

Dear Member

The beekeeping season has got off to a cracking start and the swarm calls have been coming for the past couple of weeks!

If you follow the link below to the members only area of the EBKA facebook page you will see photos of where the recent swarms have been collected from and some video footage of a swarm being hived via a ramp and into a polystyrene National during one of the Saturday Beginners practicals!

This is a live 'forum' so if you have a problem, question etc you can post here for an immediate response from Epsom beekeepers so do join and participate.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=epsom%20beekeepers%20association>

### **Saturday Beginners and Tutors - thank you!**

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to the team of tutors who regularly turn out on Saturdays to help with the practical sessions and to the group of Beginners who are gaining in confidence and experience with their beekeeping skills. These sessions are proving very enjoyable due to the enthusiasm of all involved so keep it up!

### **Buckfast Glory - from the Queen Rearing Project!**

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent sessions to make up brood frames and paint boxes for the QRP. It was an excellent opportunity to support the team and chat about all sorts of things whilst tapping and painting away!

A good example of a healthy brood pattern from a Buckfast queen - thanks Phil and David.

### **Tuesday Topics - May**

[On Tuesday May 2nd we start a weekly programme of discussion to explore the points on the BBKA Basic Assessment Syllabus.](#)

These sessions are open to all members and although of particular importance to the Beginners and those taking their assessment in July we welcome beekeepers of all levels of experience to enhance and share their knowledge.

[On May 2nd we will be discussing](#)

- 3.1 able to give an elementary description of swarming in a honeybee colony
- 3.2 able to give an elementary account of one method of swarm control
- 3.3 able to describe how to take a honeybee swarm and how to hive it
- 3.4 able to describe the signs of a queenless colony and how to test if a colony is queenless
- 3.6 able to describe a simple method of queen introduction
- 3.7 able to describe one method of uniting colonies and precautions to be taken

We will decide future topics/dates when we meet tomorrow.

## Shop

The shop continues to open every Saturday from 11.30am - 1.30pm and every Tuesday 7 - 7.30pm for all your beekeeping needs.

## South of England Show - June 8th, 9th and 10th

The 2017 South of England Show at Ardingly during the 8th, 9th & 10th June will soon be upon us.

This year, displays within the Bees & Honey marquee will be marking the 50 years of SoE shows by presenting aspects of beekeeping spanning those years ... highlighting both how much and how little has changed.

All this will be in addition to our hourly Demonstrations of Beekeeping, Observation Hives, Display of the Honey Show Benches, Honey and Hive Product Sales, Equipment Sales and Information Stands.

**All this of course can only be possible with the tremendous help we receive from many individual members of Associations and Divisions throughout the south east of England.**

- The Bees & Honey Show event is an extremely popular visitor attraction staged within a marquee at the annual South of England Show organised by the South of England Agricultural Society. SEAS is a registered charity whose aims are to showcase farming, agriculture and the countryside ... **aligned with the charitable aims of the BBKA, its Associations and Divisions.**
- The Bees & Honey Show provides a perfect venue for introducing and informing a public eager to understand more about honey bees and beekeeping; by meeting, talking with and watching live demonstrations of beekeeping practices provided by beekeepers from throughout the region. **Could some of your members help by passing on their passion for beekeeping to an enquiring public?**
- The Bees & Honey Show provides a perfect venue for Associations and Divisions from throughout the South of England to promote themselves to potential new beekeepers and members

amongst the shows many visitors, and to advertise their own beekeeping 'Taster Day' or 'Introductory Courses. **Can you provide promotional posters or flyers about your Association or Division for display and distribution at the show?**

- The Bees & Honey Show stands within the marquee include our Honey Sales stall, from where jars of honey, cut comb, and other products of the hive provided by Associations, Divisions or individual beekeepers are offered for sale on their behalf, with a modest sales commission donated to SEAS. **Could you or your members provide stock to be offered for sale?**
- The Bees & Honey Show provides an excellent opportunity for beekeepers throughout the South of England to practice, develop and maybe hone their skills at preparing Competition Entries for the Honey Show Classes. **Members are warmly invited to take part in the competitive Classes.** Download the Honey Show Schedule ... **SEAS-Bees-Honey-leaflet-2017-WEB.pdf** ... the Honey Show Entry and Honey Sales booking form ... **SEAS-Bees-Honey-booking-form-2017-WEB.pdf** ... or visit ... <http://www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-south-england-show/bees-honey/> for full details. Show entry registration is open until 3rd June, but get your entries in NOW.
- The Bees & Honey Show organisers welcome offers of help or participation as stewards, with free entry to the entire South of England Show and time off the Bees & Honey stewarding duties to walk around the show-ground. Open the accompanying form ... **stewards invite 170412 blank-2.pdf** ... for full details and use to offer your services.
- Do please download read and display the Bees & Honey poster ... **SEAS-Bees-Honey-A4 Poster-2017.pdf** ... and download and distribute the promotional flyer ... **SEAS-Bees-Honey-Z Fold Promo Leaflet 2017mono.pdf**
- **For general enquiries**, please contact us by email at [beesandhoneyinfo@gmail.com](mailto:beesandhoneyinfo@gmail.com)

We would greatly appreciate the establishing of an appropriate single point of contact between ourselves and your Association or Division for ongoing communication and exchange of Show information.

We also highly recommended that perhaps a single person amongst members wishing to submit entries to the Show Classes or provide honey to sell, take on the role of collating, delivering and later collecting and returning ... possibly in conjunction with fellow members already wishing to serve as a Steward on the first and/or last days.

And of course, even if not able to participate directly, we invite your members to drop in to the Bees & Honey Marquee during the three days of the show, to say hello, see what we are doing and to perhaps visit the **Paynes** stand for some early summer equipment purchases.