

Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

November 2015

Croydon Beekeepers celebrate success!



CROYDON BEEKEEPERS

This month we are celebrating a number of successes which are a huge boost to us and which will raise Croydon Beekeepers' profile locally.

A number of Croydon members did us proud at the National Honey Show at the end of October, and we have a report on the results of our own Honey Show in September.

And we would like to congratulate our Chairman Mark Stott for his success in passing the General Assessment of the British Beekeepers Association. This

is a big deal for any beekeeper, and in this case it's extra special because Mark is the first Croydon member to pass the exam! Huge congratulations Mark!

Finally, you may be aware that a new product has been registered for the use of oxalic acid in treating varroa. Called Api-bioxal, further information about the product is below and also attached.

- Tracey

Chairman: Mark Stott
Secretary: Joyce Atkinson
Treasurer: Tamar Devane
Editor: Tracey Carter



Dates for your diary



20 November 2015: Liz Knee talks about the Rose Hive - Warlingham

Surrey Beekeepers Association AGM: Saturday 28 November - Cobham

23 January 2016: Surrey BKA Training Day - 'Preparing Honey and Wax' - Walton-on-Thames

29 January 2016: Phil Shepherd talks about Queen Rearing - Warlingham

For further information visit
www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk

Croydon Beekeepers win at National Honey Show – press release

We are very proud that Croydon did so well at the National Honey Show in Weybridge. We've even had some interest from local press! Here is the press release that was sent out after the show – please do let me know if you spot anything in your local paper:

Croydon Beekeepers Association is celebrating a series of outstanding wins at the 84th National Honey Show held last weekend in Weybridge.

The show attracts entrants from across the UK and Croydon members Bob Barnes, Meriel Spalding, John Collett, Barbara Barnes and Tracey Carter did Croydon proud with an impressive four first prizes plus a range of other awards for honey, beeswax, mead and honey cake.

Their success on the show bench meant that Croydon Beekeepers retained the 'Douglas Cup', a hotly-

contested trophy between Croydon and Wimbledon.

Special congratulations go to Bob Barnes who won the 'Hosegood Cup' for the Croydon member with the most points, and to Meriel Spalding whose mead won first place in its class and was awarded the prestigious Millennium Mead Coaster and the Jean Blaxland Prize for the Best Mead in Show.

Mark Stott, Chairman of Croydon Beekeepers said: "Many people are not aware that there are beekeepers in Croydon today however we are in fact part of a long heritage. There are many parks in Croydon with trees and plants that our bees love.

However they also rely on gardens and window-boxes so by choosing plants that bees love, everyone can help our bees survive and thrive into the future."

Croydon beekeepers was founded in 1879. Now, our mission is to educate people about the vital importance of bees in the environment and to promote the craft of beekeeping. We are a charity and our work is supported by funders including The Aviva Community Fund and Waitrose. We welcome people interested in beekeeping to our apiary in Hartley Down, please visit www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk for information about our events.

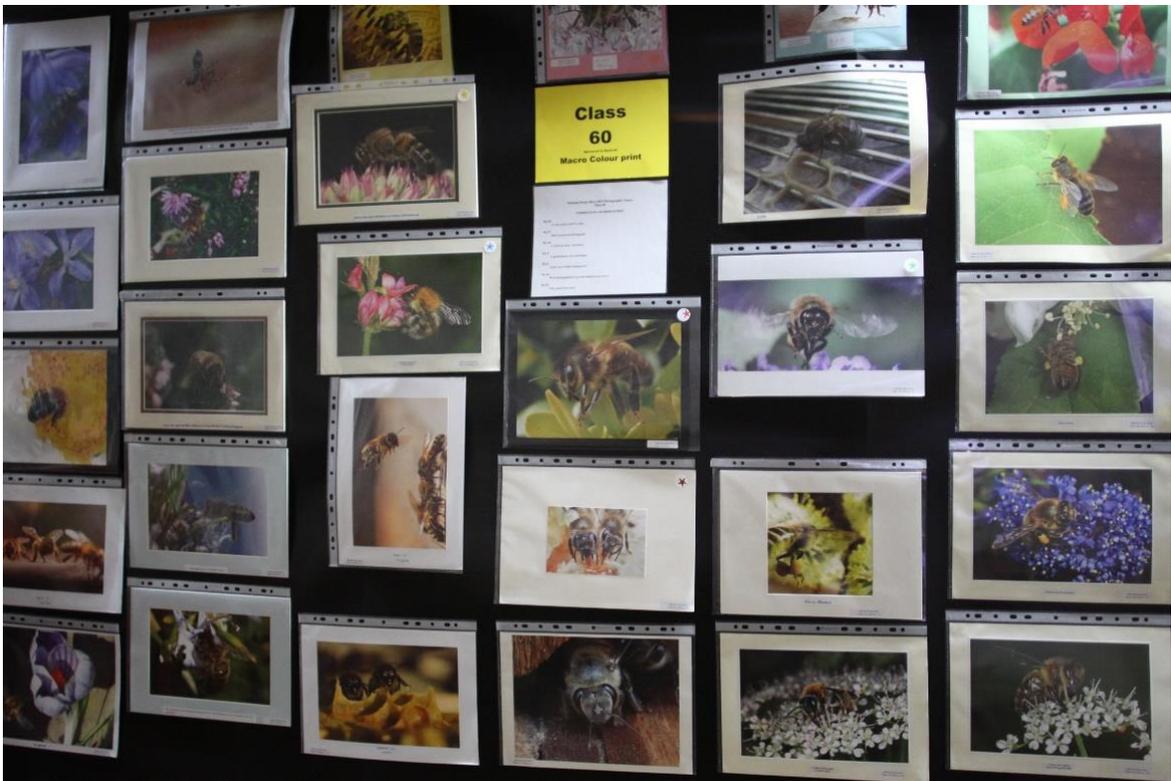
We'd like to encourage members to get involved in next year's shows, whether as a competitor, steward or visitor. It's a rewarding experience with opportunities for learning and socialising with other beekeepers. And if you win something that's a bonus!

Photos from National Honey Show: Meriel and Bob receive their trophies presented by Frank Rickett, President



Thanks to Bob Barnes for the following photos:





Report from Croydon Honey Show- a 'Blue Ribbon' event for the second year in a row

The annual Croydon Honey Show was held at the Selsdon Centre on Saturday 26th November 2016.

The Show was well supported with 111 entries meaning that it qualified as a 'Blue Ribbon' event and we were able to award a 'Best in Show' place. Many congratulations go to Bob Barnes for winning this with his 'Six for sale' display.

We were really pleased to see some new members entering,

especially as they achieved some winning entries. Congratulations to them.

Our judge was very thorough, laying primary emphasis on presentation – something which is most important for anyone producing honey.

We had a wide selection of photographic entries covering various aspects of beekeeping and bees. It was a shame that not everyone could be a winner!

As a bonus, this year we were able to supplement the cups with gift tokens from Park Beekeeping and Freeman and Harding.

The help that everyone gave on the day was much appreciated – the Show could not run without this support.

Thank you all.

Joyce Atkinson, Secretary

And one more time . . . congratulations to Mark

In case you didn't notice it in the introduction to this newsletter, our Chairman Mark Stott passed the General Husbandry assessment of the British Beekeepers

Association which he took earlier this year.

Mark is the first Croydon member to achieve success in this difficult examination.

He is too modest to spread the news so I am doing it for him!

Well done Mark and many congratulations.

Api-bioxal: a new oxalic acid-based product now registered for use in the UK

The following is taken from the BeeCraft website, further information will be sent in the same email as this newsletter.

“The approval by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate of Api-bioxal gives UK beekeepers access for the first time, to a fully registered oxalic acid product.

This approval overcomes the uncertainty over the legality

of the use of oxalic acid products. According to its manufacturer Chemicals LAIF, (Padua, Italy), the formulation produces a syrup for trickling onto frames in a brood-less colony at the ideal concentration of 4.2% and which results in a treatment producing maximum efficacy (>95%) being well tolerated by the bees.

The product can also be used by sublimation. Api-bioxal may be used in winter, on spring swarms and in summer by artificially blocking egg-laying. Api-bioxal does not need a prescription and will be available through the normal channels for bee medications.”

Forthcoming events

Surrey Beekeepers Association AGM- Saturday 28 November 2015, 2.00 p.m., Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2LU. The meeting will be followed by tea and a talk by Dr Mihail Garbuzov, Research Fellow at LASI on ‘Seasonal Foraging Challenges in Honeybees’.

Croydon Beekeepers Winter Talk – Friday 20 November, 7.30 p.m., Warlingham Methodist Church Hall, Limpsfield Road, Warlingham CR6 9LE. Liz Knee (Epsom Beekeepers) will give a talk about her experiences with the Rose Hive.

Surrey Beekeepers Association Training Day - Saturday 23 January 2016, Walton-on-Thames, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The topic for this training day is preparing honey and wax. Members £15, non-members £17.00.

Croydon Beekeepers Winter Talk – Friday 29 January 2016, 7.30 p.m., Warlingham Methodist Church Hall, Limpsfield Road, Warlingham CR6 9LE. Phil Shepherd (Epsom Beekeepers) will give a talk about Queen rearing using the Morris Board Method plus other methods.

Finally . . . Reigate's Henfold Copse has been filmed for a BBC1 programme called 'My Life on a Plate' and the programme will be broadcast on Friday 13 November at 3.45 p.m.

The Great British Bake Off has been in touch with Surrey SBKA looking for competitors for the next series – a flyer is attached in case you fancy it!



Our local agent for E H Thorne Beehives Ltd is:

Richard Palmer tel 020 8679 0401 or email palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk