



Oct 2009

BEE ADVISED

the AVON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION NEWS SHEET

A message from our Chairman

"Notwithstanding the size of my moustache I would like to adapt and use a quote from Lord Kitchener – YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU. I know you all belong to local branches and enjoy the camaraderie, tea and cakes at your branch/apiary meetings however the ABKA needs your support and assistance. Apiculture has become something of a challenge and is a lot more technical than it once was. As beekeepers we need to deal with varroa destructor, oil seed rape, nosema ceranae, uncertain weather, loss of forage to name but a few. Today the apiarist needs knowledge and skill as well as luck and grim determination. We also have a growing membership. Avon needs an organisation to coordinate and promulgate education and communication within our area – hence the ABKA. However like many organisations we are only as good as the 'volunteers' who give up their time to help. My message is for you all to attend the AGMs of your branches and of Avon and if suited take responsibility for a role. The ABKA executive has a vacancy (see below). We have had positions that have been unfilled for over 12 months and several officers have served their three-year term, which will require replacements to be identified and elected. Your association needs you because it cannot function without you. "

David Maslen - Chairman ABKA

Branch Secs

Bath

Glenys Lunt
01225 866400

Blagdon & Clevedon

Denis Sims
01934 732244

Bristol

Rachel McEntee
0117 9594245

Keynsham

Jerry Watkins
01275 832067

Weston

Ann Westwood
01934 624092

Situations Vacant

The ABKA executive has a vacancy for an Education Officer whose role is:

- To communicate and coordinate with the BBKA Education secretary
- Coordinate the provision of training such as 'the introduction to beekeeping' and 'the basic assessment' courses
- Maintain a link between the BBKA examination board advising on beekeeping examinations to support the needs of ABKA members
- Advise on how to improve training
- Maintain a record of training material available to our members.

We are seeking a 'volunteer' who has completed their 'basic assessment', is an experienced beekeeper and who is prepared to give up their time to attend 4 executive meetings a year as well as carry out the tasks of the position. Please advise your branch secretary or contact David Maslen if you are interested in this position.

Forthcoming events

The beekeeping year is coming to an end so the forthcoming events in this issue are primarily the dates of the various AGMs.

Bath – AGM, Saturday 7 November 1430, St Luke's Hall, Wellsway.

Blagdon & Clevedon - AGM, Saturday 28 November 1400, Churchill Memorial Hall.

Bristol - AGM & Honey show, Saturday 21 November 1115 (set up and entries at 1000), Bishopston Church of the Good Shepherd Hall. Wassail at Honeycombe farm 24 January 2010.

Keynsham – AGM, Thursday 26 19.30, Delmar Hall HorseWorld Staunton Lane Whitchurch BS14 0QL. Demonstration and display of the Beehaus range of hives, normal business & buffet.

Weston Super Mare - Wednesday 11th November 1930, 2 Leewood Road, WSM

ABKA – AGM 27 March, St Luke's Hall, Wellsway

Training Courses

ABKA 2010 Introduction to beekeeping - Course over 3 Saturdays - January 30th, February 6th and 13th: 10.00 am-4.30 pm. Venue - Millennium Hall, Chew Magna, BS40 8SH. Course fee £50. *Editors Note: This course is now full*

Introduction to Bee Keeping – (This course provides an alternative timetable and also accommodates the overflow of the 3 day ABKA course above). Course of 10 Monday evenings. From 18th January 2010. The course is on Monday evenings for 10 consecutive weeks at Churchill School, Churchill Green, BS25 5QN, 19:00 - 21:00. Course Fee £88.00.

Further details can be obtained from the Weston College website www.weston.ac.uk. The Bee Keeping courses are in the General Interest section of the Weston College Learning and Training Guide page 99: Course Code NF5E2NEACH.

Learn to teach Bee Keepers - Friday 30th October 2009. This is an all day course at Nailsea Centre, Somerset Square, Nailsea, BS48 1RP 9:00-16:30. Course Fee £45.00. *Editors Note: This course has unfortunately been cancelled. Would any ABKA members be interested in a similar course in the Avon area, to be run at cost? Please contact the editor if you are interested and if we have enough nominations a course may be arranged.*

BBKA Module 1 (Honeybee Management) – A Study Group is to be run by Dr Ivor Davis NDB at Shipham Memorial Hall Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on 19th January, 2nd & 16th February and 2nd & 16th March. For more information contact Ivor on 01934 832825. It would be a useful refresher and extension of knowledge for beginners, taking the Module examination is optional.

Subscriptions At the ABKA Executive meeting in September it was agreed that beginner members who join on the introduction courses or at the start of the season with the intention of keeping bees during the active season will join as a Country Member. They will get all circular notices and information and the BBKA News. When they receive their bees they will be able to upgrade to Full BBKA Registered Member at no additional subscription charge during the season. Thus at the time they receive their bees they will be fully covered against third party claims and loss of bees due to foul brood diseases.

Please remember your subscriptions become payable immediately after confirmation of the total subscription at your branch AGM. Your payment must be received by 31st January or your registration with BBKA will be cancelled and all your benefits, including insurance, will cease immediately.

Handy tip Give your smoker an 'end of season' treat, taking due notice of 'health and safety' requirements as you do it. Remove the bellows from the smoker. De-coke the nozzle and the grate with a blowtorch by applying the flame to the black tar coating the inside. Keep blasting away until the tar glows a fiery orange and then turns to a powdery ash. Once the smoker cools you can easily knock the ash out of the smoker. Spray the outside of the smoker with oven cleaner. Rinse off the oven cleaner and your smoker will look like new. If you cannot remove the bellows take care to ensure that you do not get any oven cleaner on the bellows themselves. Check the bellows as the flexible material can deteriorate if it is plastic coated by cracking or de-laminating. Cracked bellows can lead to poor efficacy. If your bellows are tired they can often be repaired with a little patience and a modest tool kit. If the bellows cannot be repaired then you may have to get new bellows or replace the smoker.



WANNA BUY SOME BEES?