

Kent Honey Show Results 2008

Light honey 1st M. Morris 2nd M. Hill 3rd C. Curling VHC S. Crutchley HC V. Eagle
C T. Knaggs

Medium honey 1st P. Schmoeger 2nd P. Bashford 3rd T. Knaggs VHC K. Flynn
HC J. Preston C. M. Hill

Dark honey 1st J. Cowan 2nd M. Morris 3rd M. Hill VHC K. Flynn HC P. Bashford

Set honey 1st A. Carter 2nd M. Morris 3rd J. Scarlett VHC J. Cowan HC P. Bashford

Cut comb 1st J. Cowan

Frame for extraction 1st K. Wreford 2nd D. Wood 3rd P. Bashford VHC K. Flynn

Producers 1st J. Preston 2nd P. Bashford 3rd V. Eagle VHC K. Flynn HC J. Cowan
C. M. Hill

Cake of beeswax 1st P. Bashford 2nd V. Eagle 3rd K. Flynn VHC A. Carter HC M. Sansom
C H. Kendall

Beeswax blocks 1st V. Eagle 2nd A. Carter 3rd K. Flynn

Novice Honey liquid 1st K. Wreford 2nd C. Curling 3rd S. Harris

Novice honey set 1st K. Wreford 2nd D. Froud

Novice wax 1st K. Wreford 2nd D. Wood 3rd S. Clapson VHC S. Amans

Sweet mead 1st M. Sansom 2nd D. Blakeley

Dry mead 1st V. Eagle 2nd M. Sansom

Photograph 1st R. Dyche 2nd R. Cullen 3rd S. Crutchley VHC V. Cullen HC D. Wood
C. P. Higgs

Candles 1st A. Carter 2nd V. Eagle 3rd M. Hill VHC J. Joswik

Clear gift honey 1st P. Schmoeger 2nd J. Preston 3rd P. Bashford VHC J. Cowan
HC J. Eastaugh C. M. Hill

Set gift honey 1st M. Hill 2nd V. Eagle

Honey Fruit Cake 1st K. Sansom 2nd C. Hird 3rd L. Fancote VHC S. Clapson

HC J. Kendall C. V Cullen

Honey biscuits 1st H. Blakeley 2nd C. Curling 3rd M. Hill VHC S. Clapson HC J. Kendall
C K. Sansom

Marmalade 1st S. Hardy 2nd J. Kendall 3rd M. Hill VHC V. Eagle HC C. Hird

Exhibition Class 1st P. Bashford 2nd M. Hill 3rd C. Curling VHC S. Clapson

Junior 5 – 7 years 1st L. Dougall 2nd E. Vallance 3rd E. Curling VHC K. Pencheva
HC J. Kennedy

Junior 8 years and over 1st C. Bayraktar 2nd T. Smith 3rd H. Kinden VHC C. Fendt
HC R. Morrison

Our Congratulations to all the award winners. Very well done.

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A company limited by guarantee, Registered No. 238630 Registered Charity No. 222946
Registered Office: National Beekeeping Centre, RASE, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. CV8 2LG



No. 39 COUNTY NEWSLETTER August 2008

A bumper edition this month as we have a number of contributions.

County Show 2008

A very successful County Show at Detling has now passed but due to other commitments I was unable to attend this year. We must thank all the Stewards for their hard work and I was impressed to receive 1415 signatures on the BBKA petition to increase Research funding in beekeeping. I must thank Sally Hardy for managing the stewards so well and we must thank Sally for all her hard work over many years this being her last show before her retirement from this role. Mary Hill managed the competition classes so well and the results are published in this newsletter. Finally I must thank Peter Baker for being the Honey Show Committee Secretary for many years as he is looking to retire from this post.
John Hendrie - Honorary General Secretary

Kent Show 2008

For the second year running there was a large number of entries for the Show. But most of these were from just four Branches. This is meant to be a County Show and it would be very good if ways could be found to persuade members of other Branches and Associations that it is no more difficult than entering their own local show. The cooking classes were ordinary classes not gift for the first time this year and this led to an increase in entries. There was also a high number in the Novice class again. It is very good to see so many beekeepers new to showing having a go. The photography class was also very popular. The weather was kind to us but the attendance was not very good on Friday and Saturday. The stewards on the observation hives, show bench and shop managed to get the public to fill in 50 petition forms (1000 signatures) on Saturday and Sunday.
Mary Hill - Show Secretary

Subscription Forms

Annual Subscriptions are due on 1st October so branches will be sending out forms either in August or September dependant on frequency of newsletters. The good news is the full subscription has gone down by £1 this year to £39 including BeeCraft magazine monthly.

CALENDAR August– October 2008

Branch Events

Ashford

- Sun 3rd Aug 2:30 pm Honey Harvest. At the Branch Apiary, Cheeseman's Green.
Sat 6th Sept Honey Show and Beekeeping Exhibition at Bilsington Priory.
Sun 14th Sept 2:30 pm New Members Day At the Branch Apiary, Cheeseman's Green.
Fri 3rd Oct 7:30 pm At St. Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road, Kennington.

Bromley

- Sun 17th Aug 3:00 pm Afternoon apiary meeting. Refreshments provided.
Meeting at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments.
Opposite Woodbastwick road, 91a, Kent House, Sydenham, Kent
Sat 20th Sept 9:00 am Honey Show The Main Hall Emmanuel Church The Grove, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9JS. Judge Michael Badger MBE.

Canterbury

- Wed 8th Oct 7:30 pm. Showing Honey with Mary Hill at Stelling Minnis village Hall.
Directions from: joan.mcallister@virgin.net or phone 01304-824660

Dartford - No meetings notified.

Gravesend

- Sat 16th Aug 3:00 pm Outdoor meeting.
Sat 20th Sept 3:00 pm. Preparing Colonies for Winter.
For venues and directions contact Lesley Fancote 01474 702666.

Mid Kent

- Sun 31st Aug 2:30 pm Annual petanque challenge at petanque club.
Contact Barbara Harris for details and directions 01622 880440

Orpington

- Sat 20th Sept Honey Show with Bromley Branch. At The Main Hall Emmanuel Church
The Grove, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9JS.
Wed 8th Oct 8:00 pm Talk by John Williams on 'Darwin's Bees' at Atomwide's Offices.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

- Sun 3rd Aug. 2:00 pm Demonstration at Peter Hutton's apiary by Peter Springall.
Sat 27th Sept Annual Honey Show at Otford Church Hall. Judge Moyra Davidson.
Barrwood Apiary meets on Sat 9th Aug, Sat 6th Sept, Sun 28th Sept.
Hilbert Road Apiary meets on Sat 16th Aug and Sat 4th Oct.
All meetings start at 2:00 pm. See Branch newsletter for full details.

Sidcup

- Meetings every Saturday at 2:00 pm Ruxley Apiary. See Branch news to check details.
All meetings at Ruxley Apiary, Honeydale Farm, Maidstone Road, Sidcup, DA14 5AW.

Weald

- at 16th Aug 3:00 pm How to photograph your bees.
Ring Nick Mengham for details and directions 01233 840660.

Westerham

- Sun 24th Aug 2:30 pm. At Mark Dunn's out apiary on the heather at Ashdown Forest.
Demonstration and discussion led by Mark Dunn and Nick Withers.

Colony Collapse Disorder

Colony-collapse disorder is characterized by the sudden collapse of a full-strength hive in a matter of weeks, with adults leaving the hive and not returning, until the hive is deserted. "I found colonies that had just stopped living," says Borje Svensson, a Swedish beekeeper. "They had given up life without any sign of struggle." No one knows what causes it, but theories abound. U.S. researchers believe a previously little-known disease called Israeli acute paralysis virus is involved, while Spanish researchers suspect a fungus called Nosema. When France lost a third of its bees in the 1990s, beekeepers blamed Imidacloprid, a new pesticide that had been used on the sunflower crop, a honeybee favorite. France banned the use of Imidacloprid on sunflowers in 1999 and expanded the ban to other crops in 2004, yet its bees have not recovered. Despite this ambiguous evidence, many beekeepers around the world continue to blame Imidacloprid—the best-selling pesticide in the world, with annual sales of nearly \$860 million. Others have pointed fingers at malefactors ranging from cell phones to genetically modified crops, with little evidence. The leading theory is that colony collapse is caused by a combination of viruses, pesticides, the parasitic varroa mite, drought and stress triggered by commercial colonies' overwork and poor nutrition.

The threat is vast. Most crops—87 of the world's 115 most important ones—require pollination to develop fruits, nuts and seeds, says agroecologist Alexandra-Maria Klein at Germany's University of Göttingen. Those crops account for about \$1 trillion of the approximately \$3 trillion in annual sales of agricultural produce worldwide. They also provide 35 percent of the calories consumed by humans each year, and most of the vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Every blueberry, cherry, apple, grapefruit, avocado, squash, cucumber, macadamia nut and almond depends on the ministrations of a bee for its existence. Even crops such as lettuce and broccoli need insect pollination to produce seed for the following year's supply.

Governments have done little to solve the problem. In June 2007 the U.S. House of Representatives held an emergency hearing on the status of pollinators in North America and allotted \$5 million to honeybee research in the ensuing farm bill, but the funding was cut a year later. Earlier this month the U.S. Department of Agriculture made \$4 million available to a consortium of universities for research. On April 22, calling on the British government to provide £8 million in emergency funding, British Beekeepers Association president Tim Lovett said, "CCD has not yet crossed the channel from Europe, but we are urging the government that it needs to be prepared should this happen. Does the government want the nation to go without honey on their toast, not have homegrown strawberries to go with cream, and even put their own crusade for the public to eat five portions of fresh fruit and vegetables at risk?" Jeff Rooker, Britain's Food and Farming minister, responded that the government didn't have the funds to help.

That leaves beekeepers scrambling to keep the world in fruits and vegetables. "We can't stand another bug or virus or pest," says Mark Brady, president of the American Honey Producers Association. "Right now the industry is like crystal. It's that fragile. One slip and it will shatter."

Full Article: URL: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/141461>

manufacture its radiation detectors, as did Sweden and Belgium, followed by several others over the years. Tomes was becoming one of the world's leading manufacturers in his field. A write up in the popular weekly of the time *John Bull* claimed: "He adds up his profits as the world buys his Geiger counters, tools of the atomic age – you never know where they'll end up next – they go into needles, furnaces – even beehives!"

In 1951 the company made enormous strides with orders for Geiger-Müller tubes increasing and many new technologies being introduced. The staff doubled in size and relocated to New Addington, Croydon where it remains today.

New Scientist magazine featured Gilbert Tomes' life story so far with a piece entitled "The Beekeeper who now makes Geigers". Numerous industry awards followed such as the prestigious Queens' Award for Industry in 1968 and the Duke of Edinburgh Design Award in 1976 for products such as the acclaimed Centronic Mass Spectrometer Leak Detector.

The Eighties saw production of Centronic silicon photodiodes for laser detection which was applied to military training. The Centronic designed SAWES (Small Arms Weapon Effect Simulator) was used on rifles, grenades, mines etc, modified to incorporate a Centronic laser transmitter. Laser sensors on the helmets of targeted soldiers triggered an alarm on detection of laser fire. Similarly there was also much prestige for the firm when a UK satellite, for which Centronic had been making detectors, was launched into space from Australia. Much pride was felt through the knowledge that Centronic devices were orbiting the earth.

Retirement saw Gilbert Tomes use his many talents in yet another field: that of portrait painting. Self-taught, but encouraged by the celebrated Royal portrait artist and close friend Sam Morse-Brown, and critic Raymond Hodges Paul.

A keen and life-long Rotarian, and an early member of Toc H, he also inspired many young people through his work with the Youth Fellowship at Sanderstead Congregational Church, Surrey. (He even built an open air theatre within his 3 acre property in Sanderstead to provide a permanent stage for local amateur dramatics societies to perform on whenever they wished.) No one really knew why he was called "Jumbo", but it is clear to see that he was definitely "Jumbo" by name and above all, "Jumbo" by nature in everything he did.

He married Mary Spencer in 1939 who survives him, and through their son and daughter's families have six grandchildren and an ever increasing number of great grandchildren.

COUNTY SHOW CUP WINNERS 2008

Sir Reginald Tower Rose bowl and B.B.K.A. Blue Ribbon

(Best in Show) **Kay Wreford**

The Agricultural Society's Trophy

(Highest points in classes 1-9) **Peter Bashford**

The Philpot Trophy (Branch or Association with highest points) **Ashford**

The Margaret Calder Plate for Cookery **Janet Kendall**

Beeswax Cup **Ronnie Eagle**

Novice Cup **Kay Wreford**

Mead Cup **Maurice Sansom**

Junior Challenge Shield **C. Bayraktar**

Challenge Trophy (Winner of Exhibition Class) **Peter Bashford**

Whitstable

No meetings notified.

County and Other Events

- 20th - 21st Sept BIBBA Bee Breeding Conference at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. £80 for 2 days. Speakers include Robert Pickard, Dennis Ryan, Richard Jackman, Terry Clare. & Clive de Bruyn. Details from John Hendrie.
- 4th October BBKA Forum at Stoneleigh.
- 11th October Council Meeting, 10:00 am at Detling Village Hall.
- 30th Oct- 1st Nov National Honey Show at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey. 2:00 pm. At Lenham Community Centre Margaret Thomas NDB from Essex as guest lecturer will give two talks.
- 13th December Council Meeting at 10:00 am at Margaret Calder Pavilion, Detling.
- Sat 10th Jan 2009 BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting at Stoneleigh.
- Sat 14th March Central Association Spring meeting and AGM at Vauxhall, London.
- Sat 21st March BBKA written examinations.
- 17th - 19th July 2009 County Show at Detling.

Congratulations

Mandy House and Miriam O'Connell of Orpington Branch, John O'Connell of Bromley Branch and Peter Brown, Sue Clapson and Julie Coleman of Whitstable Branch have all been successful with the BBKA Basic Assessment.

Our congratulations to these beekeepers on these fine achievements.

Council Meeting 28th June 2008

Thirteen representatives from eight Branches together with three officers attended the Council meeting in June. A number of organisations have been contacting us about holding beekeeping education stands at events. It was agreed that Branches will attend where possible and providing the terms are right! The Accounts and Report for the year ended 30th September 2007 were approved for presentation to the AGM.

James Cash reported a satisfactory financial position for the current year. Concern was expressed about the cost for people to attend meetings and it was agreed to allow Council members to claim 10 pence per mile to attend Council and Committee meetings held after 1st October 2008. The Ordinary subscription commencing 1.10.08 will be £39 with the Branch allocation at £6 It was agreed that the Friend subscription remain at £6 with the Branch Allocation at £4. No change to Junior or Associate membership subscriptions. From returns to 31st March there are 387 Ordinary members, 2 Juniors, 64 Friends, 108 Associates making a total of 561.

BeeCraft report circulation now exceeding 5000. The webmaster, Steve Turner is planning a website upgrade in the next few months.

Visit the Kent Beekeepers web site: www.kentbee.com

Meetings in the next issue of the Calendar will cover October - December and please note that all details should be sent to John Hendrie, KBKA General Secretary, 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9JT or email: bibba26@tiscali.co.uk or 01732 833894, by 20th September with items for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks.

What motivates the bee?

Sunday 16th November, 2pm
Lenham Community Hall
(just off A20)

Kent Beekeepers Association is delighted that **Margaret Thomas**, well-known beekeeper and speaker, has agreed to talk to Kent beekeepers on two of her favourite subjects:



Full Programme
What motivates the bee?
Sex, reproduction
and the smells that go with it!
& **The nucleus**

An essential tool for good apiary management

Also

Entry fee includes prize draw

Bookstall

Equipment stand

BIBBA information

Doors open at 1.30pm

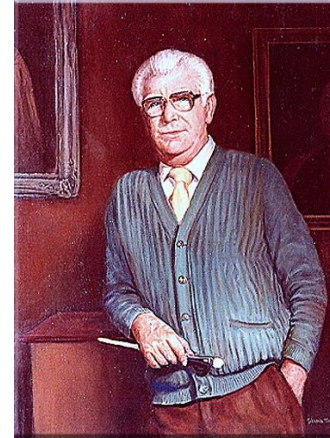
Tickets £4 in advance £5 on the day

Details from Terry Hardy

01622 832066



GILBERT “JUMBO” TOMES



Leading nuclear industrialist and engineer, keen apiarist and acclaimed portrait painter, a pioneer in the development of cathode ray and electron tubes in the early days of television, leading to a highly successful global business career in the field of nuclear radiation detection was born on March 26th 1914. He died on June 18th 2008, aged 94. He was a member of the Bromley Branch KBKA until 1982.

“Dress the shop window! File as many patents as possible when starting your own business!” John Logie Baird told Gilbert Tomes when they met in 1942 to discuss a business venture. Some many patents later Tomes did exactly as he had said, patenting many of his ideas and inventions such as the “Tomes Queen Bee Detector” that was to become the fundamental innovation on which his

subsequent globally successful nuclear radiation detection business Centronic was built.

Being head of the class in his Cinematography course at Regent Street Polytechnic in 1935 led Tomes to be head hunted, upon graduation, by Captain West, former chief engineer at the BBC offering him a job working with the new Baird Television Company at the Crystal Palace. Tomes recalled the historic day when upon seeing smoke billowing from their laboratories, Baird technicians frantically saved technical notes and research papers before fire was to engulf the majority of the iconic Crystal Palace buildings. In 1938 Tomes left Baird’s briefly to join the highly prestigious ranks of the BBC, working at Alexandra Palace as a senior maintenance engineer and operating cameras during the world’s first regular television service which had commenced operation in November 1936. In 1942 John Logie Baird telephoned Tomes to arrange a meeting, having heard of his talent and that he was intending to start his own business. Logie Baird wanted to know if he would make some photomultipliers for his experimental work on colour television. Sadly Baird died a few years later and so any chance of a collaboration failed to materialise. However, he gave useful advice and encouragement which was to stand Tomes in good stead for the years to come.

Of all Gilbert Tomes’ innovations, quite the most significant, and what was to determine his future business success, was the “Tomes Queen Bee Detector”. A keen beekeeper for a large part of his life, Tomes was fascinated with bees and their swarming habits. His intriguing detector was used to quickly and simply locate a queen bee in a hive. Tomes marked the queen with a minute dab of radioactive paint on her thorax and used a simply-constructed Geiger counter tube to pin-point her. Little did he know that Geiger counters would be in such demand and in 1945 he founded 20th Century Electronics Ltd, (many years later to be renamed Centronic), which was to become a global leader in nuclear radiation detection technology.

Tomes joined forces with Alec Tidmarsh, a fellow graduate of Regent Street Polytechnic, and from the simple back bedroom in Tomes’ house in West Wickham, Kent they began manufacturing photoelectric cells and Geiger counter tubes. Business soon boomed as prototypes of thin glass-walled Geiger counters were developed to order. Sadly Alec Tidmarsh died in 1947 generously leaving Gilbert Tomes his share in the firm. In 1948 the company moved to Dunbar Works, a 3000 square foot factory in West Norwood, London, ideal for its rapidly expanding workload.

The business continued to prosper with the manufacture of cathode ray tubes, Geiger counters, neutron radiation and reactor control detectors as well as optical sensing devices, with orders coming from all over the world. The French Atomic Energy Authority took a licence from the company to