



CBKA- March 2013



March 2013 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

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

Thanks to John Collett

Jobs for March

Diary

Request for Data from Undergrad Anna Jenkins

BBKA Basic Assessment

Microscopy

SBKA Training Days

Gift Aid – Vacancy

Microscopy and Basic Assessment news

Bee diseases at Weybridge

I'm sure that you all know by now that John has reluctantly given up the post of editor, a job that he has done with consummate skill for many years now – I among many would like to offer our very great thanks for the sterling work he has undertaken for such a long time. In stark contrast however from this point on you will have to put up with me, my profound apologies!

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Above all else plan for the year ahead.

Keep an eye out for lack of stores – this is the time of year when colonies can starve.

Make sure you have plenty of frames/foundation and equipment for the coming year

If not already done so, sanitise your beekeeping equipment with a blow torch or washing soda crystals where appropriate. Oxy acetylene is overkill! – trust me on that one.

At your own discretion early stimulation with a light feed of 1kg granulated sugar to 1 Litre of water.
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Nosema testing - 10th March – Venue to be announced

Story telling - 15th March – Warlingham Methodist Church Hall

BBKA exams - 23rd March – Epsom Hut

Apiary meeting & tidy up (weather permitting) and foulbrood check - 24th March

My name is Anna Jennings and I am currently an undergraduate student at the University of Southampton reading for a degree in environmental science. I am currently carrying out a 3rd year research project entitled 'A review into how pests, pathogens and management practices effect overall colony health and how they could act as contributory factors, to a hive's susceptibility to total colony losses in the western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) and its potential mitigation.'

As I am sure you are all aware the increasing risk posed by pests coupled with poor husbandry and adverse weather conditions have proven fatal for bee colonies this year. As a member of a family who are beekeepers and only in the past week have lost 2 colonies, I'm passionate about finding a way to secure the future of bees in the UK. I'm very interested into discovering beekeepers points of view into information that is available, current treatments used and perceived causes of colony loss.

I would be very grateful if you could take 5-10 minutes of your time to complete the attached survey, all of the information given will be confidential and only used for the purpose of this project. If you are happy to do so, please click the attachment (if you are using the new Microsoft word you will need to select enable editing) save it as a file and reattach to an email to be sent back to me on alj2g10@soton.ac.uk<mailto:alj2g10@soton.ac.uk> by 5th March 2013. (Forms available from web site)

The more responses that I can get the more accurate my conclusions for my project are so all responses are much appreciated.

Thanks - Anna

BBKA Basic Assessment

This is a practical assessment for anyone who has been keeping bees for 12 months or more.

The Basic Assessment is a practical/oral 'test' which takes place at the hive. It is designed to show an experienced examiner that you are proficient in basic beekeeping techniques. The syllabus and application form is available to download and print from the BBKA website.

A full programme to guide you through the syllabus and provide you with the opportunity for a 'test run' will be held at the apiary on Monday evenings in May and June leading up to the practical assessment which will take place on a day in July at the apiary - date and time will be arranged once we know numbers participating.

If you are interested in applying to take this yourself this year please email me for further information.

Mark Stott buzzibeez@gmail.com Tel; 07921234916

Microscopy

Croydon has two microscopes suitable for use by beekeepers for looking at pollen and disease testing. I am planning to test the Apiary bees for Nosema on Sun 10th March. Also if anyone wants to check their own bees then they are welcome to bring a sample along.

If anyone is interested in joining me then could they please send an email so I know roughly how many people will be attending. - buzzibeez@gmail.com

SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAYS



THE BBKA GENERAL HUSBANDRY CERTIFICATE

Have you been beekeeping for 3 years and passed your Basic Assessment?
Then this is the next practical step.



Friday 10th May 2013 11am - 5pm (SEMINAR)

Dr Ivor Davis will lead a seminar to explain the syllabus and to answer your questions

40 places available £25 per person to include refreshments and a light lunch.

EAST HORSLEY VILLAGE HALL



Saturday 11th May 2013 (PRACTICAL SESSIONS)

Dr Ivor Davis will lead two practical sessions (am and pm) to guide potential candidates of the General Husbandry Certificate through hive inspections and the practical elements required.

Places limited to 12 for each morning or afternoon session

£25 per person

Henfold Copse Apiary, Reigate and Weybridge Teaching Apiary



RESERVATIONS

For payment details and to secure a place please email

Sandra Rickwood on

rickwoodsbka@gmail.com or phone **01932 244326**

FULL DIRECTIONS AND CONFIRMATION OF PLACE WILL BE PROVIDED ON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT



Gift Aid – Vacancy

Andrew Barnett moved to Dorset two years ago. From his new abode he has continued to process the annual Gift Aid Claim on behalf of SBKA. The time has come to pass this responsibility back to a Surrey based beekeeper. The work involves:

1. the collection of data from each of the treasurers of seven of the Surrey divisions following their preparation of the September year end accounts,

2. keeping the records of members who are entitled to have gift aid claimed on their subscriptions and donations,
3. preparing the annual claim and submitting it to HMRC.

If you can spare some time please contact me. Andrew will be happy to explain what is involved.

Sandra

SBKA Secretary 01932 244326

Microscopy and Basic Assessment news

BBKA has amended the date by which applications for the microscopy exam have to be submitted, so if you meant to let me have your application by the end of February but didn't quite get round to it, never fear, you now have until the end of August. However, to be certain I can get them to BBKA by that date, please make sure forms are with me by Tuesday 27 August, and don't forget there is a Bank Holiday that week.

There has also been change in arrangements for the basic assessment. All basic assessments for 2013 must be completed by 31st August. As application forms have to be with me a month before the date the basic is held, this means I need all forms no later than 31st July, although bearing in mind August is holiday month for many people, please don't leave it until then if you want candidates assessed in August. The assessors are busy people and can get booked up many months in advance.

Tips for filling in the application forms

- Make sure you have downloaded the most recent version of the form from the BBKA website. The form changed at the beginning of 2013, so don't rely on a photocopy of an old form.
- Please make sure the certificate of entry qualification is signed by a course tutor or branch committee member otherwise the forms have to be sent back so that this can be done and this causes a delay
- Make sure you fill in your name and address in the middle box on the bottom of the form
- Please also fill in my name and address in the left hand box at the bottom of the form. I had to write it in over 30 forms at the beginning of the year

The current application form can be found on the BBKA website under the tab 'Learn about bees'.

http://www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/appform13_1357200692.pdf

Completed forms and cheques payable to 'BBKA' should be posted to:-

Celia Perry
White Gables
68 Broadhurst
Ashted
Surrey
KT21 1QF

If you have any queries you can contact me by phone on 0790 3991120 or by email at beeexams@hotmail.co.uk

Celia Perry - County Exam Secretary

Hello Everyone,

Alan Byham is coming to Weybridge Division on 5th March, to give a talk on Bee Diseases. This is a session in our current Beginner's Theory Course, and as in previous years, the whole evening will be devoted to this important topic.

If you've heard Alan talk on this subject before, you will know what an excellent talk he gives, and how it is well worth another hearing; if you haven't heard a talk like this from Alan before - come!

For the benefit of your members, and also to give Alan a larger audience, we invite any of your members to join us, and would be grateful if you would advertise the meeting in your March Newsletter.

The details are as follows.

Tuesday, 5th March 7.30-9.30 pm

St Peter's Church Hall, 1 Burwood Road, Hersham, Walton on Thames KT12 4AA

Parking - plenty of room in the road outside the hall, or in adjacent roads

Tea and biscuits (maybe also cake...) will be provided

No need to book - just come (a call would be nice – ed)

Contact, for queries, Marion Cooper (01932 242179, or email, as above)

Thank you and all the best,

Marion (Cooper)

Secretary, Weybridge Division)

Notes :- Why not look at the websites of our fellow BKA's – they have some excellent speakers/lectures, but please ring ahead to make sure that there is space and that meeting is open to other beekeepers.

Epsom, Farnham, Guildford, Kingston, Reigate, Weybridge and Wimbledon.

Please remember we have an excellent source of Thornes equipment – **Richard Palmer**.

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SBKA Epsom Division Shop

The shop opens on Saturday 30th March 2013

The shop will be open every Saturday between 3pm and 5pm.

The shop is situated at:- The Apiary, Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell KT17 2AF.

At the end of the drive opposite Mill Lane behind the Upper Mill building.

Stock as last year with a few additions including National, Commercial hives, all sizes of wax and frames, jars and containers, medicaments and most common beekeeping sundries.

Second quality prices on most National hive parts while stocks last.

Phone me on 01737 813066 (home) or 07747 867455 (mobile) to check if I have in stock and avoid a wasted journey.

Steve Secker
Shop Manager

EPSOM SECOND

The popular Cedar wood National Hive the 'Epsom second' has now been updated to include metal runners, a framed open mesh floor and a framed wire queen excluder. The hive includes everything you need and is offered at a special price whilst stocks last.

- 1 framed mesh floor with slide
- 1 National brood chamber
- 2 National supers
- 1 cover board
- 1 framed wire queen excluder
- 1 4 inch roof
- 33 National frames
- 33 Sheets wired foundation
- 6 Metal runners
- 2 Porter escapes
- 66 narrow plastic ends
- Frame nails

PRICE £172

Alternatives can be substituted as required.

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Nb:- The Guilford and Riegate websites are worth a look



Reigate Beekeepers

Auction of Bees & Beekeeping Equipment



Saturday 20th April 2013



Viewing on the day from11:00 a.m.

Auction of equipment & bees starts at 12:00 p.m.

Visit Paynes at their own stall on site.

Refreshments will be available on site.



Mickleham Village Hall, Dell Close, Mickleham, Surrey RH5 6EF
- just off the A24, between Leatherhead and Dorking.

To sell your items of equipment or colony(s),
complete a **Sellers Registration Form** & submit it
by 16th April to the auctioneer.

Register asap, the auction will be restricted to 300 lots.

Terms & Conditions and **Sellers Registration Forms**
can be viewed at and downloaded from:

www.reigatebeekeepers.org.uk

A **Catalogue of Items for Sale** will be published
on the same website on Friday, 19th April.

Any questions? email **Andy Robinson** at:

events@reigatebeekeepers.org.uk or call on 07595 893343

