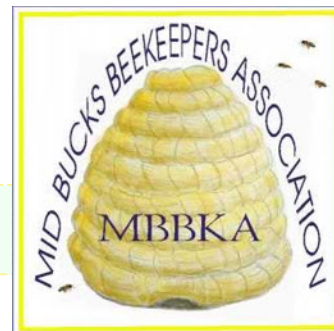


Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association



Newsletter for November 2011

AGM and Honey Show

Thanks to everyone who came to the AGM and Honey Show on 19th October. We had 55 entries in the Honey Show and many of our newer beekeepers entered which is very encouraging.

The cup winners were:

STUCHBERRY SHIELD For best honey in show	Paul Monument
LAURIE WEBB ROSEBOWL For most points in all classes	Jean Savigar
LAURIE WEBB CUP For best frame class 7	Lynda Roche
PETER SMITH CUP For best wax cake class 11	Sean Stephenson
W E JONES CUP For best cake class 14	Jean Savigar
APIARY CUP For best beginner, class 13	Irene Paterson

The best in show was the frame submitted by Lynda Roche. It was one of the finest frames I have seen and would do well in any competition.

Some fantastic items were displayed in the four classes that were judged by members in the hall. The winners of these were:

Home produced food item	Bryan Garson-Pilbeam
A bee-related photograph	Paul Monument
Craft item	Bryan Garson-Pilbeam
Other Hive Product	Bryan Garson-Pilbeam

We had over 20 entries in the frame competition. The **heaviest frame** was from Sara Turner's bees.

The **best looking frame** was from Jean Savigar's bees.

In my last newsletter I predicted that competition for the "least attractive" frame would be fierce. In the event it turned out to be a walkover. I am told that your chairman's was by far the "most futuristic" and was awarded the special prize of a magnifying glass. I am not sure whether it is for me or for the bees - or possibly both!



The AGM itself went very smoothly and the meeting approved the small increase in annual subscriptions to cover the increase in BBKA charges.

The meeting also approved setting up an "Apiary Development Fund" where we will set aside money to cover expenses that would be incurred if we have to move to a different apiary site. If you read the article on the next page you will see that this might happen earlier than we expect.

Subscriptions Now Due

MBBKA subscriptions for 2011/2012 are now due and members are urged to renew as soon as possible.

This year we are offering the opportunity to pay electronically. The renewal form gives the MBBKA bank details. If you use internet banking, simply set up a payment to the sort code and account number given on the form and include your name in the "reference" box. Then fill in the form on your computer and email it to "membership@mbbka.org.uk". We need the form to ensure that our records are up to date.

Using your tablet computer you don't even need to get up from your armchair!

November Meeting

Our November meeting promises to be very special.

Ron Hoskins

will give a talk on

The "Swindon" Honey Bee

Wednesday 16th November at 7:30 pm
in the Bowls Club

Many of you will have read the articles in Beecraft and BBKA News by Ron Hoskins describing his observations that some bees appear to attack Varroa mites and bite chunks out of them.

Ron has conducted painstaking studies over a number of years observing thousands of mites under the microscope and has set up a breeding programme to select the bee colonies that cause most damage to the mites.



A pupal antenna from the floor debris together with an adult, a damaged adult and a nymph. Photo Ron Hoskins

We are delighted that Ron has agreed to come and talk to us about this fascinating work.

More overpage ...



'Les Abeilles du Perigord'

by Diane Oldfield

During a recent visit to the Dordogne area of SW France, we encountered 'Les Abeilles du Perigord' near Thenon, which is a mixture of honey extraction processing, a Bee museum and shop selling all things melifluous.

We began with an instructive tour and explanation of all things bee-centred. Some of the scientific offerings looked impressive but my French was unable to decipher. A demonstration hive had been set up with the bees entering and leaving by tiny passageways from the courtyard. Here we could view the secret life of bees and also the Queen, wish I could see more of my own.

The honey extraction was a wondrous sight. The young



guy must hold the world record for precision uncapping of combs with a knife, over a large vat, where the cappings collected and cappings-honey could be drained

off. The dripping combs were then placed on a vertical fan-like contraption which made it easy to lift them directly into the extractor (which was virtually identical to the MBBKA's one). It spun silently, a luscious dark, dark honey flowed out- foraged from, I believe, woodland flowers.

We made a bee-line for the museum where the video presentation (in English) gave background information on wider issues. The historical background showed hives and equipment going back a century or more, it was well documented and the master beekeeper in attendance directed us to the Einstein quote that should ensure we never overlook the role of our all-important pollinators.



Photos: Diane Oldfield

The garden outside held a fascinating collection of 'ruches' (hives) including one that appeared to be an inverted triangle! A Top-Bar hive I now understand.

Finally the all-important tasting session where particular types of honey could be savoured. I rather liked the honey lollies and the raspberry honey.

Situated in the heart of the French countryside not far from exit 17 on A89- Perigueux to Brive autoroute. Well worth a detour.

Coming Events

Wednesday 16th November

Ron Hoskins

"The Swindon Bee"

7:30 pm at the Bowls Club

Wednesday 18th January 2012

Quiz Night and Supper

Wednesday 15th February

Alice Dowswell

"The work of the Tring Natural History Museum"

Wednesday 21st March

"Beekeepers Question Time"

Hampden Hall Apiary

If you live in Weston Turville, Stoke Mandeville or the South of Aylesbury you will have heard about the proposed development at "Hampden Fields" which would incorporate the field in which we have our apiary.

The plans are still at the consultation stage and no application for planning consent has yet been made. Nevertheless we are in contact both with Aylesbury College and with the proposed developers to ensure that provision is made in the plans for the apiary to continue.



So far we have received verbal assurances about this but it is still early days and we must await the formal planning application in order to see how our interests will be protected.

We shall be keeping a very close eye on the developments and will report again as soon as we have any more news.

Equipment for Sale

Various items of beekeeping equipment have been offered for sale:

- Hand-driven tangential extractor for National frames, Polythene/stainless-steel construction
- Foundation, National size
- Honey buckets and tanks
- Jerry cans (for sugar solution)
- A few jars and other honey containers
- Hive tools, tool box, gloves, jacket and veil, smoker, lots of other small items

If interested, contact [John Savage](mailto:John.Savage@mbbka.org.uk) on 01525 237858

Thank you for your support at the AGM on 19th October.

I hope you can make Ron Hoskins talk on 16th November. It will be one of the highlights of our year.

Frank Rickett, Chairman

Tel: 01494 866516

Email:

chairman@mbbka.org.uk



Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA)



Membership for 2011/2012

The Association is open to all who have an interest in bees and beekeeping. We provide a varied programme of winter meetings, practical help with beekeeping & advice on many beekeeping matters. Partners & family of **all** member grades are welcome to attend local Association events.

- Full Member For members keeping bees. Includes BBKA membership with monthly magazine, Public & Product Liability Insurance & Theft Insurance for members' hives.
- Family Member As for Full Membership, but includes additional 'partner' membership of the BBKA (no additional magazine) with full insurance cover for a partner or family member at the same address also keeping bees, collecting swarms etc.
- Associate Member For those with an interest in beekeeping and Association activities, but not currently keeping bees. Also for beekeepers who are Full BBKA Members of another association. **Associates must upgrade to Full or Family Membership as soon as they get bees.**

Subscription Details

(Subscriptions run from 1st November to 31st October the following year).

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Title: _____ **Name(s):** _____

Address: _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Telephone number: Home _____ **Work/Mobile:** _____

Email address: (only used to send Assoc. information) _____

Number of Hives: _____ **Location (address, postcode or O.S. reference) for notifying members of disease threats:**

Please tick subscription type required:	Full Membership	£27.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Family Membership	£37.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Associate Membership	£12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are you able to collect swarms occasionally? **YES / NO**

If you sell honey may we pass your details to potential customers? **YES / NO**

Electronic Payments: As an option, electronic payments can be made using the bank details below.

Bank: HSBC Bank PLC Sort Code: 40-44-32 Account No.: 41396609

Account Name: Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

Please insert member name in the payment reference field so we know whose payment it is

If paying electronically, please email form to membership@mbbka.org.uk so that we can update your membership information

Please indicate if you have paid electronically by ticking the box → →

Send cheque payments and form to: John Dadswell, MBBKA Membership Sec.

(Make cheques payable to *Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association*)

30 Barlow Road, Wendover, Bucks. HP22 6HS

Gift Aid: A subscription paid as Gift Aid enables the Association to reclaim income tax and therefore increases the value of your subscription at no further cost to you. If you pay income tax and have not already completed a gift aid form, please consider signing the declaration below.

I want the charity to treat all donations and subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

Signed: _____

Date: _____