



CBKA Newsletter

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www.teesbees.co.uk

Help Help Help Help Help
Cleveland Beekeepers Association
urgently need your help.

Honey Show Secretary required.

No knowledge of bees, beekeeping,
honey or honey showing is necessary.

The task is to act as Cleveland Beekeeper's Association Show Secretary
and to help organise the annual Honey Show.

The Honey Show Secretary is a member of the CBKA Committee
and receives maximum help from all the Committee members.

The duties include:-

- 1, Liaising with the Cleveland Show Secretary and secretaries of other show sections via a series of meetings to help with the smooth running of the Main Cleveland Show.
- 2, Distribution of the Cleveland Show schedules once a year.
- 3, Receipt of the entry forms and fees from intending exhibitors.
- 4, Distribution of Show entry labels to intending exhibitors.
- 5, If possible, assisting other members with setting up the show benches on the Friday night prior to the show.
- 6, A presence at the Cleveland Show on Show day.
- 7, Collection and distribution of prize monies.
- 8, Report to the Cleveland Show Secretary on the success of the Honey Show.
- 9, Report to the CBKA Annual General Meeting each October.

Any person willing to help or for further information please contact
Sal Mancina (01642 701621) or Ian Brown (01287 632851)

It's not usual to issue a Newsletter in the summer months, but circumstances demanded that we try to fill a 'hole' in the committee this year. Over the years several folks have successfully filled the post of Honey Show Secretary. The first that I remember was Arthur Briggs way back in the early 1970's. Sadly he died an early death after holding the post for many years. Arthur was followed by John Thornton who did the job for two or three years before having to move to Cheshire with his Company. Albert Pyke took over for three years followed by our very own Barrie Bloom. He had a long successful reign of at least 10/12 years (I think), during which time the show numbers increased dramatically to well over a hundred entries each year. Barrie was followed by Bill Wilkinson who held the post for a further ten years, again very successfully, until he retired in 2005. Sadly we have not been able to persuade anyone to take over the post permanently since then.

The honey show is Cleveland Beekeeper's shop window on the world and several new beekeepers have been recruited to the 'sport' as a direct result of visiting 'some' show, whether in Cleveland or elsewhere. In addition many members of the public see, for the first time in their lives, real honeybees and real honey. It's impossible to remember all the comments made by visitors to the show when they see honeybees for the first time. For though honeybees exist in very large numbers in all our gardens and parks, few folks are ever aware of them, and fewer still have ever realised the importance of the bees to the whole of life in general. Sadly many folks rush for the nearest rolled up newspaper if a bee fly's near them, for too many people confuse a honeybee with a wasp (and you shouldn't even swat them - but that's another story). It's equally impossible to remember how many people, on seeing the range of honey's on show, can't come to terms with all the different colours and flavours and types of honey available. Honey tasting is an integral part of the Honey Show with numerous folks tasting it for the first time in their (sometimes) long lives. Children, who may never have had the opportunity to taste honey, frequently try an Oliver Twist and ask for 'more'.

So the Show is more than just a Show, it's an education for both adults and children, and children come in all ages from 9 to 99 and they all ask the same questions, some are exceedingly humorous too. Children are the beekeepers of tomorrow, we help ourselves by talking to them.

We have to consider ourselves lucky to have had such dedicated persons in the role of Honey Show Secretary for so long in the past and we thank them all, and I feel sure we can persuade someone to accept the post now - please don't be shy. There no payment except free entry to the show and a jar or two of honey if your not a beekeeper plus the grateful thanks of everyone involved.

Looking through the past copies of the Newsletter it is difficult to find a period when the weather has been so consistently poor for beekeeping. After a very wet and cold autumn, a very variable winter and now a cold spring our bees may well be suffering. We have had a few days of warm weather recently but beekeepers should be watching for signs of starvation amongst their bees during the next few days if this weather does not warm up appreciably. Queens will have begun egg laying long ago and nothing consumes food faster than a hive full of larva. Spring is always a testing time for bees, this one more than most. The cold east wind will inhibit bees foraging even though the fields are burgeoning with ubiquitous rape as far as the eye can see and have we ever seen the May or Hawthorn blossom looking so wonderful. Tell-tale signs are larva being thrown out of the hive front, bees reluctant to fly on warm days or colonies just not building up as fast as they should. Heft your hives and feed if there's any doubt regarding food stores.

You will all have received a petition form from the BBKA along with your April issue of BBKA News which requests the government to increase the funding for honeybee research. It will not be difficult to find sufficient friends, relatives and others to sign it, for most people have heard of the difficulties facing bees and they are usually willing to help. I have had an Email form BBKA telling me that "*The petition will remain open throughout the show season ---we have more than 15,000 signatures in house as of Friday 23 May, so all is going well*". So keep at it and continue to get as many signatures as you can - every single one counts and we may then be able to persuade the Government to help.

The meeting on the 18th of May at the apiary was very successful with several new beekeepers attending. Though the weather was dry it was windy and not very warm so it was necessary to get into the hives and get out again quickly. Rob, Sal and Unal have done an excellent job of setting it all up and I feel everyone appreciated their efforts, though I am convinced they would welcome more help. The next outdoor meeting is scheduled for Sunday the 22nd June and will be held at Bill and Judy Wilkinson's, Staindale Lodge, Pickton at 2-30pm. You are all invited and particularly our beginners, to whom it gives an opportunity to see a hive opened by an experienced beekeeper. Please 'phone 01642 701006 to let Bill and Judy know you will be there

Just space to remind you of the forthcoming Cleveland Show 26th July, the Stokesley Show 20th September and the Gateshead Show 1st August, do please support them for a lot of effort by many people goes into their production. I have copies of the Gateshead Show Schedule for anyone that's interested in going there. Do all you can to help on the day too, they need you.

Kindest regards to you all,



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