



CBKA Newsletter

October 2014

Year 29/ 2. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

Chairman's Note

This is my second and last yearly report as chairman and I am pleased to report that we have had another good year for beekeeping due again to some excellent weather throughout most of the year. Swarms were reported very early in the Spring and we had reports of new colonies swarming again very soon after becoming established. Perhaps the bees were aware we were heading for a good summer and

THE BEEKEEPING YEAR

Autumn



Feed and Treat the bees against various ills

we were keen to make increase whilst the weather remained good.

Our membership has remained fairly constant at about 120 and although we have lost some old members they have been replaced with new ones.

The training team have been

very busy giving lots of information and help to our new beekeepers and the taster and beginners courses have been well supported. Congratulations to our members who have gone on to successfully complete BBKA examinations.

Thanks also go to Julie Saxton and all the members and volunteers who have helped out at shows and events where CBKA have been present and which have promoted our association in a very good light. If any member would like to come and help out at the shows please contact Julie and you will be made most welcome.

Our meetings have been well supported with a variety of speakers and our day trip to Chain Bridge Honey Farm at Berwick was full. It was a very interesting trip although hearing how good Willy Robson's bees were and how they hardly ever swarmed and produced lots of honey made me feel I have been keeping the wrong type of bees for over 30 years.

Our finances are in good shape thanks to our treasurer and although there has been an increase in the capitation fees to BBKA we have managed to absorb the costs and kept our membership fee at the same rate as last year.

I would like to also thank the whole committee for their enthusiasm and hard work over the past two years in keeping Cleveland Beekeepers a thriving

Association. We have a volunteer in Carol Anderton to take over from Derek Passmore as our new Treasurer. Our Secretary and Vice Chairman Steve Jacklin will now be taking over as chairman leaving a vacancy for a new secretary and also a new vice chairman so if any member would like to volunteer for one of these posts we would be most grateful. If interested please contact any member of the committee.

I would like to finish with an apology for my absence at the AGM but the lure of a few days in the sun in Spain was too much.

Thank you all for supporting our Association throughout 2014 and I look forward to another bumper beekeeping year in 2015.

by *Rob Andrews, Chairman*

✱

In the Apiary

We have been very lucky with the weather lately, it has been mild and sunny a lot of the time. The bees seem to be as busy as ever, bringing in late pollen and nectar. The yellow/orange pollen I see a lot of them bringing in is probably from ivy which is flowering now.

You will hopefully have finished feeding syrup and treating your bees against varroa. Make sure the mouse guards are on and there's a brick or strap in place to safeguard the hives from the inevitable gales that will arrive shortly and otherwise leave well alone from now on.

If you have kept good records now is the time to study them and think about what you might have done differently, what you have learned, and what you will do next year. Decide which were your best colonies, considering things like productivity, good temper, lack of swarming etc, as these are the ones to breed from in 2015.

If you're storing drawn combs make sure that you take precautions against wax moth damage. The moths will lay eggs in used comb, especially brood frames. By the time spring arrives the combs will look very sad and literally moth eaten and will probably have to be thrown away. There are proprietary biological products such as Certan or equivalents available but old fashioned moth balls and a lot of other treatments for protecting clothes

from moths should not be used as they will taint the wax. Sealing the drawn frames in moth proof containers works, but making sure that you don't include live moths or eggs is difficult.

✱

Honey Section, Stokesley Show

Yet again, a fantastic set of results for this year's Honey classes at Stokesley Show. The judge this year was Alan Woodward from Doncaster. He was



highly complimentary about the standard of entries and the quality of the exhibits.

I was invited to observe the judging this year by Nigel Perry, who is the Stokesley

Show Honey Steward and a member of CBKA, and again was privy to some brilliant tips of the trade.

One comment which clearly made sense was that; if you are presenting a frame of honey in a case with a "screwed" top, then it would be a good idea to provide a screwdriver for the Judge!

Many thanks to those of you who made the effort to enter and congratulations to the winners. Given the success of the exhibits, it would be lovely to see a few more entries to give the Judges an even harder time.

Results for the Honey classes at Stokesley Show 2014

Class no.	Class	Winners
1	One cake of Beeswax	1. C&L Smailes (Reserve Champion) 2. C&L Smailes 3. Steve Jacklin VHC. Entry No.1 (no name available)
2	One frame of comb honey	1. Sai Mancina (Overall Show Champion) 2. W. Burn 3. Ada Newman VHC. C&L Smailes
3	2x 1 Lb jars light honey	1. John Canning 2. Steve Jacklin 3. John Canning VHC. John Canning
4	2x 1 Lb jars heather honey	1. C&L Smailes 2. C&L Smailes 3. Rob Andrews VHC. Deborah Rowe
5	2x 1 Lb jars granulated honey	1. C&L Smailes 2. Steve Jacklin 3. Deborah Rowe
6	2x 1 Lb jars medium/dark honey	1. Steve Jacklin 2. Unal Metti 3. Graham Clarke
7	2x 1Lb sections of comb honey - heather or flower honey	1. C&L Smailes 2. C&L Smailes
8	1x ½ Lb cut comb of honey	1. Rob Andrews 2. Unal Metti 3. C&L Smailes

- Steve Jacklin was "Highly Commended" for his Honey wine in Class 12 - sweet white wine.

Secretary: Steve Jacklin, 34 Junction Rd, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1PL Tel: 01642 866240

Winter meetings (September to April) are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15pm in the:

Middlesbrough Bowling Club, Cornfield Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 5QL (Near the Little Theatre). Visitors and new members welcome.

We had some new faces on the Cleveland Beekeepers' stand this year. A big thank you to Carol and Tim Anderton, John Canning and Lynn Taylor for helping out. They all said they had really enjoyed it so perhaps we can encourage a few more people to help out on show days, on a rota basis, so that more people can enjoy sharing their experiences with the general public.

One final request, we were unable to give a name to the exhibitor who won highly commended in the Cake of Wax class. Stokesley Show organisers had not put names against that class and so we only know that it was entrant number one who won. If you were entrant number one in the Cake of Wax class, please could you let me know so that we have a full list of winners.

by Julie Saxton, Show Secretary

✱

CBKA Membership Renewal

It's membership renewal time again, doesn't time fly! We are affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and will be paying a capitation fee of £18 per member to them for 2015. This has increased by £1 over last year and was increased by £2 the previous year. We will not be passing these increases on to our members and have kept full CBKA membership to £25 for 2014-15, the same as the last two years. We retain the difference to run the association, for example paying for our guest speakers, renting the Bowling Club for our indoor meetings, providing free tea and coffee for members who come to the indoor and outdoor meetings, running the apiary, purchasing books for the library, etc. We are able to keep the membership fee the same as the last two years due to income mainly raised by the efforts of volunteers doing candle rolling at various shows, Beginners and Taster courses, donations, and a small surplus from the sale of jars. Renewals are due 1st November.

by Sal Mancina, Membership Secretary

✱

Happy beekeeping!

Cleveland Beekeepers

Visit our website at www.teesbees.co.uk. You will find our programme for the coming year and all our past Newsletters.

"Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers."

Ray Bradbury, Dandelion Wine