



CBKA - July 2013



July 2013 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

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

Extended Newsletter available on line

Members' Survey

There is no time during the year when all the Croydon Beekeepers membership gathers together and for some folk we only have occasional contact if at all. We are one of the smaller divisions of Surrey Beekeepers, which makes it even more important that we keep in touch with our members and we certainly need to find out what it is you appreciate by being members of Croydon Beekeepers. Your suggestions about how we may be able to improve our programme and facilities will be very welcome.

A brief members' questionnaire has been compiled for those with on-line access and your committee would be very grateful if you would complete this when you are able. Cutting and pasting the following link will take you to the survey:

<http://www.smart-survey.co.uk/s/68381UNXRT>

For those without on-line access we will be sending a paper copy. Please do give us your feedback

Thanks

Well I never!

Did you know that bumble bees can be right or left handed?

We know bumble bees bite through the bases of flowers to access nectaries which otherwise are inaccessible to their short proboscises*. Our honey bees will then use these holes to their own advantage.

Observations made by Professor David Stirling when he was based at the University of Stirling revealed that when bumble bees bite through the bases of flower corollas, each year the entry holes are always on the same side in a single meadow. The research was with two short tongued species: *Bombus lucorum* (white tailed bumble bee) and *Bombus wurflenii* (a European species) in Switzerland. As we know the workers are completely different from year to year: the 'handedness' in each meadow starts as a 'blank slate' and then increases as the season progresses. The same meadow is either 'left handed' or 'right handed' and this changes from year to year. The most reasonable explanation is that the few queens coming out of hibernation will by chance make more holes on one side than the other and the habit is then picked up by observation by the newly hatched workers. The preference for left handedness or right handedness spreads by positive feedback and increases as the year progresses. The habit also passes between different species of bumble so that whole meadows have identically sided holes.

Ain't nature marvellous!

*Plural can be:

proboscises; probosces or proboscides (thought you would appreciate that – Concise Oxford Dict.!))

Congratulations:

Congratulations to our Chairman, Mark Stott on passing his final BBKA study module 8; Mark has now been awarded his **Advanced Theory Certificate**. Well done Mark!

Also congratulations to Tracey Carter and Mags Scott for passing their study modules 3.

Things to do in July:-

As the colonies reach their peak do not forget to monitor for varroa, lots of brood equals lots of varroa, this can be very serious as the colony collapses towards the end of the season. You don't want it to collapse all the way to destruction.

Last month I suggested that you have a go at queen rearing, We all need the very best of queens so have a go and raise new queens from the very best you have, not forgetting to cull the very worst. May I suggest that you replace 50 percent of your queens annually not forgetting to keep hold of the old queens until the new queens have proved themselves.

Although swarming should be coming to an end remember to check for queen cells and if you can keep a bait hive nearby all the better.

Events

9th-14th July- Hampton Court Flower Show

24-26 Oct - National Honey Show, St Georges College Weybridge.

Mon 7 Oct from 6pm to 9pm - London Honey Show at Lancaster London Hotel including the Awards Ceremony with the Beecraft sponsored Beekeeper of the Year Award. Entry only £1 with all proceeds going to Bees for Development. Stalls will include food and drink; arts and crafts; beekeeping equipment; beauty products, and more.

7th Dec - Surrey AGM at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate. Celia Davis, guest speaker on 'Doing Things Better'.

Notes -

If your on the internet and you want a little more insight into swarm control and queen cells have a look at this - WBKA: www.wbka.com/pdf/a012queencells.pdf

There is some suggestion that varroa can be reduced by not using foundation and here is the Youtube video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=821uVRAcZ1I&list=PLB9114748A8CD64A4&index=2>

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

The BBKA will be at HCPFS from 9 – 14 July this year. We will again be sharing the marquee with the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and Plants for Pollinators. As ever, I am looking for volunteers to do half a day on the exhibit and have half a day at the show. Would you please ask those willing to help to e-mail me as soon as possible with their outline availability.

Many thanks

Tim Lovett <tjl@dermapharm.co.uk>

MAQS (the newly licenced treatment for varroa) is now available for sale within the UK. Please contact Richard our friendly supplier.

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

RICHARD PALMER Tel: 0208 679 0401

Email: palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk

London Honey Show 2013 At Lancaster London

Bees, beekeepers, and bee associations across Britain are buzzing with excitement at the return of the London Honey Show 2013. Lancaster London is delighted to announce it will be organising and hosting the third annual event on Monday 7 October 2013 from 6pm.

The London Honey Show is a celebration of bees and beekeeping, with friendly competition between new and experienced beekeepers alike. The show also aims to inspire non-beekeepers in a young and fun way.

Those attending the show will be able to visit stalls and exhibits, enjoy talks from bee experts, and perhaps most importantly sample some of the delicious honey they produce. The array of exciting stalls will be segmented into “zones” including: Food & drink; Arts & crafts; Beekeeping equipment; Beauty products; Hives & garden decorations... and much more.

The event promises to be bigger and better than the last and will be held in the hotel’s Westbourne Suite, which has a capacity for 1500 people. The show will also include a children’s craft centre, a display area for local school projects, plus a large selection of hives on show.

The highlight of the show will be the awards ceremony. Categories include:

- Best Home Honey
- Best Rooftop Honey
- South versus North of the Thames
- Best Business Honey
- Best Honey Packaging

The most anticipated award of the evening is the coveted “London Beekeeper of the Year 2013”, in association with BeeCraft Magazine. The King or Queen Bee of 2013 will be presented with an impressive plaque and the honour of being London’s best beekeeper. Last year’s winner was Sharon Bassey, who was commended for her enthusiasm and tireless work in the world of beekeeping.

Entry to the show is £1, with all money going to “Bees for Development”. The body assists beekeepers living in poor and remote areas of the world, lifting them out of poverty through beekeeping. There will also be a tombola, with all funds raised going to the charity.

Lancaster London has ten bee hives on its second floor roof. Last year the bees worked hard to produce an impressive 80kg of honey from just three of the hives, which is served in the hotel’s restaurant Island Grill.

Lancaster London, Lancaster Terrace, London W2 2TY
Reservations on 020 7551 6000 or visit www.lancasterlondon.com

-//-

For further information or photography, please contact:
Martyn Hannah or Alison Hull at Luxe PR on 020 7368 3330 or martyn@luxep.com

