



Feb 2010

BEE ADVISED

the AVON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION NEWS SHEET

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

“EX CATHEDRA. My time in the chair is coming to an end as I have served for the maximum three-year period. This, my second time around has been much more "interesting" than the first. Times have changed and in the last decade or so Avon has taken its educational role much more seriously, fulfilling our charitable remit with various projects, some of which were quite innovative and were admired and copied in far flung places.

I hope that you will give the next incumbent lots of support and look upon Avon as a homogenous and vital unit. I recently heard someone, who might have thought a little more on the matter, say "WHAT DOES AVON DO FOR US?" This gave me a "Monty Python " moment and although we have not contributed a single viaduct or drainage system to society as whole, in matters of branch cohesion, enablement, administration, education, advice and representation, the executive has given very good value for the cost to the member.

I would like to thank the members of the ABKA and Branch committees for their help and support, especially to Julie Young who also has to stand down after serving for three years as our Honorary General Secretary.

My very best wishes to you all for 2010 and may your bees prosper.”

David Maslen - Chairman ABKA

BRANCH SECS

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ABKA AGM

Members of Avon Beekeepers Association are invited to the 36th Annual General Meeting to be held at 14.30 on Saturday 27th March 2010 at St Lukes Church Centre, Wellsway, Bath, BA2 2BD. You will all be sent an AGM booklet with the agenda, reports, and minutes of the last meeting in good time for the AGM.

Election of Officers for 2010/11 -The Executive Committee would be most pleased to hear from volunteers to fill the offices shown below. The Executive Committee has nominated the candidates named and nominations will also be accepted before the AGM or from the floor at the AGM.

- Chairman*
- Hon. General Secretary*
- Education Secretary - Allen Coates*
- Millennium equipment Secretary - David Maslen*

Voting will take place should there be more than one candidate for any vacancy. Should you as an individual member of the Association wish to volunteer, or nominate a person, who agrees that they are prepared to stand for a particular office, please advise the Hon. General Secretary, Julie Young, or the Chairman, David Maslen, by email <mailto:dmaslen44@googlemail.com> before the meeting.

If you wish to discuss the work any role involves or the help that will be available please contact David Maslen on 01179 584 223.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ABKA Summer Day School. Saturday 5 June 2010,10.00–17.00 at The Old School Room South Parade, Chew Magna, BS40 8SH. There is no charge for this event. **BOOKING 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 More information can be found on the ABKA website

British Beekeepers Association Spring Convention Stoneleigh, 16-18 April 2010. Visit the BBKA website for more details: www.britshbeekeepers.com

Bath & West Show: Bees & Honey Marquee 2-5 June 2010.

Beekeepers from all over the South West of England can be found in the marquee on Woodland Avenue.

As usual Ian Preece is looking for volunteers to help out in the marquee. In return for doing a morning or an afternoon in the marquee you will receive a free ticket for the day (£17 at pre-show price) and have the rest of the day to do as you please. ABKA will have its own stand in the bee marquee. Contact Phil Clemente (by E-mail: nerja5@hotmail.com or phone 01275 879697 or 0795 785841) or Ian Preece (on 01823 412462) to volunteer to help out in the marquee, or to find out more.

The closing date for entries in the honey section is unfortunately very early - 23rd March 2010. You can now enter on line or their website www.bathandwest.com 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 Honey Show – Bristol branch are in the throes of organising an open Honey Show at the Botanic Gardens on the August Bank Holiday weekend – more information to follow

TRAINING COURSES

Free ABKA Seminar –Saturday 6 March 2010: 11.00 – 17.00 Old School Room, (change in the earlier venue and next to Millennium Hall), Chew Magna, BS40 8SH. Content:

- 11.00 - Legal aspects of working with children and vulnerable adults – Naomi Saliem.
- 14.00 - Teaching techniques for speakers and demonstrators – Lucy Fieldhouse

To book your place contact Dave Maslen 0117 9584223 or <mailto:dmaslen44@googlemail.com>

Free Talks (hosted by Keynsham & District Branch)

Management of Bees: Sunday 21 March 2010, 14.00- 15.30 - Speaker D Maslen

Swarming: Sunday 28 March 2010, 14.00- 15.30 - Speaker D Maslen

Both talks will be held at the Delmar Hall, Horseworld, Keynes Farm, Bristol, BS14 0QL (Note: this is not the Visitor Centre at Horseworld)

To book a place; contact your local branch secretary by February 27. Branch secretaries are asked to coordinate a list of their members wishing to attend and forward this to the Keynsham & District Secretary by 5 March.

HANDY TIP Spring is around the corner and hopefully your bees have survived the winter. However, they may need your help. On a nice mild day, when there is no wind and bees are flying, you can have a quick peek inside your hive. It's best not to remove the frames. Just have a look-see under the cover. If you do not see any sealed honey in the top frames, you may need to begin some emergency feeding. This is the time to provide them with some quick and easily accessible food as available nectar is still scarce. But remember, once you start, you should not stop until they are bringing in their own food supplies. Wait until the weather has warmed up to remove the cover.

There are two options. Fill a standard honey jar with sugar to the shoulder of the jar, add hot water and stir constantly until the sugar is dissolved. Puncture the lid with a nail 6/8 times (so the jagged edges are on the inside of the lid). When it is cool invert it above the feeder hole in the crown board. Give it a week and see if it is all gone. If so, repeat. Don't give them too much as the sugar may ferment.

Option two is a safer method. Puncture a small hole (finger tip size) in the face of a bag of sugar and invert it in water so that the sugar is damp. Place the bag, hole side down, either on the top of the brood frames or above the feeder hole in the crown board if the bees are up that high. You may need to put an empty 'super' on top. Check every two weeks – the bag may appear full but might be empty inside. If empty repeat until the bees are flying and bringing in their own nectar.

LOST or STRAYED. Model National Hive, 1/2 size scale model marked ABKA. Part of our Millennium Equipment. If you borrowed this for a demonstration and are inadvertently storing it on behalf of ABKA. Please contact D Maslen (01179584223) to arrange for it to be returned.

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