



Bee Market & Auction

Unless you've been hibernating for the winter you will be aware that this year's Bee Market & Auction will again be held at Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough on **Saturday 14th April**. Planning is at an advanced stage and the first 150 lots have already been registered for the sale. For those of you planning to send items to the auction please remember that registration of all lots must be completed by 4th April. So don't delay - get your lots registered NOW. An entry form is included with this newsletter.



Doors open at Brinsbury at 08:30. Bees will be accepted for the auction up to 10:30 and equipment until 11am. The auctioneer will inspect the bees at 11am and bidding will commence at 1pm. Further details are available on the website together with the auction rules and guidance notes for buyers and sellers.

Major Association events such as this require a lot of support from the membership and to those of you who have offered your help at Brinsbury a very sincere THANK YOU.

See you at Brinsbury.

Graham

Inside this issue:

<i>Your Executive Committee for 2012</i>	2
<i>Exeter Research</i>	2
<i>Around the Divisions</i>	3
<i>South of England Show</i>	4
<i>New BBKA Codes of Conduct</i>	4
<i>More from Moore</i>	4
<i>The West Sussex BKA website</i>	5
<i>Auction Entry Form</i>	6

West Sussex Beekeepers' Association Executive Committee Members 2012

Following the Annual General Meeting on 27th March the following officers were elected to promote the activities of the Association for the next 12 months.

- *Christine Stevens* *PRESIDENT / CONVENTION ORGANISER*
- *Tom Moore* *CHAIRMAN*
- *Roger Patterson* *VICE CHAIRMAN*
- *Graham Elliott* *SECRETARY / WEB MANAGER /
AUCTION CO-ORDINATOR*
- *David Coutts* *TREASURER*
- *Geoffrey Keech* *MINUTES SECRETARY*
- *Pauline Ford* *MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY*
- *Roger & Marion Brooks* *EXAMINATION SECRETARY*
- *TBC* *HONEY SHOW SECRETARY*
- *Jim Norfolk* *CHICHESTER REPRESENTATIVE*
- *Norman Dingemans* *CHICHESTER REPRESENTATIVE*
- *TBC* *CHICHESTER REPRESENTATIVE*
- *Guy Wheatley* *WORTHING REPRESENTATIVE*
- *Patricia Tilney* *WORTHING REPRESENTATIVE*
- *Len Lewis* *WORTHING REPRESENTATIVE*
- *Richard Flenley* *WISBOROUGH GREEN REPRESENTATIVE*
- *Gordon Allan* *WISBOROUGH GREEN REPRESENTATIVE*
- *TBC* *WISBOROUGH GREEN REPRESENTATIVE*

A vote of thanks was offered to Ray Noakes, the retiring President, for his services to the Association during his 2 years in office.

Can You Help With Research?

A University student in Exeter is undertaking research into honeybee health. If you are prepared to complete his questionnaire and provide him with samples of your bees please contact Benjamin Kenin-gale at bjk201@exeter.ac.uk

Around the Divisions

All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

Chichester Division

Tuesday 17th April - *'Producing your own queens - the natural way'* - Tom Moore & Gordon Allan from Wisborough Green BKA. Meeting at the Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, 7:30pm. Further details from Christine Stevens.

secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk

*'Share your Division's
activities with readers of the
County News'*

Wisborough Green Division

Saturday 7th & 28th April - Apiary meeting at Dounhurst Farm, Wisborough Green. Beginners & Intermediate at 12:00, Advanced at 2:30pm

Further details from John Glover glover.flethingshollow@gmail.com or website www.wgbka.org.uk

Worthing Division

Thursday 12th April - Guest speaker, Alan Byham - *'Bee diseases and swarming'*. Meeting at the Ferring Village Hall, Ferring Street, Ferring, 7:30pm.

Further details from Phil Carter philange5180@btinternet.com or website www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk

County Event

Saturday 14th April - Annual Bee Market & Auction, Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough. Further details from Graham Elliott, email: grahammt@tiscali.co.uk, Telephone 01403 752493 or Mobile 07761 349281 or from the West Sussex BKA website.

For those of you with a Smartphone scan our website's QR Code



South of England Agricultural Society Show



The South of England Show will be held this year at the Ardingly showground near Haywards Heath on 7th, 8th and 9th June. The Bee and Honey marquee is always popular with visitors and, subject to the weather, there are a number of daily demonstrations with live bees. The Honey Show is always well supported.

For details of the Honey Show schedule visit the Society's website www.seas.org.uk or contact the Entries Secretary, Pauline Sparkes on 01293 862063. Entries close on 13th April after which late entries will be accepted for a fee until 11th May.

BBKA Codes of Conduct for Working with Children & Young People



The BBKA has now finalised its policy and best practice guidelines to safeguard Juniors and Vulnerable adults in beekeeping.

The Adult Code of Conduct and Child Protection Code has been developed in association with NSPCC guidelines. Associations have the responsibility to implement the policy and the Code of Conduct will be signed by all registered BBKA members mentoring or working with Juniors. There is also a Junior's Code of Conduct that will be signed by children and young people and their parent or guardian attending and using the facilities of any BBKA Member Association.

BBKA insurance has now been extended to cover members working with children or vulnerable people.

Your Divisional Secretary will be able to provide further details in due course.

More from Moore - Spring has sprung

Chairman, Tom Moore, shares his thoughts from his apiary in West Sussex.

As I write this, at the end of the third week of March, it feels more like summer than spring. Our bees are bringing in a huge amount of pollen (*Salix caprea* is in full flower) and I am pleased to say that all 23 hives have come through the winter strongly, with what seems like a considerable excess of stores. I notice that they are taking a lot of water from the chicken drinkers we put out for them at the apiary, so with luck they are diluting and using some of the stores and we won't run into problems with queens cramped for laying space. Of course we could still have some very poor and cold weather, so it is important that there are stores in the hive. The big concern if it turns particularly cold will be whether there are enough bees in the hive to keep all the brood warm, as some might end up chilled if they have to cluster too tightly.

Continues

Continued

Hive populations will probably be at their lowest soon. We are seeing a lot of dead bees in front of some hives as the winter bees come to the end of their lives. Luckily our fellow allotment-holders where we have two hives now understand that this happens, so we don't get the panic calls of a couple of years ago saying 'your bees are dying'. Still, bee numbers seem very high in most of the hives and we wonder if increased brood-rearing in the mild winter means there are less old bees to die now, and a bigger brood-rearing force. If this level of activity is happening everywhere then we had better have the swarm-collecting equipment ready soon!

It has been our practice for the last 5 years to treat all our hives in March with *Vitafeed Gold* in a syrup



Treating with Vitafeed Gold, March 2012

solution, trickling it over the bees on alternate days, a total of 5 times. This is supposed to stimulate the bees and get the colony developing, and according to Vita research also has great efficacy against Nosema. Before starting treatment we sampled every hive and checked under the microscope; this year we have found no Nosema. Last year we had one quite heavily infected hive and one with a slight infection, but after treatment with the *Vitafeed Gold* we could not detect any infection at all. Not scientific proof, but with Fumidil B being withdrawn (and we would never have been prepared to use it, an antibiotic, anyway) we will all depend on 'alternative' types of control, combined with good hygiene. We did, as one

should, change the comb on the affected hives last year, as there is no point in trying to cure a problem then leaving the bees in an infected home.

Last month I asked about drones in the hive in February. The only feedback I got was from another Wisborough Green member who had seen the same thing in two separate hives. No more light on that subject yet, then.

By the time you read this we will have had the West Sussex BKA Annual General Meeting. Graham has asked me to continue my notes through another year, which I will do if I am still Chairman (and I don't take that for granted!). If you'd prefer something different then let Graham know..... It is surprising how quickly a year has passed, and in beekeeping terms I think there have been more steps forwards than back, but plenty of surprises and things to learn. Here's to more learning, and enjoyment, in the coming season.

Tom

MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Hon. Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

grahammt@tiscali.co.uk

We're on the web:

www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex

WEST SUSSEX BKA BEE MARKET & AUCTION
BRINSBURY CAMPUS, PULBOROUGH
SATURDAY 14th April 2012



ENTRY FORM
Closing date for entries 04th April

Please return form to Graham Elliott, Robins Croft, Chalk Road,
 Ifold, Loxwood, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 0UB
grahammt@tiscali.co.uk

I wish to enter the following for sale in the above auction and confirm my acceptance of the rules stated

Quantity	Description	Official Use

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Bank Details – Sort Code _____ Acct No: _____

Acct Name _____

Please continue on additional sheets as necessary.
 To save on the cost of raising cheques payment will be to your nominated bank account only.

A regular feature of the Auction is the **PLANT STALL** organised by Sue Cooper. There is usually a wide range of plants available, and these come from a variety of donated sources. So, when you are taking cuttings, dividing plants, or transplanting seedlings, please remember the stall and keep some spares aside. Please contact Sue on 01798 870 461 for more details.

For Rules and Guidance Notes see website www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/auction/index.shtml or contact Graham Elliott