



## CBKA - October 2013



October 2013 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

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

### Extended Newsletter available on line

#### **SBKA Meeting of Treasurers and Membership Secretaries - Tamar Cavett**

SBKA held a Meeting of Treasurers and Membership Secretaries last Saturday. It was a beautiful sunny day, which gave me concern regarding turnout (who wants to sit indoors on a beautiful Saturday morning?), but the meeting was well attended. In my case, the meeting point; Wisley Sports and Social Club, was an increased draw. Both Margaret and I managed to go, along with representatives from Epsom, Kingston, Reigate, Guildford, Wimbledon, Weybridge and Surrey.

Our first priority was to meet SBKA's new treasurer, Penny McMahon. I don't know that she quite realized what she had got herself into! But she seems well up for the job; young and energetic.

We all went through our membership routines and raised any questions. We have our differences, but similarities were found with all; some being more sophisticated (complicated) than other. One association has 180 members so they have to be on top of things.

**GOOD NEWS:** partners are no longer required to pay BDI insurance, which saves them a £2.00 fee; one that not everybody needs. Partners, who have hives, can still pay the appropriate amount.

**DON'T FORGET;** you can get reduced membership if you get your BeeCraft digitally (a savings of £7.50). Be sure to tick the right box on your membership application – due by first of October.

**JOINT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:** Some branches have 'shops'; the closest shop to us will be Epsom's shop which is located at their apiary in Ewell Villiage: Upper Mill, Kingston Rd. Ewell, KT17 2AF. Details can be found at: <http://www.epsombeekeepers.co.uk>. Stephen Secker runs the shop and it would be advisable to ring him first (01737 813066) to ensure he has what you wish to purchase. Prices will be comparable to on line, but at least you can see your purchase in advance.

After the meeting Bernard took us in the back gate of Wisley for an informal tour of the gardens. We started at the insect garden, where they are experimenting with different planting combinations (both local and foreign) to assess their popularity with the honey bees. No available data yet. The only hive is behind a hedge so not visible by the public to see at the moment, but watch that space. The whole garden was certainly abuzz with workers bringing in the stores for winter; as is mine.

All in all, it was an interesting and fun meeting; and tasty too with Sandra's home-made cakes.

We all agreed to get together several more times to try to streamline our inputs to Penny in future.

### Events

**Mon 7 Oct** from 6pm to 9pm - London Honey Show at Lancaster London Hotel. Entry £1 with all proceeds going to Bees for Development.

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

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

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

**Study Group** - For those who are interested in joining the Study Group our next meeting will be on the 2nd of Oct at 7.30pm in the Foxley Hatch, Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2LE - We will be focusing on: Module 2 - Honey bee Products and Forage - Mark

## Polystyrene Hives – Initial Experiences

Over the past two Summers I have used 3 polystyrene hives, in parallel with a cedar wood hive. Both brood boxes took National 14 x 12 frames. The hives had equally favourable locations and orientations about 1 mile from East Croydon train station. With such a small sample size, this is hardly a scientific study, however you may be interested in these observations arising from the ‘side by side’ use of different materials.

As far as the bees are concerned, the internal architecture of the two types of hives was identical. The principle differences from their perspective would be the level of insulation, water repelling properties, and possibly the ease with which gaps between the hive body parts, can be sealed. From my perspective as an ‘early stage’ beekeeper the differences in terms of how the bee colonies prospered, was marked. My impression is that the painted surfaces of the poly hives repelled rain water better than wooden surfaces, therefore they could warm up more quickly on sunny days. The insulating effect of the polystyrene roof appears to be much greater than that of a conventional metal clad wooden roof. This was evident from higher levels of bee activity I observed, towards the top of the poly hives, during Spring.

Over two Spring and Summer periods, I have found that the Poly housed bees, were more active around the hive entrance on cooler days, than was the case for the wooden ones. The rate of growth in the number of bees in Poly housed bees was significantly greater. This was evident from the number of active bees emerging from the entrances on the first days of this year where dry and warm enough for flight. My impression is that the Poly housed bees made it through Winter with fewer losses in their number, and the colony size expanded more quickly than was the case for the wooden housed bees. When it comes to the Summer I have used wooden lolly pop sticks between supers, to good effect, to increase ventilation, reducing signs of dampness forming on the wooden cover board I use.

As a beekeeper, I like the relative lightness of polystyrene – when it comes to carrying around hive parts with consideration for my maturing back muscles. I have found Polystyrene to be more durable than I had expected, when I made the decision to give them a try. Clearly wood is a ‘tougher’ material and withstands harsh treatment from hive tools well. However if the hive tool is wielded with only moderate care, there is no damage caused to the Polystyrene corners. I should point out that I applied two coats of external masonry paint to the roof, and the corners of the hive body parts, with a view to increasing their ability to withstand the effects of wear and weather. I have had no problems from mice or birds attempting to nibble or peck their way into the hive. I wrapped the wooden and poly hives with bubble wrap during the Winter months to deter woodpeckers, with the secondary benefit of increasing insulation. One the most encouraging outcomes I have experiences from my rough little experiment, is that the honey harvest from the colonies in the Polyhives has been higher than that from the comparable wooden hive.

My understanding is that Poly hives can be sterilised by scrubbing with a suitable sterilising solution. Clearly flame sterilisation is not an option for Poly hives. I have not heard of unfavourable feedback on matters of bee health, from the use of Polynucs for over-wintering smaller colonies. I would welcome the views of other beekeepers or guidance from the NBU if there are good reasons to not adopt Polystyrene, when it comes to maintaining the health of bee colonies.

To sum up, on the basis of my limited experience, I am not advocating a wholesale abandonment of wooden hives. Both the design and the material have proved durable. For those who have invested in the wooden option, this would be uneconomic. However I recommend that more beekeepers could gain from discovering the benefits of Polystyrene from their own trials. On the basis of what I have learned by ‘giving Polystyrene a go’, I plan to continue with the Poly hives, and if I was to expand the number of colonies I kept, I would select this material again. - Regards – Clive

Ed - If you have any experience with Poly Hives please share them with us.

### **Things to do in October :**

I’m sure this is the time of the beekeeping year that you have been looking forward to - NOT! It’s time to feed the bees the last of the sugar syrup. Equipment such as the smoker, solar extractor, honey extractor, tools etc should be cleaned ready for next year. Hive parts should be repaired and sterilised. Spare/drawn comb should be stored so that wax moth cannot cause damage. Special products from suppliers or acetic acid can be used in this regard. The fitting of mouse guards and hive insulation should also be considered. For my own part I intend to add a layer of straw above the crown board as an experiment to aid insulation. I’m sure its been done before but I have not seen anything on this subject. The straw can be recycled in the smoker. Later in this newsletter its suggested that bubble-wrap can be used to insulate the hive - why not give it a go, I’m thinking about it.

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

**RICHARD PALMER    Tel: 0208 679 0401**

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

# SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION - CROYDON DIVISION

**Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY DETAILS.

### **(A) Individual full registered membership for the year.**

For practising beekeepers with hives & colonies

Membership of CBKA, SBKA & BBKA

Cover of BBKA 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Public Liability Insurance & Products Insurance

Cover of BDI insurance for up to 3 colonies – (additional cost for 4 + colonies)

Newsletters: CBKA, Bee Craft magazine (paper/digital option) & BBKA News; monthly

### **(B) Partners full registered membership for the year.**

For partners, practising beekeeping with hives & colonies, at same address as full registered member

Membership of CBKA, SBKA & BBKA

Cover of BBKA 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Public Liability Insurance & Products Insurance

### **(C) Junior registered membership for the year with limited BBKA membership.**

For practising beekeepers, with hives & colonies, who are related to registered members

Their insurance will be included with the registered member.

Membership of CBKA, SBKA & registered, in name only, with BBKA

Newsletters: CBKA Digital, if email address given

### **(C) Friend membership for the year.**

For non-active beekeepers / persons, wishing to remain/become CBKA members.

Membership of CBKA

Newsletters: CBKA (paper/digital option). BeeCraft magazine can be arranged; for a fee.

## **Glossary/Information**

CBKA: Croydon Beekeeping Association ([www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk)), for full details

SKBA: Surrey Beekeeping Association ([www.surreybeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.surreybeekeepers.org.uk)), for full details

BBKA: British Beekeeping Association ([www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)), for full details

Bee Craft: Website, ([www.bee-craft.com](http://www.bee-craft.com)) if magazine required

## **ADDITIONAL BDI**

<b>Insurance BDI #</b> - additional colonies 4-5	£ 2.00
- additional colonies 4-10	£ 5.25
- additional colonies 4-15	£ 7.75
- additional colonies 4-20	£ 9.50
- additional colonies 4-25	£11.10
- additional colonies 4-30	£13.60
- additional colonies 4-35	£16.10
- additional colonies 4-39	£18.10
- additional colonies more than 39 contact Treasurer	

You are advised to cover the maximum number of colonies you expect to have during the coming season, as if underinsured, in the event of a claim, compensation will be reduced pro rata.

**For insurance purposes, it is advised that you count each hive as 2; for swarm control.**

**NB Form to be found on the web site or at the end of this newsletter.**

## Study Groups :

For those who are interested I was proposing to re-start the Study group in September. The purpose of the group is to help those who want to learn a bit more of the theory of bees and beekeeping with a view to taking the BBKA Modules. The modules are open to anyone who has taken their Basic Assessment.

The Modules are

Module 1 - Honey bee Management

Module 2 - Honey bee Products and Forage

Module 3 - Honey bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning

Module 5 - Honey bee Biology

Module 6 - Honey bee Behaviour

Module 7 - Selection & Breeding of Honey bees

Module 8 - Honey bee Management, Health and History

The dates of the exams are:

### **Examination Dates 2013**

Modules 1,2,3,5 & 7, 9th November 2013 (Applications in by 30th September 2013)

All Modules, 22nd March 2014 (Applications in by 10th February 2014)

All Modules, 8th November 2014 (Applications in by 30th September 2014)

Previously we have met on the first Monday of the Month. However Mondays are a problem for me this year. I can not make this year so suggest we could move to the first Tuesday or Wednesday of each month.

So can anyone who wants to attend please email me with their preference for a Tuesday/Wednesday. So the first meeting would be either the 3rd or 4th September.

Also if you have a particular module you would like to study. We can then focus on the most popular subject.

Regards - Mark Stott

### **Pollen in Forensics**

We are having a talk by Michael Keith-Lucas on 'Pollen in Forensics' at our divisional meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm for 8:00pm in the Snuff Mill at Morden Hall Park.

You and your members are all welcome to attend, however, we have to limit the number to 50 (including our members) for H&S reasons – old building with oak beams etc.

If you or any of your members would like to attend then please let me know – first come, first served I'm afraid.

Thanks

Gareth - Wimbledon BKA

### **Request for Volunteers at the 2013 National Honey Show**

Dear Members

Once again Surrey BKA will be providing and manning the Information stand at the NHS in October.

We are seeking volunteers to be on the stand on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October. As last year, 2- or 3-hour slots will be allocated. All members are welcome, regardless of their beekeeping experience.

If you enjoy 'talking bees' please email your name and telephone number to Marion Cooper at [coopergm56@btinternet.com](mailto:coopergm56@btinternet.com) giving the times you would be available to be on duty, bearing in mind any lectures or workshops that you would like to attend. If you do not use the internet please telephone Marion on 01932 242179.

Thank you

Sandra

# "Bee Improvement for All"

A whole days learning how to improve your bees.

Bee Improvement should be of interest to all beekeepers and for a number of reasons including temper, quietness on the combs and suitability to the locality.

The queen is an important factor in the characteristics of a colony, so colony assessment and queen selection need more attention than many beekeepers give them. This does mean queen rearing, but the bees give us many opportunities during the summer to raise queens with little effort needed by us.

**"Bee Improvement for all"** is a one day course that is designed to help beekeepers use these opportunities to improve their bees, as well as giving information to those who wish to raise more queens. Some speakers and books don't serve the beekeeper with a few colonies very well, as they often use methods that are beyond the needs of the ordinary beekeeper. This course is organised to help and encourage beekeepers of all abilities to improve their bees, using simple techniques without the need for specialist equipment.

Amongst the topics covered will be:

- Setting the criteria you want in your bees.
- How to assess your own and other people's colonies.
- Recording assessments using simple methods.
- Rearing queens from local bees to avoid relying on buying them.
- Deciding which colonies to use queen cells from and which queens to cull.
- Using natural queen cells the bees build.
- "Artificial" queen rearing for those who want more queens.
- Changing queens in colonies.
- Making up mating nuclei.
- Getting queens mated.
- Working with other beekeepers and the local BKA.

There will be plenty of information on colony management, with emphasis on understanding what is happening inside colonies and keeping things simple.

This course will help beekeepers to rear their own queens from local stock and not rely on imports.

**"Bee Improvement for all"** courses are organised by the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) on a nationwide basis, sometimes in conjunction with local BKAs or bee breeding groups. They are all day events, but the timings and cost will depend on local arrangements.

Further details can be found on <http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html>

**Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA)  
in conjunction with Wokingham and District BKA**

# “Bee Improvement for All”

A one day course to help and encourage beekeepers of all abilities to improve their bees using simple methods.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013. 9.00 for 9.30 - 4.30

At:- Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 9SE

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknellleisurecentre>

## **Application Form. Please fill in and send/email to Lynne Janes (details below)**

Name ..... Adult/Under 18. (Please delete)  
Under 18s must be accompanied by fee paying adult.

Address .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Postcode .....

Tel No ..... Mob No .....

Email .....

### Additional attendees:-

Name ..... Adult/Under 18. (Please delete)  
Name ..... Adult/Under 18. (Please delete)

### **Course fees:**

Adult	£15.	No's .....	£.....
Under 18	£8	No's .....	£.....
Total			£.....

Please make cheques payable to **W&DBKA** and send to:-

Lynne Janes, 87 Juniper, Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 7ZF. [lynne.d.janes@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.d.janes@gmail.com)

No receipt will be issued.

Attendances may be accepted on the day, but only if the venue hasn't reached capacity. A fee of £20/head will apply to all.

If telephone or email bookings are made and full payment has not been received by 7 days in advance (unless by arrangement) it will be assumed the booking has been cancelled and the place may be re-allocated.

Details of the event can be found on <http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html>

# HONEY STATISTICS & AVERAGE PRICES.

## South Eastern Region

### Honey Information – England and Wales 2013

Beekeeper Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

### AVERAGE PRICES                      Price (£) lb

#### notes

Flower Direct Sales ..... (honey sold direct to the consumer)

Flower Wholesale ..... (honey bottled and sold at wholesale price to a retailer)

Bulk Flower Honey ..... (honey sold in bulk containers, 30lb tubs etc.)

Heather Honey Direct Sales ..... (honey sold direct to the consumer)

Heather Wholesale ..... (honey bottled and sold at wholesale price to a retailer)

Bulk Heather Honey ..... (honey sold in bulk containers, 30lb tubs etc.)

Cut Comb ..... (sold direct to the consumer)

**Total Honey crop**, in lbs ..... (total honey crop for year)

Weight of 'run honey' ..... (in bottles or bulk containers, not heather honey.)

Weight of heather honey ..... (total weight of heather crop)

Weight of Cut comb .....

Number of Colonies ..... (total number of colonies owned on 31/08/13)

Number of 'Producing colonies' ..... (total number of colonies that produced honey in 2013)

### **NOTES**

Return, preferably by email to:

[alan.byham@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alan.byham@fera.gsi.gov.uk)

Or by post to:

Alan Byham, SE Regional Bee Inspector  
National Bee Unit  
Room 02GA02  
Sand Hutton  
York  
YO41 1LZ

# Subscriptions due 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013; for year, through to 30 September 2014

Late payment may result in a delay in BeeCraft subscription renewal for 2014

## Croydon Beekeepers

# 2014

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	Annual Subscription <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>	@£45.00	
a	Registered Member with digital version of BeeCraft <i>This includes £2.00 BDI insurance for up to 3 colonies per person.</i>	@£37.50	
	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]	@£15.00	
b	Junior rate (under 18) <i>Please see point 4 re insurance</i>	@£7.50p	
c	Friend of the Division	@£7.50p	
d	Donations to Division funds		

2	Charges for services	£	p	
a	Bee disease insurance <i>This is compulsory for all members see note 4 overleaf *(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>	£7.50p		
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.

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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**Subscriptions due 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013; for year, through to 30 September 2014  
Late payment may result in a delay in BeeCraft subscription renewal for 2014**

**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 three hives 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 such as Surrey Beekeepers Association (of which Croydon is a Division) can reclaim tax- and this at no cost or detriment to you.

There are simple rules of eligibility- you must be a tax payer! If you have income form employment, 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 Croydon Beekeepers 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 that 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



## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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  
[rickwoodsaka@gmail.com](mailto:rickwoodsaka@gmail.com) or phone 01932  
244326

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