

KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A company limited by guarantee, Registered No. 238630 Registered Charity No. 222946
Registered Office: National Beekeeping Centre, RASE, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth. CV8 2LG

BBKA CERTIFICATE FOR 50 YEARS BEEKEEPING CITATION FOR MAURICE FIELD

Maurice Field began bee keeping at school in Somerset, gaining the BBKA Junior Bee Keeping Certificate in 1961. By the late 1970s he was keeping bees in Hampshire with tuition from Sparsholt College. He obtained the BBKA Preliminary (now Basic) Certificate in 1982.

In 1985 he moved to Surrey. Over the next 20 years he expanded his hobby into a bee farming and bee keeping equipment enterprise. During this time he also led bee keeping classes in Croydon, Epsom, Tooting and Reigate.

He gained the BBKA Intermediate Certificate in 1989 and the BBKA Senior Certificate with the BBKA Practical Certificate in 1993 when he was awarded his BBKA Master Bee Keeper qualification. From 1998 to 2008 he was Beekeeping Lecturer at Plumpton College, East Sussex, leading several courses for adults based on the BBKA Syllabi up to General Husbandry level.

In 1994, his booklet "Beautiful Queens and Honey Too" was published by Northern Bee Books detailing a modern approach to F W L Sladen's method of raising queen cells in a queen-right colony using a vertical queen excluder.

He has delivered lectures at the National Honey Show and to the Central Association of Bee-Keepers. He has been a regular competitor at the National Honey show, winning several prizes in the Open and the County classes.

He now prefers to manage a few colonies for enjoyment and helping groups of local bee keepers improve their colony management skills as well as being a BBKA Assessor.



No. 58 COUNTY NEWSLETTER December 2011

Peter Springall

Peter died on 8th Sept 2011 after suffering a stroke,. He was 87 and had been a beekeeper for over 60 years.

Peter started keeping bees two days after he left the Royal Air Force in 1947. He was a bee breeding enthusiast, a strong advocate of the dark European honey bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) and had written many articles on the subject for the Bee Improvement Breeding Association (BIBBA) magazine. He lectured in bee keeping at the Kirkdale Institute in South London until 1989. It was here that he taught Norman Carreck.

Peter discovered there was such a thing as a local association some 15 years into his beekeeping and he joined the Bromley Beekeepers Association in 1962. He was the apiary manager from 1973 and the fact that he was still fulfilling this role when he died is testimony to his energy and commitment to beekeeping. The branch named their apiary after him to commemorate his 60 years of beekeeping. Peter's beekeeping drew on his background as an engineer and he made a lot of equipment himself, including his innovative resin cast jar feeder for Kirchhain nucs. He was well known for his gentle bees and he won many prizes at the National.

Peter was a kind and generous person and was always in demand on his allotment for his engineering skills and knowledge about growing vines. His other hobbies included motorbike racing, computers, jazz, dancing and latterly amateur radio. Ever forward thinking, Peter recently passed his amateur radio licence exam stating that he was looking for a new hobby, something he could do from home should his health fail and he no longer be in a position to manage his bees.

Peter had a natural ability to talk to anybody and enjoyed engaging with the public and helping others with their bee related problems. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

CALENDAR January-March 2012

Branch Events

Ashford

Fri 6th Jan New Year Party
Fri 3rd Feb 7.30 p.m. Talk by Gary Saunders on Pollen
Fri 2nd Mar 7.30 p.m. Talk by John Hendrie on Brood Diseases
Meetings held at St Mary's Hall, Rylands Road, Kennington

Bromley

Sun 1st Jan 11.30 a.m. apiary meeting and barbecue
Tues 17th Jan 7.30 p.m. lecture KHLG clubhouse: Norman Chapman: Beekeeping DIY
Sun 5th Feb 11:30 a.m. apiary meeting.
Tues 21st Feb 7.30 p.m. lecture KHLG clubhouse: Alan Byham, Regional Bee Inspector
Sun 4th Mar 11.30 a.m. apiary meeting
Tues 20th Mar 7.30 p.m. lecture KHLG clubhouse: Pat Allen: The many uses of nucs
Meetings at the Branch Clubhouse, Kent House Road allotments and refreshments are provided

Canterbury

Wed 1st Feb 7.30 p.m. Swarm Control by Nick Withers, seasonal bee inspector
Wed 7th Mar 7.30 p.m. Talk on the short-haired bumblebee reintroduction project by Dr Nikki Gammar, Officer BBCT Bumblebee
Meetings at Whitefriars Conference Room, Canterbury

Dartford

Sat 21st Jan Dr Sara Robb: Making lip balm and creams
Sat 4th Feb Bob Smith: Disease and dissecting for acarine
Sat 10th Mar Terry Clare: Queen rearing for the small beekeeper
Meetings will commence promptly at 3.00 pm in the upper room at Asda's Warehouse on the Crossway Industrial Estate

Dover & District Association

Please see Branch website for details

Medway Association

Please see Branch website for details

Mid Kent

Please see Branch website for details

Orpington

Saturday afternoons 2:30 pm Demonstrations at Beeche Centre, High Elms Country Park, Shire Lane, Farnborough, BR6 7JH. See Branch newsletter for details.

Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells

Please see Branch website for details.

Sidcup

Please see website for details

Thanet Association

Please see Branch website for details

Weald

Please see Branch website for details

Westerham

Please see Branch website for details

Whitstable

Please see Branch website for details

Yalding

Please see Branch website for details

County and Other Events 2012

Saturday, 14th January ADM Stoneleigh
Friday to Sunday, 20th-22nd April Spring Convention, Harper Adams University College Campus

Kent Mailing List

We have a very useful but much underused tool for reaching our members with little more than the press of a button i.e. the Kent mailing list. It maintains itself so needs no input from a branch officer but it does need the individual member to subscribe. Please encourage your members to subscribe. By using it branches can reach a wider circulation of their activities.

Bee Keepers Quarterly

Just to remind you that the subscription for next year's BKQ is due before the end of the year.

I have just spoken with Jeremy at Northern Bee Books and yet again he is going to keep this years "club" subscription the same as last year ie £16.00 **BUT** they will be going up in January to £18.00 ie £28.00 retail. As I still have to write and post a few letters, there will be my usual handling charge of 50p to add to the bill - making the **total £16.50**

As I **MUST** get our returns in before the January 2012 deadline, I would appreciate your response as to whether you wish to continue or not by the end of **November 2011**.

If you do wish to continue, could you please make your cheques for **£16.50** out to **J Edwards-Winser** and post them to **Oastbrook, Telston Lane, Otford, Kent, TN14 5JZ**

If you no longer wish to subscribe - could you please let me know a.s.a.p, by e-mail, phone, or letter. A non-response will also assume a negative one.

Regards and Happy Christmas
John Edwards-Winser