

## Fleet Beekeepers Association

### Newsletter August 2009

#### **Congratulations to**

Mrs Gail King, Miss Flo Reynolds, Hugh Reynolds and Russell Hunt. All succeeded in recently passing the BBKA Basic Assessment in Beekeeping; their success, hopefully, will encourage other members to take the Assessment next year and should be a natural progression for all those undertaking training programmes over the winter months. The syllabus for the Assessment can be viewed on the BBKA website.

#### **Summer Programme**

Jim Roughan & Keith Brand, organised and ran the FBKA stand at the Dogmersfield Show in July, supported by Eileen Burke; lots of honey sold to attendees at the Show. Thanks for 'flying the flag' folks, for FBKA.

#### **Ongoing Summer/Autumn Programme**

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> August** 2pm at Jane Malarkey's home, Hartley Mill, Hartley Wespall, nr HOOK will be the last out-apiary meeting of the year.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept** at 8pm will be the first of our autumn/winter meetings, again at the WI Hut in Crookham Village and will be a demonstration of "Extracting Honey". This should be of especial interest to first-year beekeepers, who have yet to experience the actual process.

#### **Diary Dates for later on----**

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Oct** "*Green & Global Fun Day*" 11am/4:30pm at Princes Hall, Aldershot - FBKA participating with display and promotion material. Help needed from members.

**Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Oct** Fleet BKA Honey Show - schedule to follow shortly.

**29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Oct.** National Honey Show at St George's College, Woburn Park, Weybridge. *An absolute MUST* for everyone.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** Hampshire Beekeeping Association Convention & Honey Show at Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh. More details to follow

#### **General Chit-chat**

**Wasps.** This has been a bumper season for wasps, as I'm sure you will have noticed. I introduced entrance restricting blocks some weeks ago and would advise others to do so too. Weaker hives especially attract wasps and usually results in the demise of the hive.

**Disease Control.** Whatever methods you are going to use, it's just about time to get started! Nosema protection requires the addition of Fumidil B to a thick sugar solution feed - but make sure you put the feed on late evening, otherwise you'll be swamped with wasps! Varroa medication comes in several forms, but if you use Apiguard, remember that's its efficacy is temperature dependent, which means when the weather gets cold, it doesn't work. In summary, be sure to read all the instructions on all medication you introduce to your hives - before you do it,OK??!!

### **Shop Opening**

Discounted Member sales Friday evenings 6.30 to 7.30pm until 28<sup>th</sup> August. Located at the rear of the Barn Workshops in Crookham Village.

### **Greywell Apiary Site**

Not a good idea to leave 'empty' hives on-site over the winter period, especially the brand new ones which did not attract any swarms and could be easily 'nicked' Your Committee is currently discussing a proposal to introduce a listing of Rules governing the quality, maintenance and ownership of hives in the apiary, which will be introduced in the New Year.

That's it for this month, but together with the several attachments plenty of bedtime reading for you!

Geoff  
Sec Fleet BKA