

WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



Spring Convention 2006

You are warmly invited to attend our Convention, which will be held at Chichester College – Brinsbury Campus, North Heath, Near Pulborough, West Sussex on Saturday, 25th February 2006. This year we are looking towards 'Better Beekeeping' and the lectures will cover 'Reading the Hive', 'Swarming', 'Communication in the Hive' and, in anticipation of our bees producing all that honey, 'Beekeeper's Back and how to avoid it'. We are fortunate this year to have two excellent Speakers: -

Margaret Thomas – started keeping bees with her husband in 1973 in a National Hive donated by an elderly gentleman. Some years later, after participation in beekeeping classes run by Ted Hooper at Writtle Agricultural College, Margaret gained the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

Living in suburbia it was essential to keep the peace with neighbours so swarm prevention was of paramount importance. Keeping bees in a suburban garden provides an excellent crop and a good variety of light and medium honey

Margaret's main interests remain in beekeeping education, rearing good quality, good-tempered bees, maximising honey production and promoting bee health. She is Secretary of the Bee Farmer's Pollination Scheme.

Margaret gave lectures on Swarming to 'full houses' at Stoneleigh in 2005 (people were asked not to attend as the National Beekeeping Centre was already full to capacity). With a background in the Health Service, as a qualified physiotherapist, Margaret is well placed to advise us on 'Beekeeper's Back'.

Paul Metcalf – has been keeping bees for nearly fifty years. He worked for a time in commercial and experimental horticulture before moving into education.

In 1966, Paul became Lecturer in Fruit Crops and Beekeeping at the Isle of Ely College, Wisbech, where he set up a beekeeping section. In 1974, he became County Beekeeping Lecturer for Norfolk, until the post disappeared in 1986. He then returned to horticulture but still maintained an interest in beekeeping education and the college apiary at Easton College.

Retired from full-time education at Easton after having held a number of posts including Head of Horticulture, and Head of Staff and Student Services, Paul now works part-time at the College teaching plant science and beekeeping. In 2002, with two others he produced a video 'An Introduction to Beekeeping'. Paul is presently a member of the BBKA National Executive, and Chair of the Technical Committee. He is Moderator of the BBKA Examinations, and Secretary to the National Diploma in Beekeeping Board.

In 2005 Paul was the Guest Speaker at the Gormanston Summer School held by the Federation of Irish Beekeepers. His lectures – especially 'Reading the Hive' and 'Communication in the Colony' were described as outstanding and positive.

The Course Fee is just £6 for the whole day if paid in advance, or £8 on the day (subject to space being available.) The fee will include tea and coffee during the day, although you will have to bring a picnic lunch, as the College Restaurant will not be open. Should you require further details, please contact John Hunt on 01903 815655 or email john_bateman_hunt@hotmail.com

Applications together with cheques made payable to the WSBKA should be sent to our County Treasurer, Derek Yates as soon as possible. They will be acknowledged with tickets and a location map. WSBKA will be holding their AGM following the Convention.

To Derek Yates, Longton, Shipley Road, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9BQ

Please send me _____ tickets for the WSBKA Convention to be held on Saturday 25th February 2006. I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to 'WSBKA'

Name _____ (please print)

Telephone No. _____

Address _____ Post Code _____

A stamped addressed envelope would be much appreciated.