



CBKA - November 2013



November 2013 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

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

Extended Newsletter available on line

Candle Making with Tamar

28th November (evening)

This evening workshop is a chance to learn how to make Beeswax Candles. Everyone will get a chance to make a candle. If you are interested email buzzibeez@gmail.com to reserve a place.

Pest Predators and Diseases Training Day

Saturday 30th November 2013 10.00am to 2.00pm

The title of this training day may sound a bit worrying. But the key to keeping our bees healthy is understanding the threats they face. As the old saying goes “knowledge is power”. If we as beekeepers understand the effects these Pests Predators and Diseases have on our bees we can help to protect them.

This training day is planned around the BBKA exam module. But it is equally valuable to those who are not interested in sitting exams. For those new to beekeeping it is chance to learn from the experts. For more experienced Beekeepers it is chance to bring yourself up to the date with the latest thinking.

Dan Basterfield will be giving the talk. He is an excellent and very knowledgeable speaker. Daniel grew up with beekeeping, earning pocket money by clipping and marking queens. After 15 years, working in large companies, he returned to the family business in Devon six years ago. He is an active member of the Bee Farmers' Association and holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping and the BBKA Master Beekeeper certificates.

The National Honey Show 26th October 2013

Having just returned from visiting the National Honey show in Weybridge. I am delighted to be able to announce that the Croydon Division Apiary won a first prize for 6 jars of Honey (a big thanks to John Collett who prepared the entry on our behalf). Joyce Atkinson won prizes both for her Jars of Medium Honey (class 141) and ‘Comb for extraction’ (class 148). John Collet received a Very highly commended for his honey (class 152). Tracey Carter received a highly commended for her Honey (class 141).

So well done to those who entered.

The picture below shows the show benches for the honey classes.

Events

9th Nov - Bee Improvement - Lynne Janes 87 Juniper Bracknell RG12 7ZF

16th Nov - HampshireBKA is holding its annual convention, Sparsholt College,

28th Nov -Candle making with Tamar, Kenley

30th Nov – Predators Pests and Diseases, East Horsley

7th Dec - 1.15pm Surrey AGM at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate. Celia Davis, guest speaker on ‘Doing Things Better’

18th Jan - General Husbandry, East Horsley

25th Jan - Mead Making, Ewell

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



The second picture shows a close up of the show bench



Things to do in November :

Now I could faff on about all the jobs that need doing this month but it basically boils down to repairs and preparations for next year. Study at this time of year is a good idea along with a good sort out of the bee equipment, getting rid of those items that are plainly past their sell by date, repairing that which can be repaired and giving a good brush up those bits of equipment that have a good life ahead of them. Look at the winter sales and get rid of those items that you bought 10 years ago and have never used (that's me). Don't forget that December is the month in which Oxalic acid is used, don't forget to order now.

BBKA Honey Survey - <http://www.smronlinesurveys.com/honey13.htm>

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

RICHARD PALMER Tel: 0208 679 0401

Email: palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk

Comb for Extraction – well done Joyce



The final picture shows Harry Parker (on the right) collecting the Hosegood Cup on behalf of Joyce Atkinson (for the Croydon Member with the most points). He also collected the Douglas Cup (a competition between Croydon and Wimbledon for the Division with the most points).



In addition to those Croydon members who entered the show I was pleased that a number of Croydon Members managed to attend the Show to have a look round. I am sure all those who went would agree it is an interesting and entertaining event. For those who haven't been before in addition to all the trade stalls there is a great range of talk's workshops to attend.

To give just one example of what was on offer. I attended a fascinating the talk by Martin Bencsik entitled "Monitoring the condition of a hive by means of vibration". He has been experimenting by fixing vibration sensors both to the outside of the hive and directly to the comb. Apparently the sensors are the same as those used in mobile phones. He has one continuous recording lasting 9 months of his father's hive in France.

Based on this research he believes it is possible to predict bees preparing to swarm up to 12 days before they actually swarm emerges. He is now working with a consortium to develop a commercial version of his sensor equipment. The sensors themselves are fairly cheap and appear to be simple to use. The key to success is in the computer software that can interpret the results produced by these sensors.

He is also trying to understand the meanings of the different vibrations produced by the bees. As an example during the talk he played a number of recordings taken from a hive the week before the show that seemed to show the bees producing two or three distinct 'sounds' Could there be a vocabulary of vibration signals that we have yet to understand? With time this research may give further insight into the 'language' of the bees.

I would thoroughly recommend anyone who can to have a go at entering the show next year, and even if you don't enter it's well worth a visit.

For further information go to <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/index.shtml>

The value of an accidental Bait Hive!

Having extracted my honey crop and given the supers back to the bees to clean up. I stacked the spare supers in an open sided shed. They had a board top and bottom and it was supposed to be a bee-proof stack. Then I didn't have any reason to look in the shed again for a while. However when I went down to the allotment on the 20th October. The sun was shining and the weather warm and I noticed lots of activity around the 'spare' boxes. The top board had been dislodged slightly letting the bees get in. At the time I blamed the Foxes for knocking the board, but if I was being honest it's my fault for not using duct tape.

I suited up and lit the smoker for a closer inspection. This revealed a swarm had taken up residence. The bees were occupying three frames in the top supper and another three below. There was sealed brood on two frames and as you can see from the photo (taken on my phone hence the poor quality image) the foragers were bringing in masses of lovely yellow pollen. So had gained a small but apparently healthy colony



The question now was what to do with these bees? I considered moving them to a nuc box. But my only spare nuc was a 12x14. If I transferred the shallow supers into a deep nuc there would have been a big air gap below the frames. It would also have changed the shape of the brood nest from vertical which they seem to like to horizontal. After some consideration - and a cup of tea. I decided to leave them in the stack. They had a good store of pollen with more coming in all the time, but very little honey. So I went home and made up a bucket of sugar syrup and will continue to feed them until the temperature drops. I expect they will also need feeding with fondant in the new year.

The lessons from this are to take much more care when storing equipment and set up more bait hives!

Mark Stott



One of a swarm, on our lawn table, and then them going into a hive. Tamar

New NDB Short Course dates

We are delighted to announce three new short course dates for early in the New Year, and as an email subscriber you are amongst the first to hear about these. The following dates have been confirmed and are now open for bookings:

Month/Date	Course Title	Lead Tutor	Venue
January 18, 19	Microscopy	Ken Basterfield	Devon
February 8, 9	Adult Bee Diseases	Dan Basterfield	Devon
February 15, 16	Anatomy & Dissection	Dan Basterfield	Devon

For more information and to apply, please [visit the NDB website](#). We are working on the dates & locations for other courses in the New Year and will email you about these as soon as arrangements have been confirmed.

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 8th 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 01403 790 637 or 07976 306 492

Booking:- Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AU. 01798 343470, 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

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.

SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Training Days

Predators, Pests and Diseases

Dan Basterfield will discuss the predators, pests and diseases of honey bees. This workshop is designed to appeal to all beekeepers but will be of special interest to those wishing to take the BBKA Module 3 exam.



**Saturday 30th November 2013 10.30 am
to 2.30pm**

60 places available £10 per person to include refreshments and a light lunch.

Venue

East Horsley Village Hall KT24 6QT



To reserve a place please email Sandra
Rickwood on
rickwoodsbka@gmail.com or phone 01932
244326

Full directions and Payment details will be provided with confirmation of place

SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

TRAINING DAYS



GENERAL HUSBANDRY ASSESSMENT TRAINING DAY

Have you kept 5 colonies of bees for 4 years or 4 colonies of bees for 5 years and passed your Basic Assessment?

Are you seriously contemplating taking the General Husbandry Assessment in 2014 or 2015?

If so, then this training day will provide you with information regarding the syllabus, how the assessment is carried out and handy hints and tips with plenty of audience participation!

- Introduction to the day
 - The syllabus and its interpretation
 - How the assessment is carried out – what to expect
- Practical aspects of the assessment – audience participation and presentation
- Theory aspects of the assessment – audience participation and presentation



Saturday 18th January 2014 10am till 3.45pm

20 places available at £25 per person to include refreshments and a light lunch

East Horsley Village Hall KT24 6QT



RESERVATIONS

To reserve a place please email Sandra Rickwood at rickwoodsba@gmail.com or phone [01932 244326](tel:01932244326)

FULL DIRECTIONS AND PAYMENT DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH CONFIRMATION OF PLACE

SURREY BEEKEEPERS

ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAYS



Mead Making Workshop

Join Michael Badger for a one day workshop to learn about:

- Types of mead and honey wines for both exhibition and consumption
 - The making of mead – ingredients and methods
 - Exhibiting and judging
 - Tasting - bring a sample of your own mead for all taste
 - Discussion and questions
- Suitable for all levels of experience - from beginner to expert

Saturday 25th January 2014 10am to 3pm



18 places available at £20 per person

(Light refreshments will be provided but we ask that attendees supply their own packed lunch)

Venue

Upper Mill Apiary – Epsom Division of Surrey Beekeepers
Kingston Road, KT17 2AF



RESERVATIONS



To reserve a place please email Sandra Rickwood on
rickwoodsba@gmail.com or phone [01932 244326](tel:01932244326)

FULL DIRECTIONS AND PAYMENT DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH
CONFIRMATION OF PLACE