

## **Westerham Beekeepers Association Newsletter – September 2020**

### **Introduction and update**

I note with a tinge of embarrassment that this is the first newsletter since February. Of course, we have had the small matter of lockdown, which forced the cancellation of the remaining winter talks and our usual schedule of apiary visits. However, we were able to run a series of online meetings to keep us in touch with one another and to discuss seasonal beekeeping topics. Our most recent talk on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September covered “preparation for winter”.

As there is still a lot of difficulty running any kind of gathering, we will continue with the online format for the 2020/21 winter talks. The programme is outlined below. The AGM will also be held online.

Many of you have been able to join the online sessions, which is gratifying. Regrettably, there is no easy way for us to do anything other than an online meeting, so please bear with us. For those of you who have been unable to join, it should be as simple as clicking the Join Online box in the email. If for some reason this doesn't work for you, please let me know.

And for those who have no computer access, it is possible to dial in to the meetings. Again, please let me know if you would like to do that.

### **Forthcoming events**

Below is the calendar for forthcoming online winter talks:

#### **2020**

- Sep 30<sup>th</sup> – Bob Smith, NDB to talk on “Bee Health”. See below for more detail
- Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – Professor Stephen Martin to discuss his recent work on breeding varroa tolerant colonies
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – AGM and honey competition

#### **2021**

- Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – speaker to be confirmed
- Feb 24<sup>th</sup> – speaker to be confirmed
- Mar 31<sup>st</sup> – Pam Hunter, Master Beekeeper
- Apr 28<sup>th</sup> – speaker to be confirmed

Meeting invitations will follow separately via email.

**Bob Smith, NDB**



Bob has been keeping bees for around 40 years, currently managing 12 colonies in 14x12 WBC's, in 4 quite different apiaries in North Kent. He was a Seasonal Bee Inspector for 6 years, is a holder of the NDB and the person with responsibility for leading the busy and committed Education Team within the Medway Beekeepers Association. He is also current Chairman of the Central Association of Beekeepers (CABK) whose aim is to *"bring science to the beekeeper"*. The CABK is currently running a webinar series of high profile speakers – see

[www.cabk.org.uk/events](http://www.cabk.org.uk/events)

**"Bee Health"**

This talk examines some of the common and less common diseases that may affect our honey bee colonies, gives some guidance on diagnosis and takes a look at prevention or if that fails, available treatments. Most colonies are healthy but as good beekeepers, we should be alert to the first signs that all is not well.

Mark Waddington

19<sup>th</sup> September 2020