



**West Sussex Beekeepers  
Association**  
**Wisborough Green Division**



## Newsletter August 2008

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### **HONEY SHOW – Monday August 25<sup>th</sup>**

See note from Judy below

**Sat Sept 13th**      **Dewey Caron lecture** - He is a world class speaker and it is very rare that we have the opportunity to hear someone as good as this. He will be visiting us on this date and so please put in your diary. More details are under County News.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**      **Bee Supper – date for your diary Pulborough village hall**

**Apiary Meetings** (Dounhurst Farm, Skiff Lane, Wisborough Green)

**Please will visitors to the apiary to park on the grass verge, not in the farm drive. Our host is good to us by letting us use the area and the least we can do is leave his drive clear.**

**Saturday**      **16<sup>th</sup> August**      Apiary Meeting

**Sunday**      **24<sup>th</sup> August**      Removing clean supers and Apiguard **Note Sunday**

To improve the focus of the meetings there will be two start times on Saturdays - Beginners will start at 12.00 and Advanced at 2.00pm. The reason we're doing this is to make sure all members get the most from the sessions. It's up to members to decide which category they think they fit into and obviously they can change groups or stay for both as appropriate.

To get the best out of meetings, a number of demonstrations take place at the same time in the apiary. Please be considerate to the demonstrators by not distracting them by wandering about between demonstration groups, chatting in the background, etc etc. We are very grateful for them giving up their time to demonstrate and we should be trying to make their lives easier.

### **Patterson in Print** – Roger Patterson

I have just had a week at the Irish beekeeping summer school at Gormanston, and many in Ireland are now having the same queen problems we have. They are much more positive than we are, but as with

elsewhere funding on beekeeping is a low priority. They do have an agricultural economy and they get much more Government help than we do, but still not enough.

At our last meeting we saw some queen problems, and I have had several calls and emails from members. I don't know what is causing the problems, but until we find the answers all I can suggest is you do the following:-

- Clip and mark all queens as soon as they start to lay. You will then know if the queen in your hive is the one that was there at the last inspection.
- Check your colonies every 14 days. Make sure there are eggs and a good pattern, there are no Q/C's, and the queen hasn't turned drone layer.
- Check EVERY comb in the broodchamber. On many occasions I have seen one supersedure Q/C on an outside frame that you wouldn't normally look at. Many colonies have swarmed this season leaving one Q/C.

We got caught out last year by the late honey flows going into September where we couldn't treat for varroa and feed in time. This I believe may have contributed to our winter losses. This year we are going to take the honey off and extract one day, and put on Apiguard the next. This should reduce the mite levels and give us healthier bees to go into the winter. We will monitor mite levels both before and after.

Don't forget to enter our honey show, and if you do well there is the National Honey Show later.

## **WISBOROUGH GREEN HONEY SHOW: August Bank Holiday Monday !**

We hope that you all received the entry form and class list for the Wisborough Green Honey Show with the newsletter last month, but if any of you have 'temporarily misplaced' and of the vital pieces, it is also available on the website [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk) ...under Diary of Events: August.....so you have **no excuses not to enter** !! (N.B. If you receive your newsletter by post, I may have forgotten to add the entry form to some of the envelopes last month. If that's the case, please let me know and I'll mail one to you – Rupert)

The bees have already done the REALLY hard work for you ! Although the honey and mead classes must be made with your own honey, there are some classes where you don't HAVE to be a beekeeper to participate, something for novices, and for the children too. So DO have a go! Karen Clemens is standing by to receive your entry forms, and there are many experienced 'show-ers' amongst the members if you need a little advice to boost your confidence before entering. The class labels for your exhibits will be either sent back via post once the entry forms have been received or they will be issued on the day for late entries....but please keep these to a minimum!!

If you are entering for the first time, then there are a few hints and tips, which will please the judge, and keep you 'in the running' :

### **Honey**

- Jars should match (best if they're new, from the same box), lids should match and all to be spotlessly clean.
- Inside the lids should be clean of honey smears (I often take a couple of spares to swap at the show ground in case of tippage en route !)
- Don't underfill your jars ! Inside each jar neck is a fill line - make sure the contents reach it, or that you cannot see daylight when the lid is on, between the honey and the lid.
- if it is 'clear honey' warm it gently a day or so before the show so that it looks clear and bright. The judge will shine a light through to show up any crystallisation starting.
- Make sure the surface of your honey is dust and wax-flake free. You can either overfill and take off any dust particles with a warm teaspoon, or use clingfilm to lay on and remove...either works well !

- Stick class labels 1cm up from the bottom of the jar...each label is 1cm high - so that is your guide !

#### Honey in frames

- select your comb on a hive inspection, clean it of excess wax with your hive tool and replace in the hive - the bees will clean it and dry it for you by the following day ! You will need to buy, beg, borrow or steal an exhibition case if you don't have one - ask around !

If you have any questions...just ask someone who has done it before.....it is HUGE fun to do !

### National Audit Office Examination of Honeybees

As central government's external auditor, the NAO plans to examine the progress made by Defra in safeguarding the health of honeybees. The conclusions of this are likely to be reported to Parliament in due course.

The NAO are seeking the views of beekeepers and as part of the process, are asking individual beekeepers to complete a short survey. This is available from the following link

If you do not have online access, paper copies are available from John Glover (01403 751899).

Completed surveys in either format need to be with NAO by 5<sup>th</sup> September at the latest.

### **County Diary – Around the Divisions – all Members are most welcome at all Meetings**

**Chichester** – Contact John Stevens. – Email [ieem@compuserve.com](mailto:ieem@compuserve.com)

Meetings will be at the Bader Arms in Tangmere and will commence punctually at 7.30pm.

There will be no meeting in July or August

**Worthing** Contact Brian Tolworthy on 01903 241369

Website [www.worthingbeekeepers.fsnet.co.uk/org.uk](http://www.worthingbeekeepers.fsnet.co.uk/org.uk)

Winter meetings at Ferring village hall. Arrive at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August** – Out Apiary Meeting.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August** – At 2.30, the annual visit to Audrey's home apiary – extraction.

## Half Day Convention. Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September

A reminder that Dr Dewey M Caron will be speaking in Pulborough Village Hall, commencing at 2.00pm.

Full details appeared in the July County News. Subjects that will be covered are:-

**Bee Nutrition – What we know (and don't know) about bee nutrition, and how we can supplement bees for survival, stimulus and gain.**

**Queens, queens, queens – All aspects from finding, replacing, mating, rearing and biology.**

The cost for this is £5.00 and bookings are being handled by Judy Knight – 01403 752169 or Email [judyknight@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judyknight@hotmail.co.uk)

## Spring Convention

The 2009 Convention is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.

## National Honey Show

The 77<sup>th</sup> National Honey Show will take place at it's new location in Weybridge from 30<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November.

This three-day event provides a series of Workshops and Lectures by top level speakers in addition to the presentation of Trophies and Awards. It is necessary to book places in advance for the workshops and full details are available at [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) or contact the show secretary by Email [showsec@zbee.com](mailto:showsec@zbee.com)

If you wish to offer material for inclusion in future editions of "County News", please contact John Glover at [glover.fetchingshollow@gmail.com](mailto:glover.fetchingshollow@gmail.com)