



# 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.



**December 2013**

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## Editors Corner



December is a quiet time for the bees. The feeding is done, hives are heavy and mouse guards and woodpecker protection has been fixed. So now we can sit by the fire and dream of spring whilst our bees huddle together to keep themselves warm through what we are being promised will be another cold winter.

The BBKA holds its ADM (Annual Delegates Meeting) in February and the Federation sends a Delegate. Caroline Bushell from SCBKA will be our representative in 2014 and she has spent some time going through the proposals that are on the agenda. You may have already seen her summary via your own Association, but it is reproduced in the newsletter and we would encourage you to read through them and give Caroline any feedback you feel would be useful.

You may recall that in the last Newsletter I congratulated Lorraine Godenzie from Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead on her prize-winning photo in the BBKA 2014 calendar. Following my suggestion, Lorraine has provided us with an entertaining piece about the taking of the photo, which I am sure you will enjoy. It was also pointed out to me that in fact, our Federation had two representatives in the calendar and so apologies for not mentioning this last month, and congratulations go to Gary and Nicola Tallett from Reading for the February photo!

I noticed in the BBKA newsletter that a number of people in Berkshire passed their bee basic this year. This is quite an achievement and congratulations to everyone.

There is a plea from the Regional Bee Inspector who is asking for volunteers to act as a 'first port of call' to local members who may have concerns about health issues of their bees. The understanding is that the DLCs would only be co-ordinators for their own local Associations and would not be expected to cover other clubs or areas. I've attached more information about this at the end of the newsletter.

I read today that a queen bee has to eat around 80 times her own weight each day in order to produce 2,000 eggs – that's the equivalent of a 12 year old eating 2,900kg of food – something to think about when you are tucking into your Christmas dinner!

I hope that you and your bees have a wonderful festive period and a Happy New Year!



*Sue Remenyi*

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## Federation Update



Firstly, great news!

A decision has been made regarding your fees to BBKA which we are sure you will all be very pleased to hear about. You may recall that BBKA increased its fees by around 13% for the year 2014 (see below). The member Associations recently voted by email (thereby saving the cost of having a meeting) that the Federation will pay for this increase out of its reserves.

The three associations that voted for are Slough/Windsor and Maidenhead, South Chilterns and Wokingham while Reading abstained.

Secondly, on behalf of all of Berkshire's members I would like to thank Martin Moore for valiantly representing us at BBKA's Annual Delegate's Meeting (ADM) each year. Due to family commitments he has stepped down from this role and it is my privilege to pick up the baton.

Lastly, although the ADM is not until 11th January 2014, BBKA have sent out a number of proposals which, as your Federation delegate, I will be asked to vote on. Last year there was a Federation meeting in December where the two voting delegates from each of the four associations voted on each proposal, thereby giving Martin a brief on how to vote at the ADM.

This year I thought some/many of you might be interested in making your thoughts known so I have summarised the proposals below. Please feel free to contact either myself ([membership@scbka.org](mailto:membership@scbka.org)) and/or your own association committee and let us know how you would wish me to vote **BY THE END OF DECEMBER 2013**. If anyone would like to see the full proposals, let me know and I can email them to you, together with the agenda and other supporting documents.

I will also write up a summary of what transpired at the ADM for a future newsletter.

**The proposals:** *Please tell me how you would vote on each one of these: yes, no or abstain.*



**1/2014:** The BBKA Executive Committee propose that your fees (capitation rates) should increase as follows:

Proposed increases for 2015			Recap of 2014 increases	
Members	Up £1	(£17.00 to £18.00)	Up £2	(£15.00 to £17.00)
Partners	Up 70p	(£11.20 to £11.90)	Up £1.30	(£9.90 to £11.20)
Country	Up £1	(£8.50 to £9.50)	Up £1	(£7.50 to £8.50)
Junior	Up £1	(£8.50 to £9.50)	Up £2	(£7.50 to £8.50)



**2/2014:** Lancashire and North West BKA propose that the BBKA constitution be amended as follows:

Clause 20.6 which currently reads "*Co-opted members of the EC shall not be Trustees*" to be amended to "*The General Secretary & Treasurer (as the principal officers of the charity) and Co-opted members of the EC shall not be Trustees*"

**3/2014:** Buckinghamshire BKA propose that the BBKA should freeze capitation rates for 2015 to those of 2014 and thereafter be limited to an increase no higher than the published CPI of the previous year.

The need for the latest £2 increase for 2014 was created, in part, by a shortfall in sponsorship income, which is now increasing. Area Associations and branches must pass on the BBKA capitation fee or subsidise BBKA membership from funds which would have been available for supporting local activities.

**4/2014:** Surrey BKA propose that the BBKA Executive Committee set up a working party to examine the timing of key events in the BBKA's annual timetable with a view to improving clarity and transparency in the running of BBKA and its interaction with its member associations; the Executive Committee to present their findings and recommendations to the membership not later than the 2015 ADM.

Issue:

- The new BBKA budget is proposed at each January ADM and relates to the year operating from October to September, i.e. the budget has already been in operation for 4 months before the ADM is even allowed to vote on whether or not to approve it!

**5/2014:** Yorkshire BKA propose that the BBKA changes its procedures so that it submits to the Delegates for approval at the January ADM, the budget for the forthcoming year (rather than as at present, submitting the budget for the current year).

Issue:

- This situation is untenable and does not provide the ADM with adequate means to monitor the operation of the BBKA. Furthermore the ADM is asked to approve future actions and activity (such as an increase to the Capitation fee) without proper information on which to base those decisions. The BBKA should be discussing its plan with ADM delegates and submitting a budget to support its activities in January of the previous operational year; having these approved and then implementing the plan at the start of the next operational year from October onwards.

**6/2014:** Yorkshire BKA propose that the BBKA introduce a Corporate or Institutional grade of membership suitable for schools and educational bodies who are keeping bees and using bees in the curriculum

For example: a membership package might cover

- The beekeeping activities of up to (say) three staff members
- The supervised handling of bees and beehives by pupils and students in curriculum and extra-curriculum situations
- The support of the school through pupils taking the Junior Certificate examination
- A copy of the BBKA news and other membership support to the school
- Support for the local Beekeeping Association as they work with the school



**7/2014:** Somerset BKA propose that the title of BBKA's monthly publication "*BBKA News*" is changed to "*British Bee Journal*"

*Issue:*

- Originally founded in 1873 as the British Bee Journal, it was later bought to promote BBKA and provide news about the organisation and its affiliated associations and continued to be called BBJ until 1943. When BBKA News was established, as “News Notes” to publicise our centenary it was a news medium. Now it has broadened and grown containing a wide variety of topics by various authors as well. BBKA publishes a disclaimer about content, making the publication journalistic. News can be incorporated in a journal, but not vice-versa as stated on the banner.

**8/2014:** BBKA Executive Committee propose to amend the constitution as follows:

- a) an additional clause 9.4 be inserted into the Constitution which will state “*If the primary or secondary dates fall on statutory holidays or at weekends then the relevant primary or secondary date will be postponed to the following working day. This also applies to the dates specified in clause 8.2.*” and
- b) clause 8.2.1 be amended to delete the words “*from the start of the BBKA Financial Year, i.e. 1st October preceding*” and replaced with the words “*during the period from the preceding secondary date.*”
- c) in clause 9.2 of the constitution insert after the word “*corrections*” the words “at least two working days”

**Comment:** *In light of proposal 4 to review BBKA’s timelines, perhaps this should be assessed as part of the working party remit and not viewed in isolation as it is here?*

**9/2014:** Devon BKA propose that the BBKA launch active lobbying of Government to end or significantly reduce VAT at 20% on all beekeeping equipment. This will enable more people of limited means to take up the craft, which will increase the environmental benefits of beekeeping. Given the unprecedented levels of public concern about the decline of honey bee populations and the recent high-profile media coverage of beekeeping, there has never been a better time to challenge this imposition.

**The budget:**

And now the dreaded proposed budget for 2014 which is already in operation without approval from the ADM! *Please let me know whether you would vote yes or no to this*

Item	Year ending September 2012	Year ending September 2013	Year ending 2014	Year ending 2015	Year ending 2016
Capitation fee	15.00	15.00	17.00	18.00	19.00
Total Income	449,770.00	415,262.00	521,722.00	540,200.00	564,200.00
Total Expenditure	459,435.00	445,645.00	519,183.00	527,500.00	551,800.00
Surplus	-5,720.00	-30,383.00	2,539.00	12,700.00	12,400.00
Final Reserves	£471,132.00	£426,290.00	£428,829.00	£441,529.00	£453,929.00

**Comment:** *Reserves in 2013 were depleted by a shortfall in the budget. There is now a surplus predicted for 2014 with reserves staying almost static at over £400,000, further increases need to be justified (see proposal 1/2014).*

*This is based on an interpretation of the data (see item 13 below) and hence the high-lighted figures are estimates.*

## The Elections

There are Elections for the following positions: President, 5 vacancies on the Executive Committee and 5 vacancies on the Examinations Board.

In the interests of trying to keep this as short as possible, please let me know if you would like to see the CVs and advise me if you have any concerns over any of these folk being elected. Otherwise I will endorse their elections.



The following documentation to support this ADM is available on the BBKA website and has been emailed to each of the four associations :

1. Agenda
2. Standing Orders covering the 2014 meeting
3. Draft minutes of 2013 ADM
4. Exec. Com. actions taken on resolutions of the 2013 ADM
5. BBKA Executive report for 2014
6. Report of the Education and Husbandry Committee
7. Report of the Governance Group
8. Report of the Operations and Membership Services Team
9. Report of the Public Affairs Team
10. Report of the Shows Committee
11. Report of the Technical and Environmental Committee
12. Examinations Board report 2013
13. BBKA Financial Statements 2012/2013 including the 2014 budget proposal
14. Individual proposals 1-9

You can also download the information directly from :

[http://www.bbka.org.uk/members/events/annual\\_delegates\\_meeting\\_2014](http://www.bbka.org.uk/members/events/annual_delegates_meeting_2014)

I realise that many of you will have found this laborious but hopefully for those who are interested, please do get in touch and let me know your thoughts.

I look forward to hearing from you!

*Caroline Bushell*  
*Federation of Berkshire Beekeepers' Delegate*  
[membership@scbka.org](mailto:membership@scbka.org)

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## Should I thank a heron for winning me a brand new hive?

I was surprised and delighted when I was notified that my photo, entered into the annual Beecraft magazine calendar competition, had not only been chosen to adorn the month of August but that it had also won the overall UK prize of a new hive, kindly donated by Caddon Hives.

I took the photograph near my garden pond which is a popular water source for the bees from hives at the end of the garden and I often see them queuing up for the best drinking positions on plant stems and leaves.



For the last few years we have had a growing number of goldfish in the pond as the original set of four fish happily reproduced. The colourful fish were fed and admired but each year when a gelatinous mass of frog spawn appeared in the pond it soon became a



tasty snack for the fish. In March I spied a large grey heron motionless by the pond and I soon discovered that the raider had been patiently waiting to scoop up the last of the goldfish which in their turn had also become a tasty snack. I did not replace the fish immediately as I was reluctant to restock the heron's larder so when frog spawn appeared in the pond this year it finally had a chance to develop.



On a sunny day in July I spotted the little frog sunbathing on one side of a water lily pad whilst a honey bee collected water nearby; the frog was clearly keeping an eye on the bee but neither seemed to be bothered by the other. I dashed indoors to grab my camera and took quite a few shots before I got the photo where the frog was looking at the honey bee.

If the heron had not emptied my pond of goldfish then there would not have been any frogs for me to photograph but now do I really have to thank the heron for bringing me a lovely new beehive?

*Lorraine Godenzie*

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## Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association



Nigel opened the evening by welcoming everyone to our annual honey show. We were all invited to judge the honey and wax entries, but the baking and mead judges were selected from members who had not entered those classes. Lorna had kindly arranged for Claire Tremear, a semi professional photographer, to judge the photography class. Once judging was complete, we all tucked into the cakes and mead.

1st prize went to Mary Paul for her honey, apple and walnut cake. This is the second year in a row Mary has come first.

2nd prize went to Mrs Sargeant for her honey and lemon drizzle cake and 3rd to Mary Gillan for her truffles.

In the runny honey class, 1st prize went to Janet Grainge, 2nd to Robin Roberts and 3rd to Bob Loades. In the set honey class, 1st prize went to Mr Sargeant, with joint 2nd to Robin and Bob.

In the mead class 1st prize went to Nigel Perkins, with 2nd to Bob and 3rd to Robin, who was also placed 1st in the wax class with his beehive candle. Nigel came 2nd and Lorna Rivett was 3rd.



In the photography class, Bob entered a superb close-up shot of a queen bee with her attendant workers and Claire had no hesitation in giving this 1st place, with Robin coming 2nd and Nigel 3rd.

Congratulations to all the winners and our thanks to everyone who took part. More photographs of the evening can be found on the Club's website and Facebook page.

We will be adding another category to the show next year, as Robin Roberts has very kindly donated a new trophy to the Club. If you have any suggestions for this additional class please let us know.



We also presented certificates and badges to those people who passed their BBKA BASIC exam this year. Congratulations to Gavin Darcy, Mary Gillan, Janet Grainge, John Waddelove and Yvonne Goddard.

A report on the Bee Improvement Day we ran in conjunction with BIBBA and Roger Patterson will be included in Garth Matthew's next L & D Report. We had over 100 people register and from the feedback received, it was apparent it was a huge success. We are also lucky enough to have Roger as our guest speaker at our meeting in February.

Thanks to Roger for an interesting and thought provoking day and to everyone else who helped before and during the event.

To round off the evening, Nigel reminded everyone about the Gormanston Summer School which takes place at the end of July next year. If you are interested in attending please get in touch with Garth as a matter of urgency. They are now taking bookings, so we need to apply as soon as possible if we want to make a group reservation.

BIBBA are also holding their 50th Anniversary Conference, combined with the SICAMM Biennial Conference in Wales on 26-28 September next year in Llangollen, North Wales. All lectures and presentations will be in English and the conference will cover a wide range of subjects including bee breeding and queen rearing techniques, improving your bees and beekeeping, practical and scientific topics and lecture streams. There are also local attractions for the non beekeepers in your family. More information can be found on the following websites: [www.bibba.com](http://www.bibba.com) or [www.sicamm.org](http://www.sicamm.org).

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party on Wednesday 11th December. It would be appreciated if you would bring some nibbles and a prize for the grand raffle.



The "entertainment" will be Beekeepers Question Time. Garth will try to maintain order as Neil, Wally, Nigel and Bob attempt to answer your questions. If you have anything you would like to ask the team please submit your questions to Garth, or me if it is easier. If you can make them tricky or controversial, that would be even better.

We made £70 on the raffle this month. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets. This is now a significant source of revenue towards club funds.

We look forward to seeing you in December.

*Lynne Janes*

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## South Chilterns Beekeepers Association

### Immunity to the Honey Bee Sting by Dr Andrew Burnett

Andrew began his talk with a system failure that meant he was unaided by the slide pack he had prepared. Nevertheless he coped admirably and strode seamlessly through an interesting talk on Immunity to the Honey Bee sting woven with many moments of ironic humour – how else to deal with such a serious subject? Dr Burnett is a practicing GP in Sonning Common with a particular interest in allergies. He explained that deaths from stings are very rare and statistics gathered over the last 10 years show that there have only been on average 4 deaths per year as a result of bee/wasp stings. In these rare incidents death tends to occur very quickly, within 10-15 minutes.



Venom allergy results in the rapid release of chemicals in the body sometimes with dramatic effects. Reaction to bee stings tend to be divided into two types: generalised allergic reactions, which are relatively rare whereby the body's systems react to the sting not necessarily within the immediate vicinity of the sting. Secondly local reactions often involve a delayed reaction (one to two days) followed by swelling in excess of 10cm locally which is indicative of the body's immune system reacting well.

Dr Burnett suggested that new beekeepers appear more likely to develop an allergic reaction to bee stings and the incidents where lots of stings occur within a short period can also result in allergy development. A strong reaction to venom results in a sharp drop in blood pressure. This effect is more noticeable in older people and is best treated by lying down with ones feet up but probably more effective if not in the immediate vicinity of the offending bees. If you are unfortunate enough to develop the more generalised allergic reaction to stings it is not a given that you will have this for life. His advice was to carry an epi pen and use immediately if affected.

For local reactions it is often a matter of biding times. Evidence has shown that for local reactions antihistamines have little or no effect except when used to treat children.

It is not known why certain people develop more severe allergic reactions where others do not

De-sensitisation treatments for allergic reactions, a form of immunotherapy, was discussed with two members having tried this method of training the body to react less strongly to increasing venom levels with the result being a less severe reaction to a sting. A lively question and answer session ensued and the talk was warmly received by all. With many thanks for Dr Burnett and to all who attended.



*John White*

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## Reading Beekeepers Association



Tuesday 8th October saw the start of our winter programme with a very good attendance from Reading beekeepers. Our opening talk was given by Dr. Nikki Gammens from The Short Haired Bumblebee Project. This bumble (B. Subterraneus) has been extinct in the UK since 2000 and Nikki's project to re-introduce it from queens especially selected and quarantined from Sweden has shown some signs of success. You can keep in touch with progress on the web-site [www.bumblebeereintroduction.org](http://www.bumblebeereintroduction.org). This is to be recommended and logging on will also reveal the impressive list of partners in the project, these being well respected environmental organisations. The short-haired bumble is one of the rare or endangered 'long-tongue' bumbles. Over 30 percent of the species are this type and two are extinct. The queens emerge later than the widely-seen 'short-tongues' - as late as May or June ('short tongue' queens can be seen flying in February) and tend to be plant specific, foraging from blossoms with long corolla, for example, the red clover blossom, which is now a scarce wild flower and is vital to some long-tongues.



Nikki reminded us of the role our native bees play in pollination. Our one species of honey bee, 24 bumbles (18 colonial or true bumbles and 6 cuckoo) and the 225 solitary bee species at last count, are vital for the biodiversity and health of our environment. Mankind's continued preference for intensive farming with pesticides, and intolerance of land use and plant species not considered of direct benefit, is directly affecting how future generations of human, animal and plant life will evolve. Nikki gave us details of the life cycle of our bumbles, including white-tails, red tails, brown bumble-bees, and the cuckoo bumbles - the queens of which fight the 'true' queen for the colony and then use the colony's workers to raise their own new cuckoo queens and males. About 50 percent of overwintering bumble queens do not survive the winter. Only the queens 'hibernate' and some of the early emerging short-tongue bumble queens may found 3 or more colonies in a summer. Suitable nest sites for bumble colonies include old blue-tit or mouse nests. (we'd better watch-out what we tell callers with a bumble-bee 'problem' in future!). Nikki's B. Subterraneus project involves careful quarantining to reduce disease risks when re-introducing to the UK. There are diseases on top of the environmental stresses that bumbles have to endure, for example, a sinister nematode that when present in the queen's body allows her to emerge from hibernation, feed and fatten-up then instead of founding a colony, go back into hibernation while the nematodes run-riot in her tissues! The hand of man also is active as usual in the bumble-bee world. Colonies of bumbles are prepared and packed-up by a 'secret' process in the Netherlands for use in pollination, particularly in fruit tunnels. They are widely used in the UK. It is not believed that any systematic monitoring is done on the genetics and health of such colonies and the instructions to euthanize the colony at the end of pollination is frequently ignored by growers. Bumbles are vital for many glass or tunnel crops e.g. tomatoes, their 'buzz pollen extraction' technique and their tolerance of partial enclosure make them ideal for this. Honey bees also can buzz-extract pollen but due to their large colonies they are intolerant of prolonged enclosure. It is likely that the tomato is virtually insect specific and reliant on the bumble for pollination.

Nikki provided plenty of inexpensive pamphlets including a free BBC Wildlife Guide to enable beekeepers to learn more about this vital and fascinating insect, which is so familiar and long may it remain-so.

A really excellent and fascinating talk, with very many thanks to Dr. Nikki Gammens and her mum for visiting us and to all who attended.

December's meeting starts at 7-30PM on Tuesday 10th December at Caversham Heights Methodist Hall. Our speaker will be Dr. Michael Keith-Lucas. Topic will be Colony Collapse And Decline in Bee Numbers. Dr. Keith Lucas is a prominent expert on bees, pollination, bee plants and the environment. Don't miss this! We'll have some festive eats etc in the break.



Jon Davey



**John Belcher**  
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## Slough Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers



November brought in the colder stormy weather and hopefully all our bees are settled in for the winter with sufficient stores and happy Queens.

As we enter the quieter time of the beekeeping year our thoughts can turn to reflecting on how we have done this year and how we can improve next year. So the 'Bee Improvement for All' course held in Bracknell on 9th November proved to be very timely indeed. This well attended day was organised by Wokingham and District BKA in conjunction with BIBBA and the speaker was Roger Patterson.

Several members from Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead attended this very rewarding day. Roger Patterson incorporated his 50 years of beekeeping experience in his talks which covered topics ranging from how to assess your bees, the arguments for and against keeping 'prolific' bees and lots of information about Queen rearing. Roger's overall message for the day was that "beekeeping should be fun" which can be achieved by keeping and rearing quiet, gentle bees.

Our thanks go to Garth Matthews and the supporting team of the Wokingham and District BKA who managed and ran such an enjoyable event.

## National Honey Show Success

In the last newsletter we reported on the results of our annual honey show and highlighted the outstanding performance by Jim Cooper in many of the classes entered. The judge Mr Nick Grey from Chalfonts Beekeepers Society had difficulty in choosing between Jim's dark honey and his frame of honey for the 'Best in Show' cup. As can be seen in the photograph accompanying the article last month Jim is pictured paying close attention to the judge's comments and this paid off when his 'frame of honey suitable for extraction' took a second place prize in the National Honey Show held at the end of October. Congratulations to Jim Cooper on his success in such a prestigious arena.

Our winter meetings are held at All Saints Parish Hall, Alexandra Road, Windsor, SL4 1HZ. The meetings are usually scheduled on the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 8 pm and refreshments are available.



Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday 10th December - Candle Making followed by Christmas Supper

Saturday 11th January (7 pm) Anniversary Dinner at Stirrups Country House Hotel

Saturday 25th January (2.30 pm) 'Beekeeping under the microscope' - Dinah Sweet

Tuesday 11th February 'Selling honey and the law' - Honour Ryan, Windsor Trading Standards

General information and details of all our meetings and can be found on our excellent website: <http://swmbks.weebly.com/meetings.html> .

*Lorraine Godenzie*



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### ***For your diary***

**10th December:** Slough Windsor & Maidenhead BKA Candle Making followed by Christmas Supper

**11th December:** Reading BKA Question Time, followed by Christmas nibbles

**11 December:** SCBKA Christmas special with Beekeepers' question time

**8th January:** Reading BKA Ron Hoskins talking about hygienic bees

**11th January** Slough Windsor & Maidenhead BKA Anniversary Dinner at Stirrups Country House Hotel (7pm)

**Saturday 25th January:** Slough Windsor & Maidenhead BKA 'Beekeeping under the microscope' - Dinah Sweet (2.30 pm)

**19 February:** SCBKA The Birds and the Bees with Dr Michael Keith Lucas

**Tuesday 11th February:** Slough Windsor & Maidenhead BKA 'Selling honey and the law' - Honour Ryan, Windsor Trading Standards

**13th February:** Reading BKA Roger Patterson on "Bee Improvement"

**8<sup>th</sup> March:** Beekeeping for Beginners Day at Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association

**12th March:** Reading BKA Bee Diseases. Nigel Semmence giving us an update on diseases, the Asian hornet and any other relevant hot topics.

**19 March 2014:** SCBKA The Decline of England's Bees with Dr Thomas Breeze

**29 March 2014:** SCBKA Skep Making

## ***Beekeeping for Beginners Day***

A one-day course will take place on Saturday March 8th 2014 to provide information for people who think they may like to take up beekeeping. This is an annual event, now in its ninth year, run by the Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association.

The event is useful for those who may have had a long term interest, but aren't sure if beekeeping is for them or not. All the information needed to become a beekeeper will be given in the presentation. There are follow-up sessions at the well equipped Wisborough Green teaching apiary for those who think they will be able to manage and wish to go further. This provides the opportunity to learn and achieve competence on someone else's facilities under supervision before buying bees and equipment. The course is also suitable for those who may have just started beekeeping, but have had little or no guidance.

The presentation will be by very experienced beekeepers with others available during break times to provide advice and information.

The Wisborough Green BKA covers a wide area with members in West Sussex and South Surrey, but for those a bit further afield details of surrounding Associations will be available on the day.

Further information for beekeepers and non-beekeepers can be found on the Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association website [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk) where you can find further details of the Beginners Day on the Events page. Contact Roger Patterson 01403 790637 or 07976 306492, [roger-patterson@btconnect.com](mailto:roger-patterson@btconnect.com) for course details, or Gordon Allan 01798 343470, [petworthgordon@btopenworld.com](mailto:petworthgordon@btopenworld.com) to book.

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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/](http://www.wokinghambeekeepers.org.uk/)

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## ***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.

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/> The British Beekeepers Association.

<http://hymenopteragenome.org/beebase/> Beebase is a comprehensive data source for the bee research community.

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## ***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](mailto: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](mailto:mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk) .



**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Disease Liaison Co-ordinators

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Disease Liaison Co-ordinators (DLC's) are well known experienced beekeeper volunteers who can assist local beekeepers in the recognition and control of disease, and provide advice and help in good husbandry methods. They provide liaison between beekeepers and the National Bee Unit (NBU), and sometimes act as the first point of contact for local beekeepers to approach if advice is needed on the health of colonies.

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### **Will DLC's replace Authorised Bee Inspectors (ABI's)?**

DLC's DO NOT take the place of ABI's and do not provide a formal inspection service. They are simply there to help the beekeepers that need it, whilst indirectly helping the NBU target inspections more efficiently. If a local DLC can put a beekeepers mind at rest, say with a chalk brood problem, it saves an inspector from having to break from higher priority inspections to arrive at the same conclusion.

### **Will DLC's visit my apiaries?**

DLC's only visit beekeepers apiaries if invited by the beekeeper, and then only if they feel able to do so. The visit is informal.

### **Will DLC's have any power to look at someone else's bees?**

DLC's have NO power of entry or examination and NO formal role as an authorised bee inspector.

### **What happens if foul brood disease is suspected?**

If there is any suspicion that a colony has foul brood disease then the DLC will always contact an authorised bee inspector to alert him or her to the suspected problem.

### **Will DLC's take samples?**

The DLC may hold supplies of sample bags, larval sample tubes and boxes, together with pre-paid address labels to enable the beekeeper to despatch a voluntary sample to the NBU. The DLC will provide advice to the beekeeper on how to pack and send the sample and what essential information the laboratory needs.

### **What training is provided?**

Courses are provided in the recognition and control of foul brood and in the field with authorised bee inspectors.

### **Where and when are the courses run?**

Courses are run at the Food and Environment Research Agency, York. The Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) may also run them locally. They are held during the summer period.

### **How much will it cost?**

Courses are free. Participants have to pay for travelling, accommodation, meals etc.

### **Will I be kept up to date?**

DLC's will receive regular disease and research updates from the RBI and by means of the NBU Website BeeBase.

**For further details, please contact**

Your Regional Bee Inspector

or the National Bee Unit, Fera, Sand Hutton, York. YO41 1LZ.

Telephone 01 904 462 510 e mail [nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk) NBUWebSite: [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)

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