

BEE BRIEF

PLYMOUTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS CALENDAR

JANUARY 2014

Thursday 9th Branch Honey Show +
Talk on Wax/Q&A Session by Alicia
Normand

Judge: Jack Mummery

Thursday 23rd Winter Study
Group (more details to follow)

FEBURARY 2014

Thursday 13th Branch Meeting/Talk –
by Dr. George Graham
(Elburton Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm.)

Thursday 27th Winter Study Group
(more details to follow)

www.plymouthbeekeepers.btik.com

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Chairman's Blog – January 2014

I hope that you had a nice Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

The weather has been very mixed with gale force winds and heavy rain, interspersed with some milder, sunny days. Indeed, on Boxing Day, my bees were out flying, relieving themselves and looking for some forage and water, the latter being very abundant. It was good to see all the hives in my home apiary looking good, but Winter can always have a sting in its tail and we won't be out of the woods until the warmer Spring weather arrives. Now is the time to treat your hives with oxalic acid to kill the varroa. It is worth putting your slides below your mesh floors to establish the drop. If after a week you see only one or two, it is not worth treating, as the disturbance will do more harm than good. However, if there is a drop of half a dozen or more, then it is a good idea to treat. Remember, the oxalic acid needs to be a 3% solution, so if you buy yours from National Bee Supplies, you will need to mix it 50:50 with water. Make sure the oxalic acid has not turned yellow, as it will be no good. Keep it in the dark and make sure that the mixture is not freezing cold when you use it. The operation has been explained in many publications, so I will not repeat it here. My only advice is to be quick once the hive is opened and take a torch to make sure that you treat all the necessary seams – sometimes the bees are near the bottom of the frames.

Some of you may know that the traders who exhibit at the BBKA Spring Convention are getting a bit miffed at the way they have been treated. The trade stands are located in very large tractor sheds, which are cold, often wet under foot and not really very nice. They pay a lot of money to exhibit, so this year they have decided to return to Stoneleigh, where the convention used to be, and full details can be found at www.beetradex.co.uk Stoneleigh is a lot closer than Harper Adams University as well! It should be a good day out with bargains galore for any of you who are interested.

Well, it is not long until the next winter meeting and that is the Honey Show on Thursday 9th January. Full details are attached and if you haven't entered before, have a go – it is great fun, there is a novices' section for first timers and who knows, you may win! I look forward to seeing many of you there and there will be a speaker to keep us entertained whilst the judging takes place.

David

FINAL REMINDER: 2014 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

For those members who have still not renewed their membership..... can you please do so with some urgency. Your membership expired end of December 2013 so, unfortunately, unless your subscription has been paid, you will not be able to exhibit at the Honey Show.

If you require a membership form, please get in touch with myself or Bernie

and we'll only be too happy to send you one by email (or post).

Thanking you.

Jean French – Branch Secretary

PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS APIARY PROGRAMME 2014

JANUARY 2014

Thursday 9th Branch Honey Show + Talk on Wax/Q&A Session by Alicia Norman

Judge: Jack Mummery (Elburton Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm.)

Thursday 23rd Winter Study Group (more details to follow)

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(Elburton Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm.)

Thursday 27th Winter Study Group (more details to follow)

HONEY SHOW RECIPES



Class 12

Honey Sandwich

6oz Margarine
1 tbsp Honey
6oz. Self Raising Flour

4oz. Caster sugar
3 Large Eggs
Pinch Salt

Cream margarine, sugar and honey until light and fluffy. Whisk eggs and beat into creamed mixture. Fold in sifted flour and salt. Divide into two prepared 7" sandwich tins and bake in moderate oven for about 30 mins. Turn onto a wire tray and when cold sandwich together with honey filling.

Filling :

4oz. Icing Sugar
2oz. Butter
1 Tablespoon Honey

Blend together until smooth

Class 13

12 Pieces Honey Fudge

1lb Granulated Sugar
1/4 Pint Evaporated Milk
1/4 Teaspoon Salt

2oz Butter
2 Tablespoons Honey

Boil sugar and milk for 5 mins. Add honey and boil until "soft ball stage" at 240°F. (Thermometer is needed as the temperature is critical). Add butter. Beat until creamy, pour into buttered dish. When nearly set, mark into 12 squares. Use full amount for entry.

HONEY SHOW

PLYMOUTH DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The Honey Show will be held on
Thursday 9th January 2014
Elburton Village Hall.

Open to all members.

New members especially welcome.

Doors open at 7pm and judging starts at 7.30pm

Honey show recipes on back of booklet

Please will all winners return their silver ware clean and polished on the night of the show.

SCHEDULE OF HONEY SHOW CLASSES

1	2 1lb Jars of light run honey (in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops)	Salter Cup
2	2 1lb Jars of medium run honey (in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops)	Edwards Cup
3	2 1lb Jars of dark run honey (in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops)	Rosette
4	2 1lb Jars of crystallised honey (in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops)	Winnicott Cup
5	2 1lb Jars of creamed honey (in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops)	Rosette
6	1 Pair of beeswax candles (One pair of identical candles made from pure beeswax. One candle may be lit by the judge)	Prosser Tray
7	1 Bottle of mead (any type) (all bottles to be clear punted with new flanged corks)	Rosette
8	1 Frame of comb for extraction (may be any type of shallow frame)	Rosette
9	1 Jar of honey labelled for sale (Labelling to E.C. regulations. Honey may be of any variety)	Rosette
10	6 1 oz blocks of beeswax (all blocks must be identical and may be from any shape mould)	Rosette
11	Beeswax Open Class (any wax item or product e.g. polish or wax block etc)	Rosette
12	1 Honey sandwich (see recipe) (white paper plates will be provided for display)	Ward Cup
13	12 Pieces Honey fudge (see recipe) (white paper plates will be provided for display)	Rosette
14	Novice class (any category of beekeeping exhibit from classes 1-12 entered by a novice). See notes on opposite page.	Rosette
15	Open class - e.g. photo, gadget etc.	Rosette

SHOW SCHEDULE CLAUSES

- 1 This show is held in accordance with the show Rules (1994) of the British Beekeepers' Association and Exhibitors are bound by them.
- 2 Entries must be made on the form provided and filled in on the evening of the show.
- 3 The entry fees are free!
- 4 Judging will commence at 730 pm.
- 1 No exhibit or any part thereof shall be removed until after the prize giving.
- 2 The show will be open to members and exhibitors at the close of judging.

SHOW NOTES

Honey Classes 1 - 5: Keep everything clean and shiny, no odd bees, legs etc. A clean jar makes the honey look clear and bright.

Class 6: Candles may be displayed free-standing or in candlesticks. Do not overheat the wax as this makes the wax become darker and most judges prefer a bright amber colour. Use fine filters, if possible, to remove impurities which may come to the surface and spoil an otherwise fine exhibit. Polish the candle to get a good smooth shiny appearance.

Class 7: Mead. Again cleanliness is a must. The punt will show up any debris and any fermentation will be seen at the bottle neck. A nice clear yellow always looks pleasing but the ultimate goal is the flavour. Use good quality honey for a good quality mead.

Class 8: When choosing a frame make quite sure that it is not granulated or weeping honey. The capping must cover the surface to the edge. Cleanliness is desirable but not essential if it is an old well used frame.

Class 9: Make sure that you are up to date on all the E.C. regulations.

Class 10: Make sure that your blocks are 1 oz, some judges will weigh them. All six blocks should be identical in colour and shape so melt all the wax together first for uniformity.

Classes 12, 13: Keep to the recipes provided on page four.

Class 14: Novices - choose your exhibits from any of the above classes. A novice is someone who has never won a prize in the category entered. e.g. an option for beginners' honey if you have not won a honey prize before.

Class 15: Open to all beekeepers young and old to show off photos, gadgets, poems etc.

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