

Apology

There was an error in the results for the honey show at Detling reported last time. The correct result for the **Frame for Extraction** class should have read: 1 G. Elliott, 2 A. Russell, 3 P. Bashford, VHC J. Cowan, HC L. Fancote. Apologies for not reporting that Graham Elliott had achieved first prize.

Allocation of the subscription.

Have you wondered what happens to your subscription when it is sent to your branch? Well the allocation is as follows:

Capitation fee to BBKA	£11.00
Capitation to Bee Diseases Insurance	£ 2.00
Payment to Bee Craft for 12 issues	£17.60
Allocation to your Branch	<u>£ 4.00</u>
TOTAL	£34.60

The subscription you pay is only £34.00. The reason the County can operate on a negative amount is because we are able to collect Gift Aid from those of you kind enough to sign the declaration on the subscription renewal form. Please keep signing. If we didn't receive the Gift Aid just consider the effect on future subs.

Terry Clare on the Telly

On a recent BBC Flog-It programme the crew visited Terry Clare's North Kent Breeding Apiary on the Isle of Sheppey. Terry is a member of the Medway BKA and demonstrated good temper in the black bees he is breeding. The programme has received good comments from around the Country.

If you are interested in preserving the native bee in the UK, *Apis Mellifera Mellifera*, then perhaps you should consider joining the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeding Association BIBBA. The Annual Subscription is £15. Further details from John Hendrie or visit their stand at the National Honey Show. The native bee is better able to survive cold winters than many others and there is great interest in Europe for keeping good tempered black bees.

About seventy beekeepers from across Europe attended a seminar at Versailles, France in September to consider the latest research and development into *Apis M. M.* There are a small number of Bee Breeding Groups in England and also the Galtee Bee Breeding Group in Ireland led by Micheal Mac Giolla Coda. Micheal presented a paper on the work that has been done over the past twenty years or so and the importance of having a protected area to ensure pure matings with drones in the protected area. The Galtee Mountains provide such protection in Ireland.

Terry Clare is able to maintain a protected area because he has the Swale to the south and few beekeepers on Sheppey. He will supply black bees to Sheppey beekeepers in order to maintain a 'pure' area. You can see that it will be difficult to set up black bee areas in Kent, but the idea is worth considering. Nick Mengham is giving a talk to Weald Branch on Saturday 28th October to consider Bee Races and Morphometry, perhaps it will be worth attending.

John Hendrie

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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COUNTY NEWSLETTER

October 2006

Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st October. If you have not yet posted yours off please send it to your Branch Treasurer as soon as possible. Please remember that insurances will lapse if your payment isn't received by 30th November and you will miss one or more copies of Bee Craft.

National Honey Show 19th to 21st October

Don't forget to come to the National this year. There is a very interesting series of lectures from eminent International speakers. When you travel to the show from most Kent mainline railway stations a one-day travel card should take you all the way to Colindale on the Northern Line, Edgware Branch. Off peak only. Left out of the station, straight across at the roundabout, past the Police Training College then the RAF Museum is on your right about a ten minute walk from the station.

CONGRATULATIONS

This summer a number of Kent Beekeepers sat the BBKA Examinations. Firstly our congratulations to **Nick Mengham** from Pluckley, secretary of Weald Branch who was successful with his General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry. Nick is one of the first people in Kent to achieve this award. Very well done.

There were also successes with the Basic Certificate:

Trish Preston from Cranbrook	Weald Branch
Davina Ellis from Borden, Sittingbourne	Mid Kent Branch
Dennis William Blakeley from Gravesend	Gravesend Branch
John William Wilby from Dartford	Gravesend Branch
Peter John Marsh from Orpington	Sidcup Branch

Congratulations to all these successful beekeepers.

The next stage is the modules and all eight are on offer on Saturday March 24th 2007. The syllabus can be downloaded free from the BBKA web site and the entry fee is £15 for each module taken. The BBKA also provides correspondence courses for each module at £30 each to aid home study.

CALENDAR October - December 2006

Branch Events

Canterbury, Dartford, Gravesend and Whitstable - no meetings notified.

Ashford

Fri 6th Oct 7:30 pm Keith Newing will be our speaker
Fri 3rd Nov 7:30 pm L. Wardlow will be the speaker
Fri 1st Dec 7:30 pm Annual General Meeting
All meetings at St. Mary's Church Hall, Kennington, Ashford

Bromley

Sun 1st Oct 11:45 am Branch morning apiary meeting at the Kent House Road allotments.
Opposite Woodbastwick road, 91a, Kent House, Sydenham, Kent.

Mid Kent

Thurs 12th Oct 7:30 pm Dr. M. Keith-Lucas 'Pollen and Honey in Forensic Science.'
Thurs 9th Nov 7:30 pm Branch Annual General Meeting.
both meetings at the Bull, East Farleigh near Maidstone.

Orpington

Sat 21st Oct Apple Day at High Elms Nature Centre. Contact Jim Grierson for details.
Wed 22nd Nov 7:30 pm AGM & Harvest Supper at Petts Wood Memorial Hall.
Sat 16th Dec 7:30 pm Christmas Party - venue to be confirmed.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

Tues 17th Oct 7:30 pm . John Edwards-Winsor 'Managing Thirty Five Colonies'
Tues 21st Nov 7:30 pm Annual General Meeting and prize giving.
Both meetings at Friends Meeting House, 30, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks.

Sidcup

Every Saturday from 2:00 pm at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm, Maidstone Road, Sidcup
Tidying up, cleaning equipment, talk and tea!

Weald

Sat 28th Oct Bee races and Morphometry – talk by Nick Mengham
Contact Nick Mengham for directions to the events 01233 840660.

Westerham

Tues 21st Nov 8:00 pm. Annual General Meeting and Honey Show.
Competition for the Miller Cup and the Veness Cup.
At Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue.

County and Other Events

7th October 2006 BBKA Forum at Stoneleigh **STOP PRESS NOW CANCELLED!**
14th October 2006 Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling
19th - 21st Oct 2006 National Honey Show RAF Museum, Hendon, North London
Sat 11th Nov. 2006 Lecture at West Kent College. Dr. Ivor Davis President of BBKA
'Beekeeping Challenges for the future'.
24th - 26th Nov. 2006 Central Association Weekend at Stratford upon Avon.
2nd Dec 2006 Council Meeting at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
13th Jan 2007 BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting at Stoneleigh.
24th March 2007 BBKA written exams. Modules 1 to 8 are all available.

Kent Beekeepers' Association Autumn Lecture

Saturday 11th November 2006

West Kent College, Brook Street, Tonbridge

Beekeeping Challenges for the Future

Ivor Davis, President of the British Beekeepers' Association

The Kent Beekeepers' Association aims to inform beekeepers in the South East. As part of a series of important lectures the group is delighted that Ivor Davis has agreed to talk to us this autumn.

Ivor Davis will focus on the **current issues for beekeepers in the UK**, both political and environmental, and bring us up to date on the negotiations the BBKA is having with the Government and its agencies.

He will then look at the **management of varroosis** – as this is the key issue that weakens our colonies and makes them susceptible to other problems.

The lecture will then address future issues including **diseases, management methods and the short term effects of a warmer UK**.

Ivor will conclude by suggesting how we beekeepers can ensure that beekeeping remains in a **healthy state in this country** and why this is so important for our well-being and the environment.

This will be followed by a **forum session** where you can pose your own questions, or raise issues that you feel need to be addressed.

A lecture not to be missed.

The lecture starts at 3 pm with doors open at 2 pm for refreshments, a browse around the bookstall and catching up with old friends.

Cost £2.00 in advance or at the door. Cheques should be made payable to KBKA.

For further information and advance ticket purchase contact:

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

Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover December to February 2007 and 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 20th November with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.