



**FEDERATION OF
BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS**
President: Miss Margery Cooper

October 2010
Number 647

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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

28th to 30th October 2010	National Honey Show. Weybridge	www.honeyshow.co.uk
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The National Honey Show

The 79th National Honey Show, the U.K's 'gold standard' honey show, is just weeks away. It will be held in Weybridge, Surrey from 28th to 30th October. There are almost 250 classes and beekeepers come from all over the world to enter so it is truly an international show. Why not book a ticket now to see the best of the best?

What's on?

Apart from the world class honey show there will be a full programme of workshops and lectures throughout the event and a wide selection of trade stands with lots of equipment and books to buy. Speakers include Kim Flottum, Editor of Bee Culture, from U.S.A. and Dr Mark Goodwin whose research team carries out most of the honey bee research in New Zealand. Workshops (which should be booked in advance by 23rd October) cover a wide range of subjects including wax modelling, skep making and tips on passing the BBKA Basic Exam. You can see the line-up and download the show schedule on the NHS website www.honeyshow.co.uk Advance tickets are available now.

How much does it cost?

You can become a member of the National Honey Show for £10 (or £11 via PayPal) and then entry for the duration of the show is free. Admission for non-members is £12 per day. Accompanied children of 16 years and under are free and additional family members over 16 years living at the same address can come in for £5 each. On Saturday admission for non-members after 12 noon is £5. You can join by contacting the membership secretary, Mrs Sandra Rickwood, 19 Kenwood Drive, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 5AU. Alternatively, email srhoneyshow@googlemail.com or telephone 020 33 55 8716 and leave a message. You can also pay on the door but it is better to get an advance ticket and avoid the queue. A programme and show schedule is available on request.

The official closing date for show entries is 1st October but late entries will be accepted until 22nd October on payment of a £5 late entry fee.

How do I get my entries to the show?

Exhibitors delivering personally to the show must bring their entries on Wednesday 27th October between 2.30pm and 6pm. You hand them over to a steward who will stage them for you. You could use a courier or post to *The National Honey Show, c/o "Facilities", St George's College, Addlestone, Weybridge, KT15 2QS*. Postal entries must arrive at St Georges College after 20th October and before noon on 27th October. Why not persuade one member of your association to bring all the entries from your association to the show? You could split the fuel costs. Don't forget someone will also need to collect them at 4.30pm on Saturday 31st October, immediately after the show closes. Thornes have, once again, kindly agreed to take exhibits to the show on your behalf. You can drop your entries at Wragby by Monday 25th October or at Windsor or Stockbridge by Friday 22nd October. Jeremy Burbidge of Northern Bee Books has kindly offered the same facility to anyone who can deliver to him. (By Monday 25th October and please call him before you visit.)

Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire HX7 5JS
(01422 882751 – jeremy@recordermail.demon.co.uk)

Where is the show?

The show is at St Georges College, Woburn Hill, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 2QS

Opening times: Thursday 28th October 1.45pm to 6pm
Friday 29th October 9.00am to 6pm
Saturday 30st October 9.00am to 4.30pm

How do I get there?

By road: from junction 11 of the M25 (marked Chertsey) follow signs to Weybridge. At the roundabout, take the

By rail: Trains leave from Waterloo station to Weybridge. Then, either take a taxi or a connecting train to Addlestone – the college is ten minutes walk from the station. Please make sure in advance that there is a suitable connection. www.nationalrail.co.uk or 08457 48 49 50.

Public transport advice: www.traveline.info or 0871 200 22 33

The show programme, which is available on request, (see above), includes maps and directions.

See you there!

THE APIARY in OCTOBER

The majority of beekeepers in our area have had good or reasonable crops of honey. However, there have been a number of late swarms and casts, too late to gather enough stores to winter. These should have been fed, if not, apply a block of candy or fondant.

Small colonies are less likely to benefit from the application of Apiguard at this time because they cannot maintain a temperature sufficient to sublime the treatment. If the varroa level is high, then the application of oxalic acid is indicated, otherwise, treat in spring.

When is it too late to feed? Answer: When the bees are dead! Syrup fed at this time is likely to ferment, causing dysentery, so; if stores are short, give candy or fondant this could keep the bees alive.

Wax moth? Using mothballs in combs for honey production is now illegal. The recommended treatment is Certan – a biological treatment that does not leave any residue.

Protection of honeycombs from wax moth.

http://www.agroscope.admin.ch/imkerei/00316/00327/index.html?download=NHZLpZeg7t,Inp6I0NTU042I2Z6ln1ad1IZn4Z2qZpnO2YUq2Z6gpJCDeHx2fGym162epYbg2c_JjKbNoKSn6A--&lang=en

This is also available from Northern Bee Books (beekeeping in a nutshell)

Since accidentally swapping combs and passing on AFB this beekeeper has melted combs instead of storing them, bees seem to do better.

Triad

Local Observation

It has been noted that in Berkshire and South Oxfordshire that losses of bees are greater and varroa is less evident in rural areas than in built up areas. This has also been noted in France.

See:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-10942618>

<http://www.co-operative.coop/corporate/ethicsinaction/takeaction/planbee/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibvCr9JxXP0>

Your Regional Bee Inspectors are: -

Southern Region: Nigel Semmence nigel.semmence@fera.gsi.gov.uk Tel No: 01264 338694

The main website is: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/public/Contacts/contacts.cfm>
National Bee Unit, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York. YO41 1 LZ
01 904 462 510 <mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk>

South Eastern Region: - Mr Alan Byham. Fax/Telephone number: 020 8571 6450




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Wokingham & District Beekeepers Association

The first meeting of the new programme is described below. It will take place at the Wokingham Bowling Club, Reading Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 1EG on Wednesday October 13th at 8pm. Do make an effort to enter at least one jar of your honey. You can enter as many jars as you like as long as they are all different.

Once again The Albert Spragg Centenary Cup will be awarded to the Wokingham member for the best tasting pot of honey on the day. It really doesn't matter what your honey is like, bring it along. The jars will be tasted and ranked by everyone and the jar with the highest number of first place votes will win. There will be prizes for the second and third placed jars.

There will also be a coveted rosette awarded for 'a piece of wax' - any shape, size, model, candle etc. The cup and rosette will be awarded to the person(s) who collect the most points as judged by every person present at the meeting.

This event has been enjoyed by everyone since its inauguration two years ago and it is time the Albert Spragg Centenary Cup was wrestled from the grasp of Bob Loades who has won it twice now.

Put the date in your diary. Let's have a big turnout and get the winter meetings off to a good start.

Albert Spragg

Albert Spragg was President of the Wokingham Beekeepers' Association and a great advocate of learning through shared experience. Albert was 101 years old when he passed away earlier this year. For many years, Albert presided over Sunday morning meetings at the Association Apiary passing on his valuable experience to new and established beekeepers. Albert would always make the apiary visits entertaining and educational and in this spirit his daughter, who now lives in Australia, has donated the Centenary Cup.

The rules are simple - bring along a pot, or pots, of honey to the first winter meeting of the year and let your fellow members' judge which pot of honey deserves to be the best in show.

The honey can be any consistency, colour or flavour and should be presented in a 454 grams jar with no markings. Look through your pots, pick a good one, bring it along and you could be the proud keeper of a magnificent trophy for twelve months.

'A piece of wax' can be any shape, any size, any colour, indeed anything that you care to shape from beeswax.

The next meeting will be the AGM, which will take place on November 10th, and there will be a Q & A session after the official business is complete. The Hon. Treasurer will also be renewing memberships that night so please bring along the money or your chequebook.

Derek Porter Hon. Sec. 0118 979 0326

www.WDBKA.ik.com

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SLOUGH, WINDSOR, AND MAIDENHEAD BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Our Society has been unusually busy in the last month, with the end of the season at the Apiary and the start of our winter meetings in Windsor.

Work continues with the hives, to make sure they are in the best possible condition for winter. Honey was removed in August and since then the colonies have been treated for varroa with four weekly applications of Apilife Var and been fed with sugar syrup to ensure that they have sufficient stores. We have also sprayed Certan on the empty frames to protect them from wax moth.

Our first winter meeting followed the tradition of a review of the year from each beekeeper present and it never fails to be fascinating. Stories this year were mostly positive, with tales of some impressive quantities of honey (Dennis's two Buckfast queens' colonies have each provided him with over 150 lbs of honey in both of the last two years) and of happy placid bees (Harry had the most enjoyable year he can remember, never had the need to smoke his bees and was never stung)!

However, not everyone had the same success, with tales of some incredibly aggressive (in fact quite malevolent) colonies, robbing bees, even silent robbing (which is worse!) and some colonies, which have obviously never read any of the instruction books! However, the benefit of the meeting is that everyone sympathises with the less happy tales and many of the more experienced beekeepers can provide welcome and helpful advice for next year!

Our October meeting, on October 12th, is our annual Honey Show. I hope you have already received full information about this, including some very helpful tips from Joy for the less experienced of us. These are available on the web site, if you need to refresh your memory.

In case there is anyone who has not joined us before in Windsor, the meetings usually begin at 8pm. at All Saint's Parish Church Hall in Alexander Road, Windsor SL4 1HZ. However, the Honey Show begins earlier, with staging from 7.00pm and a 7.30 start. The Church is on the corner of Frances and Alexandra Roads and there is a small car park on site but there are parking restrictions in the roads around the hall. If the car park is full, it is advisable to park in Bolton Avenue, just a short walk away, where they do not apply. This is the next but one exit from the nearby roundabout and just before the exit for the hospital.

All details of our meetings can also be found on our web site, www.britishbee.org.uk/local/slough-windsor-maidenhead and on the website www.wherecanwego.com. - click SL4 + gardens + nature (boxes)

Newsletter items: Liz Juby, Windsor (01753) 859382 lizjuby@hotmail.com

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READING & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Report on Reading Honey Show on 29th August.

Reading Association's usual venue at the two day Swallowfield Show over the August Bank Holiday. Our honey show was displayed and Judged in the produce marquee, Judge Mrs. Margaret Johnson from South Hants with husband Alan in attendance. We are very glad to report an increase in numbers of entries this year, up by thirty percent, many thanks to all of you who entered and congratulations to the following who were awarded places in the various classes.

H1 Light honey 1st T. Sheldon. 2nd Mrs H. Blackburn. 3rd R. Challis.
H2 Medium/dark 1st T. Sheldon. 2nd Mrs H. Blackburn. 3rd J.Davey.
H3 Granulated/soft set 1st T. Sheldon. 2nd R.Kiff. 3rd J.Davey.
H4 Honey for sale 1st J.Davey. 2nd T.Sheldon. 3rd Mrs. H. Blackburn.
H5 Novice class 1st Mrs N. Schrieber. 2nd R.Challis. 3rd M.Moore.
H6 Beeswax blocks 1st Mrs H. Blackburn. 2nd J. Davey. 3rd Mrs S. Lawson Foster.
H7 Beeswax candles 1st Mrs H. Blackburn. 2nd J. Davey. 3rd S. Blinstrub.
H8 Chunk honey. * 2nd J. Davey.
H9 Cut comb.* 2nd R. Kiff.
H10 Farmhouse honey fruit cake. 1st R.Kiff. 2nd T. Sheldon. 3rd Mrs H. Blackburn.
H11 Honey oatmeal biscuits. 1st M.Collis** 2nd J. Davey. 3rd M/s V. Groswell**
H12 Pink grapefruit honey conserve* 1st Mrs H. Blackburn. 2nd J. Davey.
H13 Bee fodder(forage) 1st M/s J. King** 2nd J. Davey. 3rd R. Kiff.

* Other places not awarded.

** Non beekeepers.

On the points system therefore:-

Mrs H. Blackburn. 19 points. (Ladies cup and Reading Platter.)

J. Davey. 17 points. (Mens cup.)

T.Sheldon. 13 points.

R. Kiff. 8 points.

Mrs N. Schrieber. 3 points. (Novice cup)

R. Challis. 3 points.

Mrs. S Lawson Foster. 1 point.

M. Moore. 1 point.

S. Blinstrub. 1 point.

Many congratulations to Hazel Blackburn for entries consistently of a very high standard. Tim Sheldon! First time he's entered the Reading honey show and what a result! Firsts in the prestigious first three classes, he'll be hard to beat in the next showing. Congratulations also to Noelle Schrieber for an excellent jar of honey to win the novice class: novice no more! And to Bob Kiff for a truly solid entry in the cake class!

The two day show was good fun and a classic country show, beekeepers who supplied honey for sale in the Reading and District Beekeeper's gazebo received good prices and we very nearly sold-out, the modest table charge we obtained helped to pay for the judge's expenses and for a donation to the charities supported by the Swallowfield Show. Weather mixed on the Sunday, we had to hang-on tightly to the Reading tent during one squall, one canvass roof over in the stall-holders area was seen to take-off! However the Monday was calmer and fine. With very many thanks to Reading members who visited, hung onto guy ropes and poles, helped, exhibited, contributed to honey sales and gave their support.

See November's issue for our last summer beekeeping meeting, later than usual on 26th September.

October's meeting, the first of our winter programme is at 7-30PM on Thursday 14th October. Usual venue, the Wesley Room at Caversham Heights Methodist Hall. Our speaker is Beulah Culen. Many of you will know or know-of Beulah, who as well as being a beekeeper and apiculturist herself looked after us for many years as our DEFRA Bee Inspector and has a wealth of knowledge and experience to impart. Don't miss the first indoors meeting of the season.

Secretary: Mr R. Kiff, Tel. 0118 966 5358

www.rbka.org.uk

SOUTH CHILTERN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

There was no apiary meeting in August.

We start our Winter Programme on 20th October with our AGM followed by a talk by Robert Carpenter-Turner - Other people's bees.

Secretary: - Joanne Shanagher. 01189 721067

<http://www.southchilternsbeekeepers.org.uk>

See: <http://beebase.csl.gov.uk/pdfs/fbleaflet.pdf>

Well worth looking at, <http://www.co-operative.coop/planbee>

Watch bees on-line at <http://www.sysonby.com/beecam>

Contributions,

this includes **E-mails**, to arrive with the Editor by the **FIRST POST** (Around 10.00am) on the twentieth of the Month for the Following Month, Contributions received after this will be held over for a later month.

To enable the Advertisement Manager to place adverts with the Editor for the 20th 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 Jon Davey, 107 Northcourt Avenue, Reading RG2 7HG. 0118 975 0734

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