



HONEYCRAFT

Summer 2024



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Dorset County Beekeepers Association

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Editor's Buzzings

I think we can safely say that we have had an interesting spring: it started off wet and chilly, which meant for those of us fortunate enough to have oil seed rape (OSR) in our locality, the bees were late getting into it. I know that OSR and the honey produced divide opinion and some are not keen on it but I'm rather partial to it especially valuing the lovely soft granulation arising from it mixing with the summer honey crop. But sadly, this year my OSR honey crop has been very small. Latterly we have had some periods of sunshine and warmth and the bees have revelled in it and been very busy, with many of us seeing our colonies multiply through splits and artificial swarms. Let us keep our fingers crossed that this current weather pattern of rain and cooler temperatures as we enter the summer months is a temporary blip and that our bees have a productive and healthy summer.

The honey show season is rapidly approaching and our local associations in particular the honey show secretaries have been busy producing the respective schedules. Please do look at the schedules and enter the shows. They are great fun and a chance to meet up with beekeepers not only from the Dorset BKAs but also from neighbouring county associations. As a bonus, if you enter a sufficient number of classes, you receive a free entry pass to the showground and can enjoy the full programme of events (see the separate show conditions for full details). Gillingham and Shaftesbury show is taking place on 14th and 15th August (see pages 18 to 23), Melplash on 22nd August (<https://www.melplashshow.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Homecrafts-2024.pdf>) and the Dorset County show 7th and 8th September see page 24 to 29.

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to this summer issue of the newsletter. It is interesting to read about all the activities that are going on across the county and there is always something to learn from the experiences and tips shared. My diary already contains a note to look out for the details of the BBKA Spring Convention early in the new year and to avoid disappointment by booking early. Thank you Helen, Ruth and Stephen for sharing your experiences of attending this year's convention.

Also, if any members of Dorset BKA have suggestions for articles to include in future issues of Honeycraft – better still are willing to write an article – please do contact me at honeycraft@dorsetbka.com.



Dorset Associations' News

Sherborne BKA

Judy Easdale

Sherborne Branch now has three colonies doing well, and apiary visits are advertised on WhatsApp and by email, so please come and share your knowledge or gain some tips. Every day is a school day!

On 22nd June Mark O'Reilly organised and co-hosted a bee safari, led by our very own Kevin Pope. The sun was shining, and the bees were buzzing; the participants really enjoyed themselves, and were buzzing with newly found knowledge by the end. Many, many thanks to Kevin.

As everywhere else the season has been slow to start but there have been lots of swarms in June. Hope our members have a satisfactory harvest and strong bees going into the winter.

A reminder to contact Judy Easdale on 07719578209 if you would like to be included in the WhatsApp group. Messages via email will continue as normal.



Dorchester & Weymouth BKA

Sally Leslie

In April we attended the Dorset County Spring Show at Kingston Maurward. It was a cold, damp, windy weekend and the ground very quickly turned to mud, so the conditions were challenging. However, it turned out to be a good event and despite the weather a lot of people came out for it.



We have also had a visit to Robert Fields Honey Farm on Friday 21st June. Considering how busy Robert is, especially at this time of year, we were very grateful that he gave up an afternoon to show us round his extraction rooms and give time for questions and answers.

It was such an interesting afternoon there. It is well worth a visit. There is a report below on the visit.

Swarms

I don't know about other Dorset Associations but here in Dorchester & Weymouth we have had very few swarms reported to us this year. Even fewer than last year which was a very low number. Perhaps this is the norm now. Also, unfortunately, out of the calls I did receive quite a few were in places like chimneys and behind fascias which we can't help with. There were fewer calls about bumblebees although with the few I did have, once I'd made the point that they will be disappearing by middle to end of the summer, they were happy to leave them. Perhaps the public are now more aware of the difference between them and honeybees.

Association Apiary

We had a Basic Assessment (BA) session with Lesley on 26th May which was the Bank Holiday Monday. Lesley took a group of members through a mock BA. It became clear that the BA is not difficult for those who have some experience.

Our last visit was on Sunday 16th June when we invited Kevin along to inspect our hives. Although he is not an Seasonal Bee Inspector any more we still value his advice and experience. Luckily nothing untoward was found.

The good news was that the hive that had Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus was clear of any symptoms although the queen is not of the best quality and the colony is taking a long time to build up. We have had some successes with our artificial swarms so there is the potential to unite this colony with one that has a well-mated queen.



So a successful afternoon, which we finished with a picnic tea underneath the trees.



Dorset County Show

After a very slow start to the season this year I hope that things have finally improved for your bees and that they are managing to fill some supers!

Before we know it the 2024 Dorchester Show will be upon us, over the weekend of September 7th and 8th, and Dorchester and Weymouth Beekeepers Association will be staging the Honey Show.

As ever, we will be delighted to receive honey and hive products entries from our members across the county.

I would like to ask you all to take just a few minutes to read through the show schedule included in this issue of HoneyCraft and perhaps join in some friendly competition by submitting some entries in any of the classes that take your fancy.

Good luck!

Dorchester and Weymouth BKA go to a Honey Farm

By Stephen Potts

Needing to check the water content of my honey I usually place a smear of honey onto my refractometer stage and check it.



Imagine our surprise when we watched Robert Field place the refractometer stage under the stream of honey flowing from his settling tank into his honey bucket! However,

none of us has ever extracted a ton of honey in a day!

This was a visit by Dorchester and Weymouth Beekeepers to Field's Honey Farm in Purbeck. About 25 of us went and were given an introductory talk by Robert Field on his honey business. As you would expect we all sat round on upturned brood boxes in a barn which also contained storage drums of honey.

It was a fascinating talk. It seems that his father's decision to start a honey farm was at least part based on the fact that his mother was not keen on lobster farming in Shetland. He now has an enterprise which has approximately 1,000 hives in apiaries as far away as Salisbury Plain – more of that later.

Of course, with a 1,000 hives you do not go every week and check them all. I have enough problem finding the time for two colonies!

What he has done, is use Buckfast queens which he replaces about every two years on a rolling cycle. The reason for choosing Buckfast bees is he finds that they are less prone to swarming and therefore he does not have to go through all the swarm control in which we get involved. They are also fairly docile and productive so good news all round.

The other major problem we have as beekeepers is varroa and he is currently investigating the effectiveness of using oxalic acid sublimation in the colder months of the year, but he has yet to make a final decision on that. He has tried formic acid, but the bees do not respond well to that treatment.

After the talk we went across to the extraction area. If you look at the picture, it does look as if the interior of the barn is coated with propolis.



Robert told us it was spray foam insulation to keep it cooler in summer and acceptable in the winter. We were not convinced – it certainly looked like propolis!

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The production line is just that – a line. The supers come in at one end and the frames are all lifted out in one go and fed onto the de-capping knives. These are heated blades which are set to remove just the caps. Because he is using plastic frames and plastic foundation there is minimum wastage through either cutting too deeply or not removing some caps.

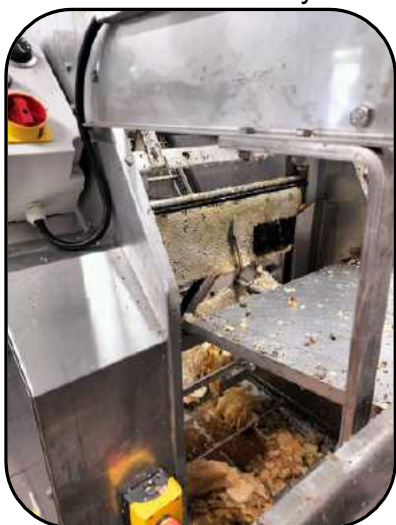
The frames move onto the spinner which spins out the honey. Because they are plastic frames with plastic foundation they can be spun faster, and more honey can be extracted.

From there the honey, which has some wax particles in it, is fed into a filter before being piped on to the settling tanks.

The whole experience was fascinating. To see a ton of honey being extracted when we might extract 20 or 30 pounds was a real eye-opener.

We returned to the barn for a question-and-answer session. It turns out that it was more by luck than design that he has apiaries on Salisbury Plain. They are in an area which requires special clearance to visit as it is part of the army ranges. That means that apart from a few tanks and some heavy artillery there is nothing much to disturb the bees or their food sources. The honey from there is quite different and much prized by those who have tried it.

The visit lasted about two-and-a-half hours and was a real eye-opener. A most enjoyable afternoon.





THORNE

THE HOME OF QUALITY WOODEN HIVES



LOGAR EXTRACTORS

Logar have been manufacturing honey and beeswax processing equipment from their factory in Slovenia for over 40 years. The quality of their products is renowned and offer exceptional value for money. They cater from the hobbyist beekeeper to the commercial bee farmer.



TABLE TOP EXTRACTORS

The ideal starter extractor for the hobbyist beekeeper with up to five hives. The B.S. version will hold 18lbs of honey before the honey valve must be opened. There is no central shaft, thus making the loading and turning of frames easier.



UNIVERSAL EXTRACTORS

Made by Thorne in Lincolnshire, this range of sturdy polythene extractors are ideal for the hobbyist beekeeper. Available in radial or tangential, lightweight or heavy duty, manual or electric, all taking 9 frames.

SHOP ONLINE, OVER THE PHONE, OR IN STORE

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sales@thorne.co.uk
01673 858555

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CHILBOLTON DOWN FARM,
HAMPSHIRE, SO20 6BU
stockbridge@thorne.co.uk
01264 810916

SCOTLAND
NEWBURGH IND. ESTATE,
NEWBURGH, FIFE, KY14 6HA
scotland@thorne.co.uk
01337 842596

WINDSOR
OAKLEY GREEN FARM,
WINDSOR, SL4 4PZ
windsore@thorne.co.uk
01753 830256

DEVON
QUINCE HONEY FARM,
SOUTH MOLTON, EX36 3RD
devon@thorne.co.uk
01769 573086

East Dorset BKA

Sandra Palmer-Snellin



Weather: With farming and nature four to six weeks behind this year many members reported winter bee losses despite plenty of food. The urge to open hives too early when the weather says NO was also a huge topic on digital chats. Despite that, the first drone was spotted by an eagle-eyed member on 22 March. On 27th April daytime temperature was six degrees!

Lesson Learnt: I am never going on holiday again in May! Three hives swarmed with multiple open queen cells when they were queenright, space-right before I left. I was truly gutted beyond reason. My bees definitely know more than me! Moral of the story: say yes when a friend offers to check on the 'buzzy babies' as they cannot be trusted!

Swarm Retrieval: Our members have been displaying ingenuity and skill retrieving bees from roof guttering to 30ft trees (pulleys and winches involved) for our enthusiastic new beekeepers.

Apiary: So proud of our apiary management team. Upgrade work and a dynamic grounds maintenance team have resulted in an apiary to be proud of, comprising 11 hives and four nucs and a housed swarm. The experience and enthusiasm of these dedicated volunteers enable the important practical teaching and sharing of hands-on learning with our wonderful new beekeepers. Big shout-out to the juniors, whose curiosity and handling was superb! Superstars include three great kids who suited up and got stuck in. Well done to you.

Trainees: A huge shout-out to Mark & Jude. Enthusiasm for beekeeping is relentless as demand for a third course builds. Who can blame them when it is delivered with Mark's relaxed, friendly manner and detailed information? The community spirit we have mentoring new beekeepers is lovely here.

Module One: Winter training by Helen was excellent. Exam taken and congratulations to our members who passed!

Swarms: First member reported a swarm on 11th April and a successful retrieval from a roof later that month. Wednesday swarm removal: recovering bees in bad places you need a special kind of practical imagination and knowledge of bees.

Press and Media: Mark White has had media calls and been doing interviews. Nationally people are talking about Asian hornets on Countryfile, MSN, The Guardian, Sky News and now on the National BBC News. Well done to BBKA press.

Socially Exciting: EDBKA WhatsApp chat is so incredibly supportive so thanks to all our members for being so friendly. Facebook has 4,161 followers and Instagram trails with 287. If you haven't seen East Dorset Beekeepers Association page, please go and like us.

Asian Hornet Traps: With sightings near Wool there should not be any traps still in the cupboard! As part of our membership, it was decided that we would give a Gard Apis trap to any full member of the association that wanted one. Committee members were in attendance to assist at a great event.

BBKA Zoom Talk: The new series is excellent. Thanks to BBKA for this new level of accessibility, training, and marketing co-ordination.

Bees Will Always Outsmart Us Humans: Routine day, bee inspector visiting healthy hive near lush. next minute, visualise the white-suited beekeeper and inspector running down the road behind a swarm to see which neighbour's garden they would alight in! We got AI to imagine the scene!

Buzz Words: Strimmers, fresh water, enough stores, feed. Time waits for no man (or woman): removal of some hives from beekeepers who sadly had to give up.

Committee Reshuffle: Life is busy and committees do awesome jobs. We are taking a fresh look at the roles of committee decision makers and organisational responsibility integrated with members'

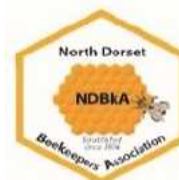
roles who have the skill, time and knowledge to help others. This includes trainers, 3D printers, honey producers and swarm collectors.

Finally Gratitude And Thanks. Goodbye to committee member Rich who has been our superb membership committee member. Welcome to Michelle who takes over this role. It gave us great pleasure to give Margret and Clive the best nuc from the apiary as a thank you gift for all their service over the years.



North Dorset BKA

Lesley Gasson



Summer has come at last, and the supers are beginning to fill. The lime trees are a bit late this year but I am sure they will help with the honey crop. Below are pictures of a bee on a rose and one on a geranium. They are working to catch up.

I did not have any swarm calls in May; it was too cold and miserable; now there will be



some swarms but they are very late in the year.

North Dorset BKA has been running Bee Experience Days to raise money for the new apiary building. We

have almost as many volunteer members helping as visitors on the bee experience days. These days have been a good recruiting ground for next year's courses. Quite a few people have come along and so enjoyed the excitement of beekeeping they have put themselves down for the Beginner's Course

We hope to start putting in the footings for the new apiary building this autumn before it gets too wet. The site is very flat and accessible but the soil is largely clay and holds the water. We have put in a large number of applications for grants and funding. The election has not helped this because many government and local authority type funds are on hold.

The Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show is the next activity on the horizon. There has been a change of management, and they have been very helpful and supportive. We are hoping for a well-run and happy event. Last year there were a few issues due to some last minute changes in staff. The schedule of classes is on the G&S website and included towards the end of the Newsletter.

The show runs over two days, 14th and 15th August. We have tried to bring the classes into line with the Dorchester and Melplash



shows, so if you do well in G&S show you can take your prize-winners to the next show. There are only two categories: open and novice classes. Exhibits have to be staged by noon Tuesday 13th August, with judging taking place on the afternoon of 13th.

On 20th July we are looking forward to West Dorset and Dorchester and Weymouth BKAs visiting us in Shillingstone. Parking is at the Shillingstone Church Centre which is beside the A357 in Shillingstone. The plan is for a visit to the current apiary and look through the hives, followed by tea and lots of cake. Fingers are crossed that we have good weather and we can all enjoy a happy afternoon of bee stories.



West Dorset BKA

Website: www.westdorsetbees.org

Carole Brown



Our students have now finished their dedicated sessions at the teaching apiary; the last one when Kevin Pope kindly came along was an opportunity for them to benefit from his expertise and learn what to look for when going through a colony. It has been a busy time splitting most of the colonies, due to queen cells being built, so there was lots for the students to see. I expect you have been doing the same; I have never known a year like it. I have not had many swarm calls to date; the weather must have something to do with bee behaviour. Fingers crossed that the new virgin queens are able to get out and mate well — so we all have strong colonies going into winter. There is not a lot of honey in supers yet!



We held another boil-up day at the end of April; this was a great success, with well over a thousand frames cleaned up. A big thanks go to Chris and Deb Childs for hosting the event. We had a lot more frames this year due to winter losses and different members coming along too with their dirty frames.



Peter Crabbe our Chair and Asian hornet coordinator has been very busy giving talks around West Dorset — he will be going back to Kingston Maurward college for his second talk to the students soon. We are all trying to spread the word.

We held a talk given by Carole Astbury and Hil Jury on “Making the most of your Honey for Showing” on 24th June. It was a great evening going through what the judges are looking for to award the best exhibits — plus the dos and don'ts! Let's hope that has encouraged more members to enter our Honey Show at the Melplash Agricultural Show on Thursday 22nd August — schedules are available online from the Melplash Show office — <https://www.melplashshow.co.uk>



Little Snippets:

By the editor

Bee stings – is it true that a bee can only sting once?

In answering this question the response generally given is yes, which sadly for the bee, on most occasions, is the truth; due to our automatic response to 'flinch and flick' when we are stung. The elastic nature of our skin makes it more difficult for a bee to remove her sting than if she stings another insect, but actually she can, if given time.

The Rev. Tickner Edwardes in his lovely book *The Bee Master of Warrilow* answers the query thus. *'What would be the good of a sword to a soldier, if only one blow could be struck with it? It is certainly true that the bee does not usually sting a second time, but that is only because you are too hasty with her. You brush her off before she has had time to complete her business, and the barbed sting, holding in the wound, is torn away, and the bee dies. But now watch how the thing works naturally. Look what really happens. The bee makes two or three lunges before she gets the sting fairly home. Then the poison is injected. Now watch what she does afterwards. See she has finished her work and is turning round and round. The barbs are arranged spirally on the sting and she is twisting it out corkscrew fashion. Now she is free again, there she goes, you see, weapon and all; and ready to sting again if necessary.'*

Or alternatively if you prefer a visual demonstration there are various U tube videos produced by American beekeepers showing themselves being stung and then filming the bee rapidly spinning around, managing to remove their sting, and fly away intact.

'The Bee Master of Warrilow', chapter two by Rev. Tickner Edwardes

Do honeybees really die when they sting U tube Arvin Pierce AC Bees apiaries www.ACbees.org



William Herrod Hemsall Honey Extractor

In clearing out his late father's estate a Dorset resident has found an old honey extractor invented by William Herrod Hemsall. The extractor was patented in 1925 (link to the US patent

<https://patents.google.com/patent/US1559319>) and represents an important historical development for beekeepers. Most extractors at the time held the frames of honey tangential to the axis, so only allowed the extraction of a few frames at a time and required the frames to be removed and reversed to enable the extraction of honey from the second side. Or they were very expensive machines with the frames held in cages, which pivoted to enable the position of the frames to be reversed without removing them from the extractor. The Herrod Hemsall extractor was of simple construction and designed as a radial extractor and thus enabled the extraction simultaneously of honey from both sides of the comb. It also was able to hold a larger number of frames than extractors of the same size operating on a tangential basis. Working with the Lee company of Uxbridge in the UK he was able to encourage the production of both



manual and motorised radial extractors.

If there is anyone interested in providing a home for this important piece of beekeeping history please do get in touch with Sally Leslie: dwbkasecretary@gmail.com.



BBKA Spring Convention April 2024

By Helen Edbrooke (EDBKA) and Ruth Sims (WDBKA)

Jottings from the authors, both first timers at the BBKA Spring Convention held at Harper Adams University, Telford, Shropshire.



From Helen:-

We bought our tickets in February 2024. The workshops, seminars and lectures advertised looked exciting and we carefully went through the timetable identifying the ones we wanted to attend. On trying to book our preferred choices, approximately one month after the Convention's web site went 'live', we discovered many were already fully booked, as indeed was all of the on-site accommodation.



We learnt later from others that we needed to be much quicker to make bookings than we actually were. To secure both on-site accommodation and one's first choice of subjects and lectures, it was necessary to study the programme of 'What's On' in advance of the website going 'live' and to book immediately the web site goes 'live' in January. We were told that within about 20 minutes of the site going 'live' all of the on-site accommodation had been fully booked, as had been many of our first choices too.

It is worth noting, however, that none of the main lectures can be pre-booked and we found that there were plenty of spaces available at these events. The lecturers included, notably, Tom Seeley (Nature-based beekeeping) and also Jamie Ellis (Mating biology of the honeybee) who was very entertaining.

If a more 'hands on' approach interests you, there were practical workshops on every topic from using a hive tool, to making cosmetics, to cooking with honey, to using a microscope, to grafting larvae, to making a skep and more.

More interactive lectures were offered in smaller seminar groups on various topics including mead making, genetics and varroa control etc.

Helpfully, each lecture/workshop/seminar was graded as being suitable for 'beginner', 'intermediate' or 'advanced' and there was definitely something for everyone.

The on-site accommodation was basic student accommodation in a hall of residence and the rooms and facilities were clean and functional. It was also possible to pitch a tent or camp in campervans on site too. The university campus is compact with everything that one would require just a few minutes' walk away. Meals and refreshments in the student refectory were good and fairly priced, as were drinks, sandwiches and cakes in the coffee shop.








The Convention was spread over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was the trade day with traders filling two halls with temptation and items you never knew you needed. It was certainly fun to window shop, and I came away with one or two pieces of equipment that I convinced myself I could not do without!

Overall, I would say it was an excellent weekend. Everyone was very friendly and now that I have recce'd it I would be more organised and much quicker off the mark with booking on-site accommodation and also my first choice of seminars and workshops.



From Ruth:-

I thought I would pen a few snippets about what I learnt at the BBKA Convention:

-  If you have a large hive and the queen has stopped laying, don't assume that the queen has failed. If there is a dearth of pollen, then the bees may realise that they will struggle to feed the brood, and so the queen will stop laying, but she will resume laying when conditions are right.
-  You can euthanise a hive with warm soapy water instead of petrol.
-  Keep one frame of drone foundation within a hive to encourage a good number of healthy drones to mate with queens.
-  Tom Sealy advocates hives lined with propolis as in the wild, to keep hives healthy. Build hives with rough wood to encourage a "propolis envelope". He also suggests spacing your hives far apart to help prevent disease spreading.
-  Do not import queens. It has been shown that temperature fluctuations whilst in transit can affect the quality of semen. Queens should be reared locally as they have already adapted to the region.
-  It is possible that queens lay slightly larger eggs in the queen cells than in normal cells. Could these be royal eggs?
-  Drones have enough energy to sustain about 30 minutes of flying per day. They fly about ½ km to a drone congregation area (DCA) so they can spend more time at the DCA than they do in flying there and back. Queens also have enough energy to sustain about 30 minutes of flying time. They will fly up to 2.5 km to ensure a better chance of not inter-breeding and therefore will spend less time at a DCA.

It seems that there is much more research needed on honeybees. There were some very good questions from people in the audiences and in many cases, the answers were 'not known'!



Thanks to the BBKA for organising such a great event.



A Steward at the BBKA Spring Convention

By Stephen Potts

As far as I knew a 'steward' was someone who held an inquiry after a horse race. Still there was no harm in finding out so I offered to be a steward at the BBKA Spring Convention in Shropshire. Now I know what a steward does and how interesting it can be. For anyone who does not know, the BBKA Spring Convention takes place over three days in April when beekeepers gather together for talks and socials and picking up some bargains. I arrived early on the Friday, having driven up the day before, and signed in, picked up my bag and complementary hive tool and my three-day pass. I had already been given my instructions as to where to go and to whom I had to report so off I went to the teaching block.

My role was to make sure that those people attending the lecture to which I had been assigned had an easy time. All I had to do was gather them all together, escort them to the lecture, advise them of the fire exits and act as general gofer – you know gofer this or gofer that. In fact I did not

have to go for anything. My first lecture was on S.E.M. and Bee Anatomy. At this point I had no idea what S.E.M. was but I was willing to learn. It turned out it is a scanning electron microscope. Now this is not the sort of kit any of us is likely to buy, so this was a new experience. As the steward I sat in on the demonstration, though did not take part. It was fascinating to watch those with more nimble fingers remove the antenna from a bee or the outer covering of the eye. It is all I can do to see the eye. Once the participants had removed what they wanted and stuck it on the stand the pieces were put into a gold sputtering machine. This coats the object in a very thin layer of gold. Jewellery it was not, but fascinating it certainly was. The objects were then put into the microscope chamber and examined. The detail which was revealed was incredible. I will never look at a bee in quite the same way again.







Learning More about our Bees

Online learning

The BBKA online learning platform can be accessed at <https://learning.bbka.org.uk/> using your BBKA membership number and postcode. There are free study units, for BBKA members, on Hygiene and Disease Inspection, Asian Hornet Awareness and on Sustainable Beekeeping. It is worth keeping an eye on the site as more courses are being developed. <https://www.bbka.org.uk/correspondence-courses>

Other online resources to support ongoing learning:

-  Somerset Beekeepers Association webinars <https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk>
-  Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association webinars <https://www.cbka.org.uk>
-  Central Association of Beekeepers <https://www.cabk.org.uk>
-  National Bee Unit – Support: <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/resources-for-beekeepers>

BBKA News

'The BBKA recently took the opportunity to join the European Beekeeping Association (EBA). This will provide a good opportunity for the BBKA to work alongside its counterparts on areas of mutual interest and to evaluate long term participation.' Further information at: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/news/bbka-joins-the-european-beekeeping-association>

An electronic monthly magazine produced by the EBA, 'No Bees No Life' is available to download free of charge from their website <https://ebaeurope.eu/the-first-issue-of-the-eba-magazine-no-bees-no-life-was-published/>



Notes from Ron's Apiary

Cleaning Poly Hives

Well, the season is well under way. I managed to get all my nucs through the winter and now they all need cleaning prior to this year's overwintering programme.

Most of my nucs and four of my hives are made of polystyrene. I am a fan of the poly: the thermal qualities, and the way the boxes all lock together are great. Then there is the weight, much lighter

than wood. I use a brood box as a super on all my polys as I can manage the weight, then after extraction I have 40-plus drawn frames to use the following year.

For me there are only two downsides to poly. The first is, as you are aware from my previous articles, I like to make a lot of my hive parts; although not impossible it is not so easy to match poly with wood. It is also not aesthetically pleasing. The second and most important is that it is difficult to clean, it's almost impossible to scrape poly and you obviously cannot scorch it. So, in this article I will describe how I clean my poly hive that will leave them spotlessly clean and perfectly disinfected.

The first thing you will need is a suitable sized tank that you can fully submerge your poly into. I use an old 220ltr oil drum. Have a shop around; you can usually pick them up for little or no money. Just be careful and know what was stored in it prior to using it.

I then stack all the poly hives that I need to clean inside the drum and put something on top to weigh it down. The moment you start adding liquid the poly will start to float. You can see in the pictures I have also put in some frames. These were from this year's Bailey comb changes. I usually clean all my frames at the end of the year by boiling. You have to do that when the bees are not flying as they are attracted to the smell. Cleaning your poly kit can be done any time in the year so filling up the excess space with frames to be cleaned makes sense.

The ingredients needed are water, sodium hypochlorite and washing soda crystals.

The washing soda crystals clean the poly, the sodium hypochlorite disinfects it and also bleaches the inside white, making it look brand new.

Sodium hypochlorite is a concentrated bleach and can be nasty if you get it on your skin or in your eyes. So please wear protective clothing, rubber gloves and goggles. Also keep pets and young children away especially whilst you are mixing the solution.

Now for the maths: you need your solution to be 3% bleach. My hypochlorite is five litres of 15% bleach, so to get it to 3% I need to add 25 litres of water.



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So, the mixture is as follows: five parts water to one part sodium hypochlorite and one 1kg bag of washing soda crystals.

Fill up the tank until all parts are submerged and leave for 24-48 hours, then remove the parts and thoroughly rinse them. I use a power washer for this part.

Then allow them to dry and store for re use. The solution in the tank can be used again. I reuse the solution three to four times and that does all I need it to. I do not know how many times it can be reused so if anyone out there does, please let me know.

As you can see from the last picture the results are great and well worth doing.



The following link takes you to a You Tube video by Black Mountain Honey <https://youtu.be/XlxlOI25jvQ?feature=shared> . The National Bee Unit also has a number of factsheets on their website covering cleaning of equipment: <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/resources-for-beekeepers/leaflets-guides-and-videos/fact-sheets>



It's All About the Buzz: Learning, Laughing, and Loving Every Moment

By Claire and Andy

As the warm days of June and July (supposedly) embraced us, it's been the perfect time to reflect on our first-year beekeeping and acknowledge some unsung heroes. Andy and I, fresh out of the beginners' beekeeping course last summer, found ourselves eager yet slightly bewildered by the vast world of beekeeping. When the opportunity popped up to join the Apiary Working Group we did

it as a way of giving back and saying thanks. Little did we know that joining this weird and wacky group of people would not only sharpen our beekeeping skills but also bring us a hive full of joy, laughter, and friendships.

You might remember the excitement (and slight panic) of setting up your first hive. After completing our beginners' course, Andy and I quickly realised that there's so much more to beekeeping than just donning a bee suit and harvesting honey. Enter the apiary working group, our saving grace!



Hive Maintenance: Scraping, Steaming, and Scorching

Our seasoned mentors patiently guided (cajoled) us through essential tasks to keep the club apiary bees buzzing healthily. We learned the art of administering oxalic acid treatment, a crucial step in managing varroa, making syrup – on one occasion having a 'cooking up' session for the whole working group – turning Ron's back garden into a mini sugar syrup factory. Sticky is an understatement!



Even in the wet we still had fun.

Maintaining healthy hives meant getting hands-on with scraping, steaming, and scorching frames as well as making up new ones. Spring cleaning but with fire! Our working group sessions became a blend of hard work and hilarity as we took on these tasks together. Trust me, nothing builds camaraderie like trying to scrape propolis off a hive frame while your hands are freezing, but on the plus side there is burning stuff and also the pub! We always nip over to the pub for a 'swift

half' after a working group session.

We have been fortunate enough to go out on a couple of cut-outs to rescue some bees. We were lucky that with one, scaffolding was already up ready to repair the roof; with the other, a step ladder was enough to manage.



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GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY SHOW

14 & 15 AUG 2024

Gillingham and Shaftesbury Bees & Honey Show Schedule 2024

Staged alongside the North Dorset Beekeeper's Association display in the

Bees & Honey Marquee

Turnpike Showground, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9PL

Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th August 2024

Gates open at 8:30am

Entries in this section close on Wednesday 31st July 2024. This date will be strictly adhered to.

Entries can be made online via www.gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk/compete

Results will be published on the same online platform as entries.

Paper Entries must be sent with the exact entry fees in a sealed envelope to: Show Office, Turnpike Showground, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9PL. Unfortunately, we *cannot* accept payment via cheque.

To obtain an entry form or to discuss further particulars, please email: compete@gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk or telephone the Show Office on 01747 823955.

Prizes will be presented at 4:30pm on Thursday 15th August 2024. Prize money may be collected from 3pm until 6pm on either show days.

Committee: Mrs Lesley Gasson, Dr Sue Billington and Mrs Lynne Richley

Judge: Mrs Susie Perkins, Somerset

Entry Fee: 50p per entry

Prizes will be awarded for all classes: 1st place £3.00, 2nd place £2.00, 3rd place £1.00

Please Note: All jars to be 454g/1lb jars with plain lacquered metal lids.

Open Classes

1. Two 454g jars of light clear runny honey
2. Two 454g jars of medium clear runny honey
3. Two 454g jars of naturally granulated honey
4. Two 454g jars of creamed honey
5. Three jars of honey with labels as for sale, any size
6. Two cartons of cut comb displayed in crystal comb containers 200g to 250g
7. One shallow frame of honey suitable for extraction in a bee proof showcase
8. One piece of beeswax not less than 227g displayed in a clear plastic bag
9. Two plain moulded beeswax candles displayed in safe candle holders
10. Two patterned beeswax candles displayed in safe candle holders
11. An item of decorative beeswax either moulded or sculpted (not a candle) not more than 300g
12. One bottle of either sweet or dry mead in a punted bottle with white flanges
13. A display of 5 different hive products not including any of the classes above e.g. polish, wax wraps
14. Bee-themed decorated cake any recipe (judged on decoration)
15. 5 honey flapjacks (see recipe below)
16. Honey fruit cake (see recipe overleaf)
17. Honey tea bread (see recipe overleaf)
18. Photograph of bees, hives or honey production, 15cm x 10cm mounted on card and labelled in the centre bottom of the mount. The class number to be attached top right and titled.
19. 3 to 5 postcard sized themed photographs up to A3 size including mount
20. Limerick on beekeepers and beekeeping
21. Artistic item related to beekeeping (any of the following: painting, embroidery, wax, sculpture)

Novice Classes

22. Two Jars of clear honey 454g/1lb
23. Two Jars set honey 454g/1lb
24. One cake of beeswax, minimum 227g moulded in a plain shape
25. Two identical candles any type
26. One shallow frame of honey suitable for extraction in a bee proof case.
27. 5 decorated cup cakes of a bee theme

Recipes

Five Honey Flapjacks (about 175g/8oz)

Ingredients:

225g/8oz butter

175g/6oz sugar

1 tablespoon honey

350/12oz oats

Method: Melt together butter, sugar and honey. Remove from heat. Stir in the oats, then smooth in a flat tin approximately 9"x 13". Place in a moderate oven for approximately 20 minutes. Allow to cool slightly and cut into squares.

Honey Fruit Cake Recipe

Ingredients:

200g/7oz self-raising flour

110g/4oz butter

175g/6oz honey

175g/6oz sultanas

2 eggs

110/4oz glace cherries halved

Method: Preheat oven to 180/gas mark 4. Cream butter and honey together. Beat eggs well and add them alternately with sifted flour, then fold in sultanas and cherries. A little milk may be added if necessary. Bake in a buttered circular tin 7"/18cm for approximately one & a half hours. To be displayed on a white paper plate covered with a clear plastic bag.

Honey and Earl Grey Tea Bread

Ingredients:

550ml Strong Earl Grey Tea

400g dried fruit

2 beaten eggs

150g + 2tbsp Honey

400g Wholemeal spelt (or wheat) flour

1.5tsp Bicarbonate of soda

Method: Make the strong tea by using 4 Earl Grey tea bags in 600ml of boiling water. Soak the fruit overnight in the tea. Preheat the oven to 190/fan 170. Line a 2lb loaf tin 10x20 cm. Stir the honey and eggs into the soaked fruit. Sift the flour and bicarb and add to the fruit mixture. Quickly fold everything together and scrape the mixture into the prepared tin, level the top. Bake for 75-80 minutes until a skewer comes out clean. After 45 minutes cover the top with foil to prevent burning. When the loaf is almost cooked brush the top with runny or slightly warmed honey. Return to the oven for a further 5 to 10 minutes of cooking. Leave to cool. Display on a white paper plate covered with a clear plastic bag.

Show Conditions

1. Classes in this schedule are open to amateurs only. Exhibitors may enter a MAXIMUM of TWO ENTRIES in any one class.
2. All exhibits shown must be the bona-fide product of the exhibitor.
3. All exhibits must be staged between 7.30 am and 12noon on Tuesday 13th August. Judging will take place the same afternoon. Exhibitors must vacate the marquee by 12:30pm. This rule will be strictly enforced. Note: The marquee will be in the charge of show officials throughout the night of 14th & 15th August.
4. Exhibit numbers must be obtained from the Steward in the Beekeeping Marquee during the Staging Period shown in Condition 3 above.
5. Every care will be taken of exhibits, but the Committee will not be responsible for any loss or damage sustained as a result of the exhibition. This includes plates and equipment which are left at owner's risk. The Association reserves the right to dispose of any items left in the marquee after the Show.
6. Exhibitors must provide their own dishes and candle holders etc. and see that their exhibits are properly staged in their correct class. No responsibility can be entertained by the Committee for disqualification or loss attributed to neglect of this rule.
7. Entries can be made online via the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show website – www.gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk/compete. Alternatively, entries can be made by completing the form provided in the schedule and returning it to the Show Office Turnpike Showground (SP7 9PL) with the exact amount of entry fees no later than first post on 31st July 2024. No entry will be accepted without the fee, or after the closing date. We cannot accept entry fees by Cheque.
8. The Judge has the power to award or reduce prizes according to the merits of exhibits, and their decision shall be final.
9. Prize monies will be paid out from the Show Office on Thursday 15th August. Any prize money not collected by the end of September 2024 will be returned to the Society's funds.
10. Protests must be made in writing to the Show Office before 2.00pm on Wednesday 14 August, and must be accompanied by a deposit of £25, which will be forfeited if the protest fails. In all cases of a dispute the decision and discretion of the committee shall be final and binding. All objections must be delivered to the Show Office on Wednesday 14 August, no objection will be subsequently received.
11. Collection of exhibits – Exhibitors must present their receipt slip to the marquee Steward before collecting exhibits. No exhibit may be removed from the marquee until 4.30 pm on Thursday 15th August. All exhibits must be cleared by 6.00 pm. Any exhibits not collected by this time will be disposed of by the Society.
12. One free show day admission ticket will be issued to any one individual who enters eight or more items, limited to one ticket per exhibitor, to be collected on staging of exhibits.
13. Exhibitors may supply some of their honey and/or limited beeswax products for sale at the show. Commission payable to Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Society.

Show Rules

- 1) No card, label, trade or distinguishing mark of an exhibitor may be placed on any part of an exhibit, other than the labels provided by the Show Secretary.

Jars: All jars to be round 454g jars with plain lacquered metal lids, exhibit entry labels to be placed 2cm from the base of the jar.

Candles: are to be displayed erect and one candle may be lit by the judge. Labels to be placed near to the base of the candles. For other wax exhibits, the labels are to be placed upon the top right-hand corner of the plastic bag covering/display case.

Comb Honey: shallow frame for extraction labels to be placed on the top right-hand corner of the front vertical face of the showcase and the duplicate placed on top of the frame. Cut Comb to be exhibited in standard white or clear commercial 227g containers with a clear lid one label on the front of the case, the other on the top right-hand corner of the lid.

Cake: one label on the top right-hand corner of the covering plastic bag, the other on the plate. All cakes & confectionery to be exhibited on a white paper plate in a clear plastic bag.

EXCEPTION TO RULE 1. Exhibitors to use their own labels (as for retail) in class 5. (Show exhibit labels are also to be attached in class 5).

2) Every article exhibited and sold must be bona-fide the property of the exhibitor. All honey and wax exhibited must be gathered from flowers in the natural way within the United Kingdom by bees the property of the exhibitor at the time of gathering

EXCEPTION TO RULE 2. The wax and honey used in the polish and cookery exhibits must have been produced within the United Kingdom but may have been purchased. (Classes 13, 14, 15, 16, 17).

3) Frames of comb honey suitable for extraction must be shown in "beetight glazed cases" and capable of easy withdrawal. 1 label on top r/h corner of the glass & 1 label on the top bar of the frame.

4) Mead must be shown in clear white 75 cl punted glass bottles of a round section with rounded, not fluted shoulders, stoppered with white plastic flanged stoppers only (contents approx. 26fl.oz.).

5) EXHIBITS. No exhibit may be tasted or interfered with in any way by an exhibitor or any other person during the show without permission of the Show Secretary or Official Stewards. The Show Committee (and Stewards) will take normal care of exhibits during the show but will not be responsible in any circumstances for the loss or damage sustained by exhibitors.

6) The Bayliss Cup will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points overall. Points awarded will be calculated on the following basis: - 1st....6pts, 2nd....5pts, 3rd....4pts, VHC or 4th...3 pts, HC 2 pts, C 1 pt.

7) In the event of the judge not awarding a First Prize to a sponsored class the Show Secretary may decide to award the sponsored first prize to another class. In the event of a tie, the cup or prize will be awarded jointly.

8) Exhibitors may enter more than one exhibit in a class but no exhibitors in any class may take more than one prize.

9) In the event of any query the Show Secretary's decision is final.

Dorchester & Weymouth BKA

Honey Show Schedule 2024

www.dorchesterandweymouthbka.com



Kindly Sponsored by:



To be held at the

Dorset County Showground, Cokers Frome, Dorchester

Saturday 7th September 2024

Honey Show Secretary: Michael Hill

Tel. 01305 257984

mikeonmac2@mac.com

D&WBKA SPECIAL AWARDS

THE THOMPSON CUP

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Section A

THE MILES PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Section B

THE ULLSWATER MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded to the exhibitor with the best exhibit in Section B

NOVICE TROPHY

Awarded to the member with the most points in Section C

PEARL WELLINGTON MEMORIAL SHIELD

Awarded to the member with the most points in Classes 24, 25, 26

Honey Show Judge: Terry Ashley, Sandbach, Cheshire

Assistant:

BLUE RIBBON and two tickets to the National Honey Show
awarded to the exhibitor with the best exhibit in the whole show

SPONSORED PRIZES

CRAIG'S FARM DAIRY, Osmington, Weymouth
£10 Voucher for Cream Tea - Class 8 - Frame for extraction - First Prize

QUIDDLES CAFÉ BEACH BAR, Chiswell, Portland
£10 Voucher - Class 23 - Observation Hive - First Prize

TOM GROVES, BREADANDBUTTER.STUDIO, Bristol
£50 Voucher - Class 20 - Photograph - First Prize

THORNE (BEEHIVES) LTD, Rand, Lincolnshire
£15 Voucher - Class 14 - Decorative moulded beeswax - First Prize
£10 Voucher - Class 21 - Shop Counter Display - First Prize

BRACE of BUTCHERS, Poundbury, Dorchester
£10 Voucher - Class 25 - Honey Cake - First Prize

OPEN CLASSES

- 1) Two 454g jars of light honey
- 2) Two 454g jars of medium honey
- 3) Two 454g jars of dark honey
- 4) Two 454g jars of crystallised (not soft set) honey
- 5) Two 454g jars of soft set honey
- 6) Two 454g jars of chunk honey
- 7) Three 454g jars of honey, labelled as for sale. Any type of honey permitted but all must be the same. Current labelling regulations to apply
- 8) One frame of comb honey suitable for extraction
- 9) Two containers of cut comb honey, minimum net weight 227g
- 10) Two sections, square
- 11) Two sections, round
- 12) One cake of beeswax at least 2.5cm thick, minimum weight 454g, moulded in a plain shape
- 13) Five blocks of beeswax, approximately 27g each
- 14) Five pieces of identical decorative moulded beeswax
- 15) Two identical beeswax candles, made in a plain mould
- 16) Two identical beeswax candles, made by any means other than a mould
- 17) One bottle of dry mead
- 18) One bottle of sweet mead
- 19) One flower made from beeswax (may be coloured)

- 20) One photograph, subject of interest to beekeepers. Minimum size 150mm x 100mm, Maximum size 200mm x 150mm, on a 250mm x 200mm (10" x 8") mount
- 21) Shop counter display of honey. 1.4kg minimum to 4.5kg maximum weight of extracted or comb honey in any form of display. To be exhibited in any transparent containers using exhibitor's own labels as for retail. To be judged for quality and sales appeal. Other hive products may be included to decorate the display. Space not to exceed 60cm deep by 75cm long
- 22) Composite Class. Any four of the following:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| a) Two 454g jars of clear honey | b) Two 454g jars of set honey |
| c) One frame for extraction | d) One section, round or square |
| e) One 227g container of cut comb | f) One cake of beeswax, minimum weight 454g |
| g) Two candles, any type | h) 10 pieces fudge, approximate weight 175g |
- 23) Observation Hive, containing live bees (see Rule 8 in this Schedule). To be judged for quality and educational value. NB Maximum 2 entries in total, preference given to first two entries received
- 24) Two tins of beeswax polish
- 25) Honey Cake. Use recipe on Page 5 of this Schedule
- 26) Five Pieces of Honey Flapjack, approximate weight 175g. Use recipe on Page 5 of this Schedule
- 27) Six Honey Crunch Biscuits. Use recipe on Page 5 of this Schedule

SECTION B

OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS OF DORCHESTER AND WEYMOUTH BKA

- 28) Two 454g jars of light honey
- 29) Two 454g jars of medium honey
- 30) Two 454g jars of crystallised (not soft set) honey
- 31) Two 454g jars of soft set honey
- 32) One frame of comb honey suitable for extraction
- 33) Two containers of cut comb honey, minimum weight 227g
- 34) One cake of beeswax, minimum weight 227g, moulded in a plain shape
- 35) Two identical beeswax candles made in a plain mould
- 36) Two identical beeswax candles made by any means other than a mould

SECTION C

OPEN TO NOVICE EXHIBITORS WHO HAVE NEVER WON A FIRST PRIZE AT ANY HONEY SHOW

- 37) One 454g jar of clear honey
- 38) One 454g jar of set honey
- 39) One container of cut comb honey
- 40) One cake of beeswax, minimum weight 227g, moulded in a plain shape

Recipes for Cookery Classes

Honey Cake (Class 25)

140g / 5oz butter 85g / 3oz light muscovado sugar
170g / 6oz clear honey 200g / 7oz self-raising flour
2 eggs Water

For the icing

55g / 2oz icing sugar Hot water
1 tablespoon clear honey

Method: Preheat the oven to 180°C / 350°F / Gas Mark 3 and butter and line the bottom of a 7" / 18 cm cake tin. Measure the honey, butter and sugar into a large pan. Add a tablespoon of water and heat gently until melted. Remove from the heat and mix in the eggs and flour. Spoon into the cake tin and bake for 40-45 minutes until the cake is springy to the touch and shrinking slightly from the sides of the tin. Cool slightly in the tin before turning out onto a wire rack. While the cake is still warm, make the icing by mixing the sugar and honey together with 2-3 teaspoons of hot water. Trickle evenly over the cake.

Five Pieces of Honey Flapjack (Class 26)

(Weight approx. 175g / 6oz)

225g / 8oz butter 175g / 6oz sugar
1 tablespoon honey 350g / 12oz oats

Method: Melt together butter, sugar and honey and remove from heat. Stir in oats then smooth into flat tin about 9" by 13". Place in centre of moderate oven for approximately 20 minutes, checking after 5 minutes. Allow to cool slightly and cut into squares.

Honey Crunch Biscuits (Class 27)

(6 biscuits required)

50g / 2oz butter 50g / 2oz plain flour
50g / 2oz granulated sugar 75g / 3oz rolled oats
1 tablespoon honey ¼ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

Method: Melt butter and honey together, take off heat and add bicarbonate of soda. In a bowl put flour, oats and sugar. Mix in the liquid mixture and allow to cool slightly. Put knobs of mixture on a baking tray and flatten slightly. Bake at Gas Mark 4, 325-350°F, 170-180°C

RULES

ENTRANCE FEE ALL CLASSES 25P PER ENTRY

1) Entries must be made on the form provided and sent together with entry fees and 50p towards postage to reach the Honey Show Secretary, Mr M Hill, 14 Remus Close, Dorchester, DT1 2TQ **no later than Monday 21st August 2023.**

Cheques made payable to Dorchester & Weymouth BKA are accepted, but bank transfer preferred. Dorchester & Weymouth Beekeepers Association, *Lloyds Bank Account No: 00359879, Sort Code: 30-99-56*

2) All exhibits must be staged by 8.30am on show day in the marquee allocated to the Honey Show. Exhibits may be staged between 5pm-7pm on the day before the show or 7am-8.30am on show day. Exhibitors who cannot meet these times should contact the Honey Show Secretary at least two days before the show to make alternative arrangements.

3) No card, label, trade or distinguishing mark of an exhibitor may be placed on any part of an exhibit, other than the labels provided by the Honey Show Secretary. Such labels shall be fixed to jars to leave 1cm space between the bottom of the label and the base of the jar.

Candles are to be displayed erect and one candle may be lit by the judge. Labels to be placed near to the base of the candles, on the candle holder.

Other wax exhibits, the labels are to be placed upon the upper surface of the display plate or stand.

Comb Honey must be exhibited in standard white or clear commercial 227g containers with a clear lid. Labels to be placed on the top right-hand corner of the front vertical face of the showcase or container and the duplicate placed on top of the frame or section.

Round Sections must have clear covers on both sides. One label on the flat face of the case, the other on the circumference of the section.

Square Sections must be exhibited in section showcases or standard commercial card section cases.

Cut Comb one label on the front of the case, the other on the top right-hand corner of the lid.

Cake One label on the upper surface of the cake, the other on the stand.

Biscuit labels to be placed on the plate or stand.

All cakes & confectionary must be exhibited on a white paper plate with a doily, covered with clingfilm or clear plastic. Plates, doilies & clingfilm can be supplied by the Show.

EXCEPTION TO RULE 3. Exhibitors to use their own labels (as for retail) in classes 7 and 21. (Show labels are also to be attached in class 7).

4) Every article exhibited and sold must be bona-fide the property of the exhibitor. All honey and wax must be gathered from flowers in the natural way within the United Kingdom by bees which were the property of the exhibitor at the time of gathering.

EXCEPTION TO RULE 4. The wax and honey used in the polish and cookery classes must have been produced within the United Kingdom but may have been purchased. (Classes 24, 25, 26, 27).

5) Frames of comb honey suitable for extraction must be shown in “bee tight glazed cases” and capable of easy withdrawal. 1 label on top r/h corner of the glass & 1 label on the top bar of the frame.

6) All extracted honey must be exhibited in 454g clear squat jars with gold lacquered screw lids.

EXCEPTION TO RULE 6. Exhibitors may use any type of transparent jar and coloured tops in classes 7 & 21.

7) **Mead** must be shown in clear white 75 cl punted glass bottles of a round section with rounded, not fluted shoulders, stoppered with white plastic flanged stoppers only (contents approx. 26fl.oz.).

8) **Observation Hives** must be set up to ensure that flying bees are excluded from the tent to the satisfaction of the judge. Any unsatisfactory exhibit will be removed.

9) **EXHIBITS.** No exhibit may be tasted or interfered with in any way by an exhibitor or any other person during the show without permission of the Show Secretary or Official Stewards. The Show Committee (and Stewards) will take normal care of exhibits during the show but will not be responsible in any circumstances for loss or damage sustained by exhibitors.

10) Exhibitors may supply some of their honey and/or limited beeswax products for sale at the show.

11) **The cups and trophies** must be returned to the Show Secretary by the 1st August in the year following the Show, or the Show Secretary notified by this date, so that the trophies will be returned in a clean state on the show day.

12) **Points awarded** will be calculated on the following basis: First Place – 6 points, Second Place – 5 points, Third Place – 4 points, Highly Commended – 3 points.

13) In the event of the judge not awarding a First Prize to a sponsored class, the Show Secretary may decide to award the sponsored first prize to another class. In the event of a tie, the cup or prize will be awarded jointly.

14) Exhibitors who enter eight or more exhibits will be entitled to free admission to the show ground.

15) Exhibitors may enter more than one exhibit in a class but no exhibitors, in any class, may take more than one prize.

- 16) All exhibitors must be a member of a Beekeeping Association.
- 17) In the event of any query the Honey Show Secretary's decision is final.

HINTS & TIPS FOR SHOWING

Is your entry according to this Schedule? Read it again, including all rules and regulations (these vary from show to show).

Make sure you have entered the correct class. If you are in doubt consult the Honey Show Secretary.

Ensure that clear honey is clear with no crystals or frothy scum and that set honey is set. This applies to both naturally crystallised and soft set honey. The surface should be dry with no trace of scum or ring of bubbles.

Overfill your jars to start with – this allows for skimming.

Ensure your honey is spotlessly clean.

Honey must be free from all foreign matter.

Prepare your entry well in advance. Screw the lid on firmly, polish the outside of the jar and stick on the label. The next person to remove the lid should be the Judge.

When two or more matching jars are required in a class, make sure that they match exactly in all respects.

Don't wash jars with detergent and then dry with a fluffy cloth.

Don't use an assortment of old jars and rusty lids.

Don't change lids on arrival at the show venue. This only allows dust etc. to settle on the previously clean surface of the honey.

It doesn't matter if the inside of the lid is wet with honey.

Who's Who in the Dorset County Beekeepers' Association

President: Richard Norman

Past President: Ken Bishop

Vice-President: Chris Slade

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
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| Secretary | Lesley Gasson | dorsetbkasecretary@gmail.com | 01258 861690 |
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| West Dorset | Carole Brown | secwestdorsetbees@gmail.com | 01308 456210 |
| | | ***** | |
| Seasonal Bee Inspector | TBN | | |

Website: www.dorsetBKA.com

Dates for your Diary

| Date | Event | Venue | Contact |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 14 – 15 August | Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show | Turnpike Showground, near Shaftesbury | |
| 22 August | The Melplash Show | The West Bay Showground near Bridport | |
| 7 - 8 September | The Dorset County Show | near Dorchester | |
| 21 September | East Dorset BKA Honey show | West Moors | |

Copy for the next issue should be with the editor (honeycraft@dorsetbka.com) by 15th September 2024

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