

1923 - 2019



Medway
Beekeepers
Association

Medway Beekeepers Association

Celebrating over 95 years of support for beekeeping
and beekeepers in and around the Medway Towns



Newsletter August 2019

Many members have now started to take off some honey. Don't forget to keep a little back for the Honey Show, details below. Keep checking for signs of congestion, be aware of wasps and continue to set traps where necessary.

Past Event:



5th July 2019

Kent Bees and Honey Show

Venue: The Kent Agricultural Showground, Detling

Kent Beekeepers Associations 2019

The beekeepers from the four associations in Kent (Dover, Kent, Medway and Thanet) came together to provide an exhibition in the Garden Life Marque. We show how keeping bees and the conservation of other pollinators are important for the provision of pollination for the flowers, fruit and vegetables on display in the rest of the marque.

The displays covered the products of pollination, examples of bee friendly plants, hive to jar covering where honey comes from and how the honey is extracted, candle making, Sheppey Honey Producers Ltd. (group that involves prisoners in beekeeping activities) and opportunities to purchase honey and wax products. Our two observation hives were, as ever, very busy. The Bumble Bee, Wasps and Hornets display always draws a lot of interest and we were again pleased to have the assistance of the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and Buzz along the Coast volunteers. We aim to provide activities for all groups so include candle-rolling and badge-making primarily for young people, but we found that people of all ages had a go.

The beekeepers and potential beekeepers are not left out as our Education and Information stand was very busy. This year, we had the Beecraft Knitted Hive and the BBKA's Hive Experience, where you can see what it is like inside a hive by standing inside a big tent hive with videos playing on two walls showing the activities of bees inside the hive.

Outside the front of the marque was our skep-making demonstration, which always causes a lot of interest and a display of hive types. At the rear of the marque was the Live Bee demonstration area using colonies provided by Sheppey Honey Producers Ltd. The four demonstrations each day were well attended.

The committee that puts the exhibition together includes – David Wood, John Hendrie, Brian Wood, Lesley Fancote, Terry Clare, Ronnie Eagle, Jacki Tonks, Roger Thompson, Jacki Thomas, Bob Smith and John Chapman. We are supported by David Bragg and Jennifer Spon-Smith from KBKA. Especial thanks must also go to Paul Endacott, for helping throughout the show and for transporting honey from the pavilion to the Garden Life Marque

We rely on volunteers to set-up the exhibition and to man the stands during the 3 days of the show. If you are interested in helping next year, look for information about stewarding at the show in your newsletters.

Overall 78,000 people came to the Kent Agricultural show this year, which is an increase on the past two years. A lot a very positive comments have been made about our part of the show by those who visited our displays.

[Kent Honey Show 2019](#)

The Kent Honey Show was held, as part of the Kent Agricultural Show, in the Garden Life Marque. The show is open to all members of the four beekeeping associations in Kent. We had 89 entries from 20 exhibitors, which considering the cold and wet start to the year provided a good-looking show. This year, the show was judged by Sue Carter assisted by Bill Fisher.

For the place winners of the classes please click on the link below:

<https://www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Kent-Honey-Show-Results-2019.pdf>

The Winners of the cups are shown on the list below:

The Agricultural Society's Trophy (highest points in classes 1 to 15) – J F Chapman (Medway Beekeepers Association).

Clive Watson Memorial Trophy (winner of Class for Medium Honey) – Mrs S. Payne – Gravesend Branch of KBKA.

Mead Cup (Overall winner in the Mead Classes) – S. W. Marshall (Medway Beekeepers Association).

Reginald Tower Rose Bowl (best exhibit in candles) – J F Chapman (Medway Beekeepers Association).

The Novice Cup (best exhibit in the novice classes) – Mrs. J. A. Ferry (Medway Beekeepers Association).

Best Exhibit in Honey (NHS Certificate of Merit) – Mrs. J. A. Ferry (Medway Beekeepers Association).

Central Division Cup (Branch or Association Winning the most points in the open classes) – Gravesend Branch of KBKA.

The Margaret Calder Plate (Best Exhibit in Cookery Classes) – Miss S. Belsey (Medway Beekeepers Association).

Central Division Cup - Medway Beekeepers Association.

Subscribers Cup (winner of the Exhibition Class) was not awarded this Year.

Sue Carter made some comments about our show "The honey entries was all well presented on the show bench, very few exhibits had any surface defects. The soft set exhibits were outstanding. The winning entry had one of the smoothest honeys that I have ever tried. The novice entries in both the runny and set honey were very good, and I hope some of these

exhibitors will try again next year if they did not get a first place this year. The wax just needed a little better finishing; some exhibits had not been kept free from scratches.

Unfortunately, one of the candle entries had the wrong sized wick, which was a pity as it was a nice wax. Overall the standard of the exhibits was good; just need a few more to get to the 100 for the Blue Ribbon.”

Finally, we would like to thank our class sponsors for their support and hope they will be willing to support us again next year. Our Sponsors this year were (in alphabetical order) – Bee Equipment Ltd., Blue Bell Hill Apiaries, E. H. Thornes (Beehives) Ltd., Freeman & Harding, Kent Beekeepers Association, Maisemore Apiaries Ltd., Medway Beekeepers Association and Sheppey Honey Producers Ltd.

John Chapman (Show Secretary).

A Member’s Holiday Experience:

Beekeeping in Armenia



My wife and I, recently had a holiday in Armenia, it was a fascinating experience. First impressions are that in rural areas there is an enormous amount of honey for sale at roadside markets.

The stalls have a wide range of honey, from the really light that is collected from mountain flowers to the dark and dense nut tree honey.

Some 220 000 colonies are recorded; the common practice seems to be large numbers of colourful hives concentrated in single localities.



However, disease, chemicals and the effect of cell phones have decimated the honey bee population by half since the Soviet period.

Each colony produces 7 to 10Kg per season. This is rather down on the more expected 30kg plus. All of this rich bounty is on sale for the equivalent of just £1 per kilo!

Armenia has a serious shortage of experienced beekeepers and this is a major problem – opportunity knocks I am thinking!

John Belfield

Email received from National Bee Unit – 24 July 2019

In light of recent concern expressed over the potential future legal status of European Foulbrood, we wanted to clarify the current EU rules, and our understanding of upcoming new rules under EU Regulation 2016/429, the ‘Animal Health Law’.

Currently, European Foulbrood is listed in Annex B of COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/65/EEC, meaning national programmes may be recognised by this Directive and, where freedom from this disease exists, trade measures can be put in place stopping trade in bees. This means

that where a country is recognised in legislation as free of EFB, bees cannot be consigned to that country. However, in the 27 years since Directive 92/65 was enacted, no country has submitted to the EU a case for being free from EFB.

It is for this reason that under the new Animal Health Law, and its tertiary legislation, this option is being removed. Under the proposed new rules, no country can declare itself free of EFB. Similarly, no country can put in place trade restrictions on the basis of EFB.

IMPORTANTLY, however, countries can choose to operate their own control programme for EFB, and to make it notifiable within their own territory. There is some flexibility afforded by Article 171 of the new Animal Health Law, whereby national measures may be introduced for non-listed diseases. On this basis, and under this rule, Defra and devolved administrations have no intention to de-list EFB in the UK. EFB will continue to be notifiable in the UK and will be controlled by the bee inspectors in line with current operations.

We hope this clarifies the situation. Please be assured that any change to the position in the UK would be subject to a full consultation with all beekeeping stakeholders.

Rebekah Clarkson

Healthy Bees Plan Project Manager National Bee Unit

Education Report:



Congratulations to three of those who undertook MBKA coaching for the BBKA Basic and achieved Passes, with Credit. – Neil Byhurst, Archie McLellan and Paul Akehurst.

Thanks also to Jen for “stewarding” and to Tony for the use of his apiary in Rainham.

The second part of the classroom teaching for our 2019 beginners will take place in August and September, bringing together their experience during the active season and tackling some of the aspects missed out in March – bee health, diseases, pests, honey processing, winter preparation, etc.

The 2019-2020 Winter Studies course is now full, the topic will be bee health, bee pests & diseases and will include all of the aspects required by the BBKA Module 3 syllabus but, as ever, that exam is entirely optional. If this interests you please let Jen know and she can start a waiting list in case spaces become available.

Bob Smith

BBKA Queen Rearing Courses

The BBKA is organising courses for beekeepers, with at least three years' experience, at several venues around the country:

Somerset: August 3rd & 4th at Quantock Apiary near Bridgwater

Wales: August 10th & 11th at Gregynog Hall, Tygynon, Nr Newtown

Warwickshire: September 14th & 15th at BBKA Apiary, Stoneleigh

Cleveland: September 17th & 18th, venue to be confirmed

Details of other courses will be posted on the website when confirmed.

The whole course is focussed on the General Husbandry standard with the objective of each attendee going home able to run their queen rearing matched to their needs. It will not be prescriptive and will enable the attendees to make up their own mind about the method they would like to employ. It will not focus on grafting, although it is a method that everyone should at least have tried at some point.

The course will be theory plus time in the apiary when different methods of queen rearing will be discussed and demonstrated. There will also be several queen related manipulations, again to the General Husbandry standard.

There will be a maximum of twelve on each course and there will be two tutors. The lead tutor will be Sean Stephenson who has a lot of experience in queen raising and delivering courses.

The cost of the course will be £75 which will cover coffee, tea and biscuits but please bring a packed lunch with you. The timing for the courses will be confirmed later but will start on Saturday morning and end on Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to apply for a place on the course please apply through the website shop:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/training-courses>

or contact the BBKA office on 02476 696679.

Regards, **Leigh Sidaway** (General Manager)

MBKA Honey Show 2019

I do hope that you have had time to look at the schedule for this year's Honey Show and are starting to plan your entries. (The schedule can be found at:

<https://www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/honey-show-schedule-2019.pdf>

The show is on Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th September and is a great opportunity to showcase the variety and quality of honey and hive products produced locally, to talk to visiting members of the public and maybe sell them some honey or other hive products.

As usual help is needed to run the show:

On Friday 6th September from 4pm for about an hour to set up

On Saturday 7th September from 9 am -1pm and 1pm – approx.5.30pm

On Sunday 8th September from 10am – 1pm and 1pm until we start to clear the show at about 3.30pm before the garden centre closes at 4pm.

If you can help with any part of the show I would be delighted to hear from you. Then I can make sure we have sufficient help throughout this busy weekend.

Please contact Sue, email: Susan.Chapman@care4free.net or phone: 01634 400570

Honey, candles, polishes etc. for sale can be brought along on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. (As usual 10% of sales monies will go to MBKA funds)

Sue Chapman

August's Events and Meetings:

Saturday 17th August 2019

MBKA Outdoor Meeting

2 – 5pm Association Apiary Site

You can find the apiary at 215a City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TL

Tuesday 20th August 2019

Introduction to Beekeeping 4

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

Tuesday 27th August 2019

Introduction to Beekeeping 5

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

Wednesday 28th August 2019

Bee Chat

Come and share your stories and hear everyone else's!

4th Wednesday of the month at The Pier, Lower Upnor, ME2 4XA, at 7.30pm.

Asian Hornet Update:



The Current Situation

On 3 July 2019, the first UK sighting of an Asian hornet of the year was confirmed in [New Milton, Hampshire](#). It was spotted by a member of the public and reported via the Asian Hornet Watch App. This was the first confirmed sighting since October 2018.

Since 2016, there have been a total of 14 confirmed sightings of the Asian hornet in England and six nests have been destroyed.

Nine of these sightings occurred in 2018; an individual hornet in Lancashire (April) and Hull, three in Cornwall, two in Hampshire, one in Surrey (all September) and one in Kent (October).

The risk of an active Asian hornet nest being found in the UK is negligible during the colder winter months, but higher during the summer. Asian hornets have already been spotted this

year in countries close to the UK (France and Jersey) and a risk remains at all times of year of accidentally transporting an Asian hornet when returning to the UK from abroad.

It is crucial you report any possible sightings so our experts can take quick and effective action to eradicate Asian hornets.

For further information go to: www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/latest-news

Visit: www.nationalbeeunit.com for the latest updates.

Re-occurrence of SHB in Sicily:

A message from DEFRA

You will wish to be aware that the Italian authorities have notified the Commission of the reoccurrence of SHB in Sicily in the Siracusa area. The EU will be discussing changes to the safeguard measure at the next SCOPAFF on 5 July.

You may wish to notify your members to encourage them to **source bees safely, check the source of the bees when buying replacement queens/colonies and monitor any new colonies for signs of pest and disease.** If they have any concerns they should contact their local inspector as soon as possible.

Louise Mount
DEFRA Bee Health Policy

Facebook

Facebook enables us to reach members and the public quickly and provides a platform for interaction. Social media is becoming more and more a part of everyday life and a way of communication. Help us reach 100 followers- join our Facebook page for information, updates and events <https://www.facebook.com/medwaybka/>

And Finally:

A list of the meetings can also be viewed by going to: www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events

Thank you to all who have contributed to this month's edition and remember if anyone has any news, ideas, amusing stories or comments or indeed suggestions about the website or for any future newsletter, please get in touch with me, Paul Lawrence at the address shown below, we really do appreciate your input.

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Newsletter and Website Enquiries

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