



The Daily Worker

• Edition 1 February 2009



Chairman's Random Jottings.

May I wish you a Happy New Year! Better late than never! My excuse is this is my first opportunity to do so.

Looking back, I think 2008 was a particularly good year for the Branch. We won the Stevenson Trophy at the Devon County Show, we made a successful return to Holsworthy Show, and our annual Honey Show was open to the public for the second year. It was also a good year for education with further success in the 'Basic' and also in the model one exam. Amongst other achievements were the launch of our Website and Branch Newsletter. But on the downside, we made a financial loss, small, but still a loss.

So what does 2009 hold in store for us? Perhaps further success at the County Show. We certainly have plans for the Holsworthy Show and our own Honey Show promises to be bigger and better. However, our big plans for the year involve redeveloping the Branch apiary. We aim to build a bigger and better meeting house, to provide workshop/training facilities and a green loo! And where is all this money coming from, I hear you cry. Well certainly not from our subscriptions. Out of your £29, the branch retains only £4 per member and after sending out your DBKA magazines, we are left with only 70p for each of you! Now you know why we are so keen for those of you who can, to sign up for Gift Aid which means we get over £7 for each eligible member from the Taxman. If you're still to sign up, either contact our treasurer, Phil Draper on 01409 221254 or download the form from our Website. Your committee has been working hard on some opportunities for additional funding- more on that later.

I must say it is very pleasing to hear increased praise for the Branch, from other branches and beekeeping organisations, for what we have achieved and how we run our activities. Your committee knows that we could still do better in some areas-we are working on them!

If you have any comments or concerns, please speak to myself or any other committee member (see elsewhere in this newsletter). We really do want to hear from you.

Wishing you and your bees a successful 2009.

Christopher Smith



And the result is.....

'The Daily Worker'

There were seventeen entries for the competition to name our newsletter. Thank you to everyone who entered. There were some very clever entries with a careful play on words and any one would have been a worthy winning.

However, as always, there can only be one winner. As you can see from the top of this edition of the newsletter, the winning entry is 'The Daily Worker', suggested by Linda Davis.

Well done, Linda. A £10 voucher to be spent at Bitz4Bees at the Spring Convention is on its way to her.



Committee Members - 2009

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Chairman | Christopher Smith |
| Vice Chairman | Andrew Sluggett |
| Apiary Manager | Andrew Sluggett |
| Secretary | Heather Smith |
| Membership Secretary | Valerie Barber |
| Treasurer | Phil Draper |
| Web Master | Graham Jones |
| Swarm Liaison | Graham Jones |
| Education Officer | Linda Davis |
| Entertainment Secretary | Linda Davis |
| Honey Show Secretary | Anne Binns |
| Magazine Distributor | Jill White |
| DBKA Exec. Council Delegate | Mike Jones |
| Committee Members; | Anne Bentham, Ian Fraser, Geoff Heale, Peter McCabe. |



Annual Dinner

To round off this year's Winter Programme, our Annual Dinner will be held on Monday 9th March at 7 pm for 7.30pm. For a second time, the dinner will be hosted by Old Market Inn, Chapel Street, Holsworthy.

With a choice of starters, a carvery roast, and a selection of sweets, followed by coffee, the cost is £16.95 per person.

To book your place(s), contact Jill White on tel. 01409 221618. Only your choice of starters – fruit juice, prawn cocktail, pate or vegetable soup - is required at the time of booking.



Swarm Liaison 2009

It seems very early to be thinking about swarms and swarm liaison, but it's surprising how quickly these things creep up on you! So please give this article some thought and decide whether you are willing to collect swarms or indeed willing to receive one.

There is no change to the Branch's policy on swarm liaison. For the benefit of any newcomers and perhaps a reminder for others, that policy is briefly summarised below. Further information can be found on our website

www.holsworthybeekeepers.org

Our Branch Swarm Liaison Officer is Graham Jones who can be contacted on tel. 01288 361147 or by email:

jones@maves.co.uk

Graham will again be compiling a list of those willing to collect swarms and will pass this list onto the local police, and the Environmental Protection Services at both Torridge District Council and North Cornwall District Council. Details are also entered onto the BBKA database -

www.britishbee.org.uk

If a member of the public contacts our Branch Swarm Liaison Officer, the police or the council, details of the nearest beekeeper will be supplied directly to person concerned.

Our website lists some of the things to be considered and questions that the beekeeper might want to ask to determine whether it is possible to help.

But remember, there is no legal requirement for a beekeeper to collect a

swarm of bees. However, it is good public relations to offer assistance where this is practicable.

Also keep in mind, it is the individual beekeeper who determines whether to undertake collection. The notional contract is between the member of the public and the beekeeper.

You may wish to remind the member of the public that you are a volunteer and that there is a limit to the risks you are willing to take to remove the swarm. Know your limitations and do not be afraid to say no.

If you are unable to assist, for whatever reason, the referral may be passed back to the council and the member of the public advised to contact a pest control company, many of which are listed in Yellow Pages



Spring convention

With time galloping on, and only a matter of weeks to the 2009 Spring Convention, now is the time to reserve your place.

This is the Branch's fourth convention and hopefully it will be as informative and enjoyable as ever. A varied programme has been arranged. Of particular note are the reflections of Richard Ball (National Bee Inspector) looking back over his time in office and maybe just a little crystal ball gazing on what the future holds the beekeeping. This will be Richard's last convention as he retires early in the summer. Workshops have again been organised, this year including contingency planning for the potential arrival of the small hive beetle, microscopy and pollen identification, and a review of alternative hive products. The rest of the day includes information on Bee Base, medical aspects of beekeeping, climate change, and a critical look at modern beekeeping.

Speakers include Dr Harry Riches, the author of several books on beekeeping and mead making, Paul van der Linden of the Met Office, and Phil Chandler whose views are often controversial but thought-provoking. Detail of the programme and the speakers can be found on the branch web site: www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk And of course our ploughman's lunch and selection cakes will

fill the body where the rest of the day will fill the mind!

The whole day, including lunch and teas/coffee, cost £10. But Holsworthy members can enjoy the event of the special price of £7.50.

To book, telephone Christopher Smith on 254457 or

e-mail: christopher-d.smith@tiscali.co.uk

Stop Press: Nearly fifty places have been booked already, so 'bee' quick!



Appeal for.....

Cakes

Last year, we asked members for donations of cakes to compliment the 'Ploughman's' lunch at the Spring Convention. There was a marvellous response and the Convention's catering was the subject of a number of compliments.

Are you able to rise to the occasion again this year?

Any cake, but ideally a tray bake (it's easier for the 'catering team'!) would be most welcome.

If you can help, please contact Elaine Smith on tel. 01409 254457

Draw Prizes

And if making cakes is not for you. Could you donate a draw prize?

Geoff Heal would like to hear from you – tel. 01409 281624



'Last Orders, Please'

If you require supplies of anything (relating to beekeeping of course!), you can place an advanced order with Dave Morris of Bitz4Bees, to be picked up at the Spring Convention. Of particular interest to new beekeepers, and maybe the not-so-new, he is able to provide a complete hive (Varroa floor, brood box, super, queen excluder, Crown board and all frames filled with foundation) for the very special price of £152.

Don't forget all Bitz4Bees' prices are discounted.

David can be contacted via email at jeda2@talktalk.net or tel. 01237 475705.



Dates for Your Diary

9th Feb. Ruby Country. Talk by Tim Dixon at The Stables, Methodist Church, Chilsworthy.

28th Feb. Spring Convention. Full details in Newsletter.

9th March. Annual Dinner & Social. Old Market Inn, Holsworthy. Full details in Newsletter.

22nd March. Nosema Diagnosis Day, Castle Centre, Barnstaple. Details on Website.

4th April. 7pm. Quiz & Grill. As part of our efforts to raise funds to further develop the Branch Apiary, Ann Binns has organised a quiz on beekeeping, ably assisted by Andrew Sluggett. This will be followed by a grill of carnivore dimensions at Little Derworthy, Milton Damerel. £5 per person. So come along and be 'grilled', knowing that in addition to having a good night out you will be supporting the work of the Branch. To book call Anne Binns on 01409 261381.

5th April. 2.30pm. Annual branch apiary clean up. Bring protective clothing and if possible general garden maintenance equipment.

19th April. 2.30pm. Apiary meeting. This will then be on every other Sunday to the end of season.

Further details of the above are available on the Website www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk



Newsletter Editors Note.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Thanks are due to all those who have contributed.

This is **your** newsletter. Please let me have items for the April edition by 20th March.

David Arney 01409 221434

Email darney382@aol.com



Thought for the Month.

'He must be a dull man who can examine the exquisite structure of a comb, so beautifully adapted to its end, without enthusiastic admiration.' Charles Darwin