



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter No. 72 March 2014

Beekeepers @ KSRC

Courses in 2014

Beekeepers @ KSRC is now in its 3rd year and its prime purpose remains essentially the same – to provide training and education opportunities for “Improver Beekeepers” from any of the 16 Kent Associations and Branches. Novice beekeepers are best taught and mentored in their local associations but this makes it hard for local groups also to provide in-depth training for a relatively few Improver members; we hope in part to address that gap.

All of the classroom and laboratory-based courses are delivered in the excellent facilities available at KSRC (Kent Science Resource Centre) near Sittingbourne, a location that is reasonably central for all of Kent. During 2014, we plan to offer some of the titles run in previous years as well as some new offerings; some dates are now firm and will be bookable from the website while others are still under discussion and will be included on the site in the coming weeks – bookmark and keep watching the website!

www.ksrcbees.org.uk

One exciting new initiative this year will be the first practical training courses that we have been able to offer. This course will only be available to holders of the BBKA Basic Certificate; it will involve a full day of tutored apiary work concentrating on aspects of reading the bees, pro-active management of them and on smooth, confident handling. I am pleased to be able to say that two of our bee-farmer colleagues have agreed, enthusiastically, to the use of their apiaries for this training so we will be able to offer two locations, at either end of the County. Final details to be arranged, this should be on offer from late April.

Please make the availability of these courses known to your improver members – we really hope to be able to raise the bar as far as the knowledge and skills of Kent's beekeepers.

Beekeepers @ KSRC
Bob Smith, Julie Coleman, Adrian Davis

Wisborough Green Division - West Sussex BKA Beekeeping Course suitable for Beginners, Improvers, and Non - Beekeepers

Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2BF.
Saturday, 8th March 2014. Assemble from 9.00 for 9.30-5.00 p.m.

The course is suitable for those who wish to discover what is involved in keeping bees but will also be suitable for those who have kept bees for some time. It will largely follow the syllabus of the BBKA Basic assessment but with variations. This course is based on nearly 50 years experience, not just repeating what is in books.

Subjects covered will include:-

How to learn about bees
Obtaining bees and equipment
Different kinds of bees
Where to site hives
How bees live naturally and how we can manage them
What bees collect - nectar, pollen, propolis, water
Colony Management
How bees store the crop

Feeding
The colony in winter
Swarming and dealing with it
Making colony increase
Handling bees carefully

Course fee £40. Second and subsequent attendees booked together £35*. Under 16 with a paying adult £15*.

Price is per head to include lunch, refreshments, and our own booklet "Basic Beekeeping". Please note: Those marked * will not receive "Basic Beekeeping". Additional copies available on the day at £5.

For existing, paid-up WGBKA members the fee is reduced to £30.

Enquiries:- Roger Patterson. roger-patterson@btconnect.com 01403 790637 or 07976 306 492

Booking:- Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AU. 01798 343470 petworthgordon@btopenworld.com preferably using the form on the website.

Cheques payable to:- WSBKA Wisborough Green Div.
Web Site www.wgbka.org.uk

Bromley 2014 Course for Beekeeper Beginners

Bromley Beekeepers, a branch of Kent Beekeepers Association, will be running another course for those contemplating a beginning in beekeeping. Starting in the first week of March, which is too early for the opening of hives, we'll obviously begin in a classroom setting. We shall look at the practicalities of beekeeping, and how that relates to the activities and requirements of the bees themselves. Towards the end of the ten weekly meetings Spring hopefully will allow some hands-on activity in the branch apiary. The syllabus followed is one devised by the British Beekeepers Association.

Dates: the course starts on Monday 3rd March, and runs weekly till 12th May.

Please note there will be no meeting on 21st April (Easter Monday).

Times: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm, with a 6.00 pm start for apiary sessions.

Cost: £75.00 (which includes a text book).

Tutor: Bob Jackman, with the assistance of members of Bromley Branch

Location: While the course is located in the London Borough of Bromley, please note that the location in the extreme north of the borough is easily accessible to residents of Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth.

Contact: Bob Jackman.

E-mail: rfjackman@yahoo.co.uk

County and other events

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ONE DAY SEMINAR

Saturday, 8th March

"What is Honey?"

Eleanor Whitter: What we should expect to find in honey

Ray Vidler: Commercial honey processing and packaging

Dr Falko Drijfhout: True realistic levels of neonicotinoids; are they a threat to honeybee survival?

Norman Carrek: How far do honeybees travel to forage?

Tickets £24.00 David J Abson, 6 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford CB22 4NT
01223 834620

[The ticket price includes lunch and light refreshments; a vegetarian option will be available (if requested in advance).]

BBKA 37TH SPRING CONVENTION

Harper Adams University

Saturday, 4th to Sunday, 6th April 2014

Lectures, Workshops and Courses

N.B. Trade show open Friday and Saturday

For more details of the programme, ticket sales and accommodation visit the BBKA web site at

www.bbka.org.uk

YALDING & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS

BEE FAYRE AND AUCTION

Riverdale Field, Yalding, ME18 6ES.

Sunday 11th May

Gates open at 10am, with the auction starting at 14:30.

All enquiries and to enter items into the auction please e-mail:

beefayre@yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk

Or visit the website: <http://beefayre.yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk>

KENT COUNTY SHOW

County Showground, Detling

Friday, 11th to Sunday, 13th July

Stewards are always needed

E-mail Bob Smith bsmith12@ntlworld.com

BIBBA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE COMBINED WITH THE SICAMM BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 26th-28th September 2014

BIBBA (Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association) is pleased to announce its 50th Anniversary Conference in collaboration with SICAMM (*Societas Internationalis Apis Melliferae Melliferae*) its European partner.

The conference, hosted by South Clwyd BKA, is open to everyone, with its core focus on bee improvement and the management of native and near native honey bees.

The three day event will take place from 26th-28th September 2014 at the Pavilion, Llangollen, North Wales, where delegates will learn about improving their own stocks of honey bees, whilst enjoying an excellent and varied social programme.

For those wishing to extend their visit, the Llangollen area benefits from stunning scenery and a variety of activities and culture to suit all tastes.

Enquiries to: Trisha Marlow 07812 518822 or
bibba.uk@gmail.com

Pre-registration is now open at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/8429168871

Further details of the event, when available, may be viewed at:

BIBBA: www.bibba.com
SICAMM: www.sicamm.org

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW
St George's College, Weybridge
Thursday, 30th October to Saturday, 1st November
Beekeeping lectures and workshops
Show Schedule and entry forms will be available
nearer the time

BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting

Our Chairman, Clive Watson, was Kent's representative at the ADM held on 11th January 2014.

David Aston was elected as President. Ken Basterfield, Doug Brown, Ruth Horner, Gareth Morgan and Roger Patterson were elected to the Executive and become trustees of the charity. Lee Bayley, Pam Hunter, Margaret Murdin, Peter Sutcliffe and Alistair Welch were elected to the Exam Board.

The proposition to raise the capitation from £17.00 to £18.00 was initially defeated. However, following discussion between the Executive Committee members and the use of standing orders, a subsequent proposition from Buckinghamshire was amended so that the increase in registered member capitation fees was agreed.

Other agreed propositions were:

- that co-opted members of the Executive or General Secretary could not be trustees;
- that the BBKA sets up a working party to examine and reconsider key events in the Association's annual cycle;
- the introduction of corporate and institutional grades of membership;
- that the BBKA will lobby government to reduce VAT on beekeeping equipment.

Some amendments to the Constitution were also agreed.

If you have any branch information or articles you would like included, please e-mail Jennifer@spon-smith.com