

National Honey Show – St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey
27th to 29th October 2011

Danish queen rearing expert Keld Brandstrup, Thomas Seeley from Cornell University, USA and Eric Osterlund, editor of the Swedish beekeeping journal 'Bitidningen' will be among the international experts presenting lectures at The 80th National Honey Show in October. Speakers from nearer home include Michael MacGiolla Coda, Professor Robert Pickard and Dr Nigel Raine. The show will also feature an extensive programme of workshops. The Show Schedule and programme will be published in Early August and this year you will be able to book workshops on line.

Ready to extract your honey? Don't forget to keep some of your best aside for the show. With so much to do at this time of year it's easy to put off thinking about show entries – but a little time spent planning now will pay dividends later. Look critically at your frames before uncapping them. If you find a really good one, keep it for the show. You can always extract it later. Keep your cappings wax separate. You could make it into an award winning block or a superb pair of candles.

Where is the show?

The show is at St Georges College, Woburn Hill, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 2QS

Opening times: Thursday 27th October 1.45pm to 6pm
Friday 28th October 9.00am to 6pm
Saturday 29th October 9.00am to 4.30pm

How much does it cost?

You can become a member of the National Honey Show for £12 (or £13 via PayPal) and then entry for the duration of the show is free. Accompanied children of 16 years and under are free and additional family members over 16 years living at the same address can come in for £6 each. Admission for non-members is £15 per day. On Saturday admission for non-members after 12 noon is £5. You can join by contacting the membership secretary, Mrs Sandra Rickwood, 19 Kenwood Drive, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 5AU. Alternatively, email srhoneyshow@googlemail.com or telephone 020 3355 8716 and leave a message. You can also pay on the door but it is better to get an advance ticket and avoid the queue. A programme and show schedule will be available on request.

The official closing date for show entries is 1st October but late entries will be accepted until 22nd October on payment of a £5 late entry fee.

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. 57 COUNTY NEWSLETTER September 2011

Jim Weedon

Arthur Frederick Weedon, age 91, died on Wednesday, 8th June after a short stay in hospital. He was secretary of the Western Division of KBKA until the four divisions united and was on the KBKA Council for many years, including a term as President. He started beekeeping in the 1950s and was a prominent member of Sidcup branch for a number of years. Jim and his wife Betty were part of a small group involved in erecting the present KBKA bee pavilion at the County showground at Detling, where they met regularly and tended the bee garden and organised the bee marquee at the County Show. He was also on the Executive Committee of the National Honey Show for many years, including 20 as Treasurer. He will be missed by all his friends in beekeeping and our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife, Betty, his son and daughter and other members of his family

National Honey Show, 27th-29th October 2011

If you would like to help to steward the event, please contact Clive Watson and let him know your preferred days and times. His e-mail address is watson30@talktalk.net

CALENDAR October-December 2011

Branch Events

Ashford

Fri 7th Oct 7.30 p.m. branch meeting
Fri 4th Nov 7.30 p.m. branch meeting
Fri 2nd Dec 7.30 p.m. AGM

Meetings held at St Mary's Hall, Rylands Road, Kennington

Bromley

Sun 2nd Oct 11:30 a.m. apiary meeting.
Sun 6th Nov 11:30 a.m. apiary meeting.
Tues 15th Nov 7.30 p.m. AGM at KHLG clubhouse
Sun 4th Dec 11:30 a.m. apiary meeting.

Meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments and refreshments are provided

Canterbury

Winter meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m.

Dartford

Sat 8th Oct 3:00 p.m. Talk by Richard Brook: Taking the Basic Examination
Winter lectures to be arranged—please see website for details
A “teach in” for beginners commencing November. Please see website for details
All meetings at Bedonwell Apiary, refreshments will be provided.

Dover & District

Sat 22nd Oct 2.30 p.m. Honey Show Alkham Village Hall
Sat 26th Nov 10.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. Microscopy day. Bob Smith: Disease and pollen identification with 20+ microscopes. Alkham Village Hall

Gravesend

Please see Branch website for details

Medway

Please see Branch website for details

Mid Kent

Please see Branch website for details

Orpington

Saturday afternoons 2:30 pm Demonstrations at Beeche Centre, High Elms Country Park, Shire Lane, Farnborough, BR6 7JH. See Branch newsletter for details.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

Sat 1st Oct Hilbert Road Apiary—feeding colonies and setting up for winter
Tues 11th Oct Weald Memorial Hall: Talk by Nick Withers on Beekeeping month by month for 2012
Tues 8th Nov Weald Memorial Hall AGM and prize giving

Sidcup

Please see Branch website for details.

Thanet

Please see Branch website for details

Weald

Sat 15th Oct 3.00 p.m. Lecture by Prof Francis Ratnieks, Professor of Apiculture at the University of Sussex at Smarden Charter Hall. Entrance fee: £2.00
Sat 19th Nov AGM and round-up of the year
Sat 10th Dec Weald Group Christmas lunch

Westerham

Wed 16th Nov AGM 8.00 p.m. Westerham Hall

Whitstable - No meetings notified.

Yalding

Mon 31st Oct 8.00 p.m. branch meeting
Mon 23 Nov 8.00 p.m. branch meeting
Meetings held at The Chequers Inn, Laddingford

County and Other Events

Sat 8 Oct 10:00 am Council Meeting at Detling Village Hall.
27 - 29 Oct National Honey Show at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey.
Sun 6 Nov Lecture Lenham Community Hall
Sat 26 Nov 10:00 a.m. Council Meeting at Detling Village Hall.
Sat 14 Jan 2012 10:30 a.m. BBKA ADM at Stoneleigh.

The tragedy of the horses

One day last month when I returned home I listened to a phone message left by a journalist. He was asking if I knew anything about the four horses that had died following being ‘attacked’ by bees. I was alarmed, I also knew nothing. Some of you will have seen the email I sent appealing for information. The appeal was very revealing and I would like to express gratitude to everyone who helped. The journalist discovered, after speaking to the policeman in attendance at the incident, that Weald beekeepers had come and sorted out the bees.

I have found that Sussex has a group called High Weald and it was they who had attended the incident, which was at Nutley. The owner of the three bee hives in question was also the owner of the four horses. She is a beginner and a member of the High Weald group.

Apparently, one of horses jumped into the bee enclosure, got upset by stinging bees and managed to knock over all of the hives. The other horses came to see what was happening. The result was that all the horses got stung repeatedly by many bees. Two were found dead in a pond, another found after a search was also dead. The fourth horse died the next day. All had died of heart failure

A public bridleway, which runs past the apiary, was closed by the police until High Weald members had moved the colonies. The unfortunate beekeeper, who was interviewed on local radio, was keen to emphasise that it was an ‘absolutely freak event that was a one off’ but wanted to point out that bees should be sited some distance from horse enclosures. It is a heart rending story and sympathy is felt for this poor owner and the innocent victims.

My experience is that every biting or stinging insect goes for horses in preference to other animals. Although horses generally learn not to come close to apiaries it would be wise to have some distance between bees and horses.

Nick Mengham