

Somerset Bee-keepers' Association NEWSLETTER



© Stewart Gould

The harvest is in

And it's not a patch on last year. Some were fortunate enough to have an early harvest, but for many there has been just the main crop. Even Radio 4's weatherman called it a funny old summer.

The National bee unit have issued a warning about possible starvation after harvesting, and a bee collecting water when the weather has not been warm enough to warrant it being used to cool the hive, means that it will be used for diluting stores. So the message is simple. Feed, feed, feed.



Issue123

Autumn 2015

www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOW 2015

Sadly the death of Ian Preece was announced on 1st May. He was for many years a Steward at the Show, responsible for the layout of the Marquee and, despite a new location and a new marquee, he would have been proud of the new setup demonstration which was much appreciated by the public.

The help and hard work put in by all the Somerset members prior to the Show in setting up and again dismantling, was much appreciated. I think even our Chairman Jonathan Friend and his wife Elizabeth enjoyed themselves. Many thanks too to all the Stewards who interacted with the public whilst manning the many stalls during the Show. It is hoped that they enjoyed themselves enough to offer their help again next year!

The children's area was very much improved by the help and experience of David Moore who received many congratulations for the design and layout of the display of the drawings.

For the last two years Somerset has won the County Shield. However, it was felt that it was Wiltshire's turn this year! And again, grateful thanks to all members who entered exhibits into the Show. Mark Gullick of Burnham won the Horstman Cup, for most points in classes 5 – 10, 2 jars Light, Medium, Dark, Soft Set, Heather and 3 jars for sale. Gail Johnson won the cup for classes 37 – 39, Light, Medium and Soft Set honey. She also won the South West County Cup, again for classes 37 – 39. Congratulations to them both.

As in previous years the Somerset County Stand was very much admired by the public and members alike. Thanks must be given to the team, Jackie Mosedale, Queen Bridget Knutson, Stewart Gould and Gerald Fisher, who were responsible for the planning and putting the Stand together.

Once again my thanks to everyone involved, stewards, helpers and exhibitors, who all contributed to the success of this year's excellent Show.

Ken Tredgett

South East Division Disease And Husbandry Day 13 June 2015

Simon Jones, South West Regional Bee Inspector from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), together with his four seasonal Inspectors, gave fifty of us a very rewarding day learning about bee diseases at Ansford Academy.

After registration, refreshments and an introductory talk, we split into four groups to rotate around the four workshops. These covered:

1. Varroa controls – the problems caused by this mite and the methods available for its control. Eradication unfortunately seems unlikely
2. Small Hive Beetle – its biology and control together with an update on the Asian Hornet in Europe
3. Apiary hygiene and how to carry out inspections for foul brood and exotic pests
4. Lastly, donning disposable aprons and gloves, a hands-on workshop with instruction on how to identify diseased combs and the use of the lateral flow device. A quiz followed to test our knowledge of the main bee diseases. This left some of us thinking we had more work to do on this subject and brought home the importance of having bee diseases insurance (BDI).

Everyone seemed very glad they came and we all learned something new.

Our thanks go to Simon Jones and his colleagues for arranging such an instructive day, Ansford Academy for allowing us the use of their wonderful facilities (including the school apiary), and BDI for their continued support and advice.

Carole Kimberley
(South East Division)

Sweet success for Taunton beekeepers' president



Taunton beekeepers' president Jenny Gammon, along with husband Sid, scooped seven trophies in the Somerset and Taunton honey shows. Jenny and Sid's skills with the products of the hive ranged from first placed pots of honey to blocks of wax, dipped candles and even photography. Judy Crosher from Brompton Ralph, West Somerset, was awarded the blue ribbon for the best exhibit in Show with a stunning floral arrangement featuring some of the bees' favourite plants and Mike Dillon from Wellington won the novice trophy.

More than 40 classes attracted hundreds of entries from beekeepers throughout the county who went head-to-head in a vibrant demonstration of how the ancient craft is still flourishing today.

The competitions are part of the popular bees and honey feature run by Taunton beekeepers, and this year they also hosted the county honey show at Taunton Flower Show on Friday and Saturday (August 7th and 8th).

Neil Trood, who has been organising the Honey Show for nearly 30 years, said he was particularly impressed by the interest from visitors. “The plight of the honeybee and other pollinators is pretty well known now,” he said. “And the public is very keen to do its bit to help bees survive whether that’s filling their gardens with plants that produce lots of nectar and pollen and avoiding using insecticides to signing up for one of our beginners courses in the spring.” Neil added his thanks to all the exhibitors and everyone who helped create and run the very busy marquee.

Thousands of visitors enjoyed an unrivalled display in a beautiful marquee full of honey tasting, information on keeping bees, bee-friendly plants and candle rolling for children. An observation hive, where bees are displayed behind glass, and an outdoor demonstration area, which is screened by protective netting, gave visitors plenty of opportunity to see honeybees at work.

2015 Somerset County Honey Show Results

The Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit in Show was awarded to:-

Judy Crosher

Somerset County Cups:**Jubilee Cup - Sid & Jenny Gammon****Miss M.D. Bindley Cup - Sid & Jenny Gammon****Terry Arnold Perpetual Challenge Trophy - Maggie North****The Duffin Challenge Trophy - Sid & Jenny Gammon****The Clifford Langford Award for Mead - Graham Welfare**

Class 1 Two lb jars or light honey - 1st Mike Dillon, 2nd Bridget Knutson, 3rd David Pearce

Class 2 Two lb jars of medium honey - 1st Sid & Jenny Gammon, 2nd David Pearce, 3rd David Sanderson

Class 3 Two lb jars of dark honey - 1st Maggie North

Class 4 Two lb jars of naturally crystallised honey - 1st Bridget Knutson, 2nd Graham Welfare

Class 5 Two lb jars of soft set honey - 1st David Pearce, 2nd not awarded, 3rd Graham Welfare

Class 6 Two lb jars of heather honey - 1st not awarded, 2nd Graham Welfare

Class 7 Three lb jar of identical honey any colour - 1st Suzy Perkins, 2nd Sid & Jenny Gammon, 3rd David Pearce

Class 8 One bottle of dry mead - 1st not awarded, 2nd Graham Welfare

Class 9 Bottle of sweet mead - 1st Suzy Perkins, 2nd Graham Welfare, 3rd Mary Adams

Class 11 One shallow comb of honey suitable for extracting - 1st Mary Adams, 2nd Bridget Knutson, 3rd Suzy Perkins

Class 12 One cake of wax - 1st Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 13 Composite - 1st not awarded, 2nd Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 14 Artistic/decorative exhibit relating to beekeeping - 1st Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 15 Artistic/decorative relating to beekeeping - 1st David Pearce, 2nd Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 16 Observation hive - 1st Anne Halpin & Adam Robbins

Class 18 Novice one 1lb jar of honey - 1st Mike Dillon

Class 19 Competitor's own choice - sugar craft with beekeeping theme - 1st Maggie North

Class 20 Honey fruit cake - 1st Maggie North, 2nd Mary Adams, 3rd J. Trood

Class 21 Cornish Fairings - 1st Judy Crosher, 2nd Mary Adams, 3rd Maggie North

Class 22 Honey & banana tea bread - 1st Suzy Perkins, 2nd J Trood, 3rd Maggie North

Class 23 Three photographs in a single mount - 1st Sid & Jenny Gammon, 2nd Judy Crosher, 3rd Anne Halpin & Adam Robbins

Class 24 Single photograph - 1st Suzy Perkins, 2nd Anne Halpin & Adam Robbins

Class 26 One decorative wax object - 1st Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 27 Display of beeswax flowers - 2nd Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 27 Display of bees wax flowers - 1st not awarded, 2nd Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 28 Beeswax furniture polish - 1st Bridget Knutson, 2nd Anne Halpin & Adam Robbins, 3rd Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 29 Two moulded beeswax candles - 1st Anne Pike, 2nd Sid & Jenny Gammon, 3rd David Sanderson

Class 30 Two dipped candles - 1st Sid & Jenny Gammon

Class 31 Honeybee fudge - 1st Judy Crosher

Exmoor Beekeepers' Honey Show

Saturday October 3rd 2015

Free Entry

Come to Porlock (Methodist Hall) and have a day out in beautiful Porlock and enjoy the Exmoor Honey Show. Entries (free) should be in place by 10 am before being judged. During the morning Eleanor Burgess will give a demonstration. In the afternoon (at 2.30pm) Celia Davis will give her talk 'Nuc it!'. Entry forms and more details are available from Lance Moir (lancemoir@gmail.com)

National Honey Show - St. George's College, Weybridge, Surrey
29th 31st October

Preparations for the show are well under way and we look forward to seeing you all there again this year, plus all newcomers. We hope you'll find something among the 240+ classes to inspire you to try for one of those gleaming trophies. The Schedule should be on the website soon and members will find it on their doormats shortly.

The **NEW** National Honey Show website www.honeyshow.co.uk is now up and running, so you'll be able to find all the information you need about the show there.

Many PDFs to help you with your entries can be downloaded from our new web shop at £2.50 each.

Our speakers for this year are:

Deborah Delaney, University of Delaware in Newark, where she mentors four graduate students working on various aspects of pollinator health and productivity

Juliana Rangel, Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University. Her research program focuses on (1) the biological and environmental factors that affect the reproductive health of honey bee queens and drones, (2) the genetic diversity of feral honey bees in unmanaged habitats across the US, and (3) the identification and nutritional value of floral sources collected by honey bees in urban environments.

Ben Harden NDB from Ireland will talk about Bees in Winter

Professor Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology (Evolution, Behaviour and Environment) at the University of Sussex, specialising in the ecology and conservation of bumblebees.

Professor Robert Pickard is Emeritus Professor of Neurobiology at the University of Cardiff will talk about Queens he has known.

As well as our usual programme of lectures, there will be the additional Bee Craft lectures on Friday, and lectures for those fairly new to beekeeping on Saturday.

Our on line booking system can be accessed at <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/workshop-booking.php>

Many thanks,

Val

NHS Publicity Sec

nationalhoneyshownews@gmail.com

Poetry

We have had a request from a creative poetry society asking if we would like poems about bees for inclusion in our newsletter. We have also received the following offering. Please let me know if you would like more poems like this.

The Bee

*What a marvellous gift of nature is the bee
 Fills the hive with honey for us to see
 Never stings unless you get in their way
 They die when they do what a price to pay
 Man could do to watch how hard they all work
 And do like the bee for they never shirk
 See the honey is sealed in such a professional way
 For the winter it's stored so all that hard work will pay*

Mrs R Reddish (Burnham division)

Training Aids

We all know that there is some excruciatingly bad footage available online, primarily from American beekeepers and their first hive, but if you would like some excellent video, try this offering from National Geographic. 'Bees hatch before your eyes' is just excellent. To download or



watch, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6mJ7e5YmnE>. If you need a video or photograph for teaching purposes, please let me know, as I have a library of similar quality videos and photographs.

editor

Honey Regulations 2015

New honey regulations came into force on 24th June this year. Although they have not changed significantly, it is good to remember that they are enforceable by law. There is a fair amount of honey on the shelves of shops (some supplied by our members) which does not comply.

These are the basic legal requirements:-

1. The Word "HONEY" must be included on the label
2. The weight must be on the label in grams. You may also add lbs and ounces, but if you do, this must be after the metric weight and less prominent.
3. It is considered that the minimum height for lettering of the metric weight on a 454g jar should be 4mm.
4. You can specify the area where the honey is produced - for example, Lincolnshire, Forest of Dean, Somerset or Combe Florey.
5. You can specify the type of honey - for example, Heather, Borage, oilseed rape provided the honey is primarily from that source. *(The 75% figure often referred to is erroneous)*
5. When selling your honey, you must have your name and address on the label. It does not need to be complete, but you should be able to be found from the information provided.
6. If you are selling your honey through a third party, you must have a lot number.
7. You must have a best before date on the jar. 2-5 years from bottling is deemed acceptable.
8. You must have a country of origin on the jar - for example Produce of UK, Produce of England, Produce of Scotland, Harvested in Wales. Adding the country to the end of your address is not acceptable.
9. Any image on the jar should not be misleading - for example, only show flowers if you are sure that they represent the origin of the honey.

Please also remember, whether you are in agreement or not, that it is against the law to sell honey, other than in new jars with new lids. Please also remember to wash and sterilize your jars and lids before filling.

Dates for your Diary



Saturday 19 th Sept - 1.00pm	Somerton Division	Honey Show & Farmers' Market, Long Sutton Village Hall
Saturday 3 rd October	Exmoor Division	Exmoor Honey Show, Porlock Methodist Hall
Friday 9 th October - 7.30pm	Frome Division	AGM - venue TBA
Thursday 22 nd October - 7.30pm	Burnham Division	AGM & Honey competition, Watchfield Village Hall
Friday October 23 rd - 7.30pm	Mendip Division	AGM, Chilcompton Church Hall, BA3 4HP
Saturday October 24 th - 2.30pm	South East Division	AGM & Honey Show, Charlton Musgrove Village Hall
Friday November 13 th - 7.00pm	Exmoor Division	AGM, Townsend House, Minehead
Saturday 4 th November	Taunton Division	AGM, Divisional apiary
Tuesday 17 th November	Yeovil Division	AGM , plus show of honey, venue TBA
Thursday 19 th November - 7.30pm	Somerton Division	AGM, Somerton Parish Rooms
Friday November 21 st ? - 7.30pm	Quantock Division	AGM - Venue TBA
Tuesday November 25 th	Central Division	AGM - Earth Science Centre, Stoke St Michael

Members are welcome to attend the meetings of any SBKA division, but it is suggested that you check with the host or secretary as the time or venue may have changed. Further details are often available on the website or divisional newsletters. This list is taken from the Yearbook and may have changed or been added to since it was originally published.

Your news items

News items are occasionally sent for publication, but these come mainly from only one or two sources . If you would like the rest of the county to know what your division is up to, please let the editor know in plenty of time for publication. The sheer welter of apiary visits during the summer precludes including them. To include one, would mean including them all, but there are definitely other things going on.

Somerset is one of the most active beekeeping counties in the country, yet we seem to be reluctant to share our enthusiasm with the world.

editor

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The newsletter is also available on the SBKA
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Copy deadline for next newsletter:
28th August 2015

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