

# the Petersfield Beekeeper

## WINTER TALKS

Saturday 19 November, 7pm	PCC	Brian Herbert on Swarming
Wednesday 30 November, 7pm	PCC	Subject TBA
Sunday 11 December, 2pm	PCC	Skep Workshop see p3

AGM will take place on Saturday 11 February, date and venue TBC

## BEGINNERS COURSE

Sunday 19 Feb, 26 Feb, 5 Mar, 12 Mar, 26Mar PCC  
at 1:30pm

## YOUR PDBKA COMMITTEE

Hilary Hayward	Chair
Ian Neilson	Treasurer
Anne Ballard	Education Officer
Ali Holingbery	Publicity Officer
Martin Smyth	Events Coordinator/Librarian/Safeguarding
Peter Reader	Custodian Coordinator
Brad Davis	Training/Basic Assessment
David Parkinson	Honey Show Manager/Constitution

## APIARY CUSTODIANS

Neil Mariner	Head Custodian
Ali Holingbery	
Dean Gregory	
Peter Reader	
Derek Beesley	
Phil Gurney	
James Crawford	

Swarm Coordinator: Rowan Roberts 07531 901767

Newsletter Editor: Helen de Peyrecave depeyrecave@gmail.com

## CHAIR AND APIARY REPORT

### Honey Show

This year's Honey Show was a tremendous success and a big thank you to everyone who entered. Normally it is held in September but was postponed by a month out of respect for the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. Sky Park Farm provided a wonderful venue for the various entries and displays. We achieved over 100 entries which meant the show could be listed as a Blue Ribbon event. National Honey Show judge Hazel Blackburn and trainee judge Claire O'Brien professionally judged the entries.

Our President Sir Tom Blackburn presented the trophies and prizes. Brad Davis achieved the Blue Ribbon award.

### Winter Talks

Brian Herbert, a long-time member and very experienced beekeeper, will be talking about swarming at our next winter meeting on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Come and listen to Brian's techniques on handling swarming or rather preventing swarming in his colonies. Brian's method is never to let his colonies expand beyond 8 frames. Brian will explain how this controls the swarming instinct in his colonies.

It is also a brilliant opportunity to ask questions about your swarming experiences and how to prepare for the next season. The talk will be held at the **Petersfield Community Centre, Love Lane, Petersfield, GU31 4BW at 7.30pm.**

In December, we are holding a skep workshop, details are in this newsletter. This will take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Apiary Report:**

The hives are fully prepared for winter although the unseasonable warm weather has seen the bees flying around and no doubt using up stores. Please check on your bees and heft hives to make sure the hives have sufficient stores to last the winter. If not, then apply fondant or other commercial winter bee foods.

#### **Offers of Apiary Sites.**

PDBKA occasionally receives offers of sites for beehives. If you are looking for a site, please contact me to be sent the current list (if any) for you to contact the landlord yourself. No checks have been made on the offers and there is no guarantee of suitability given. If you know of an available site you can also send details of approx. location, name and contact information and a brief description to be added to the list.

Ian Neilson - [treasurerpetersfieldbees@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerpetersfieldbees@gmail.com)

We are sad to be losing Mel as our secretary. Is there anyone who would like to join us on the committee in that role?

We also need more committee members; a minute taker to help the secretary and someone to help me with the organisation of training and education. An individual who is competent with social media would be helpful.

If you prefer not to be on the committee but would like to help on occasions in those or other areas, let me or any committee member know.

<mailto:annechantal@btinternet.com>

## Skep Workshop

The Association are holding a Bee Skep Workshop on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm – 6pm. Our local basketry expert and Association member, Louise Arthur from [Rough Around The Hedges](#) will be demonstrating and teaching us how to make a Skep, by making a small bowl and demonstrating how to taper and finish the final round of the skep. Materials will be provided as part of the workshop to be able to complete a full skep, but further coiling will be needed at home to finish this off. Participants could opt for a bread proving bowl or basket if a full skep seems too big. (It is the same technique taking less time)



*A useful natural item for our beekeeping toolkit*

The course cost is £40 per student and covers the cost of Straw, lapping cane and fid tool in order to make a full skep. Maximum participants will be 12 and materials are required to be ordered up front.

**Names please to our committee member, Martin Smyth (Contact details: - Mobile: 07906 124747, email: [msmyth243@gmail.com](mailto:msmyth243@gmail.com) )**

Payments in advance to PDBKA please by the following methods:

- Cheque made payable to PDBKA (Following contact with Martin for address)
- Direct to PDBKA account with reference “skepcourse” Account Name: The Petersfield & District Beekeepers Association, Sort Code: 30-93-17, Account Number: 00798895
- At Blackmoor Apple tasting on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, with card on our SumUp card machine
- At our Honey Show on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, with card on our SumUp card machine



## Wax moth mayhem

Last winter I got bored cleaning my bee equipment and so put a brood box (with old comb) and a super in my shed and covered them with a sheet. In my defence, I had run out of acetic acid to kill off any lingering bugs or nasties. I must admit I was expecting one or two wax moth cocoons on the comb, but I was going to replace it anyway.

This spring I summonsed the courage to have a look and WOW, I now know how to breed wax moths. They had multiplied and there were cocoons everywhere, to the point where they even burrowed into the wood! Scorching the brood box got the burrowing larvae to emerge.

Every gap between a frame and the box had wax moth. In the end, I burnt the lot on the bonfire.

So I guess the lesson is – don't be lazy!

*Peter Reader*





## Honey Show 2022



**Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association**  
**Honey Show Report**  
**Held on the 16 October 2022 at Sky Park Farm Education Centre**

The Honey Show for the 80th year was held at Sky Park Farm in the Education Centre. The Honey Show had to be postponed, from the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022; out of respect following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A few of the original exhibitors were unable to exhibit at the later date due to holidays and other commitments. Our President Tom Blackburn very kindly came along to present the Trophies despite another engagement. Victoria Noonan who was going to present the Trophies was indisposed having just given birth to a new son. To award the Blue Ribbon the National Honey Show (“NHS”) require a minimum of 100 entries in the honey, wax, confectionery, and hive products classes. On the Saturday we only had 95 entries. Two members had withdrawn 16 entries, subsequently of these members was able to enter 6 exhibits. Together with other members making additional entries we eventually had 118 qualifying entries for the Blue Ribbon. We were then entitled to award the Blue Ribbon to Brad Davis for his Class 13 entry. It may have been a bit difficult if we had not had the qualifying entries as along with Hazel Blackburn the NHS Judge was a Trainee NHS Judge Claire O’Brien who is required to Judge at Blue Ribbon shows as part of her qualification. It may not be known but NHS Judges are becoming a rare breed these days and it essential that we assist/contribute in training new HHS Judges.

There were 37 separate show classes for members to enter and only 3 classes had no entries, Class 19 Novice class block of wax, Class 42 six honey cookies and Class 53 wax wraps. Entries for Classes 50 to 53 other hive products were consistent with previous years, but members are not expanding their exhibits beyond the traditional honey and wax classes. There was only 1 entry in Class 41 honey dressing which was disappointing. As reflected in the increase honey yields this year there were three times the number of entries in the honey classes.

The Show classes remained in a simplified format and the open and members classes continued to be integrated, which eliminated duplication. The main reason being to encourage non-members to enter the honey show. This year there were several non-compliant honey jars. The judge marks these down despite the quality of the contents, it is essential to comply with Schedule to win in the Class.

As a part of the education process of the Association the two classes for forage and anatomy were added last year. It has become increasingly important these days that we ensure there is sufficient forage existing around our Apiaries to feed our bees. It is important that we understand which are suitable forage plants for bees. To better understand bees a basic knowledge of their anatomy is useful to as to how they collect and carry nectar, pollen and propolis. Also the foods and process of feeding larvae.

The interest in Classes 50 to 53 Other hive products has become increasingly popular in recent years so it is surprising that there was not a greater number of entries. These Classes which include polish, lip balm, hand cleanser and wax wraps, are included because not all members have enough honey or wax to enter the other classes.

It was disappointing that not more members of the public came to the Honey Show. As I understand from Sky Park there were quite a few enquiries on the original date but as I discovered the new date not widely known or publicised on Sky Park website.

There were entries from only 20 members (16 in 2021) entered the Show out of a membership of about 180 members. A considerable amount of work goes into preparation for the Honey Show, and

it is an opportunity for members to show their exhibits and have them professionally judged to ensure that they are of good and consistent quality and in addition that our honey is suitable for sale.

A summary of the entries in the Honey Show were as follows:

	2022	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Honey Classes	61	22	100	116	66	104	91
Wax Classes	23	14	8	9	15	6	4
Confectionery Classes	9	16	23	30	15	29	30
Mead Classes	8	4	5	9	4	7	8
Hive Products	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Novice Classes	8	5	5	9	3	2	8
Display Class	12	23	29	23	14	12	12
Total Entries	130	93	170	196	117	160	153

David Parkinson Honey Show Manager

**Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association  
Honey Show 2022**

Class	Class Description	First	Second	Third
1	Two Jars Light Honey	Ali Hollingbery	Kelly Fox	Grant Pearce
2	Two Jars Medium Honey	Brad Davis	Richard Brewer	Richard Williams
3	Two Jars Dark Honey	Richard Williams	Richard Brewer	Graham Rowden
4	Two Jars Crystallised Honey	Peter Reader	Andrew Rhodes	Hilary Hayward
5	Two Jars of Soft Set Honey	Allison Turner	Philip Gurney	Graham Rowden
6	Two Jars Chunk Honey 50% Comb	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
7	Two Jars of Ling Heather Honey	Brad Davis	#N/A	#N/A
8	Two Jars Heather Honey Blend	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
9	Two Containers cut comb or Sections 200g to 255g	#N/A	Brad Davis	#N/A
10	One Shallow Frame of Comb Honey for extraction	Richard Brewer	David Parkinson	#N/A
11	Six Jars Liquid Honey (labelled for Sale)	Brad Davis	Graham Rowden	Richard Williams
12	Six Jars Soft Set Honey (labelled for Sale)	Graham Rowden	Richard Williams	#N/A
13	Two Jars of liquid or set Honey and 3 beeswax blocks 28g	Brad Davis	Ali Hollingbery	Richard Williams
17	One Jar of Liquid Honey	Jo Bennett	Rachel Perry	Noni Needs
18	One Jar of Soft set Honey	Monty Taplin	#N/A	#N/A
19	One Block of Beeswax any size or shape	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
20	One Bottle Dry Mead	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
21	One Bottle Sweet Mead	Brad Davis	David Parkinson	Andrew Rhodes
30	Two matching Cakes of Beeswax moulded 115g to 170g	Brad Davis	Elizabeth Eveleigh	#N/A
31	Two plain moulded Candles any size by moulding	Brad Davis	Elizabeth Eveleigh	#N/A
32	Two Tall Candles under 1½" plain or pattern any method	Brad Davis	Richard Brewer	Elizabeth Eveleigh
33	Two matching Models using a mould with a wick	Allison Turner	Elizabeth Eveleigh	Brad Davis
34	Six Blocks of Beeswax matching of 28g	Richard Brewer	Brad Davis	Melanie Espin
35	Cake of Beeswax 285g to 340g commercial	Brad Davis	Elizabeth Eveleigh	David Parkinson
40	Buckiand AbbeyHoney Cake to recipe	Allison Turner	Selena Loving	#N/A
41	Honey Dressing own recipe 227g Jar	Christopher Clark	#N/A	#N/A
42	Six Honey Cookies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
43	Spicy Tray Bake to recipe	Elizabeth Eveleigh	Allison Turner	#N/A
44	Four Cup Cakes any flavour to recipe	Elizabeth Eveleigh	#N/A	#N/A
50	Furniture Polish (must contain Beeswax)	Martin Smyth	Elizabeth Eveleigh	Melanie Espin
51	Lip Balm (containing Honey & Beeswax)	Melanie Espin	Ali Hollingbery	Nicola Porter
52	Hand Cleanser (must contain Honey)	Melanie Espin	#N/A	#N/A
53	Two Wax Wraps 30cmx30cm	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
60	Photograph any background must contain a Pollinator	Peter Reader	Christopher Clark	Ali Hollingbery
61	A line drawing of Honeybees head naming parts external parts	Ali Hollingbery	Elizabeth Eveleigh	#N/A
62	Floral Display of 3 honeybee forage plants	Ali Hollingbery	Brad Davis	#N/A
63	Decorative Plaque for front of Hive.	Elizabeth Eveleigh	#N/A	#N/A

Trophy	Awarded
The Cocke Trophy	Brad Davis
The Steep Trophy	Brad Davis
The Kathleen Marriage Trophy	Brad Davis
The Jack Dennis Trophy	Richard Brewer
The Lady Tollemache Trophy	Brad Davis
The Sir Humphrey Tollemache Trophy	Graham Rowden
The Sid Trenchard Memorial Trophy	Brad Davis
The Rose Tankard	Brad Davis
The Trevor Stubbs Memorial Trophy	Jo Bennett/ Monty Taplin
The Cole Platter	Elizabeth Eveleigh
The Mount Pleasant Trophy	Peter Reader
The Rogate Trophy	Ali Hollingbery
Blue Ribbon	Brad Davis

## Winter Training

Training for 2022 is drawing to a close:

- Beginners have become novices,
- Four of last year's novices have passed their Bee Basic assessments and a good few more have covered the same ground with Brad and the Custodians,
- Three members passed their Bee Health assessments.

All say that they have enjoyed the experience and will be presented with their certificates at the AGM in February.

One of the most frequent queries that I receive is 'how can I stop my bees swarming?' Answer, with difficulty but Brian is one person who can really help so, education for all on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, from Brian Herbert's talk; The Practical Aspects of Swarm Management.

Winter is traditionally the time when beekeepers brush up their knowledge:

- Two people have expressed interest in Module 2 on honeybee products and forage. This would be of special interest to those wishing to learn about plants and trees that help bees and the reasons why, maybe gardeners? I will lead four evenings over the winter at my place.
- One person would like to do the Bee Basic assessment. You can join her and we will arrange 5x training, fortnightly, at the Association apiary starting in March.

You do not need to take the module test or the Bee Basic assessment at the end of the training...it is all helpful in developing your skills.

Finally, are there any suggestions for online talks?

Contact: [annechantal@btinternet.com](mailto:annechantal@btinternet.com)