



THE FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

The Federation, its Council, and its Officers cannot be held responsible for the views expressed in the Newsletter or possible errors.

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Editors Corner

August it seems has been the month for wasps. I discovered that I am not alone in having suffered a wasp invasion where every single bee in the hive was killed, all the eggs and larvae were eaten and all the honey was stolen. When I did an inspection last weekend I found a large number of dead bees on the mesh floor and no living bees in the hive at all. There were also a few dead wasps. The most striking sight was the hundreds of bee-wings scattered on the varroa inspection tray – and on closer examination I could see legs, heads and thoraxes too.



Wasps and bees were lying among the dismembered bee wings and I have since read that wasps physically dismember bees – biting off wings, legs and heads; possibly they do this to carry away the bee's abdomens which apparently they may use to feed their own larvae. The wasps knew to attack my weaker hive – clearly aware that the strong hive would be able to defend itself – aided by my reducing the entrance to a single bee width. In my search for ways to distract the wasps I found many ingenious traps described on the web and I have now set

up two traps as described by The complete free guide to bees, honey, and beekeeping. As featured in the British Beekeepers' Association newsletter.

<http://drbeekeeper.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/the-battle-of-wasps-attacking-bees.html> Although I have not attempted it the use of the hose adapter as an entrance is fascinating and I would have given this a go too if I had got to my invaded hive sooner.

This issue of the newsletter is filled with reports of glorious days spent in apiaries across the region. Interestingly, although the weather seems to have been superb for most, the findings in the hives seem to have been variable. Varroa treatment is well underway and I am sure we will hear more about this next month as those daily temperatures begin to drop. The summer has been busy for the beekeepers of our region and your Federation is currently representing a total of 403 members – so keep up the good work!

Sue Remenyi



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Letter to the Editor

Re. Ragwort Honey August 2013 issue.

There's plenty of ragwort some summers in our areas, it tends to build-up on newly constructed verges on our 'bypasses' very thickly as well as in neglected fields hoping for planning permission to build-on! They are mown down but speedily build-up again. I'm sure I get ragwort honey as on occasion there's some pretty 'ponky' stuff, but there's also a huge mass of overgrown privet a few doors down and the bees love the blossom (and the ragwort). This gives the honey with a back-taste a bit reminiscent of 'tom-cats'! Both of these off flavours and odours seem to disappear after a good ripening say about six months! From what I have read about the toxic alkaloids in ragwort it appears that it is present in minute amounts in ragwort honey, but as a toxin it has to accumulate in mammalian tissues to a level where it becomes dangerous, so it's most unlikely that anyone eating the honey would have any problems. Incidentally privet is also a poisonous plant and I have read in Hooper that some strains of horse chestnut blossom honey is considered to be toxic. Attached is a picture of a mucky looking comb, the point of this is that ragwort is believed to stain the wax yellow, this is from a 'ragwort year' with the plant profuse nearby on the Whitchurch bypass. I'm told that Beech also stains yellow.



Jon Davey, RBKA

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In My Apiary

I volunteered to write an article for the newsletter and then thought - what on earth shall I say? I decided to write a "lifestyle" piece, feeling unqualified to say anything (in writing at least) regarding beekeeping practice.

My interest in bees came about by living on Beehive Road – I kid you not, albeit its name came from brick making kilns on the road but the seed was sown. My husband attended a lambing day at Berkshire Agricultural College, with the children bringing back a leaflet on Beekeeping and details of all the Berkshire Associations.

Seven seasons ago in the summer of 2007 I began. I attended some of the open apiary sessions, was fortunate to obtain a donated WBC hive and watched my mentor collect a late June swarm, which then became mine.

Having been taught well, (I have to say that as he will read this article), I kept notes from the very beginning. These show me that I was in that hive every three days for the first month, which then became weekly. Those bees were loved and cherished and I wanted

some honey. I got a super on and managed to get a whole five frames that summer. With no extractor, I cut up the comb honey and tucked in; it was the best most delicious honey ever. Isn't everybody's own honey the best?

The following year it became apparent that as a beekeeper you need/want more than one hive. Again through kind mentor donation and purchase, I got two more hives, one WBC and a National. Then the fun began. As all experienced beekeepers know, mixing two types of hive in the same apiary is not ideal and leads to all sorts of weird manipulations and kit issues because you just need These variations of size were usually solved Heath Robinson style but luckily mentor to the rescue - praise again.

My interest in swarm collecting was piqued and over the next few seasons I attended a large number of collections learning what to do. I must officially thank my husband at this juncture for appearing almost widowed annually during the month of May. One instance that particularly springs to mind is when we came back from a retirement "do" early so I could close up and move a swarm. This involves a little bit of "midnight Beekeeping" as I call it, on many occasions. Gradually, as my confidence has grown, I have purchased more second hand hives, preferring WBC's. I accept they are more wood-work but you can be a little less accurate in placing the supers.



I am now on two different sites, just over three miles away from each other, on purpose. One site has four Nationals and a nuc, the other five WBC's. I think this needs to be my limit as a working number but I can never refuse the offer of a swarm needing collecting and sometimes you can't then give them away!

Beekeeping mistakes - I've had a few. Who hasn't? This includes marking queens using a crown of thorns and then piercing her whilst taking it off the frame and squishing queens when putting brood frames back into the brood box.

Note to self – always ensure she is in the centre of the frame when replacing in the hive. I have had my mentor help me clip queens; holding on to one when she decided to fly away towards the front porch prior to her wing being chopped!! I was aghast at that one. I ferreted under the frame stand desperately searching for her. I was certain she had gone underneath but to be found nowhere. For some reason we decided to go back through the brood frames and there she was!!

My original site was right next to a pub and beer garden... Do I need to say more? Probably not. Busy lunchtime trade and swarms do not mix. My bees were to be evicted.

The day I was planning to move them to a fellow beekeeper's apiary, as a temporary measure until something more permanent was found, I attended a large prime swarm. The householder asked where my bees were currently kept, to which I 'laughed' explaining that they had to move that evening. His reply was "would my empty paddock or orchard over the road be of any use to you?" Hell Yes!!!! My rent? six jars of honey a year. They, on the other hand, get beautifully pollinated apples and his kitchen garden has really benefitted, so it's a mutual arrangement.

My best honey crop from a single hive has been 117 lb - last year when there was a good spring crop as well as summer. I am certain that one particular hive will exceed that this year.

My winter beekeeping interests include wax model making following on from a winter talk we had at the club. I have been fortunate since starting to have won a couple of

times at the National Honey Show. I also enjoy making honey bath products learned from workshops at the NHS. I have then passed this knowledge on by holding an evening workshop for club members. If any other Associations would like me to run a workshop on their behalf, then please contact me.

Lorna Rivett
Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association

Wokingham Beekeepers Association

A lovely sunny but not too hot day at the apiary on the 10th July, which resulted in a good attendance of 17 members and visitors. The plan was to do a quick check of the hives, remove any honey supers and start the autumn varroa treatment. The club are using Apiguard which comes in a paste format and is placed on top of the brood box. It requires two applications, the first one for two weeks and then a second application two weeks later. The temperature needs to be 15 degrees or above for it to work effectively. Like some other varroa treatments it can put the queen off lay.

Other options on the market include Apistan, which are two strips which hang inside the hive for six weeks and Apilife Var, which are biscuit like strips which are broken up and placed on top of the brood nest in the four outer corners. The pieces need to be replaced every week for a total of four weeks.

Full instructions for all the treatments are available on the packets and on the web.

The latest offering on the market is MAQS which is based on formic acid and can be used at any time. However, it is expensive and has a short shelf life. Some of our members are trialling it this year and depending on the outcome the Club may invest in a large tub next year, to be split amongst those members who would like to buy and try it on their bees.

Hive number 2 had two supers on but unfortunately they were both empty so were removed. The colony itself was doing well with six frames of ELB.

Hive 3 had no supers. We saw ELB and the queen.

Hive 4 was packed with bees so we removed the clearer board and left them with a super so they weren't overcrowded. They also provided us with one super full of honey.

Hive 5 had ELB and we spotted the queen who was unmarked. We used the only colour available, so we now have a green queen. We removed one full super of honey and one empty one and left the partially full one on the hive.

Hive 6 was doing well with ELB on five frames. We saw the queen and as there were so many bees we also left them with a partially filled super.

Hive 1, which is very unfriendly, was left to last. We removed one empty super and left them with two others to finish clearing. They will definitely need requeening next year!

Bob recommended using an eke or empty super when using clearer boards, as this gives the bees somewhere to go before moving down into the brood box. If you have a strong colony, they will be very slow to clear if they need to move straight from the super into a busy brood box.

Thanks to Bob and John for running a very informative session.

South Chilterns Beekeepers Association

SCBKA Apiary Meeting 31st August, Upper Lodge

It was a glorious warm day that belied the plight of the bees at Upper Lodge.

Stephen and Bob have both struggled this year to keep their bees thriving, despite having the most idyllic setting for them that should have offered perfect conditions.

Reg's introduction to the meeting was a reminder that in order to get through the winter the bees need a honey flow in late August/September; this is what enables them to produce the strong young bees to carry the colony through until spring. We have not had such late honey flows in the last two or three years, which has caused problems with over-wintering. The bees have been making late mad dashes to fill up on ivy nectar before the winter; but ivy nectar sets hard in the comb, and in a harsh winter season the bees may not be able to get out to find water with which to liquefy these solid stores. They can starve even while surrounded by food because they cannot eat it. One of Reg's commercial hives suffered this fate last winter, and hefting it left a misleading impression that they had plenty, as the box was so very heavy.

All beekeepers need to become aware of the changes in nature and learn to anticipate the times of flowering of significant plants in our own localities in order to assess honey flows, and work the bees accordingly. Reg estimates that this year ivy will be flowering in a week or so, and it would be wise to feed your bees with sugar syrup or fondant before this, to make sure that their winter stores are not comprised solely of ivy honey. This means that you should already have completed varroa treatment; if you haven't, get on and do it now!

Apiguard is applied twice, at an interval of two weeks, and normally winter supplementary feeding would follow this. The new MAQS varroa strips require that the entrance should be open, so this might not be a suitable treatment if, like some of us, your hives are under relentless attack from wasps and hornets. One hive in Kidmore End has already succumbed to the wasps. Feeding can be by fondant or heavy syrup, and the books generally recommend the latter at this time of year: you need about a gallon per hive at a ratio of 2lb of sugar dissolved in 1 pint of water. John Belcher, the local agent for Thornes, also sells Ambrosia syrup, an inverted sugar solution which is easier for the bees to deal with.

Steve's hives are the WBC type, which look absolutely wonderful in their gorgeous grounds. They have already had one dose of Apiguard, so today's job was to add the second tray alongside the remnants of the first, in a small eke on top of the brood box, with the queen excluder and super above it. A quick look at the brood of the first hive revealed the red-marked queen, eggs, larvae and sealed brood, but although the hive is queenright, there are no stores surrounding the brood, where the bees can easily reach them while they are in their winter cluster. Although we would normally wait until the varroa treatment has been completed, in this case the advice was to provide supplementary food straight away to give them the best possible chance of stocking up before winter. The honey made now will become tainted with thymol from the Apiguard, making it unfit for human consumption, but this will not be a problem as it is going to remain in the hive for the bees to eat it themselves. The double walls of WBC hives provide extra insulation, making it easier for the bees to survive the winter.



Steve's second hive had been in some trouble this year. Sadly the hive was mysteriously lost in April despite having an abundance of food; they may have starved while surrounded by plenty, or perhaps some disease like nosema might have played a part, but the upshot was the same. A frame containing eggs with its nurse bees borrowed from Bob's hive produced a virgin queen, but she was eventually evicted by the bees,

pushed out of the hive without laying a single egg. So the next queen was so late in the season that she didn't start laying until mid-July, and the hive population is very low, occupying only one frame at present with no food stores. In this state it would not survive the winter, so again the advice is to feed straight away to boost them as much as possible, even though the second Apiguard tray had just been popped in. The half brood box was removed as it is empty and the space is not needed, and will only cause the bees more work to try and keep a larger volume warm.

Then we tramped over the stream, past the lake, through the field to the woodland glade where Bob's bee hives live. We learned a little trick from Bob: when you have a WBC hive, there is just space between the boxes and the outer wall of the lifts to store a queen excluder when it is not in use! This hive was on brood and a half too, but a little carpentry is required as there is a gap between the two boxes big enough for bees to get out – and consequently also for wasps to get in. Luckily the local wasps don't seem to have discovered it yet. There was a small mystery in this hive. It is queenright, with brood in all stages, and the marked queen was spotted. But the queen's frame also had queen cells, described as "chewed off" so there was some speculation over whether these were emerged cells or destroyed ones, or perhaps both. The queen cells were not in classic supersedure position in mid-frame, but if the hive is superseding, the old queen will carry on laying even while a new virgin is in the hive, until her daughter starts laying too. No-one seemed to know for how long this state of affairs will persist. There was no small eke on this hive, so a few empty frames were removed from the half brood to make space for the Apiguard tray, and feeding advised, as they had no stores.

The last hive we looked at was in a sunlit glade, but the bees seemed to have eschewed their bottom storey and had moved up into the two supers above the brood box. The empty brood box was taken away, and the heavier of the two supers placed directly on the mesh floor. This had a small patch of normal brood including eggs, but a large quantity of sealed drone brood – unusual for this time of year when the bees would normally be starting to drag the drones out of the hive altogether to stop them munching up the precious stores. So it's queenright, and can overwinter well enough in two supers, but this one too needs feeding. Again, in the absence of an eke, a few frames were taken out of the top super to make space for the Apiguard tray.

So the lesson of the day was that by now varroa treatment should be done and the bees should be packing in stores around the brood in the bottom box. If they have none, feed them even if the varroa treatment is still going on. If the brood box is full, give them a bit more space to put stores into. It's also possible to give them an empty box which they can fill with ivy honey, and you can cut it out and melt it down later. The key is that the bees must have the resources now to be able to produce the strong young bees needed to last the winter through.

The beekeepers took this advice to heart, tucking in to a spread of scrumptious cakes and tea that will keep us going for months too! Many thanks to Steve and his family, and to Bob, for their generous hospitality and for an instructional meeting at a truly lovely apiary site.

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Reading Beekeepers Association

Sunday 28th July found us in that idyllic if occasionally slightly 'tourist-popular' village of Mapledurham to visit Tim & Hilary Whitaker's garden apiary in the heart of Mapledurham. Some delays were experienced down the lane to the village having to negotiate holiday caravans being towed from the Thames-side meadow behind Tim's house after a rally there. Tim mentioned that his large WBC hives on his boundary seemed rather closer to a caravener in the meadow than was ideal and mentioned this to the owner who revealed that his work was as a pest controller!

On then to Tim's WBC hives. As was the case with a number of us, possibly due to the heat, Tim has experienced a lack of recent queen activity over the previous weeks. Hive 1 looked OK for population of bees and Tim has had a super of honey off. We did find the queen and although sealed brood was present, we didn't see eggs or unsealed larvae. Some frames of honey in the first super were scoured by our demonstrator, the objective being to stimulate the colony and bring the queen onto lay. Hive 2 was a three week old split by Tim with frames from hive 3 and a queen cell collected from 'Nevada' at Emmer Green. Subsequently 4 donated queen cells were patched-in the face of a comb to try to get some action, these were still unopened today and queen activity not found. It was decided to give the colony some more weeks in case the Nevada queen was present (if invisible). The 4 queen cells were removed and examined, a few dried scraps of body were found and in one a dead partially formed imago. As queens develop head-first from larva in the downward facing cells (indeed they have great difficulty in emerging from cells placed –upwards) frames with queen cells should be shaken very gently, a light brushing to remove bees is better. Hive 3 was well populated and at last a small patch of eggs and new larvae was seen. Honey had to be taken and Tim removed nearly 20 frames. Some more frames were scoured for stimulation and then closed-up. We noted that all this 'scouring' had started some robbing and fighting out-front of the hives. The entrances were reduced to help the defenders.

This was a good meeting and new beekeepers did most of the opening and frame removals etc. We then joined family and friends as we love to do; relaxing on Tim and Hilary's patio with a sumptuous tea, members had all brought some comestibles and enjoyed the garden and each others company. With thanks to Tim and Hilary as well as to all who attended and contributed.



John Belcher
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Advert

Slough Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers

During the summer months, April to October, meetings are held at the Society's apiary. The apiary meetings are an excellent way for beginners to gain experience handling

bees but are just as valuable for the experienced beekeepers who may want to compare notes or need to pick the brains of fellow beekeepers.

The meetings throw up new challenges each time and there is usually much debate on how to tackle the problem. In a July meeting, during the inspection of one hive, a new queen was found and marked but then she promptly dropped off the frame. There was a bit of a panic until an eagle eyed member spotted a flash of red on the ground and the escapee was scooped up and returned to the hive.

At the next meeting there was a great effort to find the same queen to make sure that she had not suffered any ill effects from her adventure; the brood box was searched thoroughly and the absence of eggs and larvae seemed to be bad news. The brood box was closed up and a quick check on the stores in the super over the queen excluder surprised the onlookers with a nice selection of brood in all stages! The Queen, who was on the small side, had evidently decided to put distance between her and the ground and had moved upstairs!

Weather permitting, the meetings at the apiary, situated north of Wexham, commence at 2.30 pm on alternate Sunday afternoons until the end of October. Future meetings are scheduled for: September 8th and 22nd and October 6th and 20th ..

Hazel and Michael Blackburn

For your diary

12 October: Bucks County Beekeepers Honey Show, hosted by High Wycombe Beekeepers Association, Trinity Church in High Wycombe.



24-26 October: The National Honey Show

The 82nd National Honey Show is just weeks away. It is the U.K's 'gold standard' honey show – the equivalent of Wimbledon for tennis players. It will be held in Weybridge, Surrey from 24th to 26th October. There are almost 250 classes and beekeepers come from all over the world to enter so it is truly an international show. Why not book a ticket now to see the best of the best?

What's on?

Apart from the world class honey show there will be a full programme of workshops and lectures throughout the event and a wide selection of trade stands with lots of equipment and books to buy.

You can see the line-up and download the show schedule on the NHS website http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/lecture_convention.shtml and you will receive all the details in the programme that comes with tickets purchased in advance. Advance tickets plus the 2013 schedule of classes and show entry application are available now. New for this year is Class 57, a microscopy slide plus there are even more lectures and workshops. So there is something for everyone.

Nicola Simcock, a PhD research student in the honeybee lab at Newcastle University, will be visiting this year's National Honey Show. She needs our help for her research, which is primarily focused on trying to understand what honeybees are able to taste. She has recently begun work on assessing the contents of honey in order to compare what the bees can taste with what the bees actually eat. In addition, the data collected will be used in a larger project: the insect pollinators initiative, that involves a number of labs across the UK.

To accomplish this goal, Nicola is appealing to any beekeeper willing to get involved, to please provide her with a small sample of honey from their hive, and complete the collection sheet downloadable from: <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/nicola-simcock.shtml> (there will be copies available at the show if you don't have internet access). Once published, this data will be accessible to the public.

How much does it cost?

You can become a member of the National Honey Show for £12 and then entry for the duration of the show is free. Admission for non-members is £15 per day. Accompanied children of 16 years and under are free. You can join the NHS by filling out the form at <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/membership.shtml>. You can also pay on the door but it is better to get an advance ticket and avoid the queue.

The official closing date for show entries is 1st October but late entries will be accepted until 20th October on payment of a £5 late entry fee. Entry forms for classes 54 -62 i.e. Video, Photographic, Microscope Slides and Essay Classes must be received by 9th September; late entries are not accepted.

How do I get my entries to the show?

Exhibitors delivering personally to the show must bring their entries on Wednesday 23rd October between 2.30pm and 6pm. You hand them over to a steward who will stage them for you. You could use a courier or post. In this case your entry must arrive at St Georges College after Wednesday 16th October and before noon on 23rd October.

Why not persuade one member of your association to bring all the entries from your association to the show. You could split the fuel costs. Don't forget someone will also need to collect them on Saturday 26th October after the show closes at 4.30pm.

Thornes have, once again, kindly agreed to take exhibits to the show on your behalf. You can drop your entries at any Thornes agent south of the Scottish border. Jeremy Burbidge of Northern Bee Books has kindly offered the same facility to anyone who can deliver to him by Monday 21st October and please call him before you visit. Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire HX7 5JS Tel: 01422 882751 – jeremy@recordermail.demon.co.uk)

Where is the show?

The show is at St Georges College, Woburn Hill, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 2QS

Opening times: Thursday 24th October 9am to 6pm (open in the morning but limited to lectures). Friday 25th October 9am to 6pm, Saturday 26th October 9am to 4.30pm

How do I get there?

By road: from junction 11 of the M25 (marked Chertsey) follow signs to Weybridge. At the roundabout, take the third exit, A317 to Weybridge. Turn left at the next roundabout into the college.

By rail: Either take a taxi from Weybridge Station or change at Addlestone. From Addlestone, turn left and the College is approximately 5 minutes walk on the far side of the roundabout. The Trains leave from Waterloo Station. Rail connections from Weybridge to Addlestone are not guaranteed. For further details Tel: 08457 48 49 50 or www.nationalrail.co.uk.

If you apply for membership before the show you will receive a programme which includes maps and directions or visit the website

http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/transport_links.shtml

November 19: "Bee Improvement for All"

A whole days learning how to improve your bees 2013 at Bracknell, Berkshire. In conjunction with Wokingham and District BKA.

Cost: £15 adult, £8 under 18s who must be accompanied by a fee paying adult. Refreshments included, but not lunch. Food is available onsite.

Venue: Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 9SE

Bookings: Lynne Janes, 87 Juniper, Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 7ZF. Email Lynne

Enquiries: Garth Matthews 07800 121 192

Further details can be found on <http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html>



The advertisement is for Bee Basic Ltd. and features a central list of products and prices. On the left is a full-body bee suit, and on the right is a hooded jacket. The text is as follows:

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Association websites

All four Federation member association websites have a lot of information – some of which may only be relevant to that association, but there is also quite a bit that is useful to us all. Here are the links for your reference:

Reading & District Beekeepers Association: <http://www.rbka.org.uk/>

South Chilterns Beekeepers' Association: <http://www.scbka.org>

Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society: <http://swmbks.weebly.com/>

Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association: www.wokinghambeekeepers.org.uk/

Useful Links, Advice and Information

<http://www.apinews.com/> This website is a mine of information from around the world. You can subscribe to their newsletter.

<http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/newhome.html> This website has a lot of really useful information for the beekeeper.

<http://www.beekeepingforum.co.uk/> This is a portal for all things beekeeping.

NBU Advice for Obtaining Bees:

Join Beebase - By joining BeeBase you can access beekeeping information and ask for advice or help from the Bee Unit: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase>.

Your Regional Bee Inspectors are:

Southern Region: Nigel Semmence at: nigel.semmence@fera.gsi.gov.uk,

The main website is: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/public/Contacts/contacts.cfm>
National Bee Unit, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1 LZ, tel: 01 904 462 510, email: <mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk> .

South Eastern Region: Mr Alan Byham, fax/tel: 01306 611 016

Contributions to the Editor are always welcome as long as they are signed. Anonymous letters and letters not in English will not be published. The Editor reserves the right to withhold names.

Contributions, including emails, to arrive with the Editor by the 20th of the month for publication by the 7th of the following month. Contributions received after this will be held over for a later month.

Advertisement entries, to be received by the Advertisement Manager in advance of the 20th of every month. Rates: 2 Lines for £1.00; Commercial rates: £1.00 per line. Please make cheques payable to FBBKA. To be sent to the Advertisement Manager: Mr Jon Davey, 107 Northcourt Avenue, Reading RG2 7HG. Tel: 0118 975 0734.

Appendix 1: Schedule for Reading Honey Show.

SECTION 'P' HONEY

Judge – Mrs M Johnson

IMPORTANT NOTE: JUDGING TO START AT 9.30am

All items shown to be produced by exhibitor except for 10, 11 & 12 where non home produced honey may be used. Open to all who wish to enter.

- H1) 2 x 1 lb jars of light Honey
- H2) 2 x 1 lb jars of medium or dark Honey
- H3) 2 x 1 lb jars of Naturally Granulated or Soft Set Honey
- H4) 2 x 1 lb jars of Honey, labelled for sale. (Honey may be any colour, clear, granulated or soft set. All honey to be labelled with exhibitors own labels including name)
- H5) Novice class. A 1 lb jar of Honey, any type, any colour
- H6) 5 x 1oz blocks of beeswax
- H7) A pair of beeswax candles, produced by any method except 'rolling', uncoloured, one candle to be lit by judge
- H8) 2 x 1 lb jars of chunk honey
- H9) 1 plastic white tub of cut comb honey minimum 6oz
- H10) Glamorgan Honey Fruit Cake
Ingredients: 225g Self raising flour, ½ tsp. baking powder, pinch of salt, 125g butter, 225g honey, 2 eggs, 125g sultanas, 125g raisins, 50g candied peel, 50g candied cherries, ½ tsp. freshly ground nutmeg, milk as required.
Method: Preheat oven to 175°C, gas mark 4, grease & line a 20cm round cake tin. Cream the butter and honey together. Add the eggs alternately with the flour, salt, baking powder and nutmeg. Add the dried fruits, peel and cherries, beat lightly to ensure ingredients bind well together. If the mixture is too stiff add a little milk. Pour into the prepared cake tin and bake for 1¼ - 1½ hours until well risen and evenly browned. Remove from tin and cool on a wire rack. Display on a plate or board, protected with clear film.
- H11) Honey Biscuits
Ingredients - 4oz butter, 6oz plain flour, large tablespoon of clear honey, tablespoon of milk, 3oz white granulated sugar, tsp bicarbonate of soda.
Method:- Warm honey and milk together and allow to cool, add bicarbonate of soda and beat with a fork until frothy, cream the butter and sugar, add the frothy mixture and then the sieved flour. Roll into small balls about 4cms in diameter and arrange on a greased baking tray, allow space for spreading while cooking, press lightly with a fork. Bake at 180°C, gas mark 4, in a preheated oven for about 10 minutes until golden. Leave to cool until cold. Display on a plate or board protected with clear film.
- H12) Honey, ginger, grapefruit Marmalade
Ingredients- 4 large yellow grapefruit, 200g honey, 300g preserving sugar, 40g grated fresh ginger.
Method – Grate zest of 1 grapefruit and blanch in boiling water for 3 minutes, put in bowl of cold water and set aside. Remove rind from the grapefruit by quartering and pressing flesh from peel with thumbs, i.e. without losing juice, discard peels. In a

preserving pan or heavy saucepan mix together honey and sugar then heat gently without stirring until sugar is dissolved. Add drained zest and ginger, then break-up fruit quarters over the pan and add. Simmer gently for about 2 - 2½ hours, stir occasionally making sure sugar is not burning, mixture should thicken and set with a cold plate test. Pour into hot sterilized jars. Lid while hot. Display 1 x 1lb jar

- H13) 'BEE FODDER' a display in a small vase or oasis of not less than 5 types of flowering plant (wild and cultivated) which are a favoured source of nectar or pollen for foraging bees. Species displayed to be listed by common name on a card with the exhibit. Judges will mark on assortment, quality and decorative effect. The list below is for guidance (late summer/early autumn flowering)

Blackberry	Heathers (Wild ericas and	Mustard
Berberis	caluna only)	Oak
Balsam	Ivy	Oilseed rape
Birds foot trefoil	Knapweed	Poppy (field)
Broom	Loosestrife	Runner bean
Clover (white)	Lucerne	Sea lavender
Comfrey	Lavatera	Thistle
Dandelion	Lavender	Thyme
Dewberry	Mahonia	Viper's bugloss
Eucalyptus	Marjoram	Veronica
Field bean	Melilot (sweet clover)	White Bryony
Gorse	Michaelmas daisy	Wild strawberry
	Mint	

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