



Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association December 2014 Newsletter

Bucks County Wins Smallholder National Shield at National Honey Show



The **Smallholder National Shield** is won by the county with the most points awarded to entrants from that county at the **National Honey Show**. This year Bucks won it, an aspiration that Bill Fisher and Sue Carter have held for some time.

Sue winning Best in Show with her entry in Class 10— "Display of Honey, Wax and Mead" being the icing on the cake.

Bill, President of Chalfont BKA and Associate member of MBBKA stated "this was achieved thanks to all our members who put the time into entering this Show, we

won by a narrow margin and need wider support from the county membership in order to retain the award".

The National Honey Show is not just about entering honey, there are a wide variety Classes related to Beekeeping. If you would like to find out more about entering the Show please contact Helen Palmer at honeyshow@mbbka.org.uk



MBBKA Quiz Night

The Annual MBBKA Quiz night is being held on 21st January, I hope you can attend and help make a successful and fun evening.

It will be topical with some beekeeping questions thrown in and hopefully enjoyable! There will be teams of 4 on each table, you can come as a team or join a table on the night.

The entry is the same price as last year, £6.00 per person which includes either fish or chicken with chips, supplied by a local chip shop, as well as a raffle ticket for the draw. So that we can order the appropriate food please return the attached form to Liz Tice or email her at: secretary@mbbka.org.uk Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided, feel free to bring along other beverages and suitable prizes for the raffle. All proceeds will be donated to Bees for Development.

County Seminar

The 2015 County Seminar will be held on Saturday 28th February 2015 in the Memorial Hall, Wendover.

Mike Palmer from Vermont will be giving two related talks on Sustainable Beekeeping and Bob Smith, NDB, will be giving a talk on Wild Flowers.

This is the largest gathering of the year of the county membership so please come along and help to make the event a success.

Programme of Events

20th December 2014

Oxalic Acid Treatment

11.00am Association Apiary

21st January 2015

**MBBKA Annual Quiz
with Fish and Chip Supper**

7:30pm Church of the Good Shepherd

18th February 2015

Biodiversity in a bottle:

**The story of the traditional English
orchard by David Curry**

7:30pm Church of the Good Shepherd

23rd February 2015

**New Beekeepers Course Starts
every Monday for 6 weeks**

7:30pm Church of the Good Shepherd

28th February 2015

Bucks County Seminar

10am Memorial Hall, Wendover

Oxalic Acid Treatment

If the temperature continues to remain cold over the next week we plan to apply Oxalic Acid to colonies requiring treatment at the Association Apiary on Saturday 20th December at 11:00am. All members are welcome to attend, there will be small quantities of Oxalic Acid available for sale.



Oxalic Acid Treatment

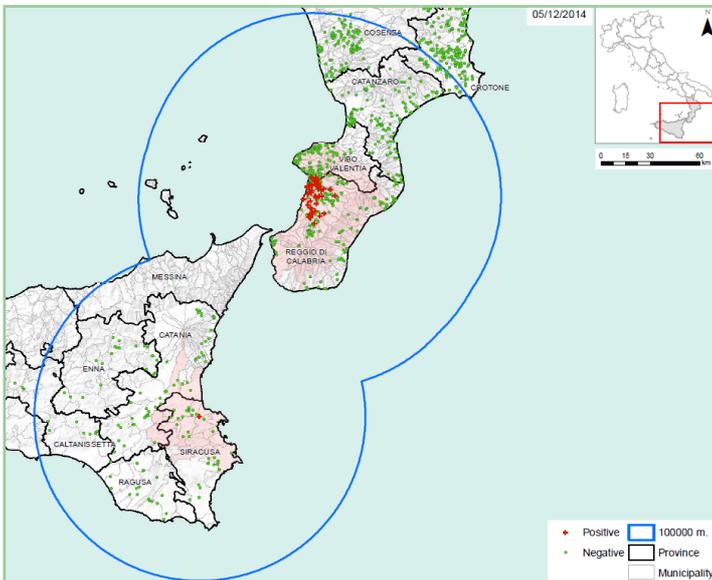
Small Hive Beetle Reaches Italy

There has been a lot in the Beekeeping journals about the discovery of Small Hive Beetle in Italy. The chart to the left has been taken from the website of the Italian equivalent to Defra. Further maps, details of the outbreak (which has been discovered in 59 apiaries so far) and how the authorities are dealing with it can be found [here](#).

The BBKA has for some time been campaigning for members not to import packages of bees, however this is only part of the story when it comes to the spread of the Small Hive Beetle and other bee pests. The transport of fruit and plants around the world makes preventing the spread a near impossible task. The Asian Hornet is believed to have arrived in France in the root ball of garden plants imported from China.

The Small Hive Beetle is a notifiable pest and there are established European wide procedures to follow when discovered. The Italian Authorities are following these procedures, watched I am sure by other national agencies across Europe, keen to learn from the experiences in Italy.

If the Small Hive Beetle were discovered in the UK measures would be coordinated by the National Bee Unit in York. They rely upon Beebase to be able ensure all apiaries in an area are supported. If you have not registered your apiary on Beebase, please do so [here](#) and if you have not updated your Beebase records recently please make it one of your New Year's resolution to do so.



Extraordinary Meeting Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the Extraordinary Meeting on November 19th, I am pleased to say all the propositions and motions were passed. Minutes for the meeting and the AGM in the previous month can be found [here](#).

Membership Renewal

As part of the changes to the Constitution passed at the above meeting our membership year now follows the calendar year. The 2015 membership fees are now due. Please download the renewal form from [here](#) and return to John Dadswell the Membership Secretary. The form can be completed using the sign doc feature in Adobe Reader and returned by email.

Fondant for Sale

The Association has purchased a quantity of Baco Fondant Icing for winter feeding of honey bees. If you would like to purchase some it comes in two quantities; 12.5kg box at £10 per box or 1kg cartons at £1 per carton. If you would like a box please contact me at chairman@mbbka.org.uk or for the 1kg packs email Andrew Smith at apiary@mbbka.org.uk. Each beekeeper will have a different way of feeding the fondant to the bees. The key is not to let it dry out. I cut my block into 1kg chunks and either wrap in cling film (with a small gap for bees to access it) or put in a freezer carton and place it over the porter escape hole in the crown board, directly above the centre of the brood cluster.

Microscopy Meetings

If you have a compound and a dissecting microscope and would be interested in joining a group meeting regularly to share microscopy experiences, please drop me an email at chairman@mbbka.org.uk.

The first meeting will be on Saturday 10th January. The idea is that we set up our microscopes in a room and help each investigate a specific topic. The topics will be loosely based upon the BBKA Microscopy Syllabus.

Oxalic Acid Treatment

Below are some considerations for when using Oxalic Acid as a varroa treatment:

- Treat only if necessary, take varroa drop count before deciding to treat
- There should not be any sealed brood; after minimum of 2 weeks cold spell in winter or after housing a swarm in the summer
- Make sure you use the right concentration, 4.5% in Solution
- Warm the liquid before application, you would not want a cold shower in mid winter so why give the bees one
- Apply 5ml per seam of bees, a seam is where bees are on the adjacent faces of two frames
- Be prepared, have everything ready and disturb the bees as little as possible
- If in doubt, before you start, ask someone who has done it before

Quiz Night

Wednesday 21st January 2015

7:30 pm in The Church of the Good Shepherd

For the Quiz Night we have made arrangements with the local fish and chip shop to provide either fish and chips or chicken and chips.

You don't have to order food if neither option is to your taste but we must place the orders with the shop earlier in the day. We need to have numbers by **6 pm on Tuesday 19th January at the latest.**

Please order for me:

_____ portions of Cod and Chips & £6.00 each

_____ portions of Chicken and Chips & £6.00 each

Total:

Name:

Phone Number:

To save us having to handle lots of small cheques, would you pay cash on the night but **PLEASE** let us know in advance if you cannot come and need to cancel your order as all food will have to be paid for.

You can put in your order by email or phone

to: Liz Tice

Tel: **01296 612618**

email: liztice@hotmail.com

If you order by email and do not receive an acknowledgement from Liz, please try again. Liz will confirm receipt of all food orders.