



# **CBKA - February 2014**



February 2014 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

**Chairman – Mark Stott**  
**Secretary – Joyce Atkinson**  
**Treasurer - Tamar Devane**

## **Extended Newsletter available on line**

### **The ramblings of an amateur beekeeper**

January is a quiet time in the beekeeping year with little to do other than plan for spring. However I have been down to my apiary watching my bees coming and going at the hive entrance, both before and after Christmas: I noticed that they were bringing in large amounts of pollen. This is normally an indication that the colony is rearing brood. Possibly because of this behaviour and the mild weather I have received a number of reports of unusually high Varroa counts this winter, as well as hives being low on stores. As I am sure you all know colonies which continue raising brood in the winter consume more honey. Without the brood break the varroa also continue breeding and so their numbers rise. So my recommendation is to monitor both the amount of stores and the varroa drop carefully. Any colony low on stores can be fed icing fondant.

My technique for winter feeding is:

1. Roll out sheets of icing about 5 mm thick. With cling film or greaseproof paper on one face.
2. After removing the hive roof, crack the seal on the crown board with a hive tool.
3. Then with one hand hinge the crown board up and with the other hand place the sheet of fondant directly on the frames with the cling film on the top face.
4. Then lower the Crown board and replace the roof.
5. Whilst the hive is open quickly look down between the frames. If the bees are near the top this is a further indication that they may be low on stores.

The bees normally form a cluster in the middle of the frame and as they consume the stores the cluster rises up the frame. When it reaches the top it will find the fondant. On the next inspection (with luck on a warm day in February) you can simply lift the crown board. If the fondant is being eaten then the colony is low of stores and will need further feeding.

Although the weather has been wet it is also mild so I was able to go collect some flowers for pollen samples. The Brassica (broccoli that had bolted), Hazel, and Flowering Cherry all produced pollen samples. The Broom, Marigolds, and an unidentified evergreen shrub were also in flower but produced no recoverable pollen.

### **Basic assessment**

I have a few names for members interested in taking their Basic Assessment this summer. To remind you this is for any beekeeper with one (or more) years' experience. The assessment will be in the summer so anyone who started with bees last year is eligible.

I will be running a study group to help prepare for the assessment. So if you are interested please phone or email me:

[buzzibeez@gmail.com](mailto:buzzibeez@gmail.com) 07092 1234 916

### **Events**

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Practical Queen rearing - Roger Patterson - 7.30 pm - Warlingham Methodist Church Hall**

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb - Surrey Bee Day 2014 Ewell Castle School Church Street Ewell KT17 2AW 01932 244326**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - 9.30 - West Sussex Beekeepers Ass - Lodge Hill Center Watersfield, Pullborough**  
01798 343470 or email [wsbkaconvention@gmail.com](mailto:wsbkaconvention@gmail.com)

**28<sup>th</sup> March - Moths and Butterflies - 7.30 pm - Warlingham Methodist Church Hall CR6 9LE**

**4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> April - Spring Convention Harper Adams, Newport, Nr Telford**

## Items for Sale to Members

### 1] Honey Jars

We have a large supply of new 1lb (454g) honey jars (with screw lids) which we are able to offer to Croydon members at a much discounted price.

### 2] White Correx Inserts for Open Mesh Floors.

We also hold a supply of white correx plastic used for varroa monitoring, £2 each. All hives vary to an extent and each insert will be approximately 40cm X 43 cm (cut to size) and should be later trimmed with a sharp knife or scissors as required. For good hive hygiene practice we suggest that the side 'flutes' are sealed with silicone and the sheet is cleaned with warm washing soda regularly. Please see one of the **Apiary Team** or telephone David Shepherd (Apiary Manager) on 020 8668 4538

## News from the Apiary - Varroa

If you are not monitoring Varroa throughout the year and rely on one standard autumn treatment **think again!** FERA (Food & Environment Research Agency) advice is to monitor a **minimum** of four times during the year: 1] **early spring**, 2] after **spring honey flow**, 3] at time of **honey harvest** 4] **late autumn** and more frequently if there is a local mite invasion. I would suggest **more**, as some of our local winter monitoring has thrown up some surprising results.

The following essential reading can be downloaded from the National Bee Unit ([www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)):

Best Practice and Guidelines No. 11 – Varroa  
Advisory leaflet: Managing Varroa

### **EPSOM BEEKEEPERS - ONE DAY SPECTACULAR**

**Members only discount on everything in our shop  
extended to ALL Surrey BKA members**

SATURDAY 29 March 2014 11am – 3pm  
At: Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF  
[sales@epsombeekers.co.uk](mailto:sales@epsombeekers.co.uk)

Module Study group for those interested in learning about the products of the Hive First Wednesday of the month 7.30pm in the •Foxley Hatch Russell Hill Purley

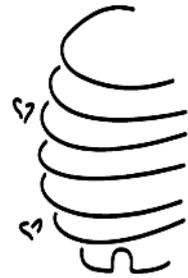
### ***Things to do in February : from the editor***

I have had 2 hives blown over in the last couple of days due to high winds, fortunately they were empty. Make sure your hives are secure and possibly weighted or tied down, you have been warned. I'm sure that by now you have treated your colonies for Varroa and checked the stores. You may consider giving them a small winter feed laced with thymol to deter Nosema as well as Varroa, I have, see [scientificbeekeeping](http://scientificbeekeeping.com) and decide for yourself at <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/the-nosema-twins-part-5-alternative-treatments>

**Local Agent for E.H. THORNE (Beehives) Limited**

**RICHARD PALMER Tel: 0208 679 0401**

Email: [palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk)



# 9<sup>th</sup> Surrey Bee Day 2014

Saturday 15 February

Ewell Castle School Church Street Ewell KT17 2AW  
Programme & Speaker Details

A stimulating day is promised at the 9<sup>th</sup> Surrey Bee Day once again, featuring top quality speakers and discussion.

- **Managing Varroa in 2014**

An update on all the latest approaches to management of this endemic pest. **Richard Ball** – Ex- National Bee Inspector

- **The Bumble Bee through the Eyes of a Beekeeper**

The bumble bee seems poorly adapted for long-term survival when compared with the honey bee according to Paul Metcalf. **Paul Metcalf NDB** – President of Norfolk BKA and member of BBKA Technical & Environmental Committee

- **Agriculture under the neonicotinoid ban**

The neonicotinoid ban imposes new problems for farmers calling for a rethink on crop protection with implications for food production and beekeepers.

**Nick Von Westenholz** – Chief Executive, The Crop Protection Association

- **4th Lecturer to be confirmed**

**Tickets £22 including lunch - available now from:**

Sandra Rickwood 19 Kenwood Drive Walton on Thames KT12 5AU  
01932 244326 [rickwoodsaka@googlemail.com](mailto:rickwoodsaka@googlemail.com)

## New NDB Short Course dates

The following dates have been confirmed and are now open for bookings:

<b>Month</b>	March	April	April	June
<b>Date</b>	15, 16	6, 7	6, 7	6, 7
<b>Course Title</b>	Behaviour <b>Lead</b>	Microscopy	Seasonal Management	Seasonal Management
<b>Tutor</b>	Dan Basterfield	Ken Basterfield	Ivor Davis	Ivor Davis
<b>Venue</b>	Kent	Harper Adams	Harper Adams	Kent

## BKA Spring Convention venue

The 'Harper Adams' course dates listed above are taking place on the Sunday and Monday of the BBKA Spring Convention weekend. We are running these as a pilot to gauge the demand for Short Courses at Harper Adams, since many of our current and potential students will already be planning to attend the Convention. Course places should be booked through the NDB website, using the 'Harper Adams' form, and on-site accommodation for the Saturday and Sunday nights can be booked through the BBKA website if required.

It is also worth mentioning that there are still some places available on the following courses:

<b>Month</b>	February	February
<b>Date</b>	8, 9	15, 16
<b>Course Title</b>	Adult Bee Diseases	Anatomy & Dissection
<b>Lead Tutor</b>	Dan Basterfield	Dan Basterfield Devon
<b>Venue</b>	Devon	

For more information and to apply, please [visit the NDB website](#).

We are working to confirm dates & locations for further courses in Spring & Summer 2014 - notably *Brood Diseases* and *Queen Raising* - and we will email you about these as soon as arrangements have been confirmed.

The National Diploma in Beekeeping Board.

# EPSOM BEEKEEPERS

## ONE DAY SPECTACULAR

Members only discount on **everything** in our shop  
extended to **ALL Surrey BKA members**

SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014 11am – 3pm

At: Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF

We have a fantastic opportunity we wanted to share with all members of Surrey BKA.

**If we can confirm a significant volume order we can obtain Maqs strips at a significant discount and are able to offer:**

**Maqs strip at £5.40 per treatment**

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please email by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February [sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk) to reserve your order.

We will confirm the promotion is going ahead by 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Items will be available for collection on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014 between 11am – 3pm.

We will also be offering our normal 10% Epsom members discount to

**ALL SURREY Members on ALL SHOP STOCK** for one day only

This includes hive parts (national and commercial), frames, wax foundation

**Treat yourself to a whole hive – the Epsom Second at £156.60**

[www.epsombeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.epsombeekeepers.co.uk) Registered charity number 1026386

More information and a complete price list:

[sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk)



# On-line Bookings Now Open

Book your Workshops & Courses plus Accommodation and Meals on-line now...

- Go to [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) and click on the Spring Convention logo, to take you to the Spring Convention Welcome Page, where you can see what's on offer and down-load the programme.
- Click on **BBKA On-line Shop** to purchase entry tickets (wrist-bands). You must wear a wrist-band at all times.
- Return to the Welcome Page and click on the **Book Events and Services** link to book your Workshops and Courses, Accommodation and Meals

**Tickets are selling fast so please act quickly to avoid any disappointment**

*Any Queries? Please get in touch via the web-site.*



## Spring 2014 Convention

N.B. The so called BeeTradex Show has no connection with the official Spring Convention Trade Show, where all major suppliers will be present.

4th – 6th April 2014 Harper Adams, Newport, Nr Telford

# On-line Bookings Now Open

Book your Workshops & Courses plus Accommodation  
and Meals on-line now...

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Click on [BBKA On-line Shop](#)  
to purchase entry tickets (wrist-bands).

*Wrist-bands must be worn at all times.*

Return to the Welcome Page and click on

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[forward to a friend](#)

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Our mailing address is: National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warks, CV8 2LG

# WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

## Annual Convention Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014

**At Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough 9.30am to 4.30pm**

The West Sussex Beekeepers' Association is pleased to invite beekeepers and those interested in bees and beekeeping to the WSBKA Annual Convention. The event is designed to suit beekeepers of all standards. As well as the main lectures, the seminars offer a choice of more specialised topics. We hope you will be joining us.

### Main Lectures

Honey Bee Anatomy	Graham Royle
Varroa Control without Chemicals	Bob Smith
Using the Nuc Box	David Rudland

### In addition there is a choice of seminars

#### Seminar 1 (you can attend one of these)

1) The impact of Nutrition on Honey Bee Health	Ben Jones
2) If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper	Graham Royle
3) Record Keeping for Beekeepers	Tom Moore

#### Seminar 2 (you can attend one of these)

4) Managing the Workers	Bob Smith
5) Beeswax Candle Making	Celia Rudland

*For all your beekeeping needs, **Paynes Southdown Bee Farms** will also be present at the Convention*

Advance booking per person, WSBKA members £20  
Members of other associations and non-members £25

On the day if space allows £25

Full details and booking form on the WSBKA website [www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex](http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex)  
or contact Gordon Allan on \_\_\_\_\_

01798 343470 or email [wsbkaconvention@gmail.com](mailto:wsbkaconvention@gmail.com)

## **West Sussex Beekeeper's Association Annual Convention – 22nd February 2014**

### **Details of the Day and Speakers' Profiles**

The West Sussex Beekeepers' Annual Convention has again attracted top speakers to cover a wide range of topics throughout the day. As well as the main lectures, you can attend two additional seminars on different subjects. Please indicate your choices in order of preference, as spaces on some seminars will be limited. We will, of course, do our very best to meet your individual wishes. Please apply as soon as possible to have the best chance of attending your preferred seminars. We hope there will be plenty to interest you.

#### **Bob Smith**

Bob is an NDB qualified course tutor. He runs a variety of training events in Kent and elsewhere for the NDB and other local and national beekeeping groups. The National Diploma in Beekeeping (NDB) is the highest beekeeping qualification recognised in the UK. He is a member of the Government's "Bee Health Advisory Forum", trying to support initiatives to ensure a sustainable population of honey bees in the UK.

Bob has been keeping bees since the mid-70s, currently with 12 colonies, was a Seasonal Bee Inspector for 6 years and is a member of the Medway Beekeepers Association. He is already known to some of us as he has run some excellent LHSE (Livestock Health South East) beekeeping courses in the West Sussex area.

Bob's main talk is on 'Varroa Control without Chemicals' and he will also run a seminar on 'Managing the Workers - Improving productivity, maintaining good industrial relationships and avoiding disputes'.

#### **Graham Royle**

Graham is a celebrated national speaker from Cheshire and heavily involved with the education of beekeepers at all levels. He began beekeeping in 1988, is a BBKA Master Beekeeper and was awarded the NDB in 2004. He runs training events both locally and nationally covering topics amongst others, on the Honey Bee anatomy, dissection and microscopy.

Graham's first talk will be on 'Honey Bee Anatomy' and he will explore the external and internal anatomy of the honey bee and help us make sense of its amazing complexity.

Graham is also presenting a more light hearted seminar 'If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper' when he will share hints and very practical tips from 25 years of beekeeping experience.

#### **Ben Jones (NBU)**

Ben is the Diagnostic Laboratory Manager at the National Bee Unit. He has been there since 2006 and the manager since 2008. Apart from supporting the NBU research programme, Ben works closely with the NBU Apiary unit and NBU inspectors to ensure that samples required for research and development are processed appropriately.

The work the NBU undertakes is extremely dynamic during the beekeeping season. Priorities often shift rapidly and staff are resourced to numerous projects spanning admin support, data entry, sample preparation and receipt and field work.

Ben is also studying for a PhD on the effects of dietary pollen on the health, behaviour and immune system of honey bees. It is essential that bees receive nutrition of the correct type – especially from pollen. Ben's seminar is entitled 'The impact of Nutrition on Honey Bee Health'. He will share with us the fascinating and important findings of his research and laboratory studies.

### **David Rudland**

David is a commercial beekeeper with approximately 150 hives based all over the East Surrey and West Kent area and is also a Seasonal Bee Inspector in the South East area with the National Bee Unit of FERA (currently covering much of Sussex and Kent).

Many of us have already met David and benefited from his experience in local Disease Recognition and other workshops. His talk is on 'Using the Nuc Box'. Most of us have one but are we making the best of it?

### **Celia Rudland**

Celia is David's wife and a beekeeper herself, of much experience, having kept bees for about eleven years. Originally trained as a teacher in Hertfordshire and at Cambridge, Celia has taught all age groups from 3 to 93.

Celia and David own 'East Surrey Bees'. They provide honey, wax products and nucleus colonies for sale and run a number of courses throughout the year for beginners and beekeepers with all levels of experience.

Celia's seminar is on 'Beeswax Candle Making'.

### **Tom Moore**

Tom attended beekeeping classes with Ted Hooper in 1971 but didn't actually start beekeeping until 2006! He currently keeps between 20 and 35 colonies in partnership with Gordon Allan.

Tom is well known to us in West Sussex Beekeepers' Association as our current County Chairman and as Chairman of our Wisborough Green Division. He writes regular monthly articles in our County News. He makes a huge contribution to the support and encouragement of beekeepers throughout our region.

Tom's seminar is entitled 'Record Keeping for Beekeepers'. All beekeepers, whether they have just one hive or many, know they should keep good records - but just how far do you need to go and why?

.....  
The convention is also a great opportunity to stock up on equipment and reading matter for the coming season. As usual, Paynes Southdown Bee Farms will bring a tremendous range of equipment and books to the Convention

The Convention Fee for West Sussex Beekeepers Association Members is £20 for the whole day if paid in advance (received by Monday 17th February 2014) and £25 for non-members, or on the day (subject to space being available - choice of seminars may be limited).

Tea and coffee during the day are included and also a simple lunch.

Venue details: Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Near Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1LZ

Should you require further details, please contact Gordon Allan on 01798 343470 or email [wsbkaconvention@gmail.com](mailto:wsbkaconvention@gmail.com) or see the website [www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex](http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex).

Attached is a Booking Form that can be used for up to two delegates. This can be completed and returned with your cheque (made payable to 'WSBKA') to Gordon Allan as soon as possible.

Alternatively, for the first time this year, there is the opportunity to book and receive confirmation and map by email with payment made by bank transfer (see Booking below). If you wish to receive confirmation and map by post, a stamped addressed envelope should be sent with your booking.

# West Sussex Beekeeper's Association Annual Convention – 22nd February 2014

To: **Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0AU**

Please book me ..... places for the WSBKA Convention to be held on Saturday 22nd February 2014 at a cost of £..... (Ticket price is £20 each for WSBKA members and £25 each for non-WSBKA members.)

You can either enclose a cheque made payable to 'WSBKA' along with this form

**Or:**

You can make payment by Bank transfer and return this registration form by email (no SAE required). For Bank transfer, Account name is "West Sussex Beekeepers Association", Sort code: 402823 Account number: 11457721 - please put the first delegate's surname in the Reference field.

In both cases, you will receive your confirmation number(s) and a map by email. If you do not have email, or require a physical ticket/map, **a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed.**

## DELEGATE 1

Name..... (please print) Telephone No. ....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Email .....

I am a member of .....Beekeepers' Association (if any).

### Seminars - In case your first choice is over-subscribed, please indicate your order of preference

#### Seminar 1 (you can attend one of these)

- 1) The impact of Nutrition on Honey Bee Health - Ben Jones
- 2) If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper - Graham Royle
- 3) Record Keeping for Beekeepers - Tom Moore

#### Preference

First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third

#### Seminar 2 (you can attend one of these)

- 4) Managing the Workers - Bob Smith
- 5) Beeswax Candle Making - Celia Rudland

#### Preference

First / Second  
First / Second

## DELEGATE 2

Name..... (please print) Telephone No. ....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Email .....

I am a member of .....Beekeepers' Association (if any).

### Seminars - In case your first choice is over-subscribed, please indicate your order of preference

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- 3) Record Keeping for Beekeepers - Tom Moore

#### Preference

First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third  
First / Second / Third

#### Seminar 2 (you can attend one of these)

- 4) Managing the Workers - Bob Smith
- 5) Beeswax Candle Making - Celia Rudland

#### Preference

First / Second  
First / Second

## Wisborough Green Division - West Sussex BKA

# Beekeeping Course

### Suitable for Beginners, Improvers, and Non - Beekeepers

At:- Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2BF.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Assemble from 9.00 for 9.30-5.00 p.m.

The course is suitable for those who wish to discover what is involved in keeping bees, but will also be suitable for those who have kept bees for some time. It will largely follow the syllabus of the BBKA Basic assessment, but with variations. This course is based on nearly 50 years experience, not just repeating what is in books.

#### **Subjects covered will include:-**

How to learn about bees	Obtaining bees and equipment
Different kinds of bees	Where to site hives
How bees live naturally and how we can manage them	Protective clothing
What bees collect - nectar, pollen, propolis, water	Colony Management
How bees store the crop	Handling bees carefully
What happens in a beehive and where	Swarming and dealing with it
The 3 castes - queen, drones, workers	Dealing with the crop
How to start	Making colony increase
Choosing the type of hive and why	Feeding
Essential equipment	The colony in winter

**Course fee** £40. Second and subsequent attendees booked together £35\*. Under 16 with a paying adult £15\*. Price is per head to include lunch, refreshments, and our own booklet "Basic Beekeeping". Please note: Those marked \* will not receive "Basic Beekeeping". Additional copies available on the day at £5. For existing, paid-up WGBKA members the fee is reduced to £30.

**Enquiries:-** Roger Patterson. [roger-patterson@btconnect.com](mailto:roger-patterson@btconnect.com) 01403 790 637 or 07976 306 492

**Booking:-** Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AU. 01798 343470, [petworthgordon@btopenworld.com](mailto:petworthgordon@btopenworld.com) preferably using the form on the website.

**Cheques payable to:-** WSBKA Wisborough Green Div.

Web Site Visit us on [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk)

## Prepare yourself for the coming season – **now**

Pulborough Village Hall is off Lower Street. Turn down next to the Oddfellows Arms, right to the bottom and turn right into the car park. If this is full then use the main car park immediately before it. We understand the main car park will be free for hall users.