



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

Last month I was looking forward to my hives putting on weight from a strong ivy nectar flow, but that seems to be much weaker than usual, and hives may well be much lighter on stores than is required to ensure survival through all types of winter weather. In some of my hives I have been feeding both protein patties and sugar syrup to make sure that the colony has a good number of healthy long-lived winter (or *diutinus*) bees. If you are not confident that your hive has 20kg of stores, then see the article on p6 about Ambrosia.

For a variety of reasons we haven't managed to organize a CBKA honey show this year, but we will still take the opportunity of our first indoor meeting to compare and contrast branch members' honey in our meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday 7th October. Please bring along a small pot of your honey (or samples

of multiple batches if you harvested more than once). Everyone should also consider entering the DDBKA Honey Show, which is detailed on p5.

I'm disappointed to report that our website was subject to a hacking attack over the summer. I've managed to resolve the issues this week,

and you will see a new icon on webpages (SiteLock) which indicates that our site has been tested to be infection-free. I'm not aware that any malware will have been transmitted to users of our site, but it's a timely reminder that

passwords (and usernames) should not be readily guessable. Be safe when using the internet!

Finally, a reminder that we are meeting the public at Brogdale on 17-18 October – whether you want to sell honey, or can give a few hours to talk to the public, please contact us. Adrian

Next Meeting

Honey Yield and Honey Tasting

Whitefriars
Management Suite

Wednesday 7th

October

7.30-9.30pm

Joining instructions

– see page 2

CBKA OFFICERS

Chairman: Julian Audsley

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Treasurer: Joan McAllister

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Secretary & Newsletter

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Committee Members

Chris Bailes
David Cockburn
Jenny Cotterill
Maggie McKenzie
Michael Roberts
Linda Smith

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

OCTOBER 2015

DATES FOR DIARY

7 October	Indoor meeting, 7.30-9.30pm , Honey Yield and Honey Tasting, Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury CT1 2TF
17 October	Submit entry form for Dover Honey Show by this date to Chris Holdstock (entry form here).
17-18 October	Meet the public: Brogdale Apple Festival. Volunteers to help always welcome and needed! Free entry available
24 October	Dover Honey Show, Beech Grove, Nonington CT15 4FB
29-31 October	National Honey Show, St Georges College, Weybridge KT15 2QS website
4 November	Indoor meeting, 7.30-9.30pm, in Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury CT1 2TF AGM
4 December	End of year party St Mary's Hall, London Road, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, CT2 9AN

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.





CBKA COMMITTEE ROLES

The association is run for the benefit of all members, and elects a committee every year. The committee organises itself in a very informal way. Although the people on the committee tend not to change very much from year to year, we very much welcome new faces, so if you want to make a bigger contribution, all you have to do is volunteer your services at the AGM (which is 4 November 2015). Beekeeping skills, whilst useful are not essential, as the committee tries to cover a range of activities from apiary meetings and training, to meet the public events and fundraising. Enthusiasm for our hobby/craft is the most important personal attribute! Talk to any committee member if you want to find out more.

Brief role descriptions are given below.

Chairperson's Duties

Ongoing

- Chair the CBKA committee, to ensure delivery of a vibrant programme of events, and that the activities of the branch are aligned with direction from the membership
- Represent the branch in the wider beekeeping community (e.g. BBKA, connection with other Kentish BKAs)
- Identify long-term initiatives relevant to the branch, and ensure engagement and progress

At AGM

- Present a Chairperson's Report for the membership on the activities and successes of the year.

Secretary's Duties

Ongoing

- Manage communications within the branch – principally via the website and email
- Ensure that all members receive regular updates on activities within the branch by maintaining distribution lists
- Coordinate agenda and minutes of committee meetings
- Support the chairperson in managing branch and committee meetings
- Manage branch communications with the wider community – handling queries and requests from other beekeeping groups, and also from the general public

Newsletter

- Organise the collation and distribution of a branch newsletter, at least 10 times per year

Treasurer's Duties

To keep accurate records of the financial affairs of Canterbury Beekeepers and report annually to the County Treasurer

Annually

- After subscription year end and before the AGM – reconcile all financial transactions during the year. Complete and have audited, financial reports using templates provided by the County Treasurer.
- Reconcile subscriber list from the Beecraft Secretary with our membership list.

At AGM

- Present a Treasurer's Report for the membership on the financial dealings during the year and the current financial position of the Branch.

Dec, April and August each year

- Complete a Return, and send to County Membership Secretary (CMS), giving a breakdown of all subscriptions, Beecraft receipts, donations, extra BDI received during the period. Forward to CMS together with Membership Forms, copy receipts and Branch countersigned cheque.

At the end of each month

- Advise the Secretary of Beecraft of any new subscribers to the magazine that month and await a response before forwarding subscription monies by countersigned cheque.

Branch Meetings

- Record receipts for refreshments and pay any outgoings for speakers, hire of hall, refreshments, etc.

Ongoing

- Record and pay, either by countersigned cheque or cash, expenses incurred by the activities of Canterbury Beekeepers.
- Report on current financial position and membership numbers at Committee Meetings.



Membership Manager's Duties

To keep accurate records of the membership of Canterbury Beekeepers and report three times a year to the County Membership Secretary

Annually

- Advise members of the new Subscription Year commencing 1st October and by email forward a PDF of the new Membership Form (together with membership guide) for completion and return, together with payment either by cheque, cash or a transfer direct to CBKA bank account.
- Issue KBKA receipt and send to member with covering letter.
- Keep a record of current membership in spreadsheet format – recording name, address, email and telephone number, membership status and whether consent given for release of email address.
- Chase up by phone, and/or email, members who have not renewed membership.

At AGM

- Provide an indication of membership numbers and movement compared with past years

Dec, April and August each year

- Pass all Membership Forms and copy receipts received during the period to Treasurer to enable the completion of the Return to KBKA

At the end of each month

- Scan membership forms of members joining that month and email to KBKA secretary and branch treasurer.
- Advise Branch Secretary and Chairman of new members so they may be included in email distribution and for website registration.

Ongoing

Continue to record new members during the year – responding to any queries relating to membership.

Committee Member role

Ordinary committee members are without a specific role in the running of the branch, but nevertheless have two important functions.

- attend meetings of the committee (~2hrs, six times per year) and help form a view of the strategic direction by contributing to the discussions and decision making processes of the branch.
- volunteer to lead and help organise selected activities of the branch. This typically involves being responsible for two or three activities, such as organising the Christmas party, each of which involves about a day or more of work depending on the nature of the activity.

In addition there are more general functions attached to the member role

- We need to get new members involved so that we are training future branch officers and trainers.
- While it is open to any member of the branch to spend a few hours each year working at the stand when we have a 'meet the public' event it is likely that the committee members will attend more events than most.

We typically seek to have 4-6 committee members, in addition to the chairperson, treasurer, secretary and membership secretary. Two members of the committee may represent CBKA at the Kent BKA council. The branch committee operates according to the regulations set out in Kent BKA's bye-laws, which can be found online at [this link](#).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subs due 1st October

Our new year started on the 1st October and you will shortly be receiving by email information to enable you to renew your membership of the Kent Beekeepers Association.

You will notice that the subscription has risen from £45 to £46, 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.

Jan



<http://www.ddbka.com>
<http://www.ddh->
<http://www.ddbka.com>



**DOVER & DISTRICT
BEEKEEPERS
ANNUAL
HONEY SHOW**

*See the competition displays of the finest honey, mead,
honey confectionery, beeswax, candles and more*

*Watch live bees in a glass observation hive,
a demonstration of traditional skep making
and videos of the hidden world inside the hive*

LOCAL Honey to Taste and Buy
and products made with real beeswax

All Welcome!
*Meet the beekeepers
as they celebrate the honey harvest
Come and discover the wonders
of the remarkable honey bee*

Free Admission

**Opens 2.30pm – in The Great Hall at
The Bruderhof Community
Sandwich Road, Nonington CT15 4FB**

As we don't have our own show, please consider entering the Dover Honey Show on 24th October – it's a fun event, and it's not taken *too* seriously. Whether you have honey or wax to show, or are a skilled meadmaker or cake baker, there's a class for you. DDBKA would be delighted if you advertise the show by putting up posters (download them [here](#)).

Entries should be made on [this form](#) and sent to the Show Secretary, Chris Holdstock, 36 Lower Road, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3DY (phone 01304-828041) to arrive not later than Saturday 17th October. If you are late, talk to Chris – he's likely to be accommodating, in the interests of a strong show! Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that labels can be posted to you.

Here's a complete list of the open classes you could enter:

- Two 1lb jars of Light Honey
- Two 1lb jars of Medium Honey
- Two 1lb jars of Dark Honey
- Two 1lb jars of Soft-Set or Granulated Honey
- Novice Class. Two 1lb jars of matching Honey
- One super frame of Honey suitable for extracting
- One cake of Natural Beeswax not less than ½" thick, weighing 7–9 oz
- Three matching Natural Beeswax Candles, one to be lit by the Judge
- Five matching 1oz (approx) blocks of Natural Beeswax
- One bottle of sweet Mead
- One bottle of dry Mead
- Confectionery classes – Ginger Honey Cake, Honey Raisin Bars, Honey Biscuits, Honey Sandwich (you must follow the prescribed recipe, shown in the [schedule](#))
- One bottle of sweet Home-Made Wine
- One article of any kind related to beekeeping and produced by the exhibitor; e.g. photos, artwork, woodwork, models, needlework
- Composite Class. Any three of the following:
 - one 1lb jar of Light Honey
 - one 1lb jar of Medium or Dark Honey
 - one 1lb jar of Soft-Set or Granulated Honey
 - one 1oz block of Natural Beeswax
 - one frame of Honey
 - one article related to beekeeping
- One bottle of dry Home-Made Wine

BEEKEEPERS @ KSRC

Course in November 2015



I'm pleased to be able to tell you that, after a summer break, KSRC is back! There will be a short series of 4 evening classes beginning 10 November at Tyland Barn, near Maidstone. Tyland Barn is the Headquarters of Kent Wildlife Trust.

There will be 4 evening sessions, during which we will explore and hopefully provide a strong foundation for several of the really key aspects of keeping bees - swarm control (of course), dealing effectively with varroa, understanding the colony lifecycle, its variability and seasonal management - "reading the bees" leading to considered, effective management. The plan is that 3 of the sessions will be devoted to these aspects while the 4th will be specifically tailored to the aspects nominated by the beekeepers attending. Tutors will be Julie Coleman, Adrian Davis and Bob Smith. The whole set of 4 classes may be booked for £25.

These sessions are not intended for novices; our target audience is definitely "Improvers" - those who have kept bees for a season or two and are keen to learn more, to improve their understanding and management of their bees. So, if you are interested, bookings may be made from the KSRC website - www.ksrcbees.org.uk

Bob Smith, Julie Coleman and Adrian Davis

AMBROSIA AT DOVER

Thanks to the assistance of Dougal Hendry, CBKA members have 262.5 Litres of Ambrosia syrup for late season feeding, by taking advantage of a bulk order by DDBKA. This initiative was so popular at Dover that the first delivery sold out almost instantly. Maggie Harrowell tells me that they are going for a second order.

Anyone wanting to buy one or more of the 12.5kg containers of Ambrosia syrup should participate in a branch request to Dover – the best way to do this is via the CBKA forum [here](#) – but an email to cantbees@gmail.com will also work.

With Ambrosia Liquid Food, colonies of bees can survive the shortage of food during the winter months. Ambrosia Liquid Food is specially prepared with natural sugars glucose, fructose and sucrose. With the sugar content being concentrated, it ensures the food will not go-off and the high fructose content ensures it will not crystallise. Without being expensive, Ambrosia Liquid Food is very effective and gives your bees a substance that is close to natural nectar. The liquid feed is easy to handle, hygienic and time-saving. The bees easily gather it, and with minimum inversion required and therefore less energy expenditure, it is better for bees than feeding sugar water. With no aroma there is no danger of robbery. Ambrosia bee syrup can be fed until late autumn and also next spring and will keep until late 2017.



We should certainly consider whether CBKA should do something similar next year. The only limitation is that the delivery requires someone to have the space to store a pallet of syrup securely for a few days. If you are prepared to act as distribution manager (and are based reasonably close to Canterbury), please let one of the committee know. Dougal points out that without any great effort, CBKA members took 21 jerry cans, compared to a minimum order of 30, so we should seriously consider this option in 2016.

Dougal and Adrian