



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

The recently completed National Honey Show marks the end of the beekeeping year. Whilst this year we didn't have any entries in the NHS, I am pleased to report that in the Dover Honey Show on 19th October, Dougal Hendry got first prize in the

wax block category – and these were so good, he also was awarded "Harry's Cup" for best wax exhibit in show. Well done Dougal!

Also in October, CBKA attended the last Brogdale Festival of the year, and although the weather wasn't

brilliant, the rain mostly held off until packing up time! It will be interesting to get your opinions of this event – and all the other things that the branch has been involved with this season. The next branch meeting is the perfect opportunity to do this – the committee tries to organize events that appeal to all

members, so your opinions are very valuable in setting the schedule for 2014. Please try to join us on Wednesday.

As we move into the relatively quiet time of year for beekeepers, it's good to see that there is a rich programme of lectures lined up in the county (and beyond). See pp3-4 for

Next Meeting
**REVIEW OF THE
YEAR AND AGM**
Whitefriars conference
room, Canterbury
Wed 6th November
7.30-9.30pm
Joining instructions
– see page 2

opportunities to hear expert speakers talking in the local area.

Whilst it is nice that autumn 2013 has so far been mild, the storms of St Jude remind us not to forget to check our hives for protection

against wind (strap them down), mice (put on entrance guards) and woodpeckers (wire nets). While the frosts remain at bay, the bees will still be brood-raising, and using stores at a significant rate – last weekend, I counted 6 ½ frames of brood in 1 hive.

Adrian

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The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail

cantbees@gmail.com

Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

NOVEMBER 2013

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

DATES FOR DIARY

6 November 2013	AGM and review of the year, 7.30-9.30pm, Whitefriars Conference room, Canterbury
9 November 2013	BBKA module exams, Lynsted & Norton Primary School, Lynsted ME9 0RL
10 November 2013	Dr Sara Robb, cosmetics and creams. Thanet BKA Northwood Social Club, 55 Northwood Road, Ramsgate, CT12 6 RS, 1.30pm
16 November 2013	"Bee improvement for All", Pulborough, West Sussex BKA
17 November 2013	KBKA autumn lectures, Village Hall, Lenham
30 November 2013	"Plants for your garden to keep bees happy all year", Steve Alton, DDBKA, Alkham Village Hall
Early December 2013	CBKA Christmas social event (pub to be confirmed)
11 January 2014	54 th Annual Delegates' Meeting, BBKA, The Chesford Grange, Chesford Bridge, Kenilworth CV8 2LD

DIRECTIONS

Whitefriars Conference room Canterbury

Free parking in the multi-storey car park. Collect your ticket and this will be processed during the meeting. Park on the 1st floor on the left and take the corridor down to the management suite at the bottom of the corridor on the left. Please car share if you can, since Whitefriars have to pay the cost of this on our behalf.

By car Set Sat Nav post code to CT1 2TF

Go around the ring road and at the roundabout opposite the Police Station turn through the city walls into Watling Street. Go past the bus station on your right and the Whitefriars multi-storey car park is straight ahead and right at the mini-roundabout. If coming from the south go down the Old Dover Rd and straight across the roundabout through the city walls.

By foot / BUS

Between the Bus Station and Whitefriars center there is an alleyway between Boots and Next. Here there is an entrance to the car park. Go to the first floor by lift and turn left out of the lift through double doors. The management suite is 20 yds along this corridor.

EAST KENT ASSOCIATIONS

Here's a quick digest of what the other local associations are doing over the next few weeks.

On **Sunday November 10th**, [Thanet BKA](#) have invited Dr Sara Robb to talk about her cosmetics and creams. This will be held at the Northwood Club, 55 Northwood Road, Ramsgate CT12 6RS. The start time 1.45pm, tho' Rowena suggests people aim to be there at 1.30pm. I met Sara at the 2012 Spring Convention, and she is an enthusiastic speaker. If you plan to attend, please confirm this to Rowena Pearce directly (email: pearcesinsummerfield@fiscali.co.uk)

[Dover and District BKA](#) have an interesting and knowledgeable speaker lined up for **30th November** at Alkham Village Hall, Hogbrook Hill Lane CT15 7AR – Steve Alton talking about "Plants for your garden to keep bees happy all year". The meeting is at 2.30pm. Steve runs a company called Sussex Nature which advises on pollinator-friendly planting schemes, and sells seeds through his company FlowerScapes. He used to run UK programme for the Millennium Seed Bank, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



BEE IMPROVEMENT FOR ALL

A joint BIBBA/ West Sussex BKA event

In conjunction with the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) the West Sussex BKA will be holding a "Bee Improvement for All" day. This is one of a number that BIBBA will be staging throughout the country on a regional basis. This is an all-day event aimed at encouraging all beekeepers to improve their bees. The purpose is to help all beekeepers to continuously assess their colonies, so they have a good idea of which queens to cull, and which colonies to take queen cells from when they need new queens.

There will be tuition on how to raise queens using queen cells that bees often present us with during the summer, as well as some simple "artificial" techniques that may be suitable for the more advanced beekeeper, or those working in groups.

Date:- **Saturday 16th November 2013**

Time:- 9.30-4.30

Venue:- Pulborough Village Hall, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2BF <http://www.pulbvh.org.uk/>

Cost:- £15/head. £8/head for under 18, but must be accompanied by a fee paying adult. To include refreshments, but not lunch. A Booking Form can be found on the [CBKA website](#) (you'll need to login).

For those who are busy on 16th November, this event is also being run on Sat Nov 9th 2013 at Bracknell, Berkshire, in conjunction with Wokingham and District BKA. Further details can be found on www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html

KBKA EDUCATION

Lenham Lectures

After a gap last year, KBKA is again holding a pair of lectures in the Community Hall in Lenham ME17 2QT on Sunday 17th November 2013. Doors open: 1pm. Lecture starts: 1.30pm.



David Rudland: '**Winter into spring.**' Factors which affect colonies in harsh winter. David is a Surrey beekeeper with 150 colonies and a seasonal bee inspector.

Michael Keith-Lucas: '**How plants solve crimes.**' Uses of pollen to place suspects at the scene of crime, solving honey fraud etc. Michael is a retired academic plant scientist.

Refreshments: Lesley Fancote's delicious tea. Also three stalls: books, equipment, bumble bees.

Ticket price: £5 in advance, £6 on door.

Tickets from:

Kit Erhardt: kit.erhardt@doctors.org.uk, 01 689 860805.

Clive Watson: watson30@talktalk.net, 0208 6583786.

John Hendrie: bibba26@talktalk.net, 01732 833894.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subs were due 1st October

Our new year started on the 1st October and you should have received by email information/[links](#) to enable you to renew your membership of the Kent Beekeepers Association. You will notice that the subscription has risen from £42 to £44, which includes Beecraft magazine, BBKA 3rd party insurance and the BDI premium for up to three colonies. KBKA members receive Beecraft at a 25% reduction to the price paid by other subscribers. Don't forget to GiftAid your membership – it costs you nothing, and enhances the value of your membership subscription to CBKA/KBKA by 20%.

The renewal forms are available from our website [here](#) – and if it is convenient for you, the transaction can be completely electronic, as we can accept BACS transfers into our bank account.

Joan

KBKA BUSINESS

Kent BKA meets four times a year. David Cockburn went along to the last meeting and provided these notes.



On 9th September I went as proxy to the KBKA meeting in Detling. There were quite a few apologies but the meeting was actually reasonably productive with Clive Watson as chair. Below are points I noted as of interest to us.

- There was unexpressed concern at the aggressive competition from the BBKA newsletter for Beecraft. As Kent is a significant shareholder in the latter it was felt inappropriate to raise this at the BBKA meeting but KBKA would give its support if raised by Yorkshire. We do plan to raise the issue of BBKA budgeting to spend more than they are planning to bring in with the aim of getting them to cut spending on the Newsletter. There is no data available on the extent to which the newsletter is subsidized.
- Insurance. KBKA need to know now if clubs want insurance against vandalism etc for their club equipment, sheds etc.
- Gift Aid. CBKA were asked why we have such a low percentage of gift aided subscriptions. It was pointed out that Friends can also be asked for a Gift Aid signature.
- Application form. The new 2 page form was presented. It was stated that KBKA only actually need back the top sheet. Members will have to opt out of have their details shared with the hope that most members can be listed in a membership booklet.
- Promotion. KBKA have some pull-up displays for use at shows. The one on 'how honey is made' can also be downloaded for local production. Contact watson30@talktalk.net
- There are sew-on badges available for about £10. Contact Clive Watson.
- Education. A volunteer is wanted to serve on the education committee.
- Exams. 36 entered for the Basic, 31 passes. Certificates to arrive end October
- The new BBKA handbook is twice as thick as the last one, more expensive (£40K) and contains the same amount of information. (N.B. Julian, Adrian and Joan have copies for inspection)
- Clive Watson is to go as delegate to the BBKA from KBKA.
- 2014 meetings 15 Mar, 21 Jun, 13 Sep, 22 Nov.

David Cockburn



The British Beekeepers Association



BBKA BUSINESS

Annual Delegates Meeting

Clive Watson of Bromley represents Kent at the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting in January, and therefore is representing the views of CBKA, via the meeting described by David in the item above. Between now and 11 January 2014, papers will be produced for the delegates meeting, which our KBKA rep – Julian Audsley – will review, and if necessary seek opinion on from the branch. If there are matters that are of significant import to CBKA, then Julian will discuss with Clive Watson who has the responsibility to represent the expressed views of KBKA branches, and bring forward propositions for the ADM. The idea is to persuade Kent members and refine the proposition and arguments for and against, so that when a proposition gets to the next level it has a good chance of success through presenting a well argued case.

What does BBKA do?

To answer the question "what has the BBKA ever done for you" would take a long article. The direct benefits that being part of BBKA provides include:

- Membership of Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd, which provides compensation against loss of equipment and bees due to destruction orders by Bee Inspectors
- Public liability insurance
- A monthly newsletter, reaching more than 24,000 members
- A world-renowned structured examination system
- An active communication programme with newspapers and TV, as well as with general public
- Representation in (supra)-national debates with government agencies, relating to bee health, agricultural practice and bee husbandry

If you are interested to find out more about BBKA's activities, you can't go wrong by accessing their "[Annual Delegates Meeting](#)" webpages. The information available currently relates to the 2012 financial year, but will give a good insight into

- The finances of BBKA (a charity with cashflow of ~£700K, and assets of ~£400K)
- the examination board's activities (380 examinations undertaken in 2012)
- strategic direction and operations

What about CBKA?

Of course, CBKA extends the BBKA offering with geographically-based benefits, which include:

- A programme of meetings throughout the year to cater for the educational and social needs of members.
- A mentorship programme, to help develop husbandry skills
- Management of swarm collection, directed at supplying new starters with bees
- A twice-yearly training course for novice beekeepers
- A website, and an exclusive discussion forum, to enable exchange of information
- A monthly association newsletter
- A honey extractor, which can be hired for £5.00 a day
- Discounts on equipment from BBwear clothing and Buzz Beekeeping Supplies

BBKA EDUCATION

Update from David Blower

STUDY GROUP TUTORS' WORKSHOP - new dates

In response to the success of the initial workshop, held at Stratford on 29th Sept, and the interest from others who could not make that date, we are planning to repeat the workshop. The new dates and venues are:-

GUILDFORD 17 November 2013;

HUDDERSFIELD 24 November 2013;

STRATFORD 23 February 2014.

The workshop explores effective mechanisms for establishing and running study groups working towards the module examinations. It looks at resources that are available, a variety of study methods, and the level of knowledge that is required by candidates. As with the first workshop there is no charge to attend and delegates will be able to reclaim mileage through the BBKA.

This workshop is funded by FERA under the Healthy Bees Initiative

GENERAL HUSBANDRY INITIATIVE

In addition to courses already completed in Lincs., Sheffield and at Harper Adams we have a number of new courses being planned this winter and spring. These include several that have now been confirmed and where final details are being drawn up. This list includes Devon, Worcs, Herts., Bucks., Gloucs., Cheshire, Lancs and Durham. If your association does not have sufficient interest to run a course perhaps those interested could join one of these other courses. If you need more information please let me know.

ANY OTHER TRAINING?

I would like to know if there are any gaps in your local training needs that you think the BBKA could help you address. We are currently looking at topics aligned to the Advanced Husbandry Assessment and Bee Health month but I would be pleased to hear of any other opportunities you may have seen for improved training.

Please remember to take full advantage of the NDB Short Courses running this winter. Although there are none scheduled in Kent at the moment, more details can be found at:-

http://www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk/short_courses.htm

As we don't have a nominated Education Coordinator in CBKA, any comments on the above should be directed to Adrian, who can pass onto David Blower.