



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

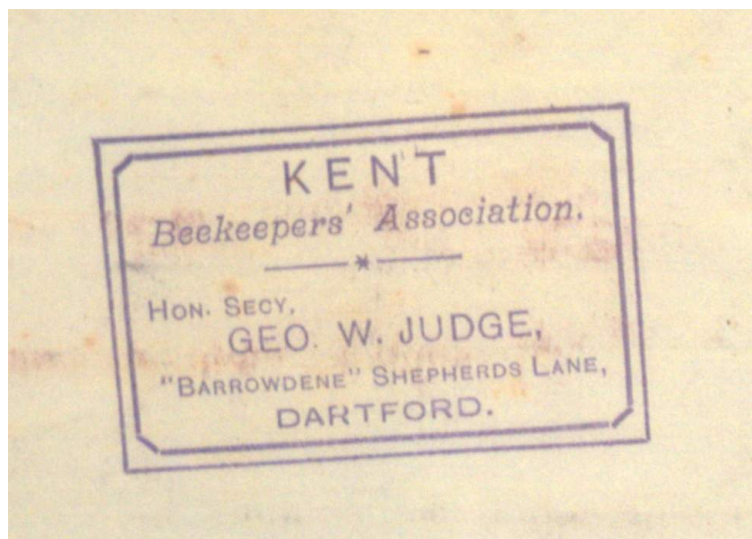
County Newsletter No. 86 June 2017

EDITORIAL

It's been a busy few months since March, as the season has got underway in earnest. We seem to have had a good flow where I am, but it's been patchy. No year is exactly like the last, and I've twice seen swarms clustered on the ground - not clustered around clipped queens, but around dead ones. I've not seen that before, and would be interested to hear if it's just me.

I can only thank the stars that I am only a hobby beekeeper and not, like the farmers of the Garden of England, trying to plan for the years ahead with literally no idea of what will happen in the months and years ahead. We're often keen to promote the fact that many crops need bees, but that shouldn't overshadow the fact that we all need farmers, and our sympathies are with them.

Finally, we wish the Bromley branch all the best as it enters its second century. There are older branches, I gather, but not all have kept the paperwork. One of the surviving minute books contains the following stamp, which may well date from 1917. It is not, perhaps, the most exciting of historical finds, though it has got me wondering why the Kent Bee-Keepers', as it is now, ever got hyphenated.



BROMLEY CENTENARY

The Bromley Branch held a soiree at the Kent House Road Allotments, where they run the Peter Springall Apiary, on May 23rd 2017. The event was to celebrate the centenary of the inaugural meeting at which the Bromley District Branch of the Western Division of the Kent Beekeepers' Association was unanimously brought into being.



In attendance were (*from left to right above*):

Jennifer Spon-Smith – Chair of the Bromley Branch of the Kent Bee-keepers' Association

John Hendrie - President of the British Beekeepers Association

Leslie Fancote - President of the Kent Bee-Keepers' Association

David Bragg – Chair of the Kent Bee-Keepers' Association

Speeches were brief, and thanked the helpful volunteers, past and current, who have kept the branch running for a hundred years. A toast was proposed in celebration. A commemorative cake, baked for the occasion by Lesley Palmer of the Pink Cake Shop in West Wickham, was cut by the assembled dignitaries and partly eaten, by them and others, the remnants surviving for at least another meeting.

NATIONAL BEE UNIT NEWS

The National Bee Unit has now made a video to complement its factsheet on making Asian Hornet traps. We've not yet received any reports of the hornets in Kent, but it doesn't hurt to be prepared:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CR6MUekAjMo&t=2s>

Factsheet: [A simple Asian hornet monitoring trap](#) .

COUNTY AND OTHER EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL MEETING of YOUNG BEEKEEPERS

6th to 9th July 2017

Marlborough College

For details, see <http://www.imyb.co.uk/>

KENT COUNTY SHOW 2017

Saturday 7-9th July

Detling Showground - For details, see: <http://kentshowground.co.uk/>

Includes the **Kent Honey Show**, for which stewards are always needed.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bob Smith

bsmith12@ntlworld.com

BROMLEY & ORPINGTON HONEY SHOW

10am-4.30pm 30th September 2017

(staging from 9.00-9.45am)

Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9JS

86TH NATIONAL HONEY SHOW SANDOWN PARK

26th 27th and 28th October 2017

Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10 9AJ

For details, including lecture programme, workshop bookings and
show schedule, see www.honeyshow.co.uk

BBKA Examinations

Thursday 31 August

BBKA Microscopy Certificate

Applications Due

Saturday 30 September

BBKA Modules

Applications due for November exams

Seasonal Bee Inspectors

North London	Brian McCallum	07775 119478	brian.mccallum@apha.gsi.gov.uk
South London	Mark Patterson	07900 223241	mark.patterson@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Surrey	Hilary Hayward	07900 167409	hilary.hayward@apha.gsi.gov.uk
North Kent	Kay Wreford	07775 119483	kay.wreford@apha.gsi.gov.uk
East Sussex and South Kent	Michael Cooper	07775 119451	michael.cooper@apha.gsi.gov.uk
West Sussex and East Sussex	Diane Steele	07775 119452	diane.steele@apha.gsi.gov.uk

DON'T FORGET to advise your Branch Secretary and the County Membership Secretary of any change to your e-mail address, postal address or telephone numbers.

If you have any branch information or articles you would like included in the Newsletter, please e-mail newsletter@kbka.org.uk