

MID-KENT BRANCH
KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

December 2011



A very Happy Christmas and New Year



Annual General Meeting

Thank you to those who attended the branch AGM. The Branch Committee for the coming year is as follows:

Chairman Richard Cullen
Vice Chairman Brian Palmer
Secretary Barbara Harris
Treasurer Roger Hart

Committee Members: Dr. Michelle Fountain, Viga Grabham, Sarah Harris, Alan Morolia, Tim Polglase, Jackie Preston, Peter Schmoeger, Keith Underwood, and David Wood

Chairman's Message

The AGM that was held on 15th November and was well supported by 30 members. The elections of officials saw three members of the Branch elected onto the Committee. These were Keith Underwood, Alan Morolia and Viga Grabham.

These volunteers with the other members of the committee will try to make the forthcoming year an interesting one for all our members.

For those who attended the meeting I apologise on behalf of our treasurer who mistakenly thought the meeting was on the Thursday. The financial report will be published as soon as possible and sent to all the members.

Many interesting items were subject of discussion at the AGM all of which will be further discussed by the committee. Two items included the introduction of Apiary Rules and the amendments to the Constitution of the Branch. Both will be very important documents and will be made fit for the purpose of the branch and will be made ready as soon as possible.

In the event of bad weather please check your email before the meetings as it may be necessary to cancel at the last minute for safety reasons.

If you have any questions please ask any of the Committee and we will endeavour to answer you query. I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work in 2011 and look forward to 2012 for the branch to have worthwhile, interesting and social days at the apiary.

This will be the last Newsletter before Christmas and so may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year from the Branch Committee.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dick Cullen

Chairman (Any views please contact me cullen5316@btinternet.com or 07980 683565)

Basic Beekeeping Course .

Our course for the New Year is full. We learnt important lessons last year about limiting numbers so that we can deliver the necessary quality of tuition. Sorry if you missed out this year. Book early for 2013.

Basic Exam

In the coming year we will again be arranging the exam for those that wish to take it. Look out for further details.

Tuesday January 17th at 7.30pm

at

Detling Village Hall

Dr Nikki Gammans FRES

Bumblebee Project Officer

BBCT, Hymettus, Natural England, RSPB, Swift Ecology

We are greatly indebted to Nikki for stepping in at very short notice in place of Dr Sam Andrews who will be in hospital

Future Meetings

February : 21st February Honey Show: details for preparation will be sent separately including notes by Mary Hill (honey judge).

March 20th Medicinal uses of bee products Dr Sam Andrews (postponed from January)

All indoor meetings will be held at East Malling Plant Research Centre unless otherwise notified

Summer Meetings At the Apiary

Sunday 15th April Spring inspection Nick Withers

Sunday 20th May

Sunday 17th June

Sunday 22nd July

Final Reminder!! Those who have not renewed their subscription by December 12th will not receive Beecraft in February as Roger has to notify the numbers at this time. However, if you have decided that beekeeping is not for you and wish to get rid of your beekeeping equipment (and bees) there are beginners who will welcome the opportunity to purchase used equipment at reduced prices. Please contact the editor and your unwanted equipment can be advertised free in the newsletter. (ed)

Oxalic Acid Treatment This should be carried out according to the instructions in the attached pdf file.

Membership Alert: those who know of an beekeeper who is not members of any association, please bring to their attention that they have no third party insurance.

Foundation I have secured a good deal from Maisemore that means that there will be no increase in the price of foundation this year, in fact there is a **Price Drop** as long as the supply lasts; so order early!

BS Brood per 10 sheets £6.50 (£7.88 + shipping from Thornes): BS Shallow per 10 sheets £4.00 : (£4.65 + shipping from Thornes) frame nails £3.50. I also have a small amount of British Commercial foundation shallow at the same price as BS!

Frames BS deep and shallow Hoffman self spacing £6.00 per 10.

I will bring any goods ordered to the meeting following. *David Wood*

Fondant Icing and sugar Asda have packs of fondant icing for £2.14/kg compared with £1.60/kg from a local cake makers, but only if you buy 12.5kg and then get your fingers sticky cutting it and bagging it. I know what I am going to do – bother the expense! Aldi have sugar for £0.92 per kg. If you have fondant from last year that has become hard, it can be softened by careful warming in the microwave, but be careful as the fondant is probably foil wrapped and you should take the appropriate precautions.

Your comments and contributions are as ever most welcome and valued,

Please READ the Newsletter, it could save you money!

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