



BEE ADVISED

the AVON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION NEWS SHEET

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Wearing my other hat, I was somewhat taken aback by a “brush” I had recently with a, I thought, potential member. The question was simple “How much does it cost to join the beekeepers?” I sent my usual reply, setting out the “grades” of membership, enclosing an application form and a Gift Aid Declaration. The reply was quick in coming “ I am not going to join the Beekeepers as long as the British Beekeepers Association supports Insecticide Manufacturers by allowing their logo on the Manufacturers publications”. A short correspondence ensued and I suggested that the aggrieved party comes on board and tries to change us from within.

Lo and behold, at the recent County Executive Meeting we heard that at the Annual Delegates Meeting the BBKA had voted to withdraw the use of its logo from insecticide manufacturers as soon as possible – this without the assistance of my assailant!

I am aware that members have expressed some unease about the BBKA’s association with Chemical Manufacturers and now I am pleased to be able to tell you that it has proved itself democratic. The BBKA are continuing to work with Crop Protection Agencies in the interest of Beekeeping and are setting up their own research into nicotonoides, which appear to be a major problem.

So, as you belong to a democracy, how about making a new years resolution – “I solemnly agree to attend at least 50% of my branch meetings from now on.” Will I see you at the AGM?

- Peter Clements, ABKA Chairman

ABKA AGM

Members of Avon Beekeepers Association are invited to the Avon Beekeepers Association 37th Annual General Meeting to be held at 1430 on Saturday 26th March 2011 at Victory Hall, Church Road, Uphill Village Weston-super-Mare BS23 4XG.

You will all shortly be sent an AGM booklet with more detailed information.

RAISING PROPOSITIONS AT THE BBKA ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING (ADM)

The message from our Chairman in this issue raises an interesting point. Did you know that all the branches within ABKA are able to put forward propositions for change or improvement for the consideration of the ADM that is held in January of each year at Stoneleigh?

Propositions have to be constituted according to the current standing orders for conduct at the ADM. Guidelines and the pro-forma for the presentation of propositions to the Annual Delegates' Meeting are available on the BBKA website. (Members, password protected section, Annual delegates meeting). A revised pro-forma for this year will be available in July and it is important to remember that there is a requirement to state the cost of implementation.

The process for raising propositions should be that each branch:

- Ask its' members for proposals/issues between June-August,
- Agree them at a branch meeting and formalise them as a proposition,
- Send the propositions to the secretary of ABKA for consideration at the September ABKA Executive meeting.

The ABKA Executive will discuss each proposition to ensure it is clear, understandable, and does not duplicate or overlap a proposition from another ABKA branch. The ABKA secretary will then send agreed propositions to the BBKA by the mid-October deadline for consideration at the next ADM.

Feedback on the propositions considered by the ADM is communicated in the BBKA newsletter and discussed at ABKA meetings.

BRANCH SECS

- Bath**
Glenys Lunt
01225 866400
- Blagdon & Clevedon**
David Welham
01934 852361
- Bristol**
Rachel McEntee
0117 9594245
- Keynsham**
Eileen Keating
0117 3003612
- Weston**
Ann Westwood
01934 624092

BRONZE BADGE FOR THE BASIC ASSESSMENT IN BEEKEEPING

Did you know that a bronze badge is now awarded automatically to those who pass the Basic Assessment in Beekeeping? If you did not receive a badge when you passed the exam and you would like one, these can be ordered retrospectively. Just send a cheque for £2.50 to the BBKA, National Beekeeping Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG. The fee includes £0.50 for postage and packaging. In your cover letter please include the date you took the exam.

Once again if you want to apply this year, complete the Application Form and send it, via your branch Education Officer, with the appropriate fee to the Avon Education Secretary Allen Coates. He will organise the assessment and contact you with details. The timescales for this year are: applications having been countersigned by a Branch Committee member to Allen Coates by end of May, It is recommended that the Assessments are scheduled to be carried out by the end of July.

BEEKEEPING AND BEE INFORMATION

From time to time we are all asked for information on bees and beekeeping, particularly as the subject is very topical at the moment. If you are approached, why not direct them to the following websites: Avon <http://www.avonbeekeepers.co.uk/> ; BBKA <http://www.britishbee.org.uk> and; BEEBASE <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

British Beekeepers Association Spring Convention The BBKA Spring Convention will be held at Stoneleigh Park from **15-17 April 2011**. There are more than 50 lectures, workshops and courses in the current programme. Visit the BBKA website for more details: <http://www.britishbee.org.uk>

Bath & West Show: Bees & Honey Marquee 1-4 June 2011.

Beekeepers from all over the South West of England can be found in the marquee on Woodland Avenue. As usual we are looking for volunteers to help out on the ABKA stand in the marquee. In return for helping for a morning or an afternoon in the marquee you will receive a free ticket for the day (£20 at pre-show price) and have the rest of the day to do as you please. Contact Phil Clemente (by E-mail: nerja5@hotmail.com. or phone 01275 879697 or 0795 785841) or Ian Preece (phone 01823 412462) to volunteer to help out in the marquee, or to find out more. It could also provide you with an opportunity to sell some of your honey or bee products if you have any to sell.

The closing date for entries in the honey section is unfortunately before the end of March. You can now enter on line or their website www.bathandwest.com/bath-west/97 and click on schedules to view classes or on line entry. Alternatively details are available from the organisers by phoning the special number 01749 822214.

Bristol Open Honey Show – Following the success of last years Open Honey Show Bristol branch are organising the 2011 Honey Show at the Botanic Gardens 2-4 September 2011 – more information to follow

TRAINING COURSES

ABKA Spring Day School. Saturday 2nd April 2011, 1000–1700 at the Old School Room, South Parade, Chew Magna BS40 8SH. The current programme is:

1015 Nectar robbing by bees	Nick Charlton, PHD
1115 A Bee Inspector at large	Megan Seymour
1215 Lunch	
1400 The enemies of honey	Robin Lewis
1530 Searching for varroa tolerant honeybees	Ron Hoskins

There is **no charge** for this event. All members are welcome subject to booking. Soft drinks, coffee & teas will be available; with donations to 'Bees for Development'. **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** – Please book your place before the day as attendance is limited to 60. Contact Brian Steadman to register. Tel.: Evenings/weekend 01179 445741 or e-mail: bsteadman@blueyonder.co.uk

Contributions can be sent to the editor electronically – n.r.redman@btinternet.com or by post - 51 Sandyleaze, Bristol, BS9 3PZ