

# Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey  
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

September, 2014

## *Its show time!*

At last, the honey shows are almost here. I love this time of year because I can immerse myself in all things bees and honey along with others who share this challenging and wonderful interest.

It's been a great summer so the shows will no doubt be especially interesting. Our own Croydon Honey Show is coming up first on 20 September followed by the National Honey Show starting

on 30 October. So as well as getting your entries in (and you still have time) make sure you have booked the activities that you want to do at the National Honey Show – there are some excellent workshops and talks this year.

Good luck everyone, enjoy the shows and see you at the Croydon Honey Show on 20 September!

- Ed

## *Association news*

### *August apiary meetings*

Many thanks to John (Collett) for inviting us to Bray's Farm

for our August Garden meeting. What a feast of

cakes (all home-made) . . . oh yes, we did do some beekeeping in between the refreshment breaks! The photograph is of our Chairman

*cont . . .*



Chairman: Mark Stott  
Secretary: Joyce Atkinson  
Treasurer: Tamar Devane  
Editor: Tracey Carter



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## *Dates for your diary*



20 September: Croydon  
Honey Show

4 October: Surrey Training  
Day, 'Bee Behaviour'

6 October: London Honey  
Show, London Lancaster  
Hotel, Bayswater

30 Oct – 1 Nov: National  
Honey Show, Weybridge

Apiary meetings at 2.00 p.m.  
on Sunday 4 September and  
Sunday 28 September

Mark (Stott) showing us one of the pots of honey that won FIRST PLACE at last year's National Honey Show. It is always useful to receive expert tips!

The presentation on integrated pest management (IPM) for varroa was well attended at the apiary on the 24th: the varroa trays were withdrawn, counted and documented ready for

treatment of the hives after the honey crop is removed.

At the time of writing the extraction meeting is scheduled for the end of the month at Bray's Farm.

## September apiary meeting, Sunday 28th

At Hartley Down Apiary, 2.00 p.m. for 2.30 p.m. start – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September: preparing hives for the winter & work party.



*August Garden Meeting*

## News from the apiary

Our honey crop (at time of writing) is about to be lifted – what an improvement on last year! We need to work on the population of varroa before the winter; and some hives may need to be merged before

the fall. There has been a dearth of nectar in the last few weeks and as usual some robbing has been evident: all division entrances have now been reduced. One or two swarms were rather

acrimonious last week and we hope that it was down to lack of available forage, otherwise re-queening is on the cards.

Best wishes, The Smiling Drones

## CBKA Membership renewals

**Please note that membership subscriptions fall due on 1st October.**

The updated form for 2015 with the new charges is attached at the end of this newsletter. Membership includes Bee Disease

Insurance for up to three hives (additional hives payable separately) plus a copy of BeeCraft (you can choose a paper copy or a

digital copy for slightly less). Please ensure timely return of your subscription to help with smooth administration. Thank you.

## Forthcoming events

### *Croydon Honey Show: Saturday 20 September 2014, Selsdon Centre (Sainsbury's), Selsdon CR2 8LA, 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

This is the main honey event for all Croydon beekeepers and is not to be missed. It's a great opportunity to participate, have fun, meet people and learn – what more

could a beekeeper want?! And you still have time to prepare and enter. The programme including the list of classes and entry form is attached at the end of this newsletter

(apologies for the poor quality of the image – IT issues! – hopefully you can enlarge and print - Ed). Good luck!

### *National Honey Show: Thursday 30 October to Saturday 1 November, St George's College, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 2QS*

The programme has now been released and there are some excellent talks and workshops

so book early to avoid disappointment. Visit

[www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) for details.

### *Surrey Beekeepers Association Training Day: Saturday 4 October – 'Bee Behaviour'*

Dan Basterfield will discuss the behaviour of honey bees. This fascinating workshop is designed to appeal to all beekeepers but will be of special interest to those wishing to take the BBKA Module 6 exam.

Saturday 4th October 2014  
11am to 4pm. £15 per person to include refreshments and a light lunch.

Venue: East Horsley Village Hall, KT24 6QT

Limited places available. To reserve a place please email Sandra Rickwood on [rickwoodsba@gmail.com](mailto:rickwoodsba@gmail.com) or phone 01932 244 326. Full directions and payment details will be provided with confirmation of place.

### *Thornes Beekeeping Equipment Sale*

Thornes beekeeping sales are excellent opportunities to stock up with bargains. Do

not turn up late – it will all be gone!: 27<sup>th</sup> September, 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 pm, Stockbridge,

Hants SO20 6BU.

## *Meeting to discuss BBKA exams: Tuesday 9 September at Epsom Beekeepers Association, Upper Mill Apiary, Ewell Village*

On Tuesday 9th September we will be meeting to discuss in general the BBKA written module exams which are designed to keep beekeepers motivated with their education to ultimately improve beekeeping practices.

We would also like to set up a study group focusing on

Module 1 Honeybee Management to help to guide and support you through the syllabus. The idea would be to meet regularly throughout the winter looking at past papers, discussing exam technique, talking to those who have already completed modules etc in preparation to take the exam in March 2015. (Please note that you must hold the

Basic Certificate to be eligible to apply).

If you are interested in finding out more then please join us on Tuesday 9th Sept at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start (refreshments provided) or email me for further information at [liz.knee@googlemail.com](mailto:liz.knee@googlemail.com)

Thanks, Liz Knee

## *Reminder re BBKA Exams entry deadlines*

Don't forget that the deadline for applications for the November BBKA modules is 23 September. The exams will be held on 8 November. To enter, download the latest application form from the BBKA website where you will

also find payment details (or you can call them on 02476 696 679). Your entry form must be signed by someone from Croydon Division to confirm that you comply with the conditions of entry. The fee for each module in

November 2014 is £20. If you have any queries please contact Celia Perry, County Exam Secretary, on 0790 399 1120 or email [beeexams@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:beeexams@hotmail.co.uk).

## *Pre-winter Nosema Testing*

We have an association microscope and members who are trained in detecting Nosema – so if you would like to check your bees for Nosema before winter please get in touch with Tracey Carter on 020 8686 5629.

Although there is no longer an approved treatment for Nosema since the de-licensing of Fumidil B in 2011, armed with the right knowledge you can manage your colonies to minimize the impact of this pathogen over winter and into

the spring build-up. For further information about Nosema see the relevant pages on the BeeBase website run by the National Bee Unit (it's well worth registering on this if you haven't already).

## *Honey jars and sheets for varroa monitoring*

Just a quick reminder that our division has a stock of **11b honey Jars with gold screw lids** that are available to members:

£24 for a box of 6 dozen (able to split at £4/dozen). Also **white 4mm correx sheets** for varroa monitoring **£2 each**.

Please contact **Derek Read** on **020 8660 9620**.

*Local agent for E H Thorne Beehives Ltd:*

*Richard Palmer tel 020 8679 0401 or email [palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk)*

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If you have stories, notices, photos or other contributions for CBKA newsletters please get in touch: Tracey Carter tel 020 8686 5629 or email [traceycarter07@aol.com](mailto:traceycarter07@aol.com)

Please complete this form and return it with your subscription to Croydon Division SBKA c/o: Margaret Scott 3 Barham Road, South Croydon, CR2 6LD

1	<b>Annual Subscription</b> <i>(see note 1)</i>	£	p
a	Registered Member with paper version of BeeCraft <i>This includes £2.00 BDI insurance for up to 3 colonies per person.</i>	@£47.00	
a	Registered Member with digital version of BeeCraft <i>This includes £2.00 BDI insurance for up to 3 colonies per person.</i>	@£40.00	
	Partner Member Living at the same address as above member.  This does not include BDI insurance  [Partners with their own colonies should insure through the full member or separately in their own name]	@£16.00	
b	Junior rate (under 18) <i>Please see point 4 re insurance</i>	@£9.00p	
c	Friend of the Division	@£9.00p	
d	Donations to Division funds		

2	<i>Charges for services</i>	£	p	
a	Bee disease insurance <i>This is compulsory for all members see note 4 overleaf</i>  <i>*(see over)</i>	Up to 3 colonies per member	£0.00p	Included above
		4 to 5 colonies	£2.00p	
		6 to 10 Colonies	£5.25p	
		11 to 15 colonies	£7.75p	
		16 to 20 Colonies	£9.50p	
b	Rental of a Division Apiary site per site <i>(see note 2)</i>	£9.00p		
c	Sub total for services			

3	Total amount payable – please make cheques payable to 'SBKA [Croydon Division]		

Title;		Name;	
Address:			
Post code			
Phone:		Mobile	
Email:			Newsletter by email YES/NO
			Are you willing to collect swarms? YES/NO

Please read the 'gift aid' note below and sign if you are eligible to do so.

[Redacted]

*I, [full name] of the above address: hereby request that the accompanying subscription and/or donation to Surrey Beekeepers Association-Croydon Division- be treated as Gift Aid and that any subsequent subscription and/or donation to Surrey Beekeepers Association be so treated.  
 I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of UK Income/Capital Gains Tax for each tax year [6 April to 5 April] that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs [CASCs] that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.  
 I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.  
 I understand SBKA will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.*

Signed:		Dated:	
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## Notes

If you need any help with this form please contact the Membership Secretary or any Committee member.

### 1. Membership rates 2014

Membership year runs from the 1st October to 30 September, each year.

There are no reduced rates for late joiners.

Membership includes a membership card, a welcome pack, liability insurance and BBKA Magazine from BBKA and BeeCraft Magazine. Please advise the membership secretary, if you do not receive any of the above.

Your membership also includes BDI Insurance, our monthly newsletter, seasonal meetings and lectures.

*If you are paying for more than one member on this form please add the additional names below.*

### 2. Apiary

If you are interested in a space for a hive at the division apiary please contact chairperson.

Note; due to the limit on available space members will normally be limited to two hive spaces at the apiary.

### 3. Gift aid

Some years ago, the Government introduced a system call GIFT AID. This is a means by which charities (Surrey Beekeepers association, of which we are a division, is such a charity) can reclaim tax – and this is at no cost or detriment to you!

There are simple rules of eligibility- you must be a tax payer! If you have income from a job, from a Building Society or bank, or a pension and you pay tax on it, you should be OK. If you paid more than £10.00p income tax or had that much deducted from a pension or withheld from a bank or building society account, you are eligible and your bee society will benefit.

If you do pay tax please sign the declaration on the first page (this is a standard format issued by the inland revenue) and we will be able to reclaim up to 28p for every pound you pay in the totals box for subscription charges.

**This is not a deed of covenant and you are not committed to any future payments.**

### 4. Bee Disease Insurance

\* If you have no bees at present, you are still required to have the minimum insurance i.e. £2.00.

If you are not familiar with this kind of insurance, ask the treasurer to send you details. The figures are for the total number of colonies and the rates are in addition to membership fees. Please note that nucleus hives and swarms are counted as colonies. If you have more than 20 colonies, please contact the Treasurer for the rates.

Note that for legal reasons, junior members are not allowed to hold a Bee Disease insurance policy and a named adult must be nominated. Contact the treasurer if this applies to you.

### 5. Privacy Statement

Your contact details will continue to be distributed (on the membership list) to Croydon Division members. This information will not be given to anyone else at any time, except as detailed below.

Your name and contact details will be forwarded to 'BeeCraft' magazine, SBKA, BBKA and BDI. These organisations will only use your details for their own purposes and they will not release your details to other parties.

A copy of the membership list may also be sent to FERA for use by the National Bee Unit.

If you do not wish this information to be held on the divisional membership list

or released to BBKA and FERA, add a note in the box below.

SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
~ CROYDON DIVISION ~

THE  
HONEY  
SHOW

Saturday 20th September 2014

at

The Selsdon Centre  
(Sainsbury's)  
Selsdon CR2 8LA

## THE ANNUAL HONEY SHOW

Show Time is here again!

This is the event of the year when we would like to see **all** members taking part. Entering is fun and instructive. The more entries the better the show!

There is a novice class for new entrants and if you have no honey of your own you can still enter Classes 13, 14 & 15 and 17 & 18.

Have a go - you never know, you may be the winner!

*Don't delay - send your entry in today.*

### How to enter:

Please read the schedule and rules carefully, since however good your exhibits, they cannot be awarded a prize if they do not comply with the stated requirements. You need to supply **three things**:

- 1 An **Entry Form**. Please get your entry to the Show Secretary by the Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 but failing this, bring it along with your exhibit on show day, having previously notified the Show Secretary by telephone on 0208-657-2817.
- 2 The **Entry Fee** (see Rule 3) should be paid when submitting your entry form. Labels will then be supplied by the Show Secretary.
- 3 Your **Exhibits** should be brought to The Selsdon Centre between 9.00 and 9.45am on the day of the Show. If preferred you can arrange with a friend to stage your exhibits for you.

The Show Secretary will be happy to answer any queries you may have about the Show; telephone Joyce Atkinson on 0208-657-2817.

## Schedule of Classes

- 1 Two 1lb jars of **Light Honey**
- 2 Two 1lb jars of **Medium Honey**
- 3 Two 1lb jars of **Dark Honey**
- 4 Two 1lb jars of **Set Honey** (Crystallised or Creamed)
- 5 Two 1lb jars of **Chunk Honey**
- 6 Two similar containers of **Cut Comb** - each approximately 8ozs.
- 7 One **Comb** of honey suitable for extraction
- 8 One cake of **Beeswax** weighing between 7ozs. and 9ozs.
- 9 One bottle of **Mead** or **Honey Based Wine**
- 10 **Lightest and Darkest**. Enter a jar of each of your lightest and darkest honey.  
To be judged only on colour.
- 11 **Six matching** 1lb jars of identical honey labelled as for sale.  
Rules 5 and 7 do not apply. Note new regulations regarding lot marking.
- 12 One pair of **Beeswax Candles**. One candle will be lit by the Judge.
- 13 One **Honey Cake**. Recipe: 7oz self-raising flour, 6oz honey, 4oz butter, 2 eggs, 6oz sultanas, 4oz glacé cherries. Method: Cream butter and honey, beat eggs and add flour, then fold in cherries and sultanas. A little milk can be added if necessary. Bake in a buttered circular 6½" to 7½" diameter tin for approximately 1½ hours in a moderate oven.
- 14 **Six Honey Flapjacks**. Recipe: 7oz butter, 7oz demerara sugar, 7oz honey, 14oz porridge oats, 2oz dried fruit. Method: Heat butter, sugar and honey. Add oats and fruit and mix well. Place in greased Swiss roll tin and spread to about 2cm thick. Bake at gas mark 4/350F/180C for 15-20 minutes. Cool in tin, then turn out and cut into squares.
- 15 **Handicrafts**: Any craft or art work related to beekeeping. Must be exhibitor's own work.
- 16 **Honey Jar Label**: A design for a label not exceeding A4 in size. Weight to be stated in Metric and Imperial units and the characters must be at least 4mm high when reduced to honey label size. The design must not have been entered previously in a Croydon Divisional Honey Show.
- 17 **General Interest Display**: Anything which is unusual, original, novel or of general interest to do with beekeeping.
- 18 **Photography**: Must be exhibitor's own work and related to beekeeping.
- 19 **Novice Class**. One 1lb jar of clear honey, light, medium or dark, or one 1lb jar of crystallised honey, natural or creamed.
- 20 **Heaviest Frame**. A shallow BS frame, weight is the only criterion. Note that the winning frame may be marked so that it cannot be used in a following year. Show cases are not required.
- 21 **Honey Preserve/Jam**. One 1lb jar. Made with any recipe but using half sugar and half honey. Recipe must be provided with exhibit.





- 18 A husband and wife will be treated as two separate members for the purpose of awarding points.  
19 Entrants in Classes 9, 10, 13, 14 & 15 may sample the winning entries subject to the consent of the winning exhibitor.  
20 Any objection or dispute must be made before 2.45pm and shall be settled by the committee whose decision shall be final.  
21 The decision of the committee on any matter whatsoever, under or in relation to the foregoing rules and regulations, or on any protest or objection in relation thereto or to any exhibit, shall be final and conclusive.

## Programme

- 9.00 to 10.00 am **Staging** - hand your labelled entries to the steward as early as possible between these times  
10.30 to 1.15 pm **Judging** - members are invited to be present, but must not ask the Judge or his steward any questions or engage them in conversation unless invited to do so.  
3.00 pm **Presentation of Cups and Awards.**  
Exhibits and displays are to be removed by 4.00pm.

**Car Parking** - There is ample car parking space in Sainsbury's car park.