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TAUNTON BEE-KEEPERS

E Mail FORUM

tauntonbeekeepers.org.uk/joinlist.html

**TBK can also be viewed on Facebook
and Twitter**

SBKA website at :

www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER

SKITTLES

at Lamb & Flag Blagdon Hill

*Contact Rosemary 01823 283482
to book supper and further
details.*

SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER

SBKA LUNCH

at Olive Mill,
Chilton Polden Hill on A 39

*Bookings with Neil Trood 01458
241368*

SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

Annual General Meeting

*See front cover and enclosures
for further details*

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER

ANNUAL DINNER

at Taunton Vale Golf club.

Details to follow

BEE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TAUNTON & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS

October 2011

Number 74 Vol 10

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2011

2.30 pm

At the Air Cadets Hall
(To the right hand side of Castle School,
Wellington Road, Taunton)

THE SPEAKER THIS YEAR IS

DAVE MASLEN

OF THE AVON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WHO WILL GIVE A TALK ON EQUIPMENT

TO BE FOLLOWED BY TEA

THE AGENDA AND RELEVANT REPORTS ARE
CIRCULATED WITH THIS
BEELINES

**PLEASE ENDEAVOUR TO BE PRESENT AT THIS
IMPORTANT MEETING TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION OF
THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE OFFICERS AND
COMMITTEE ON YOUR BEHALF**

QUESTION TIME

There was a good attendance at the question time evening that replaced the 'Year in Retrospect' format that had been followed for many years. Milns Priscott chaired a panel that consisted of Gail Johnson, Simon Jones and David Morris. As expected some 'old chestnuts' were raised such as siting hives warm way or cold way, open mesh floors or solid floors, drone base or worker base foundation in the supers, varroa treatments and why did my queen disappear? Needless to say the so-called 'experts' didn't always agree which livened up the discussions. It is hoped that everybody went away somewhat wiser and hopefully will try out some of the differences themselves and establish their own preferences. Ed

D.D.T dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane

Extract from the May 1946 edition of BEECRAFT

In view of the wide publicity which has been give to DDT and its toxic effect on bees, the statements made in our information pamphlets about our Ditrene products will no doubt be of interest to you, but in general we state that DDT can be used on orchards with safety, providing precautions are taken in the same way as they are with lead arsenate, i.e. spraying well before the blossoming period of three weeks to a month, and avoid spraying when there are flowers or weeds in flower, underneath the fruit trees at the time of spraying. In other words, if dandelion or daisies are in bloom at green bud stage when DDT preparations would normally be applied against weevil, an after spraying or hosing of the ground with water would be a help or preferably the grass and flowers should be mown a day or two before spraying. – MESSRS. TECHNICAL PRODUCTS LTD January 17th 1946.

Extract from Wikipedia

In 1962, *Silent Spring* by American biologist Rachel Carson was published. The book catalogued the environmental impacts of the indiscriminate spraying of DDT in the US and questioned the logic of releasing large amounts of chemicals into the environment without fully understanding their effects on ecology or human health. The book suggested that DDT and other pesticides may cause cancer and that their agricultural use was a threat to wildlife, particularly birds. Its publication was one of the signature events in the birth of the environmental movement, and resulted in a large public outcry that eventually led to DDT being banned in the US in 1972.

FROM VAL AND BERTIE COAKES

This may be of interest, it's a beehaus at a museum village in southern Bavaria. I believe there are 100 'hives' in it. but as you can see there are no bees.



Thanks for the holiday snaps. This is certainly an unusual one. Ed

EDITORIAL

This edition has three contributions from our members. It is such contributions that makes BEELINES part of the membership by adding a local flavour. Perhaps some of you will be encouraged to put pen to paper for future editions.

It is pleasing to see more members taking the basic exam. I understand the list of successes will no longer be printed in the BBKA News and this in my opinion is short-sighted as it means there is no acknowledgement of the achievements that can only result in the improvement of the craft.

Included with this BEELINES are the papers and reports relating to the AGM that is highlighted on the front cover. There are two significant changes this time. First is **Jayne Bevan** who, because of the very unfortunate circumstances that beset Andy Cole, had as vice chair and assistant apiary manager, to step into his shoes. We can only admire the way Jayne undertook her task and the Division owes her a very deep debt of gratitude.

Our second retirement is **Jenny Gammon** who has served the Taunton Beekeepers over many years. A full report on her involvement and the many tasks she undertook, many with the support of Sid, will be included in the next edition. In the meantime, a big thank you is in order from every member of the Taunton Beekeepers. **David Morris Editor**

HIVE WATCH

By now the Autumn feeding and varroa treatments will have been completed. Hopefully our bees will be going into the winter in fine shape with well mated queens.

So many colonies nowadays appear to be strong at this time of year only to emerge in the spring as weak and queenless. Is this due in part to the effect the varroa mite has had upon the mating drones? Where varroa is present in some numbers, many drones will have possibly emerged with a disability in one form or another. The effect could cause their 'mating performance' to be less than 100%. This may be especially true of colonies that superceded in the late summer early autumn where unchecked varroa numbers would be at their peak. Before varroa, such young queens were ideal in ensuring an early spring start.

We can however ensure that our hives are waterproof and that there is no damp within the hive. Damp is one of the main reasons for colonies dying out in the winter. I have always left the porter escape holes in the crown board open and raised the crown board above the frames by means of inserting a match-stick under each corner.

Entrance blocks should have been inserted at the commencement of feeding on narrow entrances. During the winter I like to use the 3 or 4 inch entrances, again to help ventilation and deter the damp.

Finally, carry on observing the entrances on a warm day.

Editor

FUN AND GAMES AT THE RANKINS

Contributed by Mary Rankin

"Having given my bees their first feed one evening, they came out looking for the source, which led them back to the house and the only open window. The window was open because Neil, my husband, was having a shower. He emerged from the shower cubicle to be confronted by several very interested bees who obviously thought he could supply them with some more syrup. All I could hear was Neil yelling "Mary, come and get your ***** bees out of the shower room, I am naked!!" Men are so vulnerable in the nude!

However, he has had the last laugh because I went to give my girls their second feed today and I paid for my casual assumption that I could just remove the lid and refill the feeder without putting my bee suit on. My bees are normally very calm. All was going well until a feisty girl who had got, temporarily, trapped under the feeder lid, flew up and went straight up my nose. My first attempt to stay calm worked and I took a deep breath through my mouth and blew down through my nose, but though the little ***** came down, she then went straight up the other nostril...and this time stung me!

Neil said better my nose than any, more sensitive, parts of him.

Ouch!

Thank you Mary for reminding us that 'beekeeping' is not all fun! Ed

£385 FROM WAITROSE

We are grateful to Waitrose in Wellington for their 'Community Matters' scheme in July. We were presented with a cheque towards the new building. Thanks are extended to all those members who ensured any tokens they received went into the right box and to Jayne our Vice Chair whom I believe had an inside contact who 'guided' some shoppers to where their tokens should go!

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW 2011

27th, 28th & 29th October 2011
St George's College Weybridge

FURTHER EXAM SUCCESSES

It has been a very good year for exam successes achieved by Taunton members. In the last edition of **BEELINES**, I mentioned that once again we have two members with the N.D.B.* as well as six members who had gained further modules. In fact it was seven, as I didn't realise that the county Secretary Suzie Perkins is also one of our members.

We now learn that Bridget Schneiders one of our associate members has won the Richard Hammond Award for securing the highest marks for the Intermediate Theory Certificate. Congratulations.

All the members embarking upon the modules started by taking the Basic Exam and I can recall myself as examiner putting one or two of them 'through their paces'!

We now have a further batch of members who have been successful and it is hoped they will advance to the modules and become involved more in lecturing and demonstrating to our members in the years ahead. Our congratulations go to:

Barbara Drakeford
Anne Halpin
Adam Robbins
Amanda Smales-Cresswell
John Smales-Cresswell
Peter Maben

** Previously we had Leslie Hender and Arthur Rolt who were both national figures up to 1970 when Leslie passed away. Arthur, who was the County Bee Instructor and was responsible for establishing Beekeeping in most of the secondary schools in Somerset, continued to be a member of the Division for many more years.* **Ed**

Greenspeak **Beeks** (bee-ks) noun

The rise of the geek in popular culture collides with the mass movement to save the honey bee. New York City lifted its ban on keeping bees last year, and residents have swarmed to set up hives and attend seminars on home grown honey. These enthusiast / obsessive's are **beeks**.

From Observer Magazine 2/10/11

FROM BILL EDMONSON IN RUISHTON

Having just brought my first three colonies of bees to the end of their first year, I found the last few weeks have been dominated by wasps! Yes I guess you've seen it all before, but thought you might like the photo – the classic pop bottle with the neck cut off and inverted. Spoonful of supermarket jam in water, and here's the result. Very satisfying!



Thanks Bill. This is one of the simplest and cheapest ways of catching wasp and will have saved many a colony. **Ed**