

North Staffordshire Beekeepers Association

(www.northstaffsbees.org.uk)

OCTOBER 2009 NEWS LETTER

News Sheet Editor:

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Dear Member,

This News Letter contains several reminders together with requests for YOU to offer YOUR help and ideas to/for YOUR Association.

Please do read of this News Letter and (if you can), respond possivelly to the requests.

Meeting's Reminder-All Welcome!

Wednesday 7th October 2009 N.S.B.K.A. – Annual Honey Show

Our Honey Show will be only days away by the time you receive this newsletter and hopefully your honey will be safely bottled up in shiny jars ready for showing.

Do remember:

- Class 1 is intended to encourage people to enter the Honey Show and therefore entries can only be made into that Class if you have never previously won a prize at our Honey Show.
- Class 9 – Gift Class – only one jar per entry and all entries are donated to a local charity.
- You need 2 identical jars for most classes.
- Don't worry if you are not sure which Class to enter in, grading glasses will be available on the night to help you.
- If you haven't got honey this year- there are other classes you could consider entering- the Honey Cake for example.

Whilst we would like the maximum number of entries at the Show, we do need the maximum number of attendees present at the Show.

Come along to hear what Jim Orton (Show Judge) has to say. The whole point of 'open judging' is to learn how to produce better hive products both for showing and for sale to the general public.

Showing our products is not an intensively competitive activity; it is simply the beekeeper demonstrating the skills of the craft because the products that we sell or give away should be the same as the products being shown at the Honey Show.

Margaret Teasdale
01782 502495

Wednesday 4th November 2009 N.S.B.K.A. – Annual General Meeting & Talk

Following the AGM, there will be presentations about some topics of beekeeping aimed specifically at new beekeepers.

Wednesday 2nd December 2009 Christmas Social

John Clews RSPB – "Action for Birds"

This talk will be followed by our Christmas Social but more of that in future issues of your News Letter

All meetings unless otherwise stated are held at the Friends Meeting House (see map on last page). The doors are opened 7.00pm to enable access to the library books and the meeting commence at 7.30pm

Association Property and Assets

Your Association has an excellent Library of Beekeeping books and several of pieces of equipment ranging from the Marquee to projectors, screens, extractors and beekeeping demonstration items.

The latest addition to the list was the "Vertual Hive" which consists of a total unit (Floor, Brood Box, Crown Board, Frames and Roof) all strapped together which can be used to show people what a hive with bees look like but without the live bees!

This unit has been professionally created and constructed and both looks and does the job. Each frame has a different coloured picture of a genuine hive frame and together all of the pictures show what can be seen inside a functional colony including a marked queen.

All of the items purchased are for the use of the membership and are therefore available for you to borrow. However, you will appreciate that some of the Association items were expensive to purchase and their lending and location needs to be known. We are therefore grateful to one of our new members, Dave Magnier has taken-on the task of cataloguing all of the items and controlling the loaning of them.

We will publish in the next issue of the News Letter a full list of all Association assets and the procedure that Dave Magnier has introduced for the borrowing of the items.

N.S.B.K.A. Membership Renewal

Ray & Linda report that the renewal forms are arriving thick and fast to beat the deadline but they would be grateful if you would mark on the renewal the elements relating to Gift Aid and taxation and if you prefer your news Letter in Electric, Paper or Both Formats.

Winter Preparations Continued

If you have had to feed your bee colonies, you should now be coming to the end of that task so when the bees have stopped taking down the syrup, take the equipment off and clean it.

The last tasks are:

- To ensure that your hives are secure for the winter by giving them a final check over to make certain that they have no gaps that other insects or pests could enter
- Ensure that the entrance blocks are fitted together with mouse guards.
- Ensure that your frames of drawn comb are securely stored away. Remember, drawn comb is worth more than its weight in honey!

Integrated Mite Control Talk

Some members will recollect my complementary comments about Nick Mawby's talk on this subject in January this year.

Whilst I do accept that this particular item is addressed to those members with Computer access to the Internet, I hope to publish the same information on paper shortly.

Thanks to Nick work, the talk in a Power Point format is available on our website and is called IPMMITECONTROL. All I can do if you have computer access is to strongly recommend this to you as definite viewing material. Whilst the talk information lacks the personal points that Nick added on the evening or the answers to the questions asked, the item on our site is certainly one to watch. Thank you Nick.

Thinking-Cap Time!

Every year, our Secretary and other members receive telephone calls about:

- Swarms of honeybees (if we are lucky), "swarms" of wasps and problems with bumble bees.
- Some members are stuck about what to do next?
- An organisation would like someone to talk to them about bees and beekeeping.

Whilst all of these are good PR/support opportunities, given those scenarios, we need to have people willing to offer support and help for all eventualities.

We will publish in a future issue, information about swarm capture and tips about beekeeping telephone information support but we DO NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW.

Your Association will support you and provide you with sufficient information and advice to enable you to undertake the tasks but initially, we need your names and telephone numbers.

If you feel that you are able to help or would like more information, call Gill our Secretary or Dave Teasdale.

Meeting speakers and content

It has been recognised that we now have a large number of new beekeepers in our midst and that we need to modify our approach to meeting topics to ensure that they meet their needs.

Therefore, if you have any ideas about subjects that you would like to be addressed at meeting – tell us.

Equally, if you know of anyone who can provide a talk of the required content and quality – tell us.

If you feel able to provide a talk to members on any subject – tell us.

It used to be the case that some members believed that meetings were only considered to be of any use or interest if the speakers had a national reputation a view that I do not subscribe to.

Within our ranks, we have several members who are quiet capable of providing quality talks on interesting subjects to all levels of beekeepers. You know who you are so will you volunteer your assistance to pass-on your knowledge and skills to others?

Tell US!

If you read this News Letter and found it useful or if you don't like what we are doing or saying – tell us

Your views do count for without you reading this News Letter, being involved and reflecting your needs, the document is worthless so please give me your ideas and do not worry that they might be contentious.

Incidentally, I recently was watching a Rick Stein cooking program from the far east and a clip showed honey being sold in a very strange way. I contacted Gill and she was able to capture pictures which will be published in the future for your fun and enjoyment. It does not take much and others will unfortunately learn from others.

If you spot an article in any publication or hear any information that might be of interest to other members. Please send it to DT for future publication.

My contact details are Contact 01782 502495 or 07971 013787 or Email david.teasdale@ic24.net. The only proviso is that we do not access the Email system every day so if you need to contact either Margaret or myself urgently, please use the telephone.

Thank you, David Teasdale