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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONWEYBRIDGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER: November 2014 [**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

The current remarkably mild and sunny autumn mentioned in the last editorial has continued through to the beginning of November, so the bees have still been been very active, and we have many new bees emerging from our hives as evidenced by their orienteering flights at around 12.00 noon. A significant amount of (yellow\*) pollen is still being collected. One of our members, on returning in October from two weeks’ holiday, has reported finding brace comb containing much honey filling the space between the crown board and roof of one of her hives, and similar reports have been received since from other members and from beekeepers from other divisions. We need to continue to be aware of the possibility of high varroa populations in our hives as one result of these unusual conditions, and continue to monitor and treat as necessary – see last month’s editorial on this topic.

\*Does anyone know the source of this pollen? Please send in your suggestions.

**Subscriptions overdue for 2014 - 2015**

Thank you to all of you who have paid your renewal subscription. If you wish to cancel your subscription, please let us know so we don't chase you. If you have not yet paid, please send your form to Michael Main. BeeCraft will cease if subscription is not received by 25th November. Another subscription form is attached. Thank you, Joan Johnson (joan.johnson55@virgin.net, Membership Secretary)

**AGM, Weybridge Division, Saturday November 15th at 2.30 pm**

Please do your best to attend this important meeting at St Peter’s Church Hall, 1 Burwood Road, Hersham KT12 4AA. The Hall is very near the junction of Queens Road, Molesey Road and Burwood Road, opposite the children’s play area on Hersham Green.

*Any suggestions?* If you have ideas or comments about what we do or what you would like Weybridge Division to consider doing, please mention these at the meeting or to a member of the Committee afterwards.

***Honey Tasting*** After the business part of the afternoon, we shall have our now traditional honey-tasting competition, devised some years ago by the late John Hudson. All beekeepers attending are asked to bring a sample of their own honey in an **unlabelled one-pound jar** – please note this, as in the past jars of various sizes have sometimes been used which could result in the identification of the member (for good or ill) - about an inch of honey in the jar will be plenty. Your sample will be given a random number, and the procedure will be explained. Colour, texture and appearance count for nothing in this competition – it is only the taste that will be assessed (by everyone present), and the Les Gray trophy will be awarded to the beekeeper whose honey attracts the most votes.

***Beekeeping Equipment*** Do bring any spare items of equipment that you have for sale or disposal. There is plenty of room in the hall to spread these out to make a ‘sales area’.

***Refreshments*** Tea/coffee, etc. will be provided, but please bring a plate of food (savoury or sweet) that we can share for tea.

If you can't bring any of the above, just come anyway! We look forward to seeing you there.

Anne Miller (Secretary)

**Teaching Apiary Working Party, Saturday 13th December, 10am**

Weather permitting, your help would be very much appreciated with a frame steam cleaning / wax melting / equipment cleaning session that is needed before winter storage. These group sessions and the usual refreshments are very enjoyable and all are welcome. Please let Sandra know if you are able to come (01932 244326, sandyrickwood@gmail.com). Thank you.

**Beginners’ Beekeeping Course**

The first of the 10 theory sessions will take place in St Peter’s Church Hall, 1 Burwood Road, Hersham KT12 4AA on Monday, 12th January. The 10 practical sessions will start around the beginning of April, depending on the weather. If you know anyone who may be interested in the course, please ask them to contact Sue Lawes 01932 843209, slawes@hotmail.co.uk.

**National Honey Show – Surrey BKA stand**

Sandra Rickwood, who organised the rota of stewards for this stand, would like to thank all of the Weybridge members who kindly volunteered to spend time there. Sandra pointed out that we accounted for 50% of the stewards, which was reasonable as we are the locals, but this response was very gratifying.

Richard Bradfield, who organised the display that had been prepared originally with Maggie Minter for a Reigate Division event, took some photos; a link to them will be provided next month.

Richard and Bob Maurer (Chairman of the Show) have also asked for their thanks to be passed on to our members who were stewards.

**National Honey Show – prizewinners from Weybridge Division**

The following details have been extracted from the huge list of all prizewinners, which is now available on the National Honey Show website. Hopefully my list includes all those from our Division, but if any have been omitted, please accept my apologies, tell me and I will publish them next month.

Class 18. Counter display of extracted honey Sally Hutchinson, 2nd prize

Class 37. Two decorative beeswax candles Sally Hutchinson, 1st prize

Class 141. Two jars light honey Andrew Halstead, 3rd prize

Class 145. Two jars liquid honey Andrew Halstead, 3rd prize

Class 150. 8 or 16 pieces of moulded beeswax Marion Malcher, 1st prize (2nd year running)

 and Silver Jubilee Bowl

Class 153. One jar light or medium honey Andrew Halstead, 2nd prize

Class 155. One jar naturally crystallised honey Andrew Halstead, 2nd prize

*Our congratulations to them all. –Ed.*

**Weybridge Beekeepers have a new web site**

It can be found at:  [www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/)

It is work in progress and we hope to have additional information on there soon.

We would like to make a page on where to find local honey for sale. If you sell your honey and would like to have your details included, please email Martin Major (majormajor7@gmail.com) with details of where your honey can be bought.

*We would like to thank Marion Malcher, who set up and has maintained our first web site for many years, and also the people who have developed this new one, particularly Anne Miller and Martin Major, who is the webmaster. Please send any comments or suggestions to Martin and copy to Anne. -Ed.*

**Surrey Beekeepers’ Association AGM**

Notice is hereby given that the 136th Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Beekeepers’ Association will be held on Saturday 6th December 2014 at 2pm. The meeting will be followed by tea and a talk by the secretary of the Bee Farmers Association, Margaret Ginman. The meeting will be hosted by Reigate Division at Mickleham Village Hall, Dell Close, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6EE.

**Site available for one or two hives in Egham**

For details of this site please contact Martin Denyer email: martindenyer53@btinternet.com. Telephone 01784 435189. Martin is not a beekeeper himself, but is keen to encourage anything that will maintain the honey bee population in England.

**A case history of treatment for anaphylactic reaction to bee venom: Part 2**

*See September issue for Part 1*

Five down, Seven to go

The course has started and for the first few weeks I hardly even noticed anything. They start with a very very low dosage (see table below) and over the 12 weeks work up to a dosage of 100 which equates to roughly two bee stings. After having had the injection each week you are made to wait around for an hour before you can leave just in case you have any reaction, and you have to take an antihistamine tablet about an hour before as this is also meant to help. Week four was a bit of a challenge as there was a mix up over the dosage that meant I was given too much but all was okay and I have now just done week five. This week for the first time I had a little redness on the arm and it itched slightly and this continued for 24 hours or so. The dosage will be increased rapidly from now on though. Once the 12 weeks weekly course is finished I then need three years of monthly injections – maintenance doses at the 100 level. Whilst the NHS care is free, Royal Surrey like their £3 car parking fee each time, which means by the time I have finished I will have donated £153 in car parking charges. Finally a thank you to Surrey BKA which put a number of bee keepers who have gone or are going through the course in touch with me, it was great to chat to others who have gone through this. David Parker



**Honey in bulk wanted**

I have a friend who is looking to buy local honey in bulk to make posh beers. First batch he is after 25kg or so. He did not have any idea of cost so I suggested £2 per lb. or £4 per kg. This can be old honey in a tank that has not had invested the effort of bottling. If anyone has some spare, or can pass this on to someone who does, I'd appreciate it. Quantity and cost negotiable - he is a decent chap.

Stuart Hall architect, beekeeper ..... and new father!

*Our congratulations to Stuart and Vicky on the recent birth of their baby, Joseph.*

**A reminder**

This is to remind you of the Surrey/BIBBA day on the 31st January 2015. Bookings are open and please use sbkabibba@gmail.com.

**Central Association of Bee-Keepers, Stratford Conference, Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd November**

The booking form for this event in now available. This annual conference has speakers at the cutting edge of honey bee research and related topics as well as practical presentations by leading beekeepers. See the attachment for full details. Having been to a number of past conferences, I can’t imagine that any who attend this event would be disappointed. *–Ed*.

**A study day organised by Surrey Wildlife Trust**

I would like to draw your attention to this event which will run from 10am to 3pm on Tuesday 18th November, run by Surrey Wildlife trust at their Nower Wood site KT22 8QA, at which I am the speaker.  The day will include tea/coffee and biscuits but bring your own lunch, and the charge is £30.  It will cover an outline of the life cycle of honey bees and related social insects such as bumble bees and wasps, together with their ecological importance, the practicalities of keeping bees and a guide to different types of hive and other equipment, pitfalls to avoid, where to obtain what you need, and useful contact references.  The approach will be hands-on rather than just talk, the group will be of limited size, and there will be lots of opportunities for questions.  If you would like to take part in this event, please contact the Trust's Senior Education Officer, Julie Laing, on 01372 379509, or by email at nowerwood@surreywt.org.uk

 Malcolm Clarke,   President of Guildford Division

**Cherry tree disease treated by honey bees**

‘…Researchers are using bees as “[flying doctors](http://entomologytoday.org/2014/09/25/entomovectoring-uses-bees-to-fight-fungus-with-fungus/)” to deliver a biological control agent that prevents a debilitating fungus to the blossoms of the cherry trees they pollinate. The agent — which contains spores of another fungus that prevents brown rot, a blight that’s prevalent among cherries and other stone fruit — is sprinkled into dispensers on the front of the bees’ hives. The spores cling to the bees when they leave the hive, and then rub off on the flowers the bees land on to gather nectar and pollen…’

*Quoted from an article by Katie Valentine, a reporter on Climate Progress (an American blog) that was passed on by Sandra Rickwood.*

**Feeding beer to bees – a response to the note in the October issue**

I don’t normally miss anything that includes beer, but I did that.  John Hamer has had syrup ferment and fed it to bees, they took it, but it tended to make them bad tempered.

Peter Webb

**Small Hive Beetle update**

Many readers will have received this information directly or seen the article in BeeCraft, but to emphasise it, there is an attachment from the BBKA giving details and indicating where to access further information on this pest that we fear may come to the UK soon. I would like to suggest that you keep a small glass jar and lid with your hive tools, ready to put into it anything suspicious to show to the Bee Inspectors. Remember that the first beekeeper to find one in this country has a fine chance of being offered an appearance on national television, assuming you would like that!

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Saturday | November 15th | 2.30pm | Weybridge Division AGM | p. 1 |
| Tuesday | November 18th | 10.00am - 3.00pm | Study day at Nower Wood | p. 3 |
| Friday - Sunday  | November 21st-23rd | See attachment | Stratford Conference | p. 4 |
| Saturday | December 6th | 2.00pm | SBKA AGM, Reigate | p. 2 |
| Saturday | December 13th | 10am | Teaching Apiary | p. 1 |
| Monday | January 12th | 7.30-9.30pm | Beginners’ Course starts | p. 2 |
| Wednesday | January 14th | 7.30pm | Heather Hawker – Wax Chandlers | Oct. p. 1 |
| Saturday | January 31st | 1-day course | Bee Improvement | Oct. p. 2 |
| Friday  | February 13th | 7.30pm | Short presentations by members | Oct. p. 1 |
| Wednesday  | March 11th | 7.30pm | Alan Rudland – Bee diseases | Oct. p. 1 |
| Wednesday  | March 25th | 7.30pm | Michael Main - Swarms | Oct. p. 2 |

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