



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

September 2001

Number. 546

Hon. Secretary  
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## NEWS

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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# The Federation Family Event And Honey Show

### Will be held at:-

Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall  
Highmoor Road (Off Woodcote Rd) Caversham  
Ample Street Parking

Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> 2001 2.30 pm

The Speakers are: Claire Waring and Ged Marshall  
Refreshments and Raffle

Children will be especially welcome.

**The Programme and Schedules are not available at the time of going to print.  
If you wish to enter an exhibit in the show, contact Hazel Blackburn on  
01189 47 9450 or 01189475451 for entry forms and schedule.**

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### FROM THE EDITOR

The July honey flow is almost at an end, the tail end of blackberry blossom and willow herb is finishing. These notes are being written in conditions reminiscent of 1947, the pasture here in North Tirol is very much as I remember our own in the late 40s and early 50s and is roaring with bees, evenings are noisy with crickets however, rain is needed for the flow to continue. Unfortunately, bad weather is forecast for early August. As I was reminded recently, due to intensive farming, we no longer have the amount and diversity of herbage therefore we cannot expect the late flows of yesteryear.

Where sheep have been on pasture for some time there is a fair amount of clover, this augers well provided that the weather is good and the ground temperature is in the high 50°s.

Old masters such as R.O.B. Manley and David Rowse used to say that average yields of honey in a poor season could be 15lbs or less and in a bumper season 50 or 60 lbs. So far this year there have been reports of takes of up to 180 lbs. per hive (no-one mentions kilos!) and conversely, bees filling their brood chambers with honey and not going into the supers – I have some of these – thereby bringing the average down.

RFC

## **THE APIARY IN SEPTEMBER**

The bees appear to be bringing in plenty of nectar at the time of composing this report, so we can look forward to a good harvest in August. I had a slight problem in July, I went on holiday for three weeks, and during my absence, a swarm took up residence in my stack of supers. To add to my troubles, the box below was empty so the bees had extended the super combs to brood size and had stuck them together at the base of the combs. I set up a floor and an empty brood box on a nearby stand and carefully transferred each comb into it. I then placed a brood box of drawn comb on top and finished off with a crown board and roof. Hopefully, the queen will eventually go up into the brood chamber. When this happens I will fit a queen excluder beneath and will eventually remove the box of extended combs – I hope!

There could be a moral to this episode; always have enough equipment to allow for any eventualities. The winter is a good time to make more equipment. Fortunately, I chose Smith hives, which are the easiest to make.

Having extracted in August, I think September is a good time to feed the bees for the coming winter. They will need about 35lbs of stores. A BS brood comb filled both sides will contain 5lbs of stores and a super comb, 3lbs. If you go through your combs, you can calculate how much they will need. I use Ashcroft feeders, which I made myself. I can generally complete my feeding in about a week. Have your entrances closed down during this operation and be careful not to spill a drop of syrup to guard against robbing.

At this time, you can include Fumidil B in the initial batch of syrup if you suspect that they have been infected with Nosema. As always, follow the maker's instructions to the letter. Don't have the syrup too hot or you may destroy the Fumidil's effectiveness. The syrup should be concentrated at about 1Kg sugar to 1 pint of water.

Having fed your bees, it is now time to insert Apistan strips so that your bees go through the winter with the minimum of Varroa infection. Read the instructions and follow them to the letter. On no account, leave the strips in longer than six weeks to prevent the mite becoming resistant to the treatment.

When you stack your empty supers for the winter, it is advisable to place a queen excluder at the top and bottom of the stack to prevent mice from taking up residence. You can guard against wax moth by placing a sheet of newspaper between each super with a few crystals of PDB moth repellent (Paradichlor- benzene crystals, which can be purchased from Boots).

## **An article from the Metro Paper 25<sup>th</sup> June 2001**

It appears that scientists are at last discovering that honey has healing properties both internally and externally. The findings made by researchers at the University of Illinois have extracted antioxidant compounds from seven varieties of honey made from different flowers. Antioxidants mop up dangerous free radicals, which can damage cells and DNA. It is thought that this damage is the cause of a number of serious diseases, e.g. heart disease and cancer. They are now studying whether honey can ease cholesterol oxidation of the blood, a process that causes narrowing of the arteries.

Ambrosia

# Slough Show. October 9th. at Windsor - 7pm.

If you've never shown before this is the place to start.

The classes are judged before your very eyes and you are encouraged to listen to the judges comments, argue the toss (in a light hearted way, of course), and learn, -so that you can better your chances at the Federation Show. If you enter five classes or less, just turn up on the night. If more, or for a schedule, help or advice, ring Bernhard Schumann on 01189 343501 or [bernhard@schumann2.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:bernhard@schumann2.freeserve.co.uk) Classes are 1. Light honey, 2. Medium, 3. Dark, 4. Set or creamed. 5. Comb or section, 6. Frame for extraction, 7. Dry mead, 8. Sweet mead, 9. Candles, 10. Beeswax, 11. Why I keep bees in 30 words or less. 12. Photograph, 13. Something made with beeswax, 14. Something made with honey, 15. Honey cake.

## Future Events

20 October	Federation Event and Honey Show	Gen. Secretary:- 0118 945 5094
November 15,16,17	National Honey Show	

## Letter to the Editor

I was impressed with the idea for woodpecker guards, made from chicken wire and light folding frames, which Ambrosia passed on in the August Newsletter. But why store them away during the summer? With a bit of thought and modification at the design stage they might also be used for keeping pigeons and rabbits off the cabbages and beans -a much greater problem where I live. All the best,

Bernhard Schumann.

## DISEASE

### BERKSHIRE FEDERATION FOULBROOD July 2001

Number of infected apiaries in 10km squares  
[Number in brackets ( ) = Number of infected colonies]

SU29 Buscot	SU39 Stanford in the Vale <b>EFB 2(2)</b>	SU49 West Abingdon <b>EFB 1(2)</b>	SU59 Dorchester	SU69 Benson	SU79 Stokenchurch	SU89 High Wycombe <b>EFB 3(6)</b>	SU99 Amersham	TQ09 Rickmansworth <b>EFB 3(3)</b>
SU28 Bishopstone	SU38 Letcombe Regis	SU48 East Wantage	SU58 Blewbury	SU68 East Wallingford	SU78 Henley on Thames	SU88 Marlow <b>EFB 2(6)</b>	SU98 North Slough <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	TQ08 Uxbridge
SU27 Aldbourne	SU37 Lambourn	SU47 Chieveley	SU57 Yattendon	SU67 Pangbourne <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU77 Reading <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU87 White Waltham <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU97 Windsor <b>EFB 3(17)</b>	TQ07 Staines
SU26 Great Bedwyn <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU36 Inkpen	SU46 Newbury	SU56 Thatcham	SU66 Burghfield Common	SU76 Shinfield	SU86 Crowthorne <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU96 Ascot	TQ06 Weybridge <b>EFB 1(2)</b>
SU25 Ludgershall	SU35 Hurstbourne Tarrant	SU45 Litchfield	SU55 Kingsclere <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU65 Basingstoke <b>EFB 2(2)</b>	SU75 Hook	SU85 Farnborough	SU95 West Guildford <b>EFB 1(4)</b>	TQ05

07/08/2001

The Editor has cartons and pre-paid labels for sending complete combs to the National Bee Unit. He and your secretary can also provide plastic containers to send suspect larvae for examination or, on application; one of the inspectors will send a box or plastic container

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

Dr. Beulah Cullen. Hillingdon, Middlesex.  
South Eastern Region:- Mr. James Morton

Fax/Telephone number 01895 810469  
Fax/Telephone number 020 8571 6450

### **Appointed Bee Inspectors:-**

Mr. Julian Johnston. Oxfordshire & North West Berks: Telephone number 01993 850432  
Mr. David Purchase. Hampshire & South West Berkshire: Telephone number 01256 781288

### **READING and DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September, we will have our own honey show judged by Hazel Blackburn, our National Honey Show Judge. I don't have details as to what form it will take at the time of writing these notes, but doubtless, all will be revealed in time. Meanwhile you can be getting prepared for this event by selecting your best jars of honey to put aside.

The jars must be filled so that light cannot be seen between the bottom of the lid and the surface of the honey. The contents must be free of specks of foreign matter, as they will be scrutinised with the aid of an electric torch. Also, look out for insipid granulation, which shows as tiny bubbles clinging to the base. These can be removed by inserting the jar in hot water or removing the lid and placing it in the micro wave oven set on its lowest setting for one minute (ideally the defrost or simmer programme). Watch it carefully as it can bubble up quite quickly. Make sure that the lid is clean inside as well as outside; change it just before the show if in doubt. Your honey is as good if not better than many of the old stagers as your equipment is newer and cleaner. Read the schedule very carefully and follow it to the letter. Best of luck.

We have some serious decisions to address during our AGM in November. This will include volunteers required for the positions of Chairman and Vice-chairman. Please give these considerations some serious thought in the coming months, for the Association cannot continue without these positions being filled. The old hands have pulled their weight in the past, and feel that they have done their share, so it is now up to the newer members to come forward.

Hon. Sec. Mr. R. Kiff, 114 Silverdale Rd, Earley, Reading RG6 7LU Tel. 0118 966 5358

### **SOUTH CHILTERN BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION**

Our July apiary visit was a very interesting afternoon spent with Adrian Stanmore's bees. Our first ever visit to Adrian's and we followed a now popular format of having three different demonstrators opening the hives. We saw a very neat and tidy, well cared for apiary and the general conclusion was that a single brood-box on a National hive hardly provides enough space for a decent queen. Thank you Adrian for all your efforts.

As I said in my July notes, our next and last apiary meeting of this season will be at the Berkshire College of Agriculture, Burchetts green, looking at the bees that I use for tuition purposes on the various courses that I run at the College. Numbers are limited so I must ask non-South Chilterns members who might like to come along to give me a telephone call first, and if numbers permit, they will be most welcome.

Hon. Secretary: - George Butler 0118 983 2735

## SLOUGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

July saw a drop in numbers, both in attendance at the apiary and in brood. The new queens were laying well by the end of the month though and prospects are mostly good for strong hives to go into the winter. There is a fair amount of honey to be extracted; though, the bouts of adverse weather have affected the results, as those attending reported finding in their own hives.

At the time of writing this, there is one more official visit to make to assess which hives will need feeding this year. The next meeting will then be the September start to the winter programme at the All Saints Parish Hall, on the corner of Frances and Alexandra Roads, Windsor at 8 o'clock. We shall be reviewing the year in our respective apiaries and look forward to meeting you all there to compare notes on how we have fared this year.

Newsletter items: Joy Dodson Burnham (01628) 664091

## WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

There is no contribution from Wokingham this month.

Hon. Joint Secretaries: Sylvia Smallbone & John Edwards 0118 934 0238

**Newsletter "Deadline":** - Contributions to arrive with the Editor by the First Post 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

**GET THE BEST DEALS LOCALLY** by ringing John Belcher on 0118 984 2321 for the full range of Thornes equipment. Most items are in stock and the rest just a phone call away. Apistan, together with other approved treatments at very competitive prices including the recently released Thymol based products, Apiguard, and Thymovar. Rendered beeswax in exchange for foundation.

**For Sale:** Medium size veil – battledress top; Hardwood base for 17" Dia Extractor  
12 WBC lifts, 3 roofs, 2 floors;

Especially hand made Solar Wax Extractor takes 1deep and 1shallow national frames.

1 Double Basket type strainer

1 Stainless steel cut comb cutter

1 Deep national observation hive with escape & feeder hole. offers Ray Biggs 01344883082

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I LOVE BEES! – but can't keep them, so have settled for having an old style hive in my garden as compensation. Will pay up to £50.

G Cox 01494483374

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Wanted! Roof, one lift and floor/stand for WBC. Any condition considered.

> Bernhard Schumann. 01189 343501.

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Clean Silver Spoon granulated sugar in 1Kg packets, 35p each packet.

Telephone - 0118 947 3811