

# Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

## Newsletter for October 2008



October is the month for our AGM and Honey Show.

I think that the Honey Show on **Wednesday 15th October** is the most important event in our calendar.

Most beekeepers admit that aiming for a good honey crop is a significant part of their beekeeping. It doesn't matter if you are selling the honey, giving it away or eating it yourself. The quality of the honey is all important.

The Honey Show gives us a chance to show off our own products, to compare our efforts with those of our fellow beekeepers and to learn from each other how we can all improve.

This year we have made a change to our Honey Show rules which I hope will encourage more members to enter. In previous years we have had a novice class which we have used to encourage new beekeepers to enter. It has never been entirely clear as to whether this is confined to members in their first year of beekeeping or their first two years.

We have re-defined the novice class to bring it in line with the definition used in national and regional honey shows and we have introduced a new class explicitly for new beekeepers. The changes are:

**Novice Honey Class:** This is open to any member who has **never** won a **first prize in any class at any level** of honey show. A first prize for cut comb, frames or wax will also exclude you from entering the novice class.

The only exceptions are wins in the New Beekeepers Class and our own novelty classes which do not count.

Any type of honey, liquid or set, may be entered in the Novice Class but the rules of entry are exactly the same as for the major classes. Two identical 1 lb. jars must be entered.

**New Beekeepers Class.** This is open to beekeepers who have been keeping bees for **no more than two seasons**. Only one jar needs to be entered.

A win in the New Beekeepers Class will not disqualify you from entering the Novice Class next year.

The full Honey Show rules and entry form are included with this newsletter. I would like to highlight a few points though.

- Please bring your entries as early as you can. They must be in place no later than 7:15pm.
- All honey must be exhibited in squat 1lb. jars with metal screw lids.
- The jars must be unlabelled; the honey show secretary will give you small adhesive numbered labels which should be stuck on the jars about 1/2 inch from the bottom.

### Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 15th October** 7:30 pm  
AGM and Honey Show  
at **The Bowls Club, Wendover.**

**Wednesday 19th November** 7:30 pm  
"The year in the life of a bee farmer"  
by **Ged Marshall**  
at **The Bowls Club, Wendover.**

### Subscriptions

At last year's AGM the Association voted to re-affiliate to the Bucks County BKA and the BBKA.

It was recognised at the time that this would involve an increase in the annual subscription but the committee has tried to keep the increase to the very minimum.

The easiest way calculate the subscriptions is to separate out the two components: the subscription to the Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association and the Affiliation Fees to the BBKA.

The following motion will be put to the AGM on October 15th.

That the Full Members subscription for 2008/2009 shall be £12.00 plus the BBKA Affiliation Fees of £14.00, making a total of £26.00

The Family Members subscription for 2008/2009 shall be £12.00 plus the BBKA "Partner member" Fees of £23.50, making a total of £35.50.

The Associate Members subscription for 2008/2009 shall be £12.00.

This will mean that the total fees for beekeeping members will increase from £21 to £26. This however compares favourably with our sister associations at High Wycombe and Chalfonts.

More overpage ....



# Honey Show Schedule

The Annual Honey Show for the Mid Bucks Beekeepers will be held on Wednesday 15th October 2008 at the Bowls Club, Dobbins Lane, Wendover. Judging will start at 7:30 pm and exhibits must be in place by 7:15 pm.

## Classes to be judged while the AGM is in progress

1. 2 - 1lb jars of light honey
2. 2 - 1lb jars of medium honey
3. 2 - 1lb jars of dark honey
4. 2 - 1lb jars of crystallised honey
5. 2 - 1lb jars of soft set (creamed) honey
6. 1 frame of capped honey, may be granulated
7. 1 carton of cut comb, judged by appearance only
8. 1 bottle of mead
9. 2 beeswax candles in holders. Candles may be made by any method (please note the judge will light one of the candles to ensure that it burns properly)
10. 1 cake of wax 7-9 oz weight
11. 1 honey fruit cake - see recipe below
12. New Beekeepers class: 1 - 1lb jar of honey from classes 1 - 5. Members may enter who have kept bees for no longer than 2 seasons.
13. Novice class: 2 -1lb jars of honey from classes 1 - 5. Members may enter who have never won a first prize in any class at any level of honey show (excluding New Beekeepers and novelty classes).
14. Novelty product to amuse the judge

## Classes to be judged in the hall by members

15. On a plate, 9 small honey sweets, 8 of which have been quartered for sampling by members
16. A bee-related photograph
17. An unusual use for an item of beekeeping

## Recipe for honey fruit cake

Ingredients: 225g/8oz self raising flour  
175g/6oz honey  
110g/4oz butter or margarine  
175g/6oz sultanas  
2 medium eggs  
pinch of salt

Method: Pre-heat oven to 180°C (gas mk 4)  
Cream butter or margarine and honey together.  
Beat eggs well and add them alternately with sifted flour and salt (save a little flour to add with the sultanas).  
A little milk may be added if necessary  
Fold in sultanas and stir well  
Mixture should be of a dropping consistency.  
Put into a lined 7in (18cm) round tin and bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour depending on the oven.

## Committee for 2008/2009

Nominations have been received for all committee positions except that of **Treasurer**.

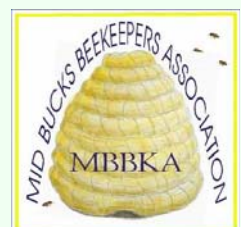
The nominations will be read out and voted for at the AGM.

The position of Treasurer is still unfilled. It is not very demanding; the MBBKA isn't exactly in the league of big finance and the Credit Crunch hasn't yet found its way to our doors.

If you are not already involved in other ways, please think about supporting your association by taking on this important task.

Hoping to see you all at the AGM on October 15th

Frank Rickett  
Chairman  
Tel: 01494 866516  
Email: chairman@mbbka.org.uk



## Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association Honey Show Rules

***Failure to follow these rules may disqualify the respective entry or points may be deducted***

1. All items exhibited (except beeswax and candles) must be the produce of the exhibitor's own bees. All exhibits must be produced by the exhibitor.
2. An Exhibitor may make multiple entries in each class but may receive only one award for that class.
3. Honey is to be exhibited in traditional 454g (1lb) BS1777 squat jars with metal lacquered lids and flow-in seals. BS1656 filters will be used to determine the colour of the honey.
4. Where two jars of honey are required, they should be matching in colour and consistency.
5. Cut comb is to be exhibited in plastic containers with transparent lids.
6. Beeswax may be exhibited either polished or unpolished, in a suitable container with a transparent lid or on a plate in an unsealed plastic bag.
7. Candles may be rolled, dipped or moulded. Candles must be displayed in stable candleholders.
8. Frames must be in undecorated bee-proof cases. The full comb must be visible from both sides and the frame capable of being lifted out of the case.
9. Mead must be in clear colourless bottles without fluting or any decoration. The bottle should be between 20 and 30 fl oz. and filled to within 1in. of the bottom of a plain cork stopper.
10. Cake must be displayed in a plastic bag which can be removed for judging.
11. Labels for each exhibit will be provided immediately prior to the show and should be displayed on each exhibit as follows:

Honey Jars: label to be placed horizontally ½ in. up from the base of the jar

Frame: label to be placed on the top right hand corner of the frame

Cut comb: label to be placed at the top right hand corner of the lid

Wax: label to be placed on plastic bag or container or on base of block

Mead: label to be placed horizontally just below the shoulder of the bottle

Cake: label to be placed on the plastic bag

Candle: label to be placed on a card in front of the exhibit

12. Exhibits to be staged no later than 7:15pm.



### Honey Show Entry Form

To enter please complete the slip below and forward by post or email to the Honey Show Secretary, Ernestine Matthews, Old Church Farm, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Tring, Herts. HP23 4QT  
 Email: [o.c.m@btinternet.com](mailto:o.c.m@btinternet.com)

**Entries to arrive no later than Tuesday 14th October.** There is no charge for class entries

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms	
Address	
Tel. No	