

# Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey  
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

Dec-Jan 2015



Yet again the year has whizzed past and it's worth remembering some of the highlights:

- Our Croydon Honey Show was another Blue Ribbon Event (over 100 entries) and a great day for all
- Our beginners' course was fully booked and we'll be doing it again in 2016; we also held a Nosema clinic in early Spring
- A donation of £1,000 from Aviva meant we could buy a lovely new mechanized honey extractor
- Summer garden meetings were held at John Collett's and John Lunn's and very much enjoyed by all; John Collett also hosted our extraction meeting, interesting and informative for everyone
- Our successes at the National Honey Show generated local press attention for Croydon Beekeepers
- Waitrose in Sanderstead chose us as one of their charities, donating £385
- A programme of engaging winter talks kept us all going in through the 'dark months' (and will again in early 2016)
- Talks were given in schools, and our stand went to numerous summer shows
- A crack team in the apiary at Hartley Down has worked to hold it all together – thank you to them!

Whether collecting a swarm or making the tea, Croydon members new and old have worked together to keep the wheels turning!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

- Tracey

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



**CROYDON  
BEEKEEPERS**

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

25 January 2016: Guildford  
Beekeepers winter talk  
"Challenging Beekeeping" –  
Jacob's Well

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

13 February 2016: General  
Husbandry Assessment Course –  
Mitcham

12-13 March 2016: NBD short  
course on pollen & nutrition,  
Epsom

[www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk)

## News from the apiary- Nov/Dec

Our Croydon Division Apiary Meetings finished in September with the removal of the honey crop, but your apiary team (now up to 7 at full strength) has continued to meet every Thursday: as you can see in the photo, we are working very hard!



This was taken in October when we were blessed with some lovely sunny and warm weather and the workers were bringing in ivy nectar in copious amounts - now the stores are well and truly crystallised in the supers (we heard that at least one expert feeds bees with syrup during the fall despite having plenty of stores: this is said to dilute the ivy nectar which then crystallises less quickly – seems logical).

We felt that a number of our hives stands are too low for ‘mature aching backs’: yours truly knocked up a hive stand from discarded pallet wood and some 2”x3” that was knocking about – our resident ‘drones’ thought it was better used as a stand for tea cups.

November brought the rain and some very damp weather, but work continues as you can see. Amazingly the bees were still bringing in pollen only a week or so ago – no frosts yet!

All hives are battened down for the winter with mouse guards in place and wire protection against our resident green woodpecker.

Apart from three hives our November varroa drops were within tolerable limits: it was still warm enough to do an emergency Formic Acid based treatment (MAQS) on those that required.

The use of pure forms of Formic and Oxalic acids are not licensed in the UK even though they are in regular use in Europe. Both acids are inexpensive (also naturally



occurring) chemicals and we presume that until fairly recently, manufacturers were reluctant to finance research and licensing for a product that would give small return on outlay. However ‘Chemical LAIF’ an Italian company produces API-BIOXAL which has just now become licensed and legal in the UK: it is used either dissolved in syrup or as a vapour. An on-line forum informs us that it is just oxalic with some glucose and an anti-caking agent added (to retain it in powder form): it works out cheap - less than £1 per hive - so API-Bioxal will now become a regular Christmas treatment. If folk are interested in how it is applied and would like to attend we will try to give advance notice in a few weeks – weather dependent.

All who sell honey from 'own bees' must by law keep a record of all medications with dates and sources (pdf version

of form available from the BBKA website) – legal medication is essential.

Best wishes from the Team.

## Surrey Beekeepers Association Education Committee

The Surrey BKA Education Committee has decided to add a small levy to courses for participants that are not SBKA members. This has led to some confusion amongst divisional members who are not aware that they are SBKA members. The result is that

they have paid the higher ticket price. When a beekeeper joins a division as a Registered, Partner or Country member they automatically become members of the SBKA and the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA).

The SBKA is one of 66 Area Associations of the BBKA. It has 8 Divisions (see below). If you would like more information about the Associations please talk to your Trustee or Representative.

Division	Trustee	Representative
Croydon	Mark Stott	Richard Snelling
Epsom	tba	Liz Knee
Farnham	David Dennington	Geoff Redwood
Guildford	Peter Dawson	Jane Hall
Kingston	John Legate	Derek Jones
Reigate	Andrew Buchanan	Celia Perry
Weybridge	Marion Cooper	Martin Major
Wimbledon	Max Gladwyn	Gareth Morgan

The Education Committee's aim is to run courses that need support from more than

one division to make them viable. If you have any topics that you feel would be useful

to beekeepers please convey your suggestions to a member of the committee.

### Education Committee Members:

Jane Hall  
Liz Knee  
Avis Marshall  
Gareth Morgan  
Celia Perry  
Sandra Rickwood

Mark Stott (Chair)

Alastair Welch

We wish you a prosperous 2016 and more informed beekeeping as you extend your knowledge.

The Education Committee

## **Forthcoming events & courses**

**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.

**Guildford Beekeepers winter talk** – 25 January, 7.30 p.m., Jacob's Well Village Hall. The topic is "Challenging Beekeeping: why do we do, what we do?". The speaker is Malcolm Clarke, tickets cost £11.00 including supper. See flyer sent with this newsletter for further information.

**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 and other methods.

**General Husbandry Assessment Course** – 13 February, 10.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m., Mitcham. A course for those interested in taking the General Husbandry Assessment (three years' experience of keeping bees is required). £25 including lunch, see attached flyer for further information.

**NDB Short Course on Pollen & Nutrition** - 12-13th March 2016. This short course is to be run by our very own NDB's, Adam Leitch and Alastair Welch together with a third NDB holder. It is to be held at the Epsom apiary with just 12 students max, the ratio of students:tutors will allow plenty of assistance when students are looking at pollen under the microscope.

The link below will take you to the event booking page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pollen-and-nutrition-registration-19743518395>

## Notices

### BBKA Exams and assessments in 2016

#### Modules

The module exams in 2016 will be held on 19 March and 12 November. Completed forms and payment should be sent to me no later than 3 February for the March modules and 23 September for the November modules. Last year there were several very late applications which caused a great deal of unnecessary extra work for several people. Please make sure you get your form to me in time to avoid this in 2016. Most candidates put in a lot of hard work studying for modules- don't put that at risk by sending your form in late.

#### General and Advanced Husbandry Assessments

Application forms for these must be with me no later than 22nd February 2016.

#### Paying for and applying for exams

Because of charges made by BBKA's bank for processing cheques, it prefers that payment of the exam fee should be by credit or debit card. To do this, just ring Stoneleigh on 02476 696 679, explain that you want to pay for an exam, you will be given a receipt number and you should write on the application form before you send the form to me.

Please also make sure that you use the latest version of the application form which you can download from the BBKA website.

Good luck to everyone who takes an assessment or an exam in 2016 and Happy New Year.

Celia Perry

Surrey Examinations Secretary

beeexams@hotmail.co.uk

*Our local agent for E H Thorne Beehives Ltd is:*

*Richard Palmer tel 020 8679 0401 or email [palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk)*