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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONWEYBRIDGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER: November 2016[**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

**Please read the first two entries on page 2, where there is important information.**

I would also draw your attention to two items reported by Martin Major from the recent SBKA Council Meeting in the article on page 3 (heading Surrey Beekeepers Association).(1) the BBC has issued an invitation for Surrey beekeeepers to take part in a National TV quiz, and (2) there was a lot of discussion on branding our honey which could increase both the demand and the price for the product. You are all encouraged to let us have your input on both of these topics.

We also congratulate our members who had success with their entries to the ‘National’. The full list of results is on the National Honey Show website, with our prizewinners listed on page 3.

**Peter Hartt**

I am sorry to have to report the death of our very long-standing member Peter Hartt whose funeral was held at Kingston Crematorium on Friday, 7th October.

I knew Peter for over 30 years, after meeting him at my very first Weybridge garden meeting in his apiary at Painshill Park – the apiary that I took over from him many years ago when he first became too ill to manage the hives there.

Peter will be known to only a few of our current members as many of his activities had to be curtailed very severely because of a succession of episodes of very poor health with many sessions in hospital, and so it gave those that knew him great pleasure when, about a year ago, he unexpectedly visited one of the meetings at our teaching apiary in Hersham.

As a beekeeper Peter was very knowledgeable and thoughtful. He would always give helpful suggestions to most beekeeping problems even if some of his own practices were a source of amusement, or even amazement to the rest of us. He ran a professional wasp removal service (‘WaspBusters’) and could be relied upon to deal with honey bees in inconvenient places. He had a host of amusing stories to tell of some of his work in these areas – for example when he hired the fire brigade’s very long rotatable ladder to gain access to a bee nest at the top of one of the chimneys on a Brooklands College tower.

Peter was close to his family and very kind to his ailing mother; they looked after each other for several years. He had many interests including his cats and dogs, fishing (with his own home-made flies), photography, computing and more recently geocaching. He often worked on these activities with his close friend Ernie Chant who was another past member of Weybridge Beekeepers, and I remember how he proudly used to tell how the pair used to swing full supers together on to their stacked hives with great accuracy.

In his eulogy, a close friend of Peter’s spoke of his patience with his many illneses, comments that I can heartily endorse. He used to visit us several times a year usually with some new and very unpleasant affliction, but made very little reference to it; instead he told us of his latest gizmos and experiences.

Those of us who knew Peter will not forget him.

Geoff Cooper

**SUBS - A REMINDER TO EVEYRONE WHO HAS STILL NOT PAID THEIR SUBSCRIPTION**

A note from the treasurer:

I have to send a list of our members to Beecraft and the BBKA during the second week of November following which all members who have not renewed their membership will cease to get their magazines or be covered for bee disease or public liability insurance.

All subs were due on 1st October 2016, including those for members who first joined during the last year as they paid only a proportion of subs to take them to 3rd September only.

Renewal forms were sent with newsletters for September and October.

If you are not renewing please let Michael Main and Joan Johnson know by email. Alternatively send Michael your subscription form duly completed (another copy attached) with payment electronically into Surrey Beekeepers account as prescribed on the form, or attached as a cheque before 10th November. The form can be scanned and sent digitally if you wish.

Michael Main

**Weybridge AGM – reminder – Sunday November 6th, 2.30 pm, Cobham Village Hall**

Your presence is particularly requested at the AGM this year as there are items of important business, including a presentation on the progress made so far with a promising site for our permanent base.

Please remember to bring the following, if possible:

 • an unlabelled one pound jar containing about one inch of your honey for the tasting competition

 • a sweet or savoury contribution to the tea that will follow the meeting

For full details see the October Newsletter.

**REMINDERS and notice of New Items**

 **Central Association of Bee-Keepers Annual Conference, Friday 18th - Sunday 20th November 2016**

Full details and an application form were attached to the October Newsletter.

**Surrey BKA AGM, Saturday November 26th, Morden**

Details on page 2 of the October Newsletter.

**REPORTS**

**National Honey Show**

If you were put off attending this year’s Show as a result of being disappointed with the venue last year, you will be pleased to hear that the problems have been solved this year by moving the Show to Sandown Park Racecourse. I heard nothing but praise for this site with its spacious feel in all areas, excellent dining hall, and the bonus of marvellous views over London from the lecture halls. Even the traditionally unhappy man on the stand of one of the regular major traders was smiling! I heard only one minor adverse comment: there needs to be better signposting, particulary for disabled people, from Esher railway station to Sandown Park.

The lectures were mainly of the usual very high standard, with queen rearing and genetics being prominent topics. Some very interesting thoughts were also presented on CCD; in summary this was said to be not a particularly common cause of losses and not some new problem, but simply a mixture of all the problems for bees that are already very well known, and which interact with each other in a multitude of combinations producing a number of effects one of which is CCD.

A somewhat alarming talk was given on the small hive beetle which they do not seem to consider too seriously in the States, as they have learned to control it by modified hive management; this would mean major mangement changes in our country, especially in relation to swarm control methods.

The trade hall was, as ever, interesting to browse in and take advantage of several Show offers. One thing that caught my eye were some attractively priced small hand honey extractors on Thorne’s stand.

The Show itself was of the usual high standard and made a most impressive display.

Geoff Cooper

**Weybridge members who won prizes at the ‘National’**

Marion has patiently gone through the long complicated list of prizewinners issued on the last evening of the Show, and has extracted the following details (in alphabetical order) of our own successful members.

Do please let me know of any errors or omissions so that I can correct the list next month -Ed.

  **Class Name of Class Award**

Geoff Cooper 24 One Comb suitable for extraction Very Highly Commended

 63 Skep 3rd Prize

 153 One Jar Light or Medium honey 2nd Prize

 Mather Cup\*

Andrew Halstead 145 Two Jars of Liquid Honey Highly Commended

 153 One Jar Light or Medium Honey 3rd Prize

Jane Hunter 86 Tray Bake (containing honey) 3rd Prize

Linda Pakuls 60 Colour print, Close-up or Macro 4th Prize

 144 Two Jars Set Honey Very Highly Commended

David Parker 148 One Comb suitable for extraction Very Highly Commended

\* The Mather Cup is awarded to the ‘Surrey member with most points in Open Classes’.

 **FUTURE EVENTS**

**Talk on Asian Hornets – Thursday, February 16th**

This will be given by a beekeeper who has first-hand experience of these in France. Details later.

**ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**Surrey Beekeepers Association (SBKA) news**

Weybridge Beekeepers are one of eight divisions which make up the SBKA and as a member of Weybridge, you are automatically a member of the SBKA. Each division is represented on the SBKA by a Trustee and a Council Member. Our Trustee is Marion Cooper and Council Member is Martin Major. In addition, Sandra Rickwood is the SBKA Secretary (but see later in this report - Ed). The SBKA represents us at the BBKA and organises events at the county level such as the Surrey Bee Day, education, training and the Honey Show at the Surrey County show. The Council meets quarterly.

At the last Council meeting on 13 September, Sandra announced her intention to resign as secretary to the SBKA. Bob Maurer, the SBKA Chairman, noted that Sandra has been on the council for 25 years and its secretary for the last 12 years. He thanked her on behalf of SBKA for all her hard work which was much appreciated. Julie Hogarth (from the Kingston Division) will take over as secretary.

The BBC have approached SBKA to see if we would field a team for their quiz show, Eggheads. This is too late for the next series but if you are interested in taking part as a member of a future SBKA teamplease contact Sandra.

A member of the SBKA (Gareth Morgan, Wimbledon) is a Trustee of the BBKA and the SBKA are nominating Gareth for re-election. The SBKA is also supporting the nomination of Jim Divers, from a neighbouring Association, as another Trustee.

Finally there was a lot of discussion about the branding of honey for sale. One member is promoting their honey as “Single Hive Honey” and charging a premium. They described it as “like the difference between blended and single malt whiskey”! I’m not so sure about that. Where will this end? Will Richard Hignett, with his bijou 4oz jars, market his as “Honey from adjacent cells in the top right corner of the third frame”? There will be what promises to be a fascinating talk about branding of Honey at the next Surrey Bee Day.

Martin Major

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**Why you should ditch sugar for honey**

Click on the following for ideas on this topic. This article does not add much, but it is interesting to read.

<http://m.greenmedinfo.com/blog/why-you-should-ditch-sugar-favor-honey>

Contributed by David Parker

**Manuka honey could be used to fight infections**

Since hearing of laboratory research being carried out on Manuka honey in New Zealand at least 10 years ago, I have tried to find follow-up work on the subject, but with no significant success. An article published in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, states “…we have been able to demonstrate that diluted honey (Manuka?) is potentially a useful agent for reducing biofilm formation on indwelling plastic devices such as urinary catheters”…The researchers (from the University of Southampton) said that further studies are needed. It woud be nice to see further research results because the public seems to have far too high an impression of its value.

Geoff Cooper

**FOR SALE**

Neither the Newsletter Editor nor Surrey Beekeepers Association take any responsibility for the accuracy of any of the following entries, or for the condition of any of the items advertised. If considering purchasing bees or secondhand equipment, the prospective purchaser should take great care to ensure that the bees are not diseased, and that all equipment is sterilised before use. Inexperienced purchasers should take a knowledgeable beekeeper with them.

**Bees for sale**

We will have various overwintered colonies for sale in spring 2017.

6 Frame nucs with 2017 mated Queen can be pre-ordered at any time from now. These are likely to be available from mid June 2017 onwards depending on the weather.

All our colonies and Queens are locally reared.

**Astrid Bowers-Veenman** (Hog’s Back Bees)  Location: Ash Green (between Guildford and Farnham, just off the A31)  Distance from Weybridge: 12 miles (as the crow flies)

 **Tel. No.: 01252 330229 / Mobile: 07803 069798** **Email:****astrid@coginternational.co.uk**

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Wednesdays | Autumn onwards10 sessions | 8-10pm | Microscopy Course, Reigate BKA | October, p. 3 |
| **Sunday** | **6th November** | **2.30-5pm** | **Weybridge Division AGM,****Cobham** | **p. 2** |
| Thursday | 10th November | 7.15 pm | Talk, Ron Hoskins: The Swindon Bee, Botley, Hants | October, p. 3 |
| Fri - Sun | 18-20 November |  | Central Association Conference, Kenilworth | October, p. 2 |
| Saturday | 26th November | 2.00pm | Surrey BKA AGM, Morden | October, p. 2 |
| Sunday | 27th November | 10am - 4pm | Candle Making, East Surrey Bees | October, p. 2 |
| Saturday | 17th February | All day | 12th Surrey Bee Day, Cobham | Details later |

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