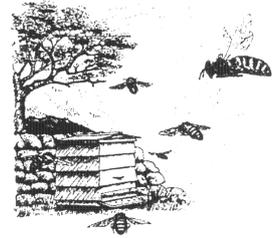




# The Daily Worker

• Edition 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Web site: [www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk)



## From the Chairman

Spring has definitely sprung at Withacott! Even at 600ft my bees are daring to collect pollen and seem very industrious, as I hope yours are. There is much to do in the apiary so make sure your equipment is clean and in good order. If you aren't sure what you should be doing, ask for advice, read your books, phone a friend!

News from the **DBKA AGM** held on 5<sup>th</sup> March; Roger Lacey was ratified as DBKA President Colin Sherwood (Chairman of East Devon Branch) was elected Chairman of DBKA

**Christopher Smith** was elected Vice Chairman All other Officers remain the same.

Two motions of direct interest are as follows:

1. The mileage rate should increase to 30p a mile.
  2. That the Annual Subscription should rise to £33.
- Both motions were carried by a large majority. It was a very pleasant day with an excellent speaker, a well attended auction, and recognition for our own **Andrew Sluggett** and **Anne Binns** as they collected their Microscopy certificates and in Anne's case more modules to add to her tally. Well done, both of you!

The 6<sup>th</sup> **Spring Convention** was, again, a huge success, thanks to the excellent organisation of Roy Houghton and his team. We welcomed approximately 95 delegates plus the Branch workers who were extremely well fed by Heather and Tony Smith and Essie Nichols. All five speakers engaged with the audience and there was some interesting debate. The side stalls were popular and the raffle was amazingly successful. We even had a photographic quiz, thanks to Andrew S and Anne B. Financially it was also a success with a good contribution going to the Apiary Fund. So a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day such fun and well worth all the effort.

Finally, we are still awaiting contact with the co-ordinator at National Trust before we press on with work at the **Dunslund Apiary**. Chris Smith and Andrew S. will let you know when they need help

with the bees. Thank you for your assistance as we try to get the bees into their new home.

*Ruth Neal*



## The St. Valentines Day Massacre (or The Drone's Demise)

The evening of St. Valentines Day saw about two dozen unromantic beekeepers at The Stables, Chilsworthy for a talk on Sex and Bees, given by Glyn Davies and lavishly illustrated with slides and diagrams. So far, so good. Those who know Glyn will know that he has an excellent sense of humour and the ability to tell a good tale; and so it proved.

By the end of his opening statement we were in fits of laughter, and much hilarity was provided by Glyn's demonstration of the drone's "moving parts", using a pink rubber glove with the fingers tucked in, and a length of tubing down which he blew, causing 3 of the fingers to shoot up and out, simulating the drone's actions. And he did this twice! Such levity even extended to the study of the Queen's anatomy (the bee, not Her Maj!) and Glyn managed to tell us a huge amount, although not quite enough, as he is coming back in the autumn to tell us more. We had such an entertaining evening, I urge you to try to attend the next talk.

Check the website for all our activities.

*Ruth Neal*



## Beekeeping Courses

### Basic assessment

If you are interested and eligible to take your basic assessment this summer, please can you let me know. To be eligible you have to have kept bees for a full year and undertaken a recognised course. If you have not undertaken a course then you need to have been keeping bees for more than one year. The assessment is an informal, oral practical that

will take place at the branch apiary. The basic assessment is a prerequisite for all other BBKA examinations.

### Module One

I have received a request to run a Module One study group over winter 2011 in preparation for examination day in March 2012. Please can you let me know if there are any more interested candidates? Candidates need to have passed their basic so if you haven't done it already you could put your name down to do it this year. You also need a few years experience of the beekeeping year. The module exams are 1½ hour written papers which require a good level of literary ability (ideal if you can speed write). One of the skills is to avoid writing lengthy essays, instead using key phrases and bullet points as well as diagrams to get your answers across. Technique appears to be as important as having the knowledge, as many a knowledgeable bee keeper has fallen foul due to lack of exam technique. If you are interested please telephone me on 01409-261381

### Anne Binns



### For Sale

I have a heap of hives, mostly supers, some brood boxes, but not all in good condition, floors, a roof or two, dozens of frames, all the little bits and bobs, keeping tank, stainless steel 3 frame extractor, virtually new large smock and veil (Modern Beekeeping), old fashioned smokers. I am looking for £300 for the lot.

**Elizabeth Neal**, 01409-241109



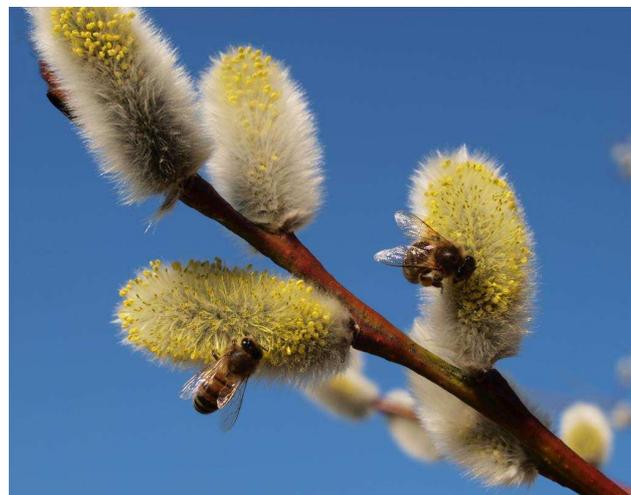
### My Tree of the Month - The Violet Willow

Thirty years ago a work colleague gave me some cuttings of an ornamental willow, *Salix daphnoides*, from their garden. It must have been the right time of year (probably February) because they rooted very well when simply pushed into the ground (which is heavy wet clay). Although it is a non-native this is a fantastic tree for honey bees. It is the earliest of my willows to flower and has huge catkins laden with pollen on wonderful red stems. It has been absolutely humming with bees during the first week in March.

If you don't cut the tree back it will grow strongly to 9 metres or more. But if you want it for

decorative purposes it is best to cut it back hard every two years. That way there will be more catkins at a lower level and it is easier to cut the stems for indoor flower arrangements. This *Salix* is widely available from online suppliers during winter and early spring.

### Reg Godwin



### Swarm Liaison 2011

It's nearly swarm time again and if you are a glass half full type of person that means free bees for those who are happy to collect a swarm. Holsworthy Branch has a Swarm Liaison person (it's me) and my job is to compile a list of all those beekeeping members who are happy to be called out when a swarm of bees is reported in their area. I send the list to the police, local authorities and publish it on the branch website and the BBKA website. If you want to be contacted about swarms, please let me have the following information by 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011:- your name, telephone number and the area that you are willing to travel to for a swarm. I will put you on the list for 2011. If you were on the 2010 list I will transfer you to this year's list. My contact details are: 01288- 361147, email: [jones@maves.co.uk](mailto:jones@maves.co.uk)

### Graham Jones



**Annual Dinner:** On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March a small group closed the winter programme with a yummy meal at the Rydon Inn.

### Linda

## Nosema Diagnosis Day - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011

A big thank you to everyone who helped on the day. To Graham Jones and Chris Smith for the all important admin support and booking in of samples. To David Arney and helpers for the endless task of counting bees. To Ruth for the supply of refreshments and Brian Dixon for doing so much washing of pestle and mortars and glass rods. And, of course, the all important microscopists.

New members that came with samples were able to see and get involved with the whole process. An ideal learning opportunity for all. The process is so simple everyone who attended will be able to carry out the procedure if they can gain access to a high power microscope.

We always appreciate help on Nosema days. You do not need to have any experience. You will however leave with the skills and knowledge to diagnose Nosema in your own bees. Thank you to you all for making the day fun!

*Anne Binns*, Education Secretary

### Statistics

Number of beekeepers supplying samples: 15

Results of testing:

Nosema infestation level	No of samples	% of total
Nil	74	81.4%
Light	5	5.4%
Medium	6	6.6%
Heavy	6	6.6%
Total	91	



### Coming Events

#### Dunsland House, 10<sup>th</sup> April

The first meeting of the Spring/Summer Season will be a work afternoon and will take place at Dunsland House Apiary on the 10<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm. There are 4 areas which will need attention this time, so hopefully enough of you will come to form 4 teams. Please remember to wear sturdy footwear and work gloves, and bring path clearing shovels and a wheelbarrow if you can.

A cream tea is the lure, and costs will be £1 for members and £2 for visitors. Looking forward to seeing you all on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Spring/Summer Season Meetings

The dates for the Apiary Meetings at Dunsland House are as follows:

10<sup>th</sup> April - Work Party as above  
17<sup>th</sup> April  
1<sup>st</sup> May  
15<sup>th</sup> May  
29<sup>th</sup> May  
12<sup>th</sup> June  
26<sup>th</sup> June  
10<sup>th</sup> July  
24<sup>th</sup> July  
7<sup>th</sup> August  
21<sup>st</sup> August

Please transfer these dates to your diaries and join us when you can. All members are very welcome at these meetings. The Beginners Practical Classes are on a different schedule.

*Ruth Neal*



### BBKA South West Lecture 2011 - Honeybee Genetics & Breeding

Guest Speaker Professor Keith Delaplane, University of Atlanta, Georgia, USA. This includes some traditional basics as well as newer ideas surrounding super organism theory. How do honey bees themselves apply genetics in solving their problems?

#### Bridestowe Village Hall, near Okehampton

7.30pm Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Free entry by e-ticket only from David Milford, [m14drm@aol.com](mailto:m14drm@aol.com)



### Saying for the Month

"The pedigree of honey does not concern the bee; a clover, any time, to him is aristocracy."

[Emily Dickinson Quotes](#)



### Daily Worker

The next edition of this newsletter is due for early June. Please send any contributions to: [dja@davidarney.plus.com](mailto:dja@davidarney.plus.com)