

SEVENOAKS AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS BEEKEEPERS BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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AGM and Prize-Giving



Some of the silver cups awarded to prize-winners in this year's honey show – picture by Paul Abbott

Our last indoor meeting of the year has traditionally been the AGM. I like to think of this gathering as being a celebration of the beekeeping season. Looking back at the events that have taken place it certainly felt like a celebration. This was continued with Vic Webb volunteering for the committee and to manage Hilbert Road Apiary. There will be a change, though, because Vic has another Saturday commitment, which means meetings at Hilbert Road will move from Saturday afternoons to a weekday. With all other officers continuing in their posts, the serious business of the AGM was soon settled.



Richard Rose receiving the Chairman's Cup – picture by Paul Abbott

Awarding the Chairman's cup gives me a chance to say thanks to someone from the branch who has made a big contribution to our activities and it is always a difficult decision. This year I felt that it should be awarded to Richard Rose, who has been running our honey show for such a long time. As if to underline the award, this year's honey show was one of the most well supported and closely run affairs, with cups being awarded to many different competitors.

Following the awarding of certificates and cups, there was an opportunity to sample the many different tasting honeys brought along by members. It was interesting to verify the general proposition that there is a vast difference in the taste of local honey, but it was especially nice to be able to prove that this is the case over such a very small area.

Cliff Hayward

Christmas Social

Our Christmas Meal is on Wednesday 4th December at The Bucks Head, Godden Green TN15 0JJ, meet at 7pm to sit down at 7.30pm. RSVP to Sarah Rapley sarah@chartcorner.com

New Year, New Meeting Day

The programme of winter talks will continue in January but there will be a big change for 2020. The meetings will move to the third **Wednesday** of the month. They will still be held at Weald Memorial Hall, TN14 6PT. On January 15 at 7.30pm John Hendrie will explain the BBKA examination system and follow this with a practical demonstration of alternative comb change techniques and swarm control.

The Branch Website

<http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Our website receives more than 1,000 visits a month and is full of interesting articles and information. If you missed the AGM you will be able to find full details on the site. This link will take you to the AGM minutes:

<http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/AGM-Minutes191119-with-appendices-1.pdf>

This link will take you to the financial statement:

<http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Financial-statement-2019-AGM-signed-191120.pdf>

Bees Through the Ages

On 30th October, Liz Birchenough presented a talk to the Tonbridge U3A group on beekeeping. The talk started with the earliest evidence of beekeeping, right up to the development of modern hives in the 19th Century. This was followed by a discussion of modern beekeeping, including some of the pitfalls that we can all experience at times. Samples of hive parts and beekeeping equipment were shown. This was also an opportunity to ask members of the audience to look out for Asian Hornets, and tell them who to contact should one be found.

At the end of the talk, there were wide-ranging questions. Several people expressed an interest in joining the branch, and were given information leaflets. There was also some branch honey on sale, which was well received. Many thanks to Katherine Coleman for organising the event.

Beekeeping Library

We have a large number of books in the branch library and new titles are added each year. Some are donated, others we buy through recommendations from members. They cover every aspect of beekeeping from beginner's guides to more advanced texts. The complete list of books can be found on the website. To borrow any book free of charge contact Sarah Rapley: sarah@chartcorner.com

West Sussex Beekeepers Annual Convention

West Sussex Beekeepers are inviting all interested members to book a place at their annual convention on Saturday 29th February at Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1LZ

We have a renowned group of speakers and an impressive mix of lectures and seminars with something for everyone. Our main speakers are Marin Anastasov NDB, Professor Robert Pickard and Dr Anna Oliver. A simple lunch will be included and there will be many opportunities to catch up with fellow beekeepers from around the county and beyond. As always, Paynes Southdown Bee Farms will bring a range of equipment and books to the Convention for you to purchase. We have already had a lot of interest in the event and encourage people to book early to ensure that they secure a place on their preferred seminars. Full details are now on the website with speakers' profiles and a Booking Form to download:

www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html

Please send any photos or reports for the newsletter to Mary Staffurth:
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