

SBKA EPSOM DIVISION NEWSLETTER MARCH 2012

*Apiary at: Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AF
Registered Charity No 1026386*

Committee News

The date for the next full committee meeting is Monday March 12th at 8pm

Training Opportunities

Certificate of Proficiency in Beekeeping

If any member would like to take The Certificate of Proficiency in Beekeeping (Basic Exam) please let Liz Knee know asap. It will take place on 22 June at the apiary. We will be holding a refresher course for those wishing to sit it nearer the time. Entry for the exam will cost £15. If anyone would like a copy of the syllabus or further information please email liz.knee@googlemail.com

Basic Food Hygiene Certificate

Although a food hygiene certificate is not absolutely necessary for honey production some associations certainly recommend it if selling to the public. We may be able to offer the opportunity to take this course and exam. It is a level 2 fully accredited course which remains valid for 3 years and would run over 2 mornings, probably Sundays at the apiary culminating in a 45 minute multiple choice exam. If you are interested please email Tina Corr at ebkanewsletter@gmail.com and we will arrange something for later in the season.

SBKA Treasurer Vacancy

The SBKA Treasurer, David Humphreys, will be retiring at the 2012 AGM, after ten years service. The council are seeking a suitable candidate to fulfil this role.

They should be a qualified accountant with a sound understanding of the role of a trustee of a charity especially the corporate aspect and ideally, knowledge of an organisation such as ours. Being familiar with the Charities Commission SORP accounting practices would be an advantage but not essential. David is prepared to continue consolidating the annual accounts for the Charities Commission and participate in the preparation of the final report if the appointee so wishes.

Candidates are requested to send a brief curriculum vitae to the SBKA Secretary including (i) their perception of the role, (ii) their appropriateness for the role i.e. a member of the SBKA or not, and (iii) their suitability.

The successful candidate will be expected to attend four council meetings a year and the AGM. He/she must be a user of email. Please reply to Sandra Rickwood, SBKA Secretary, rickwoodsaka@gmail.com

Other Dates for Your Diary

Club Tuesday Nights

March 20th- 'Spring Management' David and Celia Rudland will be talking about preparing your hives for spring and the importance of comb changes.

March 27th- Frame Making

March 31st 3pm- EBKA shop opens for the season

April 3rd- 'Becoming a Bee – the story behind The Legend of the Hive' with Marysia Owsianka

April 24th- 'The Future of Queen Rearing at EBKA' with David Jones and Phil Sheppard

May 1st- 'Top Bar Hives and Beekeeping around the world' with David Dennington from Farnham Beekeepers Association. £2 per member payable on the door - money raised will go towards David's work providing TBHs to orphans in Malawi

June 12th- 'Preparing Honey and Wax for a Show' with Marysia Owsianka

www.epsombeekkeepers.co.uk

July 3rd- 'Judging Honey and Wax in a Show' with Mollie Bonnard

Oct 23rd- Dr Michael Keith-Lucas 'Pollen in forensic science'. 7.30 - 9.30pm. Dr Keith-Lucas is a CPS expert witness from Reading University. His speech at the Surrey Bee Day was fascinating and thoroughly entertaining!

Further dates to be confirmed

18 March at 4pm- Phil Chandler, the Barefoot Bee-keeper Lecture- in the upper room at The Crown & Greyhound, 73 Dulwich Village, East Dulwich, London, SE21 7BJ. Donation of £5 on the door. The lecture is being organised by the new Country Park Bee-Keeping Association, based at the South Norwood Country Park.

March 25th and 31st 10am- 12.30pm Spring clean at the apiary - we would really appreciate it if you could spare a couple of hours to spring clean and tidy up the apiary buildings and garden. Full supervision, tea, coffee and biscuits provided!

24 March Apimondia International Bee Health Symposium, Dublin, Ireland, The first Apimondia International Bee Health Symposium will take place in Dublin, Ireland, on Saturday, 24th March in the Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre. For information visit the conference website at www.beehealth2012.ie.

March 31st, Auction of bees & bee keeping equipment on Saturday Mickleham, Surrey

Reigate Beekeepers' Auction will be held on Saturday 31st March 2012. The auction of equipment will start at 12:00 p.m. and the auction of live Bees will start at 3:00p.m. Viewing on the day from 11:00a.m. Refreshments will be available on site. The location is Mickleham Village Hall, Dell Close, Mickleham, Surrey RH5 6EF - this is just off the A24 between Leatherhead and Dorking. The auction will be restricted to 300 lots so if you want to sell your unwanted items please complete the sellers form as soon as possible. A catalogue of items to be sold will be available on Friday, 23rd March on the website. Any questions please email the auctioneer Andy Robinson at auction@reigatebeekeepers.org.uk For an entry form and more details visit: www.reigatebeekeepers.org.uk/

March 31 The Central Association of Bee-Keepers Spring Meeting & AGM - Bringing Science to the Beekeeper.

10.30am – 4.30pm, *Venue*: Roots and Shoots, Walnut Tree Walk, Lambeth, SE11 6DN

Social Evening Thursday 25th October 6.30pm *Venue*: as National Honey Show – St George's College, Weybridge, Surrey *Speaker*: (tbc) Lecture followed by finger buffet including wine or soft drink.

Stratford Conference Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th November *Venue*: Legacy Falcon Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

As usual there will be seven lectures spread at a leisurely pace over the weekend.

April 1st Bee Clinic- to test for Nosema and discuss disease and pest identification and treatment. Further details to follow

7th May- May Fayre Beddington Park- Mollie Bonard and Jill Forbes will be running a honey stall on Monday 7th May 2012, 11 am - 4pm Beddington Park, Wallington. This is a great opportunity to sell honey and related products whilst promoting the art of beekeeping and the EBKA. Help will be required to collect and erect the gazebo (from 9am), run the stall, tidy up and pack away at the end of the day. If you could offer some help with any of these or to find out more about the day please email Mollie (moleandbee@gmail.com) or Jill (jf.honeybee@myself.com)

May 20th Sunday Taster Day - (£40 per person) - day course for members of the public wishing to find out more about beekeeping

14 July Saturday Apiary Open Day- to coincide with Ewell Village Fair - further details to follow

Other Items

Obituary

We have only recently heard of the death in November of one of our senior members David Austin. Our thoughts and condolences are with his widow Audrey and family.

Bee Friendly Planting

With the Easter weekend on the way, if you are looking for some pollinator friendly shrubs and trees, please see the attached RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' list. Also for more honey bee centred planting please go to the Melissa Garden website, its American but there's plenty there available to us too

<http://www.themelissagarden.com/plants.html#Trees>

www.epsombeekeepers.co.uk

Apiary Site in Stoke D'Abernon- The Executive Head Chef at the Woodlands Park Hotel would like to offer an apiary site to anyone who may be interested. Please contact him directly at MAshton@handpicked.co.uk "

Dinah Sweets handout for Swarming and how to prevent it- Please find attached

Jill Forbes-Change of Email Address

Jill has asked us to circulate her new address, jf.honeybee@myself.com

Members BDI Insurance Certificates

These are held centrally. If a member needs a copy please contact Hilary Livesey

NESCOT

If you would like to visit the site or are interested in keeping your bees there please contact Liz on 0208 786 8170 or by email liz.knee@googlemail.com.

Bee Base

If members have not already registered on BeeBase (FERA National Bee Unit website) then please take a moment to look at it and register your hives. www.beebase.org

Items for Sale/Wanted

For Sale

- 4 x Cedar National Hives with no bees.
- Additional equipment comprising broods, supers, frames, coverboards etc.
- Stainless steel settling tank (about 60lb) with filters.

All items are used, clean and in good condition.

Items may be sold as a lot separately. Price is negotiable with a guide price of £50 per hive.

Items may be inspected and viewed by contacting:-

Equipment Officer – Steve Secker on 01737 813066 or 07747 867455

...and finally- Bee hive hums recorded to monitor insects' health

By Mark Ward Technology correspondent, BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-16114890>



Monitoring devices are being put in bee hives across Scotland as part of a project to keep an eye on their health. The monitors record temperature and use a microphone to record the hum the bees make while working and resting.

Already the project has started to show the many different hums bees use to co-ordinate their work. The project is also helping to work out which environmental forces and factors are behind the decline in bees and other pollinators.

The monitor is the invention of Huw Evans, who swapped his former trade of electronic engineering for beekeeping. He said the desire to get a better idea of what was happening inside a colony came to him after a few bad experiences with hives on the verge of swarming.

Mr Evans knew of the work done in the 1950s by BBC sound engineer and beekeeper Eddie Woods, who created a device that analysed the sounds made by bees in a hive.

Mr Woods claimed that more than 90% of the inspections beekeepers made of their hives were unnecessary because, most of the time, the bees were fine. In those cases, all a beekeeper did when he looked through the combs was upset the bees and stunt honey production.

To fine tune his beekeeping, Mr Woods produced a device called the "apidictor" that helped spot when hives needed help because they were sick, running low



on stores or close to swarming. The downside of using the apidictor was that a beekeeper still had to visit a hive and insert a microphone to listen to the hum within.

Mr Evans' monitor updates the apidictor using modern digital signal processors and algorithms designed to recognise different hums. He has set up a company called Arnia to commercialise the device.

"Every job a bee does inside a hive makes a slightly different noise," he said. "So if we can listen to the mass of sound within the hive and possibly dissect that, we can find out a lot about the inner dynamics within the hive." "We started off looking for swarm prediction but when we began trawling through the data we noticed some other features. The monitor can give an indication of the strength of the hive, the fitness of the hive, how fast the hive is building, their intent to swarm and other such things."

Mr Evans is working with the Scottish Beekeepers Association, and the little black boxes are now sitting in about 70 hives across the region. He was also hopeful that regular monitoring of hive hums would pinpoint when bees were sick and what disease had hit them.

The hum in a hive is generated by the bees shivering their wings and abdomen as they go about their work in the colony. Although bees lack ears, the hum is believed to be very important to the co-ordination of hive activity, because bees often modify wax comb to be a better conductor of vibration.

On a similar note

Rare recordings of the sounds of bees in their hive

The link below goes to three clips, the first, a healthy hive hum, second the same colony about to swarm and finally a rare recording of a virgin queen bee "piping" a challenge to other queens

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-16113398>

Newsletter Items

If you have any news, items of interest, book or course reviews for the news letter please send them to ebkanewsletter@gmail.com. If you change your email address please let us know

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