



May 2010

BEE ADVISED

the
AVON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION NEWS SHEET

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

I was surprised to be asked to stand for the position as Chairman of Avon Beekeepers Association and to be elected. I am following a formidable group of previous Chairmen.

Avon has always been held in high regard by the British Beekeepers Association and it is important that it remains so; it is an important link between the beekeeper, the branch and the BBKA. At a time of difficulty for bees and an increased public awareness of beekeeping, reflected in our recruitment numbers, it is imperative that we offer all beekeepers as much help by way of training that we can. I have served Bath Branch over many years as Committee Member, Chairman and Treasurer. I am supported at Avon by a strong committee and by enthusiasm at branch level. I wish you all lots of good weather, strong bees and plenty of honey.

Peter Clements - Chairman ABKA

BRANCH SECS Bath

Glenys Lunt
01225 866400

Blagdon & Clevedon

David Welham
01934 852361

Bristol

Rachel McEntee
0117 9594245

Keynsham

Jerry Watkins
01275 832067

Weston

Ann Westwood
01934 624092

ABKA AGM

The 36th Annual General Meeting was held on 27th March. The presentation 'Are current problems really that new?' from Pam Hunter was very interesting and well received. Thank you to our hosts (Bath branch) for providing an excellent tea. The business of the AGM was concluded quickly with no contentious issues raised or discussed. Membership continues to grow; Avon has seen a rise of approximately 20% in beekeepers since 2009 with a membership total of 320 at the time of going to press.

For 2010/2011 the ABKA Executive will consist of:

President & delegate to SWJCC - Tom Salter

Chairman – Peter Clements

Hon Treasurer – Tony Davies

Hon General Secretary – Jane Goodwin

Delegate to BBKA ADM – Ivor Davis

Publications and Public Relations Officer – Neil Redman

Education Officer – Allen Coates

Millennium Equipment Secretary - David Maslen

Branch Delegates: Bath – Trevor Curry; Blagdon – Bob South; Bristol – Phillip Booth; Keynsham – Paula Pimble; Weston – Brenda Davies.

BRANCH EDUCATION OFFICERS

The Executive committee recommends that each branch nominate a person to act as Branch Education Officer. This would provide a single point of contact for liaison with Allen Coates (ABKA Education Officer) regarding Branch educational needs and provide a nominated holder of the BBKA training material being purchased by ABKA for each branch. Requests for assistance with coaching/preparation for the 'Basic Assessment' examination should be coordinated with Allen Coates. This particularly applies where Avon members external to each branch are conducting the coaching/preparation as it leads to exempting those who have carried out coaching from being assessors for the examination.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Don't forget to support the ABKA stand if you intend going to the Bath and West show.

Bristol Open Honey Festival: Bristol branch have organised an Open Honey Festival at the University of Bristol Botanic Gardens on 28, 29 and 30 August 2010. There will be 16 classes – The entrant gaining the most points will be awarded the 'Bristol Silver Queen'. You can download a schedule of classes and entry form on the Bristol website: <http://www.bristolbeekeepers.org.uk/> Closing date for entries is 26 July 2010 For further information contact the Show Secretary, Phil Booth tel: 07810 707807 or email: showsec@bristolbeekeepers.org.uk



The Bristol Silver Queen

Bath Branch will have a presence at various village shows: Marshfield on 21st August; Wellow on 4th September; Clutton on 14th August,

Blagdon & Clevedon Branch will be organising a honey show at both the Portishead Show on Friday 30 & Saturday 31 July at 10.00 and the Winscombe Show on Saturday 11 Sept at 14:00. Please visit the Avon website and follow the links to the Blagdon and Clevedon branch for more information and the schedule of honey classes.

Bristol Branch Garden Party and Auction: 3 July 2010. All Avon Beekeepers are invited. Food and drink provided. Raffle prizes and food donations appreciated. Plant sales. All proceeds to branch funds. 10.00 set up; 12.00 registration of sale items; 14.00 auction of bee equipment. Apiary is located at the Orchard at 328 Passage Road, Brentry, BS10 7TE. Please park on Passage Road **not** on the site.

Bristol Branch will have a stand at the Westbury on Trym Flower Show on 11 September, 11:00-1730.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THE BRANCHES AT THESE FUNCTIONS

TRAINING COURSES

ABKA Summer Day School: Saturday 5 June 2010, 10.00–17.00 at The Old School Room South Parade, Chew Magna, BS40 8SH. Please arrive 30 minutes before the start for registration. **STILL PLACES AVAILABLE** – If you haven't already 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 For more information go to the ABKA website

2011 Introduction to Beekeeping Day Course: Course over 3 Saturdays - Course fee £60 Provisional Dates Saturdays: January 29th, February 5th and 12th: 10.00 - 16.30 pm. Venue: Millennium Hall, Chew Magna, BS40 8SH. For further information on the course please contact: Brian Steadman Tel.: Evenings/weekend 01179 445741. e-mail: bsteadman@blueyonder.co.uk Final reservations and payment accepted from 1 November 2010

2011 Introduction to Bee Keeping Evening Course: 10 Monday evenings 17 January – 21 March 2011, 19.30 – 21.30 hrs; Churchill Memorial Hall, Ladymead Lane, Churchill, BS25 5NH. Course Fee: £60. The course will be held on consecutive Mondays. For further details: Please contact the Course Secretary, Wendy Welham. Tel: 01934 852361 Email: w.welham@talktalk.net

As both previous "Introduction" courses have been fully booked, prior booking is essential.

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