



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter No. 77 January 2015

"Beekeepers @ KSRC" will be running courses again in 2015. The new venue is about a mile from Sittingbourne station in the Swale Skills Centre. This building is used primarily for engineering training but the adjacent building will be re-fitted with labs and the KSRC equipment reinstated there by September 2015. In the meantime, there are classroom facilities in the existing building and I have the kit to be able to provide a pop-up microscopy lab if required. Initially at least, this facility will only be available Monday to Friday.

Julie, Adrian and I will be pulling together a programme of courses which, as in previous years, will be aimed either at Improvers or at providing courses on beekeeping-related interests (e.g. skep making) where individual clubs might struggle to fill places. I would be delighted to hear from you if you have either **suggestions for courses** we should run or you would like to become **part of the tutor team** at KSRC? We will aim to have a schedule ready in the next few weeks.

Courses in preparation for the BBKA exams and assessments are always popular and I fully expect that KSRC will be offering those, both to beekeepers from Kent and indeed the whole of the South East. In reciprocal arrangement therefore I'm happy to advise you that there is to be a General Husbandry Assessment training day in Surrey in January, led by Master Beekeeper Alastair Welch. This may be a useful start to the year for any students you are preparing for this assessment – see below.

So, Beekeepers @ KSRC is alive and well, do get in touch if you would like to be involved or have course proposals.

BOB SMITH

I am pleased to let you know that the BBKA system 'ARK' is now live and available for use by BBKA members.

As you may recall from earlier announcements, ARK is derived from the checklists of competencies produced for the Course in a Case (CiC) material, one for each CiC. It allows beekeepers to see the fundamental skills they will need and to monitor their own progress towards them. There is an initial set of resources available through links for each skill (or element) and we expect to add more resources in due course. They include documents, videos and guidance notes from the BBKA and selected external agencies such as the NBU. In addition, when a new training course is listed ARK has the ability to send out notification emails to each user with matching preferences set in their profile. If your association is offering training please make sure that your courses are listed. I am especially keen to see courses for Improvers added to the list. Historically it has proved difficult to make beekeepers aware of the opportunities in adjoining associations let alone nationally. This need no longer be the case and Improver courses can attract wider interest. To add a course use the 'Submit a course or event' button at the bottom of the ARK homepage and complete the form. It is not necessary to login to do so.

To access ARK please follow this link:- [ARK homepage](#)

On first visit please use the 'Signin' button at the top left. You will need your BBKA website Members Area login and password and you will need to have a valid email address in your BBKA Members profile. You will be asked to create your own password for ARK. On subsequent visits you can log directly in to ARK using 'Login' at the top right of the screen using this password.

Why not take a moment to set up your profile in ARK so you can receive the most relevant information, then explore the checklist elements that match your level of experience.

Please feel free to cascade this information to others in your local association as required.

ARK has been created to support a range of devices including laptops, smart phones and tablets using standard browsers such as Google Chrome. The 'Help' buttons on each page will lead you through the features available.

If you have any feedback on ARK please email me or use the email address on the ARK login page.

DAVID BLOWER

COUNTY AND OTHER EVENTS

**55TH ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING
OF THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**
The Chesford Grange, Chesford Bridge,
Kenilworth CV8 2LD
Saturday, 10th January 2015

**SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
TRAINING DAYS
GENERAL HUSBANDRY ASSESSMENT TRAINING DAY**

Saturday 17th January 2015 10am till 3.45pm

Have you kept 5 colonies of bees for 4 years or 4 colonies of bees for 5 years and passed your Basic Assessment?

Are you seriously contemplating taking the General Husbandry Assessment in 2015 or 2016?

If so, then this training day will provide you with information regarding the syllabus, how the assessment is carried out and handy hints and tips with plenty of audience participation!

Led by Master Beekeeper Alastair Welch, the programme includes:

- Introduction to the day
- The syllabus and its interpretation
- How the assessment is carried out – what to expect
- Practical aspects of the assessment – audience participation and presentation
- Theory aspects of the assessment – audience participation and presentation

25 places available at £25 per person to include refreshments and a light lunch

East Horsley Village Hall KT24 6QT

RESERVATIONS

To reserve a place please email Sandra Rickwood at
rickwoodsba@gmail.com or phone 01932 244326

FULL DIRECTIONS AND PAYMENT DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH CONFIRMATION OF PLACE

**SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
TRAINING DAYS
Bee Improvement for All**

An all day event aimed at encouraging all beekeepers to improve their bees. The purpose is to help all beekeepers to continuously assess their colonies, so they have a good idea of which queens to cull, and which colonies to take queen cells from when they need new queens.

There will be tuition on how to raise queens using queen cells that bees often present us with during the summer, as well as some simple "artificial" techniques that may be suitable for the more advanced beekeeper, or those working in groups.

Further details can be found on

<http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html>

Date:- Saturday 31st January 2015

Time:- 9.30am for 10.00am start - 5.00pm close

Venue:- Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2LU.

Cost:- £18/head. £14/head for under 18, but must be accompanied by a fee paying adult.
Refreshments and lunch included.

Bookings to:-

Sandra Rickwood. sbkabibba@gmail.com or Mrs Sandra Rickwood, 19 Kenwood Drive, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. KT12 5AU.

Enquiries to:- Sandra Rickwood. sbkabibba@gmail.com

This event is being held in conjunction with the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA)

West Sussex Beekeepers' Association – Wisborough Green Division

Making Beeswax Products – a workshop with Jim Ryan

Demonstrations: 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th February 2015

Time: 09:30 for 10:00am prompt start. We plan to finish around 4:30 – 5:00pm.

Venue: Hampers Green Community Centre, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 9NL

Map here: www.chichester.gov.uk/article/25181/Petworth---Hampers-Green-Community-Centre

Most beekeepers accumulate beeswax, either from cappings or melted combs, which could be sold or exchanged for foundation, but many only have a small amount, so they just store it in the shed and don't know what to do with it.

There are a number of products that can be simply made with quite small quantities of beeswax. These can be used by you and your family or can make useful and unusual presents. The good thing is you know what the ingredients are.

The demonstrator will be Jim Ryan who we are bringing over from Thurles, Co Tipperary. Jim is a very good demonstrator of making beeswax products. His methods are simple and he has a very good way of showing you how easy these items are to make, using minimal equipment.

The content of each day may be different, but Jim will begin all by cleaning wax, then making such things as furniture polish, furniture cream, lip balm, skin cream, moisture bars, soap, etc.

He will also look at using honey in recipes – honey lip balm, honey soap, etc. There may also be some alternative recipes that do not contain nut oils.

We are expecting this to be popular and as places are limited you will need to book early. If you are available on Monday we would prefer you took that option, to make more spaces for those who work and may only be available on Sunday. This is a rare opportunity to see a top demonstrator.

Booking essential with: Maggie Turner - maggie501@btinternet.com 01243 545696 or 07752 847631

Cost: £10 per person to cover expenses.

Payment: In cash on the day. If you book and are subsequently unable to come please tell Maggie, so someone else can take the place.

Refreshments provided, but bring your own lunch.

Roger Patterson – Vice President & Vice Chairman West Sussex BKA & President Wisborough Green BKA

WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Convention

Saturday 28th February 2015

At Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough – 9.30am to 4.30pm

The West Sussex Beekeepers' Association is pleased to invite beekeepers and those interested in bees and beekeeping to the WSBKA Annual Convention. The event is designed to suit beekeepers of all standards. As well as the main lectures, the seminars offer a choice of more specialised topics. We hope you will be joining us.

Main Lectures

Read the Bees and Act Accordingly – Dan Basterfield

Natural Beekeeping – Serving the needs of the Bee? – Heidi Herrmann

Swindon Bee Project – Ron Hoskins

In addition there is a choice of seminars

Seminar 1 (you can attend one of these)

1) Hornet Floors & the latest Varroa treatments – Max Watkins

2) Bee Sting Allergies – Dr Terry Allan

3) Queen rearing using Instrumental Insemination – Ron Hoskins

Seminar 2 (you can attend one of these)

4) Vertical Split Swarm Control – Dan Basterfield

5) Bee Friendly Flowers – Monica Lucas

6) Showing Honey and other things – David Sandwell

For all your beekeeping needs, Paynes Southdown Bee Farms will also be present at the Convention

Advance booking per person, WSBKA members £20

Members of other associations and non-members £25

On the day if space allows £25

For full details and booking form see the WSBKA website www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

BEETRADEX

Saturday, 7th March 2015

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

www.beetradex.co.uk

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION
Friday, 17th April to Sunday, 19th April 2015
Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB
Lectures Courses Workshops Trade show
Accommodation Dinners
Tickets on sale and on-line bookings January 2015
Enquiries to: tim.lovett@bbka.org.uk

SITUATIONS VACANT

Assistant Treasurer: Our Treasurer, James Cash, is hoping to retire in the not too distant future. In order to facilitate a handover, we are creating the post of Assistant Treasurer who can learn the ropes prior to taking over the post of Treasurer. Anyone interested in taking on this very important role please contact James at jocsrsrc@hotmail.co.uk

Examinations Secretary: Receiving, checking and forwarding by BBKA due date all Assessment and Examination applications, with their fees; arranging the venue and invigilator for the Module Examinations in March and November; arranging the Basic Assessments throughout the season. This involves bringing together candidates and assessor(s) in a suitable apiary on a convenient date for a group.

The retiring secretary, Angela Merritt, is happy to discuss the job with inquirers and give assistance to the new secretary if required.