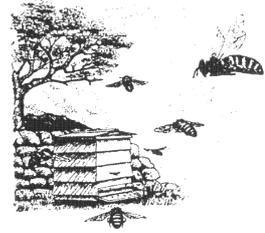




The Daily Worker

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Web site: www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk



Annual Honey Show 23rd October 2010.

Why not make the 2010 Honey Show special by entering, maybe for the first time, any of the sixteen classes. Our annual Honey Show really is an opportunity for us to show off our craft to the general public and indeed to each other. Full details, including the schedule and rules, can be found on our Branch website

www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk

If you do not have access to the Internet, our Honey Show Secretary, Ruth Neal will be delighted to send you a copy. Give her a ring on tel. 01805 601715.

For the second year, we are returning to the Methodist Church Hall in Bodmin Street, Holsworthy, a venue which offers ample room and which has recently been completely redecorated.

In addition to the traditional honey show classes, we have once again invited local primary schools to participate in the two, children only, art classes. There will also be a chance to buy and sell honey, to roll a candle and, if you have yet to see it, to have a look at our winning Stevenson Trophy exhibit, 'Beekeeping throughout human history', from Devon County Show. And of course you can relax over a taste of honey whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee.

But we do need help to make this event special. Can you spare time to help for a few hours on the day or help set up on the night before (Friday 22nd)? The show is open to the public between 9.30am and 2pm.

If you can help in any way, please contact Graham Jones on tel. 01288 361147 who coordinating volunteers.

Ruth Neal is the Honey Show Secretary this year. She writes:

Annual Branch Honey Show

I hope this heading has given you a frisson of anticipation! Yes, it's that time of the year again when Holsworthy Branch can show off its expertise to the general public and compete with one another for our highly coveted trophies. Please do have a go at exhibiting your lovely honey, wax and associated items The Entry Form, available on our Branch website, should be e-mailed to me; alternatively, phone me for a postal Entry

Form. If you can spare a jar of honey for the 'Taste of Honey' stall it would be greatly appreciated; Elaine Smith would like to know. Anne Bentham is having a little break from all the organising this year, so please contact me if you have any queries. I'm looking forward to being absolutely inundated with entries, and to seeing you all at the Show.

Ruth Neal

01805-601715

honeyshow@holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk



Taste of Honey

As part of our annual Honey Show (see article in this newsletter), we are again offering the public a taste of honey. To do this, we need both honey and scones. If you can make some scones or donate a jar of honey, then both would be most welcome. Please contact Elaine Smith on tel. 01409 254457 if you are able to help.



Holsworthy Show 2010

This year's Holsworthy & Stratton Agricultural Show was marked by 'mud, glorious mud' and more mud! Nevertheless the Branch enjoyed another successful event, despite the fact that visitor numbers to the show were down.

Those who braved the elements seemed to make our stand a 'must see', and the small band of branch members who so willingly gave up their time to act as show stewards were kept very busy answering all sorts of beekeeping questions. Our award winning exhibit from Devon County Show, 'Honey Bees in Human History' was a major attraction and visitors certainly tested the knowledge of our stewards.

Our latest addition to Branch equipment was also given its first public outing. A giant jigsaw, measuring almost twelve feet long, has been constructed by Andrew Bentham, son of our members Anne and Rob Bentham, and wonderfully illustrated by Andrew's partner, Bobby Harvey.

Each piece of the jigsaw relates to a particular part of the bee's life or the jobs it performs, a marvellous educational tool.

Amongst other activities in our increasing presence at the show was candle rolling which, as always, was a great success, and despite the weather keeping people away, the number of candles rolled was exceptional.

All in all, a very good day in the life of the Branch.



Nosema Day

On Saturday 11th September the Branch held the third Nosema day. A team of microscopists and technicians met to process the samples that had been received. 5 samples per member were free and then £1. per sample was charged for any subsequent numbers. However if you were a volunteer on the day you got your samples done free in exchange for the time spared. This was a good way of enabling members with a large number of colonies to keep costs down.

16 members brought in a total of 111 samples. This was an increase in take up for the service as in April only 10 beekeepers brought in 72 samples to be tested.

Practice makes perfect and so despite the increase in sample numbers the team processed them with speed and the whole day was finished by 1.30pm.

On this occasion we adopted more of a production line approach, Graham Jones and Chris Smith inputting data, David Arney counting samples into piles of 30 bees (how boring) and a group of technicians making the bee soup. The majority of the microscopy analysis was carried out by Andrew Sluggett and Reg Godwin. Members bringing in samples were able to see the process and follow their colony sample through to the end result.

Results. 59% of bees had no evidence of infection. 24% has a light infection, 13% a medium infection and 4 % heavy. This informed beekeepers if there is a need to treat their colonies before winter as being cooped up in the hive, being unable to get out to defecate is likely to exacerbate the situation and could result in over winter losses.

The whole day went like clockwork and this can only be attributed to having such a willing gang of volunteers. I wish to thank everyone that took part and made the day enjoyable, we had lots of laughs along the way.

It is hoped that another Nosema day will be held in spring. Volunteers will be required!

Anne Binns



Branch Apiary – A Developing Partnership with the National Trust

It's official! We now are in possession of what the National Trust call a 'Bee Licence' allowing us to set up our Branch Apiary on the Dunsland estate. As previously

reported, this gives the Branch accommodation in the old coach house for storage, workshop, and meeting place, a paddock with more than adequate space for the hives, and we have on site parking.

Our Branch picnic, held on Sunday 19th September, was the first time that many members will have seen the new site. The handover of the site was celebrated with sparkling Elderflower champagne and more than ample bring and share food. A very pleasant afternoon was had, with dreams of the future.....

This is probably an opportune moment to thank the small team, comprising our Chairman Christopher Smith, our Secretary Heather Smith, and Committee member Mark Hampton for their efforts over a protracted period in negotiating with the Trust.

Whilst this is a marvellous opportunity for the Branch, we should be mindful that a great deal of work needs to be done. The first stage is to provide a stock proof fence around the paddock which will be the home of the apiary. The Trust has kindly offered fencing materials and some skilled labour, but we will need to do some of the work as well. We intend to hold a joint working party on a Saturday (date to be fixed) early in November.

If any member wants further information, please contact our Chairman (tel 01409 254457 or email christophersmith.270@gmail.com)



AGM

This year's AGM takes place on Monday, 8th November at 7.30pm, in The Stable, Chilsworthy Methodist Chapel. This is your chance to come along and have a voice in the running of your Branch.

There are likely to be vacancies this year, so perhaps you could consider joining the Branch Committee. The old adage of 'many hands make light work' is so true! Our Chairman, Christopher Smith, is having to stand down after three years in office. This is a requirement of the DBKA constitution, but Chris is also facing increasing family commitments.

There appears to be a general appreciation of our more relaxed style of AGM, so once again we are inviting members to bring and share food for our supper. And we will also repeat the auction of beekeeping equipment. This is an opportunity for you to turn your unwanted equipment into cash, and benefit other beekeepers. During the evening Ruth Neale will give a short talk on exhibiting at the Devon County Show.

Please make every effort to be there – your voice counts!



Annual Subscriptions

Following straight on from news of the AGM is a reminder that annual subscriptions for 2011 are due and can be paid at the AGM.

Timely renewal will ensure you continue, amongst other things, to enjoy the DBKA magazine and seamless cover under Bee Disease Insurance and Public Liability Insurance.

Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be on hand to receive new members and renewals, so bring your cheque book.



Devon Apicultural Research Group

In May I attended a seminar help by the above group. One of the main speakers was Ian Molyneux NBU RBI who runs the Manchester BKA.

The following report is based on notes I made during this session. I hope that members of Holsworthy Bee Club may be able to use some of the practices in their own bee keeping.

The Apiary. Manchester BKA is in Heaton Park, which is 650 acres with a very sumptuous clubhouse called the Dower House, donated and maintained by the City Council. They moved into it in 2005, following a refurbishment. It has a meeting room, sales area, extraction room, changing room and plenty of storage space.

There are 20 hives on the site. All the hives are numbered, as are all the parts that go with them, the supers, frames, stand, roof etc. so nothing is interchanged between hives.

Hive Inspections. Each hive has an individual stand for ease of access all the way round for easier teaching. It also has two crown boards, one to put on top of the supers to keep the bees warm and the other to put on the brood box if you have to leave it. A clean and scorched queen excluder is put on after every inspection.

After each inspection the roofs are placed on the hive upside down to say it has been inspected and all replaced when all hive inspections finished so no repeat inspections occur.

A stand is used to put all the supers, crown boards and queen excluders on so nothing touches the ground to reduce the transfer of any disease or mites into the hive. A frame holder is also used for the first frame out.

After each inspection the hive tool, frame holder, and anything used is washed before the next inspection. Every hive has its own nuc box as well.

With each inspection everyone has to have clean suits gloves, wellies and equipment.

A bucket is used to put wax in, and this wax, together with the wax from the shook swarms is melted and traded in for foundation.

The smoker is placed in a metal bucket to prevent fire.

Shook Swarm. In late spring or summer each hive has a shook swarm plus an oxalic acid treatment, as long as there are over five frames of bees. The treatment is done

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about 7pm so that the bees are settled on the frame from the earlier shook swarm. These bees would be dead before the winter treatment.

Queens. They introduce new Queens in the hives every year from their own queen rearing section and any surplus are sold. German Queens are use and are very docile. Also all the local bee keepers in the area have been persuaded to have these same Queens to help prevent cross breeding.

Drinkers. Even though the Apiary is next to a reservoir the bees prefer drinking from special drinkers. These are made from an old roller paint tray with 2 bricks in the deep end, the bricks are the ones with 3 holes in and 2 up turned old coke bottles with water in them in the brick holes with chippings in the tray. These seem to work well with several around the site.

Apiary Work. There is an Apiary manager but all duties are shared by everyone. Most jobs are done on the Monday evening club night, when usually about 70 members turn up. All new members do a questionnaire so the club can draw on the member's skills.

The main teaching is by Ian; this is then passed on to the helpers, who then pass it on to the new beekeepers.

A list of 'Do Not's' at the Apiary

Do not bring colonies onto the site.

Do not take on to much – delegate.

Do not use rubbish equipment.

Do not tolerate poor comb.

Do not put equipment on the ground.

Fund raising is done by selling honey from the Dower house in the park on a Sunday afternoon. Members take in turns, not just the committee

Courses. Introductory days are £65, including a light lunch. This sorts out people who want to carry on with bee keeping or not.

A 2-day course is £100 without lunch. Day 1 theory, day 2 practical.

They have done 5 courses this year already at about 25 people per course.

All courses are on a first come first served basis.

I hope that this may help you in your bee keeping.

Mark Harding



For Sale and Wanted.

We are always happy to include any items which you either wish to dispose of, or are needing to acquire.

For Sale. A one third share in an Electric Extractor, new this season. This has been purchased by three Holsworthy Branch members. A 1/3 share available at £230.

Contact Valerie Barber Tel 01409 241719

Email valerie.barber@astroadventures.co.uk



BeeBase Registration

Adam Vevers, our Regional Bee Inspector, has recently contacted the Branch with a plea to encourage more members to register on BeeBase, the National Bee Unit's website.

The following is an extract from the site's home page:

'Our website provides a wide range of free information for beekeepers, to help keep their honey bees healthy.

We hope both new and experienced beekeepers will find this an extremely useful resource and sign up to BeeBase. Knowing the distribution of beekeepers and their apiaries across the country helps us to effectively monitor and control the spread of serious honey bee pests and diseases, as well as provide up-to-date information in keeping bees healthy and productive. By telling us who you are you'll be playing a very important part in helping to maintain and sustain honey bees for the future.'

Adam writes:

'I am writing to you to ask your members if they would register on Beebase or supply me with their details to allow me to register them.

The National Bee Unit is producing useful Bee Keeping guidance sheets throughout the year and I think these would be very useful to members of DBKA. I attach a copy of the first one (see Beebase website - **Preparing Honey Bee Colonies for Winter**). These sheets will be emailed to beekeepers who are willing to supply email addresses.

When beekeepers register on Beebase and supply their email addresses they will be informed if there is a Notifiable disease outbreak (AFB, EFB, SHB or Tropilaelaps), within 5 km of their apiary.

Individuals will be informed by email only once, and can unsubscribe to this service if preferred.'

Registration is quick, easy, and worthwhile; but it's your decision.



Dates for Your Diary

11th October. Monthly meeting in The Stables, Chilsworthy Chapel. **Plants for Bees**, a talk by Leila Goss.

23rd October. Annual Honey Show. Full details in this newsletter and on website.

8th November. AGM. Details included in this newsletter.

13th December. Annual Christmas Party. 7.30pm in The Stables. Details still to be finalised but it should be a great evening.

10th January. Monthly meeting. Anne Binns will talk about her week at the **National bee Unit**.

26th February 2011. Spring Convention.

Planning for this annual event is well underway and already looks like being a superb day with a very exciting programme.

Ron Hoskins will talk about his work on breeding Varroa resistant bees.

Dr. Michael Keith Lucas will describe the use of pollen in Crime Detection.

Plus other exciting speakers and much more so make sure you book this date in your 2011 diary.

Bookings from early Nov. and further details then.

We need volunteers to help in the kitchen so please let Linda Davis know if you are available. Email Linda on info@west-lake.co.uk



Basic Assessment

In early September, four members took their basic assessment. These were

Deirdre Conniss

Mark Harding

Daren Perritt

Claire Shelton

Although results are awaited positive feedback was given to all four candidates who, I am told all demonstrated a good level of experience. This is excellent in view of the fact that three are relatively new beekeepers who attended the basic course either this year or last.

Phil Draper would have liked to have taken the assessment but the examiner did not have enough convenient slots.

We will therefore be looking to carry out basic assessments in the spring before the end of summer rush.

If anyone is interested in this then please let me know on 01409 261381.

Congratulations to the four of you. (That's how confident I am)

Anne Binns

PS. It's now official – all have passed!



STOP PRESS!

News just in from Waitrose: The September 'Green Token' community support scheme has raised a total of £418 for Branch funds.

Many thanks to everyone – beekeepers and non-beekeepers - who supported this venture.



Quotation

If you want to be happy for a day, get drunk.

If you want to be happy for a week, kill the fattened pig.

If you want to be happy for a month, get married.

If you want to be happy for a lifetime, keep bees.