



CBKA NEWSLETTER

Available online at
www.teesbees.co.uk

Year 31/1
September 2016

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLE

So, here we are at the end of another beekeeping year. Funny year really.

Last year I didn't get any oil seed rape honey but had loads of field bean honey. This year I had the complete opposite, although the field beans where less than a mile away, they were the other side of a hill and I'm wondering if local topology affects the bees search pattern. Next year I'm told the rape and beans will both be very local to my bees next year so hopefully I will get both.

My queen rearing this year seems to of been a bit of disaster, but I think that was down to the weather in mid-June which quite frankly was horrible. Next year I'm going to plan my rearing for mid to end of July hopefully that will avoid the nuances of our local north east climate. All I seem to have raised this year are earwigs and spiders. Every time I take a roof off it seems to be full of them.

One issue I have every year is the lack of drawn comb. I normally take my supers off in mid-August and then start feeding and treating. This year on a few of my colonies I've added a box of foundation on top of the brood box and I'm almost pouring the feed in, and it seem to be working. Not only are the bees filling the brood box with syrup they are also drawing out the boxes of foundation. Once it starts to get cooler (As I write this I'm in a hotel in Liverpool and it nearly 30 degrees in the middle of September!) I will take the now drawn boxes of foundation off and spin the frames out. The stored syrup can be used for feeding next year. *Steve Jacklin*

BEE INFORMED

The *at a glance* quick guide to local beekeeping events and other important information.

Annual General Meeting: the CBKA AGM takes place at 1915 on Monday, 17 October at Middlesbrough Bowling Club.

This is your opportunity to represent your fellow beekeepers as a member of the committee and therefore help develop the Association. The committee comprises Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and up to 6 other members and all posts are open for election.

Nominations can be sent in advance to the Secretary, or be made at the meeting. Those elected to be a Trustee (the named posts listed) must not be disqualified under the Charity Commission rules.

Membership fee: the committee will propose at the AGM that the fee should remain at the 2015 level. Full membership—£26, partner/country/junior/associate—£16. Payment after 31 December attracts a £5 administrative surcharge.

Honey and Hive Products: Monday 28 November at 1915 (a week later than usual). A talk by Vera Rider, a local Beekeeper and producer of hive products for sale.

Northern Bee Quiz: Wednesday 7 December at a venue to be advised in the Durham area. All welcome; lifts will be available.

Christmas Supper and Cake Competition: Monday 12 December at 1915 (a week earlier than usual). Tickets will be on sale at the AGM and then by email. Details of the Cake Competition are included elsewhere in the news letter.

Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1168761

Secretary: Iain Makinson

CHARITY STATUS

During the last year, the CBKA Committee had to make a formal application

to our Chary Commission to register as our annual turnover had reached £5,000; most of this is the BBKA part of the subscription, but it still counts.

Registration was awarded without any question, and grateful thanks must go to Steve Jacklin who managed the administrative process for us.

Over the summer the Association has been busy not only with its own Outdoor Meetings and Shows but also attending a variety of other events to promote Beekeeping as well as the whole of pollinators and pollination. Venues includes Stewart and Preston Parks, Newham Grange Leisure Farm, Teesside Barrage, and Middlesbrough Town Meal. The volunteers have talked to thousands of local people on subjects including pollinators, obs hives, honey tasting and swarming.

CAKE... Ready, Steady, BAKE!

As reported elsewhere the feeing at the Cleveland Show was that the current cake recipe needs to be updated to one with rather more honey. Rather than have one selected by the committee members will be invited to bring their favourite honey cake(s), with the recipe, to the December Supper meeting. Those present will then be able to sample the cakes and vote on their preferred recipe. More details will be given in October's newsletter.

EVENTS

BEECONNECTED

There's a brand new scheme for us to take advantage to protect our colonies from spray damage—BeeConnected. It allows beekeepers to mark on a map the position of their apiaries, and then select a radius of 1, 3 or 5km from the site.

The website at www.beeconnected.org.uk has been specifically developed to provide a more efficient and effective way for farmers to inform beekeepers of their intention to spray. Beekeepers then receive notifications to enable them to take appropriate actions to protect their bees. I found the website easy to use. Please sign up as the more it is used the more it will show farmers that we are keen to receive spray information. *Sal Mancina*

SHOW NEWS

As has been said in this newsletter over the past year, and probably for a long time before that; *If it's good enough to sell it's good enough to show*. Our members proved that this year at our annual show which, as usual, took place as part of the Cleveland Show in Middlesbrough's Stewart Park.

There were a record number of entries, 138 in total, and the show therefore qualified for the National Honey Show Blue Ribbon Award which gives free entry to the their Show which attracts nearly 2,000 exhibits from almost 250 entrants. The Ribbon is given to the *Best in Show* exhibit and was won by Mike McCartney for his sweet mead. The full results are listed below, congratulations to all who took part, and especially those who were awarded cards. The Association's cups will be awarded at the September meeting.

The new category of *Blacked Out Jar of Honey*, which is judged merely on taste, was the most popular class and really showed how good our local honey can be. The show judge, Peter Shollick, whom many of us heard speak at the June meeting, praised the quality of the exhibits in all classes. The only disappointment was the paucity of entries by Novices. Let's see if we can improve that next year, don't forget a Novice is not necessarily a new beekeeper, but someone who has never won a first prize at a honey show—it could be you.

The cake section of the show was popular, but many felt that the cake was rather more a banana, date and walnut cake than a true honey cake and there is to be a completion at our December meeting to find a more appropriate recipe. There is more on this elsewhere in the newsletter, with full details in a month or two.

Stokesley Show was less popular for exhibitors than the Cleveland Show, but still attracted a reasonable number of entries. The winners are also given below. Congratulations to participants and prize winners.

Outside the local area Steve Jacklin and John Canning have been promoting Cleveland's beekeeping skills, and receiving prizes (2 Firsts, 4 Seconds and 2 Thirds between them) at the Great Yorkshire and Egton (Whitby Beekeepers) shows and both are also taking exhibits to the Countryside Live show in Harrogate at the end of October and the National Show a week or two later.

At both shows the Association mounts a Cleveland Beekeepers stand with Observation hives, honey tasting and lots of information about bees and beekeeping. Smaller exhibitions are undertaken at other events in the area. Grateful thanks are due to those who give up their time to help on these occasions

This report on Shows cannot conclude without reference to our Show Secretary for the past few Years. Julie Saxton has been a steadfast worker on behalf of the CBKA at the Cleveland and Stokesley Shows and without her hard work there would have been no chance of competing in our local shows. Julie has decided to take a back seat for a while and Helen Hughes, who has been shadowing her this year, will be seeking election to the Committee at the AGM to enable her to serve as Show Secretary.

Cleveland and Stokesley Show Results

Class		1st	2nd	3rd
Blacked Out Jar	C	John Canning	Steve Jacklin	Izzy Russell
Light Honey	C	Mike McCartney	Steve Jacklin	Unal Metti
	S	Unal Metti	Unal Metti	Steve Jacklin
Medium/Dark Honey	C	Mike McCartney	Unal Metti	Steve Jacklin
	S	Steve Jacklin	Unal Metti	Steve Jacklin
Heather Honey	C	John Canning	Steve Jacklin	Mike McCartney
	S	John Canning	Sal Mancina	Steve Jacklin
Granulated/Soft Set	C	Shirley Bond	Izzy Russell	Steve Jacklin
	S	Unal Metti	Unal Metti	Stuart Kirby
Chunk Honey	C	Mike McCartney	Steve Jacklin	Shirley Bond
Frame of Honey	C	Shirley Bond	Steve Jacklin	Mike McCartney
	S	Steve Jacklin	W. Burn	Norman Potter
Sections of Honey	C	Steve Jacklin		
	S	Steve Jacklin		
Cut Comb	C	Mike McCartney	Shirley Bond	Steve Jacklin
	S	W Burn	W Burn	Norman Potter
Cake of Beeswax	C	Steve Jacklin §	John Canning	Sal Mancina
	S	Steve Jacklin	John Canning	Sal Mancina
Sweet Mead	C	Mike McCartney §	Julie Saxton	Steve Jacklin
Dry Mead	C	Richard Bond	Steve Jacklin	Mike McCartney
Honey Cake	C	Sal Mancina (Tricia)	John Canning	Richard Bond
Honey as for Sale	C	Shirley Bond	Sal Mancina	Helen Hughes
Photograph	C	Sal Mancina	Shirley Bond	Steve Jacklin
Novice- non-granulated	C	-	-	-
Novice- Granulated/Soft Set	C	Izzy Russell	-	-

C – Cleveland Show S – Stokesley Show § - Best in Show

THANK YOU

The Association has not only run its annual Spring Beginners Course, with a late summer follow-up session, as well as the annual taster course, but this year provided a Swarm Course, for local authorities to help them direct calls about bees to the right place, All these courses are run by volunteers who give up their time both to organise, prepare and teach these courses. Without them local beekeeping would not be able to thrive and attract new members and maintain their interest. **Thank you**

Find us on 

Cleveland Beekeepers has a Facebook Page. Why not [follow us?](#)

For Sale: We have again a small quantity of honey buckets. These are a set of two recycled food grade buckets with lids one with a honey valve. £10.00. Contact Graham 01642871765 web@teesbees.co.uk