

Fleet Beekeepers Association

Newsletter December 2009

Well here it is, Boxing Day today and 2010 arriving next week and yet this note is entitled December Newsletter; more a review of happenings since mid-October really.

The REALLY exciting news is that we have 28 folk signed-up for the training classes starting on 10th Feb 2010 in the Elizabeth Hall, Hook. It would appear from colleagues in other Associations that they too have experienced a significant increase in membership over the past twelve months.

Honey Show Results.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all who entered exhibits.

The Littlehailes Memorial Challenge Cup. Best Exhibit in Show.
Light Clear Honey Russell Hunt

<i>The Shorter Challenge Cup & Shield.</i>	Most points in Show. Keith Brand
<i>The Jubilee Challenge Cup.</i>	Best Exhibit in Class 2 (Light clear). Jim Roughan
<i>The Queen Bee Challenge Trophy.</i>	Best Exhibit Class 4 (M/Dark Clear) Glyn Brand
<i>The Collins Cup.</i>	Exhibit in Class 6 (Capped Frame) David Thurgood
<i>The Ted Roe Challenge Cup.</i>	Best Exhibit in Class 8. (Dry Mead). Glyn Brand
<i>The Domestic Shield.</i>	Best Exhibit in Class 13 (Cake) Beryl Roughan
<i>The Gladys Hyde Cup.</i>	An Interesting Exhibit (Class 15) Keith Brand
<i>The Sid Wallace Novice Cup</i>	Novice gaining most points. Elsa Cavill

A total of 68 exhibits were entered by 14 Members. During the judging, a couple of DVDs were played. On behalf of all members, I subsequently called to thank our guest judge, Norman Hughes of Basingstoke BKA. My thanks too to all those who helped with the setting-up of the Show and especially the ladies who provided teas and snacks. Relative to last year there was an increase in exhibitor numbers from 12 to 14 and in exhibits from 58 to 68.

Next year, with our increase in membership we should be looking forward to many more participants - (said he - hopefully!).

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th Jan 2010. 8pm. A presentation by member Gabe Weyman entitled "Ecology tests for pesticides on honey bees". Not to be missed - a great chance for all members to hear all about how pesticides can affect bees.

Tuesday 9th Feb 2010 at 8pm. Fleet BKA AGM

This is at least the one occasion in the year when it would be nice if all current members and all the prospective new members gathered

together. We have all worked hard this year to generate interest amongst potential members, with Newsletters, invites to apiary meetings and advice on how to get started; now we'd like you to join us.

Soooo - all folk welcome.

Our meeting place is at the WI Hut adjacent to the car park at the rear of the Crookham Street Social Club in Crookham Village; access to the car park is via a side road adjacent to the Social club.

Upside down bees!

I'm not kidding! I've noticed this phenomenon many times over the years when snow has persisted on the hive roof and surrounding area and the sun is bright for a period during the day. During the warmest period, many bees fly on cleansing flights but many also perish on the roof and immediate area when returning to the hive; all the dead bees are upside down! I've asked many experienced beekeepers about this and the reason given by several is that the bees are disoriented by the change of polarisation of reflected sunlight off the snow. Now I wonder if this is true? Anyone got a better explanation or an affirmation of the above reason?

Hope you all enjoyed a happy Christmas; see you all on Tues 12th Jan but in the meantime may I wish you all a peaceful & healthy New Year and a great beekeeping season in 2010.

Geoff

Sec Fleet BKA