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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONWEYBRIDGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER: November 2015 [**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

So another ‘National‘ has come and gone, and no less than seven Weybridge members received a total of 20 awards from the show bench – congratulations to all.

They say that what goes around, comes around. This has happened in an interesting way also illustrating that lightning does strikes twice, this time in quick succession. You may remember reading some comments in last month’s editorial concerning the choice to treat or not to treat for varroa. You may have heard of Ron Hoskins’ work on varroa-tolerant bees in Wiltshire and his efforts to produce a ‘varroa-grooming’ bee. In one of the Honey Show lectures we heard about two distinct types of Deformed Wing Virus (DWV, one of the 12 or more viruses spread by varroa). There is the lethal type A and a recently identified non-lethal variant type B. It appears that in his initial culling of failing colonies Ron Hoskins unwittingly removed colonies with DWV type A virus from his apiary, leaving only type B. This explains why his bees have survived despite his ceasing to treat for varroa many years ago when starting his varroa–resistant queen rearing programme. It appears to undermine, as the reason for the apparent tolerance of his bees to varroa, his extensive photographic evidence for damage to the mites by grooming bees. This is all very new and potentially exciting work about which quite a bit has been published even in the last few days. It is of interest to us because the BDI Research Project (REViVe) to which Michael Main drew our attention in the September newsletter and to the funding of which we were invited to contribute, is dealing with this. See also Michael’s note on page 3 about a BBC programme that includes a relevant clip, and STOP PRESS, p. 4.

From time to time, either from something we have heard or read or thought, we come up with a bee or beekeeping question for which there seems to be no known answer, or the only answer to be found is not satisfactory to us. A new section of the newsletter could be started to which members could contribute such puzzling questions for other members to suggest answers. It is also possible that we may hear, read or think of something new that we could share. There are so many bits of knowledge that are not generally known. The section could be called ‘Snippets’ or ??? What do you all think about this idea? Please let me know.

**REMINDERS**

*Here are the details of the two AGMs this month:*

**AGM, Weybridge Division,  Sunday 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 any time before or 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.

**AGM Surrey Beekeepers' Association  Saturday 28th November at 2.00 pm**

This year it is the turn of Weybridge Division to host the Surrey Beekeepers' AGM, which will be held in Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2LU.  Please try to attend and welcome beekeepers from the rest of the county. This important event is your chance to discover what Surrey Beekeepers are doing to support you and your bees.

After the main business there will be tea followed by a talk from Dr Mihail Garbuzov from LASI (Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects) at the University of Sussex.

We need help to provide a scrumptious tea, such as is always served at these events. Sandwiches and cake are taken care of, but if you could contribute a plate of finger/buffet savoury food such as sausage rolls, pizza bites, or small sausages, etc. please contact Anne on:  wbks\_secretary@outlook.com.

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**REPORTS**

**Prizes awarded to our members in the National Honey Show**

We are pleased to report that the following Weybridge members, listed in alphabetical order, obtained awards in the Show:

  **Class Name of Class Award**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Geoff Coooper 24 One Comb suitable for extraction First Prize plus

 Harry Grainger Trophy 109 One Comb suitable for extraction Commended

 148 One Comb suitable for extraction 3rd Prize

 153 Two Jars Medium Honey 2nd Prize

Andrew Halstead 11 Two Jars Light Honey Commended

 17 Two Jars Naturally Crystallised Honey 4th Prize

 141 Two Jars Medium Honey 2nd Prize

 144 Two Jars Naturally Crystallised Honey 2nd Prize

 145 Two Jars of Liquid Honey 2nd Prize

 153 One Jar Light or Medium Honey 3rd Prize

Marion Malcher 104 Two Jars Naturally Crystallised Honey 2nd Prize

 150 8 or 16 pieces of moulded beeswax 1st Prize plus Silver Jubilee Bowl (3rd time!)

Martin Major 60 Colour Print, Close-up or Macro 3rd Prize

Lynne Major 84 Honey Fruit Cake 2nd Prize

Linder Pakuls 144 Two Jars Naturally Crystallised Honey 3rd Prize

David Parker 3 Three Jars Honey 2nd Prize

 12 Two Jars Medium Honey Highly Commended

 102 Two Jars Medium Honey Very Highly Commmended

 142 Two Jars Medium Honey Commended

 147 Two Containers Cut Comb 1st Prize

Congratulations to all of our members who are included in the above list; these awards are (to say the least) the result of a great deal of preparation.

There was a total number of 1958 Show entries from 241 entrants so please check the complete list of prizewinners on the National Honey Show website and let me know of any errors or omissions in relation to your own awards, in time for correction in the next newsletter.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Annual General Meetings**

See above, under **REMINDERS** for full details of both of these important meetings.

**Preparing wax and honey – Saturday 23rd January 10.00 am till 4.00 pm**

This is another training day organised by SBKA to be held at Walton on Thames. Full details will be sent with the confirmation of booking. There will be three topics: Preparing honey for sale or show (Tom Salter); Wax processing (Andy Willis); and Marketing your hive products (Christine Stevens). £15 BBKA members, £17.00 non-members. Includes a light lunch. To reserve a place, email: rickwoodsbka@gmail.com

**A Beekeepers Beginner’s day Saturday 5th March 2016, 9.30 to 5.00 pm, Pulborough, West Sussex**

Ihave attached some information on our Beginner's Day and would be very grateful if you can find space to publicise this in your Newsletter or Website, or both.

John Glover

For WGBKA (West Sussex)

*I suggest that all of our students of the last two years seriously consider attending this course. Looking at the Course Syllabus (see the attachment), it would be excellent revision for you. It would also provide another view on beekeeping for beginners. – Ed.*

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**‘Varroa-resistant bees’ and DWV (Deformed Wing Virus)**

BDI informed me of a programme shown on BBC South West on 26th October about the REViVe research programme.  Perhaps our members would like to watch it. It is a feature in one part of the Inside Out series. It may be possible to access the programme from the attachment provided with this newsletter, or it can be found under the appropriate date in the list of programmes that can be found by searching this:

 <inside-out-south-west-26102015.htm>

The relevant clip starts after 9 minutes 30 seconds and lasts for 10 minutes.  Note the clip will only be available for 28 days from the original showing date.

 Michael Main

**Caffeinated plants give bees a buzz**

This unlikely title was given to an article on the BBC website. It was reporting a research paper published in the journal *Current Biology* which describes an ‘experiment with caffeinated nectar [which showed that] bees are attracted to and even "drugged" by the compound’.

Full details on: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-34532636

*Thank you to David Parker for this information.*

**STOP PRESS (2 items)**

Marion Malcher has just sent the following – more on Ron Hoskins’ bees and Deformed Wing Virus – hot topic!

Here are a couple of interesting links for you.

<http://www.swindonhoneybeeconservation.org.uk/news/>

<http://www.nature.com/ismej/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ismej2015186a.html>

Watch at 10 mins into the programme:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b06kjlsq/inside-out-south-west-26102015>

(as in Michael’s Main’s note)

Swindon Beekeeper saves the world!

*And here is SNIPPET No. 1.*

*Did you know that only 1 in 100 bees infected with DWV have deformed wings?*

**Talk by Jennifer Berry – Orpington, 5th November**

This Autumn, Sidcup Beekeepers are extremely fortunate to have secured Jennifer Berry, Manager and Research Director of the Honey Bee Research Laboratory at the University of Georgia, USA to give us a lecture on Thursday 5 November 2015 in Orpington. The venue is very close to the railway station. Anyone interested, please email Melody at melody.faulkner@gmail.com as this will help with the catering. Tickets can be purchased at the door at £5, which includes tea/coffee and cake.

Please find attached further information about Jennifer and her work.

I really hope some of you are able to come to this lecture, which I am sure will be very interesting.

Regards,

Lilian Oorthuysen-Dunne

Secretary Sidcup Beekeepers

*Two attachments give more details of the speaker and the event.*

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Sunday | 15th November | 2 .30 pm | Weybridge Division AGM, St Peter’s Church Hall, Hersham | p. 1 |
| Friday (evening) – Sunday (mid day) | 20th - 22nd November |  | Central Association of Bee-Keepers,Kenilworth Weekend | September p. 4 |
| Saturday | 28th November | 2 pm | Surrey BKA AGM,Cobham Village Hall | p. 2 |
| Saturday | 23rd January | 10 am to 4.00 pm | Honey, wax and marketing courseWalton on Thames (details conflirmed on booking) | p. 3 |
| Saturday | 5th March 2016 | 9.30 to 5.00 pm | Beekeeping for beginners, improvers and non-beekeepers. Pulborough | p. 3 |

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