



# FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

President: Miss Margery Cooper

FEBRUARY 2004  
Number 572

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The Federation, its Council and its Officers cannot be held responsible for  
the views expressed in the Newsletter or possible errors.

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## Future Events

12 <sup>th</sup> February 2004	Flood Memorial Lecture Speaker: Dr Brenda Ball	See Reading News below
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2004	Spring convention & Trade Fair Stoneleigh	

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please thank Garulus for me, I've enjoyed his articles especially when he's prepared to move on from the very simple things and deal with climate change affecting manipulations etc. I lost a swarm on 1 April a couple of years ago by going by the book and not opening them up earlier, even though the season was an early one.

I especially enjoyed the last article, because I too have moved to 14x12's in Nationals and have built a Dartington Hive, with the future in mind.

I also thought of expanding - but maybe I'll take his advice not to, this year - maybe!

Paul Moorcroft

## Hives

I am not a member of any of your Associations but may I make a comment. I may have misunderstood Garulus (Dec issue) "You will be lugging hives around the country", "The national is the easiest to get to grips with." In many years of "lugging" hives for myself and other people I have found that the Langstroth and the 10 frame Dadant or jumbo Langstroth as some will call it, being narrower is the easiest to move or transport if one is a lone operator, obviously help is required if there is any amount of stores. With use of a router to make rebates, the Langstroth will accommodate 13 (or 14 at a push) National frames; now tell me that the Langstroth is not larger than the standard National? Maybe it is even equivalent to the 14x10 National! I favour the Langstroth, which is not too large to run with double brood.

Long hives have appeared over the last two centuries i.e. Major Munn's hive of 1840, to the present day Wesley and Dartington. Up to now none have been in favour for any length of time, probably because the brood nest is oval and the bees usually work downward. This type of hive is more suited to those, who for various reasons cannot handle tiering hives.

Wilfred Hine

Note: The late Gussie Flood used Wesley hives when she was well into her 90s, unfortunately they were lost in a fire together with a Wells Collateral hive that originally belonged to the Apis Club. Perhaps Geoff Fowler can comment.

Editor.

## **Aspiring Scribe Wanted:**

So far we do not have a replacement for Garulus. The column is aimed primarily with beginners in mind but even those with many years of experience are still learning. Have you four or five years experience? Have you a common sense approach to beekeeping, possibly by cribbing from others? There must be someone out there that would like to "have a go" or maybe you know of someone that is too shy to come forward. The Editor would like suggestions; confidentiality will be honoured

## **Your Regional Bee Inspectors are: -**

Southern Region: - Mr. Ian Homer.

Fax/Telephone number: 01308 482 161

South Eastern Region: - Mr. Alan Byham

Fax/Telephone number: 020 8571 6450

## **READING and DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November Reading Beekeepers Association held their Annual General Meeting. The associations activities have been successful this season but in common with most local associations new members are needed, we have welcomed two this season with the sad loss of one. New subs. levels were approved, a modest rise again which additional membership would make unnecessary. Any readers who would like a copy of our new pamphlet 'Beekeeping in Berkshire' to pass to any interested persons please contact the secretary.

After the AGM we had the very great pleasure of viewing videos introduced and produced by Harry Peace, a member of Slough and Windsor Association. The first entitled 'One Man and his Bees' was in the opinion of this writer an ideal illustration of the activities of a hobbyist beekeeper and of at least 'day-time TV' quality as was another introducing windmills in the English countryside with details on their evolution and technology. Two shorter videos followed of the flight of the red kites now seen over the Oxon. /Bucks border and a poignant video about Harry's equestrian daughter. A well attended AGM with very worthy second half to the evening.

After the Christmas break our next meeting will be our Flood Memorial Lecture at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February when Dr. Brenda Ball will give us a highly important talk on Varroa and pest management, with the increase in pyrethrin resistant pockets in the south, you won't want to miss it!

Secretary: Mr. R. Kiff, 114 Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading RG6 7LU Tel. 0118 966 5358

## **SLOUGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY**

### **Incorporating Windsor, Maidenhead and adjoining communities.**

The December meeting was much enjoyed by everyone there and I am sure we would all like to thank Harry Peace for bringing along some of his videos. They were both entertaining and informative and I, for one, have picked up a few useful tips.

This month's meeting has been included in the programme as a result of suggestions put forward at the AGM. There had been concern over the drop in entries to our Autumn Honey Show and ideas were requested that would encourage our members to participate in this and both the Federation and National shows as well. It was felt that whilst entrants in the honey classes were able to glean ideas from the Honey Judge's comments, wax cakes and candle making was to some, myself included, a closed book. Therefore, Bernhard Schumann, Harry Peace and Bridget Way, who are some of our most consistent entrants in these classes, have agreed to demonstrate how they achieve their results. They will be making moulded and dipped candles and demonstrating how to turn out a perfect wax cake for judging. It is hoped that this will result in many more of us trying our hand at these classes next autumn.

So, please, come along on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> February to show your appreciation for all their efforts in presenting an evening with a difference. It will be at the usual time of 8pm, at the All Saints Parish Hall, on the corner of Frances and Alexandra Roads, Windsor. Don't forget that the library is now available at all meetings and that there are still a number of surplus books for sale.

We hope to include another evening later in the year on a different aspect of showing. This would be the empty slot in April, which actually follows the Easter weekend and which has caused some difficulty in booking a speaker. Maybe the date is significant – the 13<sup>th</sup> (no-one won the prize for spotting the mistake here on the early version of the programme!)

The March meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and will be a talk on the geology of the Thames Valley, by Dr Jill Eyers.

Our apiary supervisor reports that the Dartington hive is now at the apiary and should have been painted by the time that this newsletter is published. It is hoped to get a working party together for some time during February or March to site this hive and to deal with the hive stands that have been made unstable by tree roots. Anyone who is able to volunteer their time is asked to contact Jim on 01628 783228, so that a date may be arranged.

Finally, I have been asked to point out to those few who had not renewed their subscriptions at the turn of the year, that they are now out of cover for Public Liability and Bee Disease Insurance. If you have not yet sent yours in, please do so as a matter of urgency.

Newsletter items: Joy Dodson Burnham (01628) 664091  
Secretary: Michael Sheasby Farnham Common (01753) 642656

## WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

### Report on November meeting

Ian Paine, an ex-RSPB warden gave a very interesting and illustrated talk on 'Birds of Berkshire'. He covered the many species seen regularly, also a number of the rare visitors spotted over recent years. Ian and his colleagues lead a walk around Dinton Pastures on the first Saturday in each month starting at 9:00am from the main car park. We have recently seen Mandarin duck, Goldeneye duck and Goldcrests.

### February meeting

The meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February will feature a talk by one of our members, Dr Pete Kennedy, who works in Ecological Sciences at Syngenta. Pete will tell us about 'Testing the safety of pesticides to honey bees'

### Book of the month


I am currently wading through a Christmas gift, 'The Hive and the Honey Bee', a 1324 page epic covering almost every aspect of beekeeping. First published in 1946, the book has been regularly revised and reprinted and now comprises 27 sections all by different noted authors. Some of the sections are quite technical but there is a very good index that can get you to most topics quickly. Chapter one by Eva Crane gives a very good history of beekeeping from the Middle East in 5000BC to the establishment of modern beekeeping by Lorenzo Lorraine in 1851.

Secretary John Edwards 0118 934 0238

**Newsletter "Deadline": - - Contributions**, this includes **E-mails**, to arrive with the Editor by the **FIRST POST** (Around 10.00am) on the First of the Month for the Following Month

To enable the Advertisement Manager to place adverts with the Editor for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month deadline; adverts should be sent well before this time.

**ADVERTISEMENT ENTRIES:** - 2 Lines for £1.00. Commercial, £1.00 per line, together with your cheque made payable to FBBKA. To be sent to the Advertisement Manager:-  
Mr. Michael Blackburn, M.B. Photography, 41 Prospect Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8JV. Telephone:- (0118) 947 9450/5451

	<b>BERKSHIRE MOBILE WELDING</b> <i>Carley Sissons</i>	<b>Mobile: 07951 138512</b>	
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# FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATIONS

## HONEY SHOW 2003

### Winners of Trophies

#### TROPHIES:

All Trophies are Perpetual except the Guests Trophy

<b>The Federation Cup</b>	Robin Roberts	To the member gaining points in this show.
<b>The Federation Junior Cup</b>	No Entries	To the Junior exhibitor gaining most points in classes 27-32
<b>The Maurice Dixon Cup</b>	Jon Davey	To the gentleman member of the Reading Association gaining most points in this show and in the honey section of the Wokingham and Reading Agricultural Show.
<b>The William Main Cup</b>	Hazel Blackburn	To the lady member of the Reading Association gaining most points in this show and the Wokingham and Reading Agricultural Show.
<b>The Reading Cup</b>	Robert Kiff	To the member of the Reading Association gaining most points in this show and in the honey section of the Wokingham and Reading Agricultural Show.
<b>The Godfrey Nicholson Cup</b>	Nigel Perkins	To the best exhibit in the novice classes.
<b>The Frank Napper Bowl</b>	Robin Roberts	To the Wokingham Association member gaining most points in shows in the Federation.
<b>The Beale Challenge Tankard</b>	Robin Roberts	To the Wokingham Association Member gaining most points in classes 5,6,7,8 and 11
<b>The Arthur Everest Cup</b>	No Entries	To the Wokingham Association Member gaining most points in classes 20,21,22, 20a,21a & 22a
<b>The Nonsuch Goblet</b>	Robin Roberts	To the Wokingham Association Member gaining most points in classes 11,12,,13 and 14
<b>The Wokingham Challenge Cup</b>	Robin Roberts	To the Wokingham Association Member gaining most points in this show
<b>The Geoffrey Weston Cup</b>	Nigel Perkins	For the best entry exhibited by a Wokingham Association Novice Member
<b>The Eric Morris Salver</b>	Reg. Hook	To the South Chilterns member gaining most points in this show.
<b>The South Chilterns Trophy</b>	Jackie Willoughby	To the South Chilterns novice gaining most points in Classes 2 and 3.
<b>The Slough Trophy</b>	D G Way	To the Slough member gaining most points in the show.
<b>The FBBKA Guests Trophy</b>	No Entry	To the guest exhibitor scoring most points at this show.
<b>The Cooper Cake Rose Bowl</b>	No entry	To the non beekeeping member gaining most points in the cookery classes
<b>The George Hawthorne Skep</b>	Reading	To the association winning Class 1.
<b>The BBKA Blue Ribbon</b>	Reg. Hook	For the best exhibit in the show.
<b>The BBKA Medal</b>	Robin Roberts	To the winner of most points in the honey classes (4 -9 inclusive).
<b>Entrance Tickets to the National Honey Show</b>	Nigel Perkins	Awarded for most points in novice classes

## HONEY SHOW RESULTS 2003

Class	Description	First	Second	Third	Very H.C.	H. Comm	Commended
1	Inter Association	Reading	Slough	South Chilterns			
2	1lb jar Clear honey Novice	Nigel Perkins	Jackie Wil-loughby	Peter Bruce			
3	1lb jar Granulated honey Novice	Nigel Perkins	Jackie Wil-loughby				
4	2 Jars honey for sale	Reg Hook	D.G.Way	Robin Roberts	Robert Kiff	Jon Davey	
5	2 Jars light honey	Nigel Perkins	Jon Davey	Robin Roberts	Robert Kiff	D.G.Way	
6	2 Jars medium honey	Reg Hook	Robin Roberts	Robert Kiff	Jon Davey	Nigel Perkins	
7	2 Jars Dark honey	Reg Hook	Robert Kiff	D.G.Way	Robin Roberts		
8	2 Jars granulated honey	Reg Hook	Robin Roberts	Don Church	D.G.Way	Marcella Skinner	
9	1 Section of Comb	Robin Roberts		Don Church			
10	1 frame for extraction	R. Hook	Robin Roberts	Nigel Perkins	Robert Kiff	Jon Davey	D.G.Way
11	Cut comb	D.G.Way	R. Hook	Robin Roberts			
12	Composite class	Reg Hook	D.G.Way	Robin Roberts			
13	1 cake beeswax	D.G.Way	Robin Roberts	Reg Hook			
14	4 - 1oz blocks beeswax	Robin Roberts	Reg Hook	D.G.Way	Robert Kiff	Marcella Skinner	
15	1 pair moulded candles		Jon Davey				
16	1 Pair other candles						
17	Decorative beeswax item						
18	1 bottle sweet mead	Robin Roberts					
19	1 bottle dry mead	Robin Roberts					
20	Honey or beeswax product						
21	Photograph		R Hook	Reg Hook			
22	Honey fruit cake	Hazel Blackburn	D.G.Way	Marcella Skinner			
23	9 Honey Crunches	Robert Kiff	Marcella Skinner				
24	Honey confectionery	Jon Davey					
22a	Honey cake, family member						
23A	Honey Shortbread Biscuits, Family member						
24A	Confectionery, family member						
25	1lb clear honey, gift class	Robin Roberts	Marcella Skinner	Reg Hook			
26	1lb granulated honey, gift class	Reg Hook	Robin Roberts	Marcella Skinner			
27	Honey Cake						
28	Honey Shortbread Biscuits						
29	Photograph						
30	Freehand drawing or cartoon						
31	Poem about bees						

## Newbury and District Beekeepers' Association

### Beekeeping – my way

Ged Marshall

**Friday 12 March 2004 at 7.30 pm**

**Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall, near Thatcham, Berkshire**

Newbury Beekeepers' Association warmly invites you to the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Leaver Memorial Lecture, to be given by Ged Marshall, a commercial beekeeper with a reputation for raising excellent native British bees, who will describe handling bees on a large scale. Ged is a prominent member of the British Beekeepers Association, is known for saying what he thinks when he believes it to be important, and represents bee-keeping causes in Brussels.

The lecture is free and all beekeepers in the region are most welcome. We should therefore be very grateful if you would publicise the lecture amongst local beekeepers and colleagues – and through your magazine or newsletter if appropriate.

The lecture will be held at the Memorial Hall in Upper Bucklebury. The postcode is RG7 6QH.

## Directions:-

- Take the A4 to the eastern outskirts of Thatcham
- Follow the signposting to Upper Bucklebury and Cold Ash (turning right at a roundabout if coming from Reading or left at traffic lights if coming from Newbury)
- Follow any signs for Upper Bucklebury and after 1½ miles, at the top of Harts Hill Road, the road bends to the right and becomes Broad Lane. Continue through Upper Bucklebury past Peach's garage and a pub.
- The memorial Hall is the last building on the right within the 30mph zone, before you reach Bucklebury Common.

There is ample space for car parking beside the Hall.