendrie

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

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@tiscali.co.uk or 01732 833894, by 20th March with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.