

## KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

### Orpington Branch Newsletter October 2009

What an amazing honey show! We had six entrants and it is many years since we had so many. Not only that – most of them won prizes. Jim won Firsts for his Two Round Sections and his Two Jars of Liquid Honey and was Very Highly Commended for both his Light and Medium Honey. Peter Kirby also did well with his Sections and got a Second. Kit won a First for his Comb and a Second for his Jars Labelled as for Sale. John, who had not exhibited before, won a Second for his Light Honey, was Very Highly Commended for his Gift Honey, his entry in the Novice Class, and for his Jars Labelled as for Sale. He was also Highly Commended for his Two Jars of Liquid Honey. Last but not least, Ann, who is almost a new member, received a Second in the Novice Class. As a result Jim won the Dr.Courteney Lord Cup and a refractometer presented by Thornes' and shared the Orpington Cup with John. Kit won the Alan D.Simmonds Cup and the Festival Cup went to Ann.

I have to look after the Trophies not won for another twelve months which takes up space at home so I am happy that the number has decreased. But those for wax haven't been awarded for years. If you produce honey you must also produce wax, so why don't you have a go at the wax classes next year?. There are so few entries that you are almost certain to win something and I would have some extra space.

If you don't know what a refractometer does, it is an instrument which measures the angle a light beam turns through when it passes from one medium to another. A beekeeper uses one to test honey because the angle depends upon how much moisture it contains. If the moisture content is too high then the honey can ferment and is extremely unlikely to win any prizes.

Up to about two years ago, Jim was against entering honey shows because of the time it was supposed to take preparing the entries. I was quite successful as an exhibitor but spent very little time in preparation so I included a description of my method for liquid honey in a newsletter. Jim decided to try it and won at the first attempt. And he has continued this year. Maybe next year I will repeat what I wrote to encourage any new members to try.

You must not forget the National Honey Show from October 29th-31st. I have included the last of the NHS newsletters as a reminder. They desperately need stewards. If you can help please contact [Watson30@talktalk.net](mailto:Watson30@talktalk.net) letting him know when - Thursday, Friday or Saturday, am or pm.

The second part of the Orpington Festival was a disappointment. John took over the organisation and running but in spite of the effort, there were few sales on the Saturday so we missed the Sunday.

We now have a grant for an observation hive at High Elms so we have to design it and get it made. It will be outside the Apiary so it has to be as vandal-proof as possible and allow frames to be changed without losing bees or allowing visitors to be stung. Any ideas?

Alan Byham is making his usual request for information about your honey production.

On October 14th there is a meeting at Atomwide at 8.00pm. The offices will, as usual, be open from 7.30pm. This talk will be about Microscopy – so if there's anything you'd like to know then email [mandy@atomwide.com](mailto:mandy@atomwide.com) with the details and she will endeavour to get it covered!

There are lectures at 2.00pm at Lenham on November 15th. Subjects are "The Honeybee Outside In" and "If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper". Kit has some tickets at £4.



Ann receives the Festival Cup from Kit.

Frank

### The National Honey Show

The 78<sup>th</sup> National Honey Show is just weeks away. It is the U.K's 'gold standard' honey show – the equivalent of Wimbledon for tennis players. It will be held in Weybridge, Surrey from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October. There are almost 250 classes and beekeepers come from all over the world to enter so it is truly an international show. Why not book a ticket now to see the best of the best?

#### What's on?

Apart from the world class honey show there will be a full programme of workshops and lectures throughout the event and a wide selection of trade stands with lots of equipment and books to buy. You can see the line-up and download the show schedule on the NHS website [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) and you will receive all the details in the programme that comes with tickets purchased in advance. Advance tickets plus the 2009 schedule of classes and show entry application are available now.

#### How much does it cost?

You can become a member of the National Honey Show for £10 (or £11 via PayPal) and then entry for the duration of the show is free. Admission for non-members is £12 per day. Accompanied children of 16 years and under are free and additional family members over 16 years living at the same address can come in for £5 each. On Saturday admission after 12 noon is £5 for everyone. You can join by contacting the membership secretary, Mrs Sandra Rickwood, 19 Kenwood Drive, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 5AU. Alternatively, email [srhoneyshow@googlemail.com](mailto:srhoneyshow@googlemail.com) or telephone 020 33 55 8716 and leave a message. You can also pay on the door but it is better to get an advance ticket and avoid the queue.

The official closing date for show entries is 1<sup>st</sup> October but late entries will be accepted until 24<sup>th</sup> October on payment of a £5 late entry fee.

#### How do I get my entries to the show?

Exhibitors delivering personally to the show must bring their entries on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October between 2.30pm and 6pm. You hand them over to a steward who will stage them for you. You could use a courier or post. In this case your entry must arrive at St Georges College after 21<sup>st</sup> October and before noon on 28<sup>th</sup> October. Why not persuade one member of your association to bring all the entries from your association to the show. You could split the fuel costs. Don't forget someone will also need to collect them on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October after the show closes. Thornes have, once again, kindly agreed to take exhibits to the show on your behalf. You can drop your entries at Thornes at Wragby or their branches at Windsor or Stockbridge. Jeremy Burbidge of Northern Bee Books has kindly offered the same facility to anyone who can deliver to him. (By Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October and please call him before you visit.) Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire HX7 5JS (01422 882751 – [jeremy@recordermail.demon.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@recordermail.demon.co.uk))

#### Where is the show?

The show is at St Georges College, Woburn Hill, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 2QS

Opening times: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2.00pm to 6pm  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am to 6pm  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 9.30am to 4.45pm

#### How do I get there?

By road: from junction 11 of the M25 (marked Chertsey) follow signs to Weybridge. At the roundabout, take the third exit, A317 to Weybridge. Turn left at the next roundabout into the college.

By rail: Trains leave from Waterloo station to Weybridge. Then, either take a taxi or take a connecting train to Addlestone – the college is five minutes walk from the station. Please make sure in advance that there is a suitable connection. [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or 08457 48 49 50.

Public transport advice: [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) or 0871 200 22 33

If you apply for membership before the show you will receive a programme which includes maps and directions.

See you there!