

HONEYCRAFT

July 2019



Dorset County Beekeepers Association

Editor's Note

As we are midway through a busy season, as you will read in the various reports, the time for honey shows is just over the horizon. You will find the schedules, where I have been able to extract them, at the end of this issue of HoneyCraft. Worth noting is the point made by Richard Norman that honey ready for sale is also ready for showing — there should be no difference in the quality of the honey and its presentation for these two activities.

For good reasons, much of the content of HoneyCraft is about administration or historical reports of events and meetings. However, we are all beekeepers because we enjoy looking after bees, rather more than being administrators, and so it is good to be able to include some observations made by Sarah More, a West Dorset beekeeper on her apiary and its management — I am very grateful to Sarah and West Dorset BKA for their permission to reprint this article from their association newsletter.

The last page of the magazine contains a list of the DBKA officers — who are they and what do they do? I have invited each of them to explain their role in our beekeeping life and Terry Payne is the first to put his head above the parapet, to explain the role of the Examinations Secretary. Thank you, Terry. The rest will follow (I hope!) in future editions.

A plea for help now. This is the fourth issue of this magazine that we have produced for electronic distribution. Feedback suggests that the principle is right and that the balance of articles is also about right. But I am an electronic amateur and wonder whether we could improve the presentation and look of the magazine, to make it more attractive to read. Are there any graphic designers amongst you, the readers, who would be willing and able to give me some help?

Finally, I hope that you have an abundant honey harvest — and happy reading.

Tim Villiers

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Chairperson's Chatter

We have had a difficult year weather-wise for our bees. We had a very warm spring which triggered a large number of swarms. I am the swarm co-ordinator for the Blandford and Sturminster BKA and a number of collectors asked to be taken off the list as they could not cope with any more swarms. The high number of swarms meant that there were a large number of virgin queens that would be produced over the next two weeks in the hives from which the swarms had come. They would need time to mature and go out to mate.

The warm weather was followed by a spell of windy, cold, wet weather which meant that it took time for the queens to find a warm, dry and still day to go out to mate. Some have mated late. I have found that the early swarms had queens that mated well during the good weather. Those that came later and encountered the bad weather have taken a while to start laying and are not as robust as the early queens. The current high humidity and sudden downpours have not helped.

Besides the problems with queens mating there have also been problems with bees starving. The warm weather produced a lovely spring honey crop but once the rain came the growing colonies found themselves short of food and any honey that was left on because it was unripe was soon used up by the bees that had brood to feed but could not get out to forage. Hopefully the weather in July will settle down and we may yet have a summer honey crop.

Lesley Gasson

The Inspector Reports

...that there is not much to say at this point in the season. He hopes that the next issue will include an article summing up the season.

In the meantime, Kevin looks forward to seeing as many members as possible at the Bee Health Day on 20 July. Readers who are unable to be there or who have questions on disease which arise from or after the day, should e-mail these to Kevin Pope (kevin.pope@apha.gov.uk) who will answer them in the next issue of HoneyCraft.

Kevin Pope

Seasonal Bee Inspector:

kevin.pope@apha.gov.uk

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Bee Health Day

Saturday 20th July

to be held in the Portman Hall, Shillingstone DT11 0SF

from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Parking is available beside the hall; bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available during the day and a beekeepers' tea provided in the afternoon.

Programme

9.30 Tea and Coffee available on arrival

10.00- 10.30 Introduction by Peter Davies

10.30-11.40 First set of workshops.

11.40 - 12.00 Break

12.00-1.30 Second set of workshops

1.30 -2.00pm Lunch

2.00- 2.45 Round up and Quiz

2.45- 3.30 Question time

3.30-4.00pm Tea

These times are flexible depending on the length of the workshops

Everyone will attend all the workshops. There are four different workshops.

They are

Varroa and its viruses

Apiary Hygiene

AFB and EFB

Disease recognition in the apiary

The Asian hornet will be discussed. We will be working in groups of 15 to 20 and hopefully everyone will get a chance to see and discuss each part of each workshop during the day

There is no charge for attendance but Northern Bee Books are providing books for sale — so don't forget to bring some cash or a cheque book!

Blandford and Sturminster BKA



Part of the wild flower meadow in the TarrantValley

Apiary Visit. The association had an interesting visit to Steve Toop's apiary in May. Steve has about 20 hives in a variety of sites on a large agricultural estate. Encouraged by Steve, the estate has decided to plant wild flower meadows in areas where large farm machinery cannot operate easily and where the soil is poor. They are very beautiful and greatly enhance his beekeeping and honey production. The picture above shows some of the flowers in one of the meadows.

Vita Visit. On 13th July we have a visit to Vita's laboratories and apiary in Basingstoke. We will have to go by car and share transport. We meet at the Shillingstone Church Centre at 8.30am and plan to arrive in Basingstoke at 10.00am. While we are there we will visit two apiaries and Vita's laboratory in Basingstoke where we will hear a talk about how Vita carries out its work on bee health. The visit finishes at 1.00pm and we are being offered a sandwich lunch by Vita which is very generous. They have a community minibus that will take us to the various places we are scheduled to see.

Vita is an international company with laboratories in France and Mexico. You cannot buy bee medicines straight from them but have to go to a supplier. Vita is always represented at Apimondia so is known worldwide. They are regular visitors to the Spring Convention, Bee Tradex, and the National Honey Show. Some of you may have met Jeremy or Sebastian Owen at these events. We are very fortunate that they are prepared to entertain us.

Honey Extraction. As part of our beginners course, we hope to extract the apiary honey on 27th July. It is always interesting to see what a teaching apiary can produce. The bees have a less than ideal life when handled so many times by beginners and the weather has not always been kind to them.

Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show. Finally we have a place in the Fun, Food and Farming marquee at the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show on Wednesday 14th August which is a large agricultural one-day show. While the honey show is held in the Horticulture and Homecrafts tent, education takes place in the FFF tent next door, which combines education and entertainment where Cuffy Laverton is organising the displays and honey sales. She is very experienced at running this sort of event as she organised the Honey Tent at the Oak Fair for a number of years. However, if you want to sell your honey you must enter the Honey Show in the other marquee and be prepared to help man the stand!

Lesley Gasson

DORCHESTER & WEYMOUTH

dorchesterandweymouthbka.com



I am writing this at the end of June and we have already taken part in four events, the biggest being Beefest which was on Saturday 29th June. This was an Event set up by the Poundbury Community in Dorchester to 'raise awareness about bees'. We took along our new photo board which was a great success; we also did a demo on opening a hive (see photo left) with a Q&A session which was very popular.

We also sold honey, had honey tasting, frame making, a wax demo and skep-making. It was a free event and from our point of view very successful in that we talked to a lot of people and put on a good show. It seems they are already planning a bigger and better one next year.



The other event we contributed to was the Thomas Hardy Street Fair on 2nd June. We were there mainly as skep makers and we generated quite a bit of interest amongst the public. People love to watch something being made.

We have now been 'head hunted' by the National Trust to do some skep-making at Hardy's Cottage and also by the Nothe Fort for their Victorian re-enactment weekend in July.



As well as those two events, we had a stand at the Puddletown Spring Fayre in April which three or four of our members attended with all our usual information and did a demo on frame making.

We had a safari apiary day on Sunday 9th June with Kevin Pope. We were so lucky with the weather that day, as both before and after the weather had not been good. We went round the Bockhampton/Tincton area, having a picnic lunch in one of our members' garden before going off to look at her hives. It was a very pleasant day and encouraging that more of our members have now met our SBI and realised the importance of having their colonies inspected.



Our beginners course finished in the middle of May. They were another good group of beginners who bonded well and have since set up a Whats App group between them. Unfortunately, as the weather was so poor during the six weeks we were not able to give them a practical session each time. We may have to consider putting our course on later in the year to get more of a chance of good weather.

There is another event for us coming up in July in Dorchester Borough Gardens and after that the next big event will be the Dorchester Show. This year it is our turn to host the Dorset County Beekeepers Honey Show; the schedule can be found on pages 19-26 in this edition of Honeycraft.

It would be so good to get more Dorset members entering this as it is the County Show. We may have a good honey harvest this year so why not enter a few jars.?

All our events are put on our website so please have a look, and check out all the photos on there on our past events.

Sally Leslie



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East Dorset BKA

With the summer season (hopefully) in full flow, we look back over a winter of evening talks and training sessions with some sense of satisfaction. Our winter training sessions have all finished now, with 22 new beekeepers completing the course. We have six members taking the Basic Assessment this year. By the time this is published I expect all those new members on the swarm list will have received a swarm, courtesy of our swarm collectors, and will be putting into practice what they have learned over the winter months. The association would like to express its thanks to Lesley Gasson, who once again led the training sessions.

Congratulations are in order to those East Dorset members who have passed BBKA exams modules 1 and 6; our good wishes go to them.



The association apiary received its spring-clean, and is now looking spick and span. We have been plagued by wood ants, who are nesting on the bank of the small brook adjacent to the apiary, and we have tried many ways to defeat them. Placing the legs of the hive stands in containers with oil in has so far been the most successful, but they have to be emptied regularly as the dead ants soon make a bridge for their compatriots to cross!

The association attended the Canford Heath Festival, where our virtual hive was being demonstrated. This, as usual, was very popular and even attracted the attention of the Mayor of Poole. The stand was well visited, with candle rolling proving popular, many jars of honey were sold and a new associate member was signed up. Thank you to those members that manned the stand, who I'm sure enjoyed the day, minus the sudden downpour of course!



Here are some future dates for EDBKA members' diaries:

EDBK BBQ 20th July

EDBKA Apiary meeting 27th July

EDBKA Show 12th October

EDBKA AGM 18th October

We wish all Dorset members a fruitful season, with docile bees and a good honey crop!

Jim Dunne

Vice-chairman, EDBKA

Sherborne BKA

We had a reasonable start to the year in the apiary. Three hives went through the winter, some stronger than others. After carrying out artificial swarms, we have two additional colonies, one of which has been sold to a member.

Our Introduction to beekeeping course had six members, four of which are now association members. It is difficult to attract members to the apiary on a Saturday afternoon – there is discussion about change of day/time but there has been no feedback from our members and, without direction, no change will be made. Perhaps if they read Honeycraft they will be prompted to contact us with ideas.

Editors Note: Judy's contact details can be found on the last page of HoneyCraft.

Congratulations go to Deborah Bathurst who gained a distinction in Module 1 – well done, and we hope that inspires others to do one or the other of the modules.

The swarm season really had the swarm collectors running. We have collected countless swarms from all sorts of places and pleaded for homes for them when we haven't been able to accommodate them ourselves. A very unusual year and I hope (at the time of writing end of June) there will not be any more.

Judy Easdale



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News from West Dorset BKA—July 2019



Well, here we are halfway through the year already. Some of us are lucky enough to have taken off some early honey (not rape!). Since we had that spell of awful weather, I hope beekeepers have checked that the bees have not eaten all their stores. I actually had to feed three colonies; I was so surprised, because they had plenty the week before the bad weather.

I have never known a year like this for swarms. Our collectors have been out most weeks, since the beginning of April, with their skeps and cardboard boxes; many of us have no more kit left to put bees in. Most of the beekeepers and recent students who wanted bees have now been supplied. The students were all excited to get them, choosing their type of hive and bee suits too. They are, we are glad to say all dealing with their bees really well.

We have kept up our weekly inspections at our teaching apiary, trying to encourage members to come along, especially the new ones, as they will learn such a lot from seeing several colonies of bees, instead of just looking at their own one or two.



We attended the Open Farm Sunday event at Symondsburry Estate near Bridport on June 9th with a bee display, which was fun and hopefully informative for the public. Two talks were given, one by Caroline Dilke on general beekeeping and the other by Peter Crabbe on the Asian hornet. Peter has given several



talks about West Dorset about the Asian Hornet, for which we are very grateful.

Our next big event of the year will be the Melplash Show at Bridport: the schedules are now out for the show on Thursday, August 22nd. They can be obtained from the office Tel 01308 423337 or online www.melplashshow.co.uk for online entries - also on our West Dorset website, with the show rules. Any problems or queries, please ring me on 01308 456210. I hope to see several of you at the show. You can follow us on Facebook and our website <https://www.westdorsetbees.org.uk/>

Carole Brown
WDBKA Sec

Tel 01308 456210

continued on p. 12

WDBKA continued

What's Ahead

All are very welcome to come along to any of our events

Date	Time	Event	Where	Details
Sat 6 Jul	2.00pm	Members Meeting at WDBKA apiary	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY	Please wear clean bee suit, wellies and marigold type gloves
Mon 15 Jul	12 noon	INTERIM Members Meeting at WDBKA apiary	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY	Please wear clean bee suit, wellies and marigold type gloves
Mon 22 Jul	12 noon	INTERIM Members Meeting at WDBKA apiary	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY	Please wear clean bee suit, wellies and marigold type gloves
Sun 28 Jul	2.00pm	INTERIM Members Meeting at WDBKA apiary	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY	Please wear clean bee suit, wellies and marigold type gloves
Sat 3 Aug	2.00pm	Members Meeting at WDBKA apiary	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY	Please wear clean bee suit, wellies and marigold type gloves
Sun 11 Aug	2.00pm	INTERIM Members Meeting at WDBKA apiary	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY	Please wear clean bee suit, wellies and marigold type gloves
Sat 17 Aug	2.00pm	INTERIM Members Meeting at WDBKA apiary	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY	Please wear clean bee suit, wellies and marigold type gloves
Thu 22 Aug	ALL DAY	MELPLASH SHOW WDBKA HONEY SHOW	West Bay Road Bridport	Help required, please

The County Examinations Secretary's Role

The Examinations Secretary is an officer of the Dorset BKA Council so I join the Council meetings which are held three or four times a year and take part in the general discussions and decisions which help to run the Dorset BKA on your behalf.

This is in addition to my involvement in organising the county's examination programme for modules and Basic Assessments and, although many of you know that I also act as an examiner for the Basic Assessment, it has nothing to do with this job; it is entirely separate from the Examinations Secretary's role.

My main responsibility as Examinations Secretary (for both the BBKA Modules and the Basic Assessment) is to provide the link between Dorset's members and the BBKA Examinations Board to ensure that applications and payments are correctly completed, processed and recorded.

Applications for the two new assessments – Bee Breeding and Bee Health certificates – should also be sent to me please, a week before the deadline of 28th February (to allow time for me to send them on).

For module exams I must arrange the hire of a suitable venue to be reported to the BBKA for noting in the exams paperwork and they will later send to me all the question papers for safekeeping until the appointed time and place when they are opened in the presence of the candidates. It is my usual practice to invigilate the exam myself but I could appoint someone else to do that if necessary.

I must then return the scripts to the BBKA promptly and, once the results have been announced, the certificates are sent to me for distribution to branch secretaries and subsequent presentation to the successful candidates.

You can see that this is all fairly straightforward but there is a little more to it when dealing with the Basic Assessment. The difference is that all the arrangements are left to me to organise locally and you will probably know that I am always anxious that you to get the applications for this to me as early in the year as possible.

We have four Master Beekeepers on the BBKA list of authorised assessors in Dorset and I try to plan the year's programme so that we can all take a fair share of the work, but complications can arise because we are not allowed to assess our own branch members nor those for whom we might have provided a course of instruction. In addition, holidays must be allowed for, some candidates cannot be available mid-week while others can't do week-ends; so you can see how difficult the arrangements can be if I have to fit in a late application. This is why I need applications early in the year and certainly by 30th June – unfortunately I am not allowed to make this the deadline!

However, if we drift later than the middle of July for the assessment, the bees' active season is drawing to a close, the colony is closing down and a proper assessment of a candidate's ability becomes difficult. I think you can see that it is in your own best interests to get those applications in to me early in the year.

The venue for the assessments will not usually be at the candidates' own apiary; it will be arranged by the nominated assessor direct with the candidate. The assessors all work from a standardised list of questions and criteria so that a uniform approach and outcome can be guaranteed.

Each assessor will submit their reports directly to the BBKA and I will be provided with a list of successful candidates later, together with certificates and badges for distribution to branch secretaries, as is done for the the module exams.

From the foregoing, you will realise that the role of the Examinations Secretary is principally a clerical one which needs very little beekeeping expertise; so if anyone feels that they would like to become more closely involved in the operation of the Dorset BKA then this is something you could do, whatever your beekeeping experience and standard. Please, don't be shy about putting your name forward.

Terry Payne

Some Thoughts

Sarah More is a member of West Dorset BKA, and is a retired veterinary surgeon who spent most of her career practising in Somerset and Dorset.

What a strange season it's been so far. The bees started their build-up early, there have been lots of swarms -- and not just in West Dorset (I am complaining that only two of mine wanted to), the nectar flows in May turned off like a tap, a good number of people are reporting nasty colonies and many queens went off lay in early June, something one would expect in July. I suspect that when the good weather returns, some of nasty colonies will improve. Bees are much more sensitive to weather conditions than humans and make good forecasts. So they may be nasty because they were confined to barracks and knew their income was likely to be negligible, so needed their savings to survive. On June 10th I looked in two of my big colonies that I thought of splitting and found masses of bees, some sealed brood, a tiny amount of unsealed and a few eggs. Neither of them could swarm soon and certainly couldn't be split with that brood make-up. A typical July brood picture; others have found the same thing.

I had an exhausting May. I was lifting off extremely heavy supers and the odd brood box they were drawing for me, splitting the brood boxes to look for queen cells; nothing doing, so then heaving them back on again - week after week. I was relieved when the bees had finished them and I could extract the honey. I was concerned about the prospect of a drought so left two full supers on each. This proved wrong -- we had a washout instead - - but my apprehension about a dearth was correct. Big colonies can get through a lot of honey, especially if like mine they have a lot of drones, so it is always very important to forward plan and think of all eventualities. One can always take more off later, rather than be forced to feed sugar/fondant. Fondant is useful for nucs as it doesn't encourage robbing, but is insufficient if a colony is starving.

The amount of honey you get is often no reflection of how good a beekeeper you are. The colonies need to be at exactly the right stage of build-up to make the most of the nectar flow. Timing is often everything. So if your bees had made preparations to swarm, had swarmed (they take a good super as luggage) or had been trying to supersede, then probably they had none for you to remove. Some of you will not be in an area of lots of trees or the dreaded rape (not round my apiaries, phew!), or not have lots of drawn super frames available. Those of you who took none off may well get the last laugh; those who have taken honey off may have taken off too much. If not fed soon enough, the colony may get put back so much so that it can't collect and process much in July nectar flows, if we get them. So *nil desperandum*, as my geology teacher used to say.

I extract each super separately, as my extractor doesn't have legs so I need to, and must be able to, lift it up onto a stool, so that I can run the honey through the sieve and into a bucket. As a result I know to the nearest two pounds how much honey I get from each colony, for my records. Each bucket can contain a very different product, e.g. some smell strongly of the may, others just have a hint or none. May has a very distinctive scent. Next year, make a point of smelling hawthorn (may) blossom, for that is what May honey smells of. Every colony seems to concentrate on different plants. It would be interesting to see if a colony made the same choice the previous/following year. The quality of the spring honey this year is superb: very viscous.

I like to note the quality of bees' engineering work as well as their productivity. Are the frames well drawn and level so that uncapping is easy and quick, or uneven, so it is lengthy? It can be your fault, if the hive itself isn't level. White cappings are easier to uncap as there is an air gap under the cap. Good engineering colonies get their virgins preferential treatment when I am deciding whether to keep them.

Other factors, when choosing young queens to keep, are their mothers' colony manners. Following for 10 yards and hunting humans brings a death sentence and I destroy the queen and queen cells and introduce a frame of eggs from a nice colony if I don't have another queen to put on top. A good rule of thumb is: if after inspecting a hive and walking five yards away you can remove your veil safely, you have a good colony. If the bees are still round you after 10 yards, you need to take action. These colonies could beat up you or your neighbours (who could stop you keeping bees in your garden) and also their drones could mate with neighbouring beekeepers'

virgins from nice colonies. You do need to assess them when the colony and its queen appear healthy and the weather and income (forage) are good. They can be given a little leeway in adverse conditions.

Another type I don't want is those colonies that want to swarm from a few frames of brood. Or those that try to swarm again in a season. A queen gets her wings clipped for this fault and if she goes outside, her daughters will be marked down. I try to do what experienced, knowledgeable beekeepers say: "Keep big, strong colonies". To be strong they must be healthy, and I would add, "with impeccable manners". The other side of the coin is: don't nurse weak colonies. They are weak for a reason, usually poor health. I did keep two old ladies who were weak in the spring but headed some of my best honey-producing colonies last year. It is often the case that these colonies are weak the following year. One of them has built up nicely and has even given me a super this spring, but she has been superseded.

To improve your stocks you need plenty of young queens from which to choose the nicest. You can't select until the young queens have hatched their first brood and settled down, so try to leave them alone to get used to their new way of life. If one fails, then you can unite her nuc back to the parent colony or with another nuc. It is always safest to unite nucs and colonies with a sheet of newspaper and a queen excluder (to hold it down). If the queen is in the weakest part, I would put her on top. Nucs can be united together in a hive just by leaving the crown board off for 20 minutes. Make sure the queen is in the midst of her brood and nurse bees where she will be safest.

I hope it goes without saying that to judge the qualities or problems of colonies and queens you need to see a great number of colonies kept by a good number of beekeepers. It is no good just going to the apiary for a season and then just visiting your single/few colonies.

Do keep in mind that this month you may be extracting honey and also starting varroa treatment, so do plan your strategy but be very aware of the weather. Listen to your bees and think about what you are seeing in the brood nest; they are trying to tell you something. I always recommend working with them, not telling them what to do.

Happy beekeeping, and my best wishes to you and your bees.

Sarah More

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Members of 
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SHOW SECTION

This section starts with an article by Richard Norman, DBKA President and Chairman of the country show. Information about the three principal shows then follows.

If there is any discrepancy between the information given in the magazine and the show schedules, the information and rules provided in the schedules will apply.

Honey Shows

Beekeepers' associations have been holding honey shows in many venues around the country since their inception. These range from individual local 'our members only' events in village halls to the larger agricultural shows, such as the Bath & West Show with several county associations participating. The National Honey Show of course also invites International entries.

Dorset has three agricultural shows incorporating a honey show. Melplash at West Bay and the Dorset County Show at Dorchester are organised by the local associations, who also host the Dorset Beekeepers Association honey show in alternate years. Gillingham & Shaftesbury also has a honey show, organised within and by their Horticultural and Homecrafts section.

William Herrod's book for preparing and showing honey has a picture of the BBKA Show at the Indian and Colonial Show 1886. Perhaps these pictures were only showing the larger shows but the picture of the 'Two Dozen Square Sections' class looks impressive. Possibly there was more forage then but nowadays hoping the bees would fill ten is optimistic.

The three Dorset honey shows have a more modest requirement with the most popular classes being 'two jars of light or medium honey'. Grading glasses are available for borderline shades but even the judges disagree sometimes as to which class entries should be in. More flexibility is shown in local shows by the judges.

Although presentation is important, the deciding factor for first prize is the flavour of the honey. Any honey that beekeepers offer for sale to the public should be of a quality suitable for showing, but often jars are entered with rusty lids and are under-filled or have debris in them. If it is good enough to sell it should be good enough to show and vice versa.

Classes which require a 'frame for extraction' are more demanding and those with more hives have more frames to choose from. Clean, plump, filled to the edges frames are needed (with no pollen).



Rows of honey jars on display look impressive and give an opportunity to show the public all the different colours and kinds of honey which result from different flowers and crops. The public do need to be made aware of the quality of our honey, as compared to supermarket honey, so that they can appreciate why the difference in price is justified. The show tables also display other hive products, such as candles, wax blocks and polish.

Shows are an excellent way of involving the public and informing them about bees. Observation hives with flying bees show the public the difference between wasps and bees. I am not sure if we are winning that battle; we can but try. Children are always fascinated by the observation hives and usually ask some very pertinent and probing questions.

One vital ingredient for a successful show is plenty of enthusiastic helpers. It gives a chance for members to work together to promote bees and beekeeping and hopefully have some fun into the bargain.



Richard Norman

Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show—Wednesday 14th August

Conditions:

1. Classes in this schedule are open to amateurs only. Exhibitors may enter a MAXIMUM of TWO ENTRIES in any one class
4. All exhibits must be staged between 7.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Art Section entries must be delivered by 12.30pm) on Tuesday 14th. August. Judging will take place in the afternoon. Exhibitors must vacate the Marquee by 1.30pm. This rule will be strictly enforced.

Note - The Marquee will be in the charge of officials throughout the night of 14th/15th August

The **Baylis Challenge Shield** (Trophy No. 62.) will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in this section.

NOTES:

A All exhibits must be the produce of the exhibitor.

B No card, label or distinguishing mark to be visible on any exhibit (except in class 175)

Entry Fee - CLASSES 171-186 - 50p per entry. Prizes Classes 171-186 - 1st £3; 2nd £2; 3rd £1

Classes:

- 171 Two 1lb/12oz jars of light clear runny honey.
- 172 Two 1lb/12oz jars of medium clear runny honey.
- 173 Two 1lb/12oz jars of naturally granulated honey.
- 174 Two 1lb/12oz jars of creamed honey.
- 175 Three jars with labels as for sale.
- 176 Two cartons of cut comb, 6-8ozs. Display in commercially available containers.
- 177 One shallow frame of honey suitable for extracting.
- 178 One piece of beeswax, not less than 6ozs. Display in clear plastic bag.
- 179 Two moulded beeswax candles of any type display in safe candle holders.
- 180 Two patterned or decorated beeswax candles display in safe candle holders.
- 181 An item of decorative bees wax – not candle from not more than 10oz wax.
- 182 One bottle of mead – any type.
- 183 Five Hive Products – at least 2 items not as in the classes above.
- 184 12 Pieces of Honey Fudge as recipe on page 9 - display on paper plate and in plastic bag.
- 185 One Honey cake as recipe on page 9 - display on white plate and in plastic bag.
- 186 Photograph of Bees, hives or honey production – display mounted on card as applies to Photography classes.

Full information and entry forms can be found at:

<https://www.gillshaftshow.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Horticultural-Schedule-2019.pdf>

Recipes:

Class 184 - Honey Fudge • 1lb./500g granulated sugar • 5fluid ozs/150ml evaporated milk • 2 teasp Honey • ¼ teasp salt • 2oz/50g butter or margarine Method Boil sugar, salt and milk together for 5 minutes, add honey and boil until soft boil stage, 240 deg F. Add butter and stand until luke warm. Beat until creamy. Pour into greased dish. When nearly set make into squares.

Class 185 - Honey Cake • 8oz self-raising flour • 6oz sultanas • 2 eggs • 6oz honey • 4oz butter or marg • pinch of salt Method Cream the butter and honey together, beat eggs well and add alternately with the sifted flour and salt (save little flour to add with sultanas). Beat well and lightly, if required add a little milk, turn in the sultanas and stir well. Bake in well buttered 7" circular tin for 1hr 15mins in a moderate oven.

NOTE: These are 'Granny's' tried and tested Recipes; they are in imperial units but please feel free to use metric tins and measurements

Melplash Show—Thursday 22 August

The schedule for the beekeeping section of this show can be found at:

<https://www.melplashshow.co.uk/horticulture-handicraft-and-home-produce-schedule/>

and a link to the conditions can be found on the West Dorset BKA report on p. 11.

WANTED

**Does anyone have one, or preferably two, children's beesuits,
suitable for 11-year-olds, that they would be willing
to loan for the summer holidays, or sell?**

If so, please contact: Tim Villiers 01963 364 384 or tim@familyvilliers.co.uk

Dorchester & Weymouth BKA

dorchesterandweymouthbka.com

Honey Show 2019

SHOW SCHEDULE

Sponsored by the Dorset County Show

To be held at the
Dorset County Showground, Dorchester

Saturday 7th September 2019



Show Secretary: Richard Norman

Tel. 01305 786585

richard@wykeregis19.plus.com

Presentation of Cups, Trophies and Sponsored Prizes
by Mervyn Bown will be at 4.00 p.m. in the Marquee

D & W BKA SPECIAL AWARDS

THE THOMPSON CUP

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Section A

THE MILES PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Section B

THE DORCHESTER AND WEYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS CUP

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Section C

JOHN CHAMBERS MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded to the exhibitor with the best exhibit in Section B.

DORCHESTER AND WEYMOUTH B.K.A. CHALLENGE

Awarded to the Dorset beekeepers Association with the best entry in the special composite class.

BLUE ROSETTE and two tickets to the National Honey Show

awarded to the exhibitor with the best exhibit in the whole show.

SPONSORED PRIZES

THORNES OF STOCKBRIDGE

Vouchers for Class 21 Shop Counter Display, and for Class 14 Pieces of Moulded Beeswax

FARGO TRADING, Maiden Newton Either a bee suit or an Apldea

Class 23 Observation Hive

All exhibits will be staged in the Beekeeping Marquee with the

Dorchester & Weymouth Beekeeper's Association display.

A full copy of the Rules are in this Show Schedule.

Judge:

Sue Lang

Bedfordshire

CCTV for observation hive provided by

Coastal Computing (Weymouth) Ltd

167 Portland Road, Weymouth, DT4 9BQ Tel: 01305 500118

ENTRANCE FEE ALL CLASSES 25P PER ENTRY

SECTION A.

OPEN CLASSES.

- 1)* Two 454g jars of light honey.
- 2)* Two 454g jars of medium honey.
- 3) Two 454g jars of dark honey.
- 4)* Two 454g jars of crystallized (not creamed) honey.
- 5)* Two 454g jars of soft set (creamed) honey.
- 6)* Two 454g jars of chunk honey.
- 7) Three 454g jars of honey, labeled as for sale. Any type of honey permitted but all must be the same. Current labeling regulation to apply.
- 8)* One frame of comb honey suitable for extraction.
- 9)* Two containers of cut comb honey, minimum net weight 227g.
- 10) Two sections, square.
- 11) Two sections, round.
- 12)* One cake of beeswax, minimum weight 454g at least 2.5cm thick moulded in a plain shape.
- 13) Five blocks of beeswax, approx. 27g.
- 14) Five pieces of identical decorative moulded beeswax.
- 15) Two identical beeswax candles, made in a plain mould.
- 16) Two identical beeswax candles, made by any means other than a mould.
- 17)* One bottle of dry mead.
- 18)* One bottle of sweet mead.
- 19) One flower made from beeswax (may be coloured).
- 20)* One photograph, min size 150mmx100mm, max 200mmx150mm on a 250mm x 200mm (10" x 8") mount. Subject of interest to beekeepers.
- 21) Shop counter display of honey. 1.4kg minimum to 4.5kg maximum weight of extracted or comb honey in any form of display. To be exhibited in any transparent containers using exhibitors own labels as for retail. To be judged for quality and sales appeal. Other hive products may be included to decorate the display.
Space not to exceed 60cm deep by 75cm long.
- 22) Composite Class. Any four of the following :-
 - a) Two 454g jars of clear honey.
 - b) Two 454g jars of set honey.
 - c) One frame for extraction.
 - d) One section (round or square).
 - e) One 227g container of cut comb.
 - f) One cake of beeswax minimum weight 454g.
- 23) Observation Hive, containing live bees (see regulation 8). To be judged for quality and educational value
NB Maximum 2 entries
If more than two entries, preference will be given to the first two received.
- 24) Two tins of beeswax polish.

continued on p. 22

25)*.Honey Fruit Cake Exhibits must be made from this recipe

170/6oz margarine	140g/5oz brown Sugar
60g/2oz Honey	340g/12oz self-raising flour
3 eggs	A little milk if necessary
Grated rind of a Asmall lemon	½Level tsp grated nutmeg
100g/4oz currants	100g/4oz sultanas
50g/2oz raisins	50g/2oz mixed peel

Method: Cream together the margarine honey and sugar, then beat in the eggs and grated lemon rind. Fold in the dry ingredients & fruit, mixing with sufficient milk to make a soft dropping consistency. Grease and line an 8" cake tin and fill with the mixture. Bake on the centre shelf at Gas Mark 3 ; 325F ; 160C for 1 to 1½ hours Leave to cool in tin for 10 minutes then turn out on a wire rack

26) Five Pieces of Honey Flapjack. (Weight approx 175g/6oz). Exhibits must be made from this recipe

225g/8oz butter	175g/6oz sugar
1 Tablespoon Honey	350g/12oz oats

Method: Melt together butter, sugar and honey and remove from heat. Stir in oats and smooth into flat tin about 9 inch by 13inch. Place in centre of moderate oven for approximately 20 minutes, checking after 5 minutes. Allow to cool slightly and cut into squares.

27) Twelve pieces of Honey Fudge. Exhibits must be made from this recipe

454g/1lb granulated sugar.	150ml/1/4 pint of milk.
55g/2oz honey.	55g/2ozs. butter.

Method: Bring ingredients slowly to the boil, stirring all the time. Cover and boil rapidly for 2 minutes, Uncover and boil gently for approx.15 minutes until soft ball stage is reached, stirring all the time. Take off the heat, stand pan on a cold surface for 5 minutes. Beat until creamy and mix starts to thicken. Pour quickly into a greased/oiled tin approx.7 inches square. When nearly set, mark into squares. Cut when cold.

SECTION B

OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS OF DORCHESTER AND WEYMOUTH BKA

- 28) Two 454g jars of light honey
- 29) Two 454g jars of medium honey.
- 30) Two 454g jars of crystallized honey (not creamed).
- 31) Two 454g jars of soft set honey (creamed).
- 32) One frame of comb honey suitable for extraction.
- 33) Two containers of cut comb minimum weight 227g.
- 34) One cake of beeswax minimum weight 227g moulded in a plain shape.
- 35) Two identical beeswax candles made in a plain mould.
- 36) Two identical beeswax candles made by any means other than a mould.

continued on p. 23

SECTION C.

OPEN TO NOVICE EXHIBITORS WHO HAVE NEVER WON A FIRST PRIZE AT ANY HONEY SHOW.

- 37) One 454g jar of clear honey.
- 38) One 454g jar of set honey.
- 39) One container of cut comb.
- 40) One cake of beeswax minimum weight 227g moulded in a plain shape.

DORCHESTER & WEYMOUTH BKA CHALLENGE.

A COMPOSITE CLASS CHALLENGE OPEN TO ALL BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATIONS.

There is no entry fee for this class.

Each entry to consist of any 4 of the following and to be judged for quality:

- a) Two 454g jars of honey, any type but both the same type.
- b) One frame of comb honey suitable for extraction.
- c) One honey fruit cake (recipe as class 25).
- d) Two containers of cut comb, minimum weight 227g.
- e) Two beeswax candles.
- f)One round or square section

The rules are shown on pp. 24-26

RULES

1) Entries must be made on the form provided and sent together with entry fees and 50p towards postage to reach the Honey Show Secretary,

Mr R Norman, 19 Broughton Crescent, Weymouth. DT4 9AS **no later than Monday 26th August 2019.**

Cheques made payable to Dorchester & Weymouth BKA.

2) All exhibits must be staged by 8-30am on show day in the marquee allocated to the Honey Show. Exhibits may be staged between 5pm -7pm on the day before the show or 7am - 8-30am on show day.

Exhibitors who cannot meet these times should contact the Show Secretary at least two days before the show to make alternative arrangements.

3) No card, label, trade or distinguishing mark of an exhibitor may be placed on any part of an exhibit, other than the labels provided by the Show Secretary. Such labels shall be fixed to jars to leave 1cm space between the bottom of the label and the base of the jar.

Candles are to be displayed erect and one candle may be lit by the judge. Labels to be placed near to the base of the candles. For other wax exhibits, the labels are to be placed on the under surface of 27g blocks and upon the upper surface of other wax exhibits.

Comb Honey to be exhibited in standard white or clear commercial 227g containers with a clear lid. Labels to be placed on the top right-hand corner of the front vertical face of the showcase or container and the duplicate placed on top of the frame or section.

Round Sections must have clear covers on both sides. One label on the flat face of the case, the other on the circumference of the section.

Square Sections must be exhibited in section showcases or standard commercial card section cases.

Cut Comb one label on the front of the case, the other on the top right hand corner of the lid.

Cake One label on the upper surface of the cake, the other on the stand.

Fudge and Biscuit labels to be placed on the plate or stand. All cakes & confectionary to be exhibited on a white paper plate with a doilley covered with clingfilm or clear plastic. Plates, doileys & clingfilm can be supplied by the Show.

EXCEPTION TO RULE 3. Exhibitors to use their own labels (as for retail) in classes 7 and 21. (Show labels are also to be attached in class 7).

4) Every article exhibited and sold must be bona-fide the property of the exhibitor. All honey and wax must be gathered from flowers in the natural way within the United Kingdom by bees the property of the exhibitor at the time of gathering.

EXCEPTION TO RULE 4. The wax and honey used in the polish and cookery classes must have been produced within the United Kingdom but may have been purchased. (Classes 24, 25, 26, 27).

5) Frames of comb honey suitable for extraction must be shown in "bee tight glazed cases" and capable of easy withdrawal. 1 label on top r/h corner of the glass & 1 label on the top bar of the frame

6) All extracted honey must be exhibited in 454g clear squat jars with gold lacquered screw lids. **EXCEPTION TO RULE 6.** Exhibitors may use any type of transparent jar and coloured tops in classes 7 & 21.

7) **Mead** must be shown in clear white 75 cl punted glass bottles of a round section with rounded, not fluted shoulders, stoppered with white plastic flanged stoppers only (contents approx. 26fl.oz.) .

8) **Observation Hives** must be set up to ensure that flying bees are excluded from the tent to the satisfaction

of the judge. Any unsatisfactory exhibit will be removed.

9) EXHIBITS. No exhibit may be tasted or interfered with in any way by an exhibitor or any other person during the show without permission of the Show Secretary or Official Stewards. The Show Committee (and Stewards) will take normal care of exhibits during the show but will not be responsible in any circumstances for the loss or damage sustained by exhibitors.

10) Exhibitors may supply some of their honey and/or limited beeswax products for sale at the show.

11) The cups and trophies must be returned to the Show Secretary by the 1st August in the year following the show or the Show Secretary notified by this date so that the trophies will be returned in a clean state on the show day.

12) Points awarded will be calculated on the following basis:- 1st....6pts. 2nd....5pts. 3rd....4pts VHC or 4th...3 pts HC.....2 pts C...1 pt.

13) In the event of the judge not awarding a First Prize to a sponsored class the Show Secretary may decide to award the sponsored first prize to another class. In the event of a tie, the cup or prize will be awarded jointly.

14) Exhibitors who enter eight or more exhibits will be entitled to free admission to the show ground.

15) Exhibitors may enter more than one exhibit in a class but no exhibitors, in any class, may take more than one prize.

16) Classes marked with * are the Massey Trophy Classes.

17) All exhibitors must be a member of a Beekeeping Association

18) In the event of any query the Show Secretary's decision is final.

PRIZE MONEY Classes 1-27 1st £3.00, 2nd £2.00 3rd £1

HINTS AND TIPS FOR SHOWING

Is your entry according to the schedule? Read it again, including all rules & regulations (these vary from show to show).

Make sure you have entered the correct class.

If you are in doubt consult the Show

Ensure that clear honey is clear with no crystals or frothy scum and that set honey is set. This applies to both naturally crystallised and soft set or creamed honey. The surface should be dry with no trace of scum or ring of bubbles.

Overfill your jars to start with - this allows for skimming.

Ensure your honey and jars are spotlessly clean.

Honey must be free from all foreign matter.

Prepare your entry well in advance. Screw the lid on firmly, polish the outside of the jar and stick on the label. The next person to remove the lid should be the judge.

When two or more matching jars are required in a class, make sure that they match exactly in all respects.

Don't wash jars with detergent and then dry with a fluffy cloth.

Don't use an assortment of old jars and rusty lids.

Don't change lids on arrival at the show venue. This only lets dust etc settle on the previously clean surface of the honey.

It doesn't matter if the lid is wet with honey.

Dorset County Beekeepers Association

SHOW AWARDS

DORSET CHALLENGE CUP

Awarded to the member with most points in all Open Classes

F.W.CARTER CHALLENGE CUP

Awarded to the member with the highest points in Classes 8,9,10,11

BETTY COURTNEY MEMORIAL SHIELD

Awarded to the member with the highest points in Classes 12,15,16

PEARL WELLINGTON MEMORIAL SHIELD

Awarded to the member with the highest points in Classes 24, 25, 26

NOVICE TROPHY & NATIONAL HONEY SHOW CARD

Awarded to the member with the highest points in Classes 37-40

BRANCH SHIELD AWARDED BY DORSET BKA

Awarded to the Branch with the most points in the Open Classes

THE MASSEY TROPHY is awarded to the member who gains the most points in Classes marked with an * in this Show and in the West Dorset BKA Honey Show



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Dorset Dates

Members of all Associations are WELCOME at all meetings. However, if it is not your parent branch, please contact the organiser beforehand, so that they can ensure that there are enough seats (cake?) for all attendees.

Date / Time	Branch	Event	Contact	Venue
6 July	West Dorset BKA	Members meeting at apiary	Carole Brown	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY
13 July	BSBKA	Visit to Vita	Lesley Gasson	Basingstoke
15 July	West Dorset BKA	Interim Apiary visit for new members	Carole Brown	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY
20 July	Dorset BKA	Bee Health Day	Lesley Gasson	Portman Hall, Shillingstone
20 July	East Dorset BKA	BBQ	Jim Dunne	?
22 July	West Dorset BKA	Interim Apiary visit for new members	Carole Brown	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY
27 July	East Dorset BKA	Apiary meeting	Jim Dunne	?
28 July	West Dorset BKA	Interim Apiary visit for new members	Carole Brown	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY
11 August	West Dorset BKA	Interim Apiary visit for new members	Carole Brown	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY
14 August	BSBKA	GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY SHOW	Cuffy Laverton	Motcombe
17 August	West Dorset BKA	Interim Apiary visit for new members	Carole Brown	Park Farm, Netherbury DT6 5LY
22 August	West Dorset BKA	MELPLASH SHOW	Carole Brown	West Bay
7-8 September	Dorchester & Weymouth BKA	DORCHESTER SHOW	Richard Norman	Dorchester
12 October	East Dorset	Honey show	Jim Dunne	?
18 October	East Dorset	AGM	Jim Dunne	?

Who's Who in the Dorset County Beekeepers' Association

President Richard Norman

Vice Presidents: Ken Bishop, Mervyn Bown, Chris Slade

Chair	Lesley Gasson,	The White House, Candys Lane, Shillingstone DT11 0SF
Vice Chair	Trevor Ford	trevorlanners@gmail.com
Secretary	Liz Rescorla, 01305 889916	5 Cowleaze, Martinstown, Dorchester DT2 9TD winkyozz@uwclub.net
Treasurer	Robert Camping, 01202 849338	Yew Tree Cottage, Higher Row, Holt, Wimborne BH21 7EB yewcot@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Ben Benjamin	chrisbenbenjamin@googlemail.com
Education Officer	Geoff Buckland, 01305 567950	The Willows, Icen Lane, Weymouth DT3 5PY geofbuckland@aol.com
Examinations Secretary	Terry Payne, 01747 811251	Brookman's Farm Bungalow, Dunns Lane, Iwerne Minster DT11 8NG twpayne@btopenworld.com
Honeycraft Editor	Tim Villiers, 01963 364384	The Old Vicarage, Stourton Caundle DT10 2JN tim@familyvilliers.co.uk
Website Manager	Stephen Potts	sbfpotts@gmail.com <u>web site</u> www.dorsetBKA.com
Asian Hornet Co-ordinator	Mark White 07747 620920	18 Allen's Road, Upton, Poole, BH16 5BU markaj2000@hotmail.com

Blandford & Sturminster	Lesley Gasson, 01258 861690	The White House, Candys Lane, Shillingstone , DT11 0SF lmgasson@btinternet.com
Dorchester & Weymouth	Sally Leslie, 01305 823043	86 Chiswell, Portland, Dorset DT5 1AP sallyfrances86@hotmail.com
East Dorset	Jenny Wellman, 01202 873292	32 Compton Crescent, West Moors, BH22 0BZ jenny@jenny32.plus.com
Sherborne	Judy Easdale, 01963 220984	Townsend Farmhouse, Poyntington, Sherborne DT9 4LF sherbornebee@hotmail.co.uk
West Dorset	Carole Brown 01308-456210	11 North Hill Way, Bridport. DT6 4JX secretary@westdorsetbees.org.uk

Seasonal Bee Inspector	Kevin Pope 07775 119466	kevin.pope@apha.gov.uk