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## Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

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### Tim Foden

We thought that members would like to know that donations in memory of Tim Foden for Myton Hospice exceeded all expectations raising the princely sum of **£1505**.

### 2018 Honey Show

A good fun evening with the John Home (Judge) and Matei Bolborea (Steward ) double act being particularly entertaining in educating all. Everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. More members came along to see what it was all about even if they were not exhibiting. 7 members entered who had not had a go before 11 were old hopefuls! 112 entries were received. Each of the 19 classes had entries this year which gave the opportunity for a wide range of skills to be judged and commented on.



The judge thought the quality of the entries were generally of a good standard with Medium Honey Cottager Class, and Candles being particularly identified as being of an acceptable standard for County Entry. The honey judged on flavour only class and the photographic class attracted the most entries(15). There was noticeably more Dark Honey this year.

The atmosphere was relaxed yet the open judging was rigorous and informative. The informal arrangement for tea meant that attendees could get refreshments as needed and there was the photographic class to be voted on during John's extended deliberations.

Very many congratulations especially go to Bev Oakley who excelled in the Novice, Cottager and Best in Show..... got a lot to live up to next year!

John was presented with a donation for Bees Abroad from the entry fees collected . Three jar of honey have been donated to Myton Hospice.



Bev Oakley Best on Show



Ann Foden Best Honey Cake



Steve & Liz Most Points

## Full Results

### Class 1 Light Honey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Essex
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Liz & Steve Bates
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Summers
- 4<sup>th</sup> Neil Shuttleworth

### Class 2 Medium Honey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bev Oakley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Summers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Liz & Steve Bate
- 4<sup>th</sup> Rachel Dove

### Class 3 Dark Honey:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Essex
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rachel Dove
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jane Ford
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mary Pemberton

### Class 4 Granulated Honey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ray Summers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Essex
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bernard & Jane Brown

### Class 5 Soft Set Honey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jane Ford
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve and Liz Bates
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Summers
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mary Pemberton

### Class 6 Heather/Heather Blend

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bernard & Jane Brown

### Class 7 Judged on Flavour Only

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ray Summers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jane & Bernard Brown
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Liz & Steve Bates
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jane Ford

### Class 8 Cut Comb

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Phillips

### Class 9 Frame for Extraction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Steve and Liz Bates
- 2<sup>nd</sup> David Phillips
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Apiary

### Class 10 Cake of Beeswax

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ray Summers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Essex
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Steve and Liz Bates
- 4<sup>th</sup> Rachel Dove

### Class 11 Dry Mead

- 1<sup>st</sup> Liz & Steve Bates
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Essex
- 4<sup>th</sup> Matei Bolborea

### Class 12 Sweet Mead

- 1<sup>st</sup> Liz & Steve Bates
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Essex

### Class 13 Honey Cake

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ann Foden
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Liz & Steve Bates
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jane Ford
- 4<sup>th</sup> Barry Meatyard

### Class 14 Beeswax candle

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Pemberton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Liz & Steve Bates
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Helen Essex
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ray Summers

### Class 15 Cottager Class

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bev Oakley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jane Ford
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rachel Dove
- 4<sup>th</sup> Linda Pound

### Class 16 Novice Class

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bev Oakley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jane Ford
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Neil Shuttleworth
- 4<sup>th</sup> Linda Pound

### Class 17 Photograph

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Phillips
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry Meatyard
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Summers
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ray Summers

### Class 18 Gift Class

- 1<sup>st</sup> Linda Pound
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Pemberton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Helen Essex
- 4<sup>th</sup> Rachel Dove

### Class 19 Straw Skep:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Pemberton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Summers

**NOVICE MAZER – Bev Oakley**

**NANCY WILTSHIRE ROSEBOWL- for Honey Cake – Ann Foden**

**JACK TAYLOR PLAQUE- for Cottager Class- Bev Oakley**

**THORPE CUP- for most points- Liz & Steve Bates**

**BERNARD COLLINS TROPHY- for best in show- Bev Oakley for Medium Honey**

## News from the Training Team

Well the training season has drawn to a close and we are now in the process of preparing the colonies for winter. About twenty members from the 2018 Introduction to Beekeeping course attended most of the training sessions from mid-April up to the last one on 19<sup>th</sup> September, so along with five or six trainers each week and our wonderful “quartermaster/shed keeper” Steve Poynter, we were a very busy band. The end of season barbeque brought everyone together to talk bees and reflect on all that had been learned. The bees have fared reasonably well; we lost several colonies to the bitter winter but managed to increase the stock at the height of summer, leaving eight strong ones to go into next year. There is about 120lb of honey extracted, ready to be bottled, so not a bad crop.

And now on to next year – what about doing the **Basic Assessment of Apicultural Proficiency?** (or the Basic for short) This is a practical assessment which you can take having kept bees for at least a year. The assessment takes place during the beekeeping season and involves going through a hive and discussing all things beekeeping. The syllabus can be found at <https://www.bbka.org.uk/basic-assessment-syllabus> In preparation, Master Beekeeper, Jane Medwell will be running three sessions 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, to revise key points such as handling, swarming and disease. Enrolment can be found on the front page of our website <https://www.warleambees.org.uk/>

You may also be interested to know that the **2019 Introduction to Beekeeping Course** (ITB) is already over half subscribed so if you have friends, family, neighbours who are considering doing it, please encourage them to join soon. The dates are:- 4<sup>th</sup>;11<sup>th</sup>;18<sup>th</sup>;25<sup>th</sup> February; 4<sup>th</sup>;11<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 – 9.30 pm at Kingshill Nursery, Kingshill Lane CV3 6PS Details and enrolment form can be found on our website front page as above.

With very best wishes from the Training Team:- David Phillips, Steve Poynter, Nicki Maritz, Liz Gurney, Val Dillon and Maggie Curley

## **Training Apiary Relocation**

We are on the move again!!

It has been confirmed that we shall have to vacate our training apiary at BBKA by the spring of next year as there are plans to develop the site as a showcase Apiary for BBKA to promote our craft.

With the work which prompted the move from Dalehouse Lane in the first place delayed yet again, we are looking for a home for at least the next three years. We are actively exploring alternative locations and are asking the membership whether they know of any sites which might be suitable.

Ultimately, of course we have a long cherished objective to acquire our own site to give us the security of tenure which will avoid the disruption and cost of regular moves but under the current circumstances time is not on our side and we may have to settle for yet another temporary location.

The following are the ideal requirements for a site but both the bees and beekeepers are quite able to compromise on these if necessary.

**Location** - Ideally the training apiary should be within the Warwick District Council area or close by.

**Size** - Upwards of 1/4 acre to accommodate 12 hives. Space to erect a shed

**Shape** - No requirements for shape although a minimum width of 3m is required.

**Topography** - Reasonably flat or gently sloping

**Remoteness** - Away from close or regular access by the public

**Parking** - The facility to park say 20 cars on, or safely adjacent to the site (within walking distance) is essential

**Access** - Vehicular access for one vehicle to the apiary itself is required. Could be by 4 x 4.

**Shelter and Shade** - Not too exposed. Hill tops, frost pockets and areas prone to flooding are best avoided. Adjacent to a hedge is fine.

**Power Cables/Telephone masts** – Best avoided

**Security** - A site in a reasonably secluded area away from public gaze.

**Tenure** - Some security of tenure is sought but whether this be provided through a freehold, leasehold or license is negotiable.

**Typical Locations**- Apiaries are often located in “difficult” corners of sites associated with farming, hotels, educational establishments, pubs, golf clubs, local authorities, Company HQ’s, Nature Reserves, Stately Homes, Cemeteries, Churchyards etc.

Should anything suitable come to mind please contact Bernard Brown on [bernardnbrown@aol.com](mailto:bernardnbrown@aol.com) or any member of the committee.

Whatever site we eventually settle upon, there is likely to be some work required to turn it into a training apiary so we will be seeking support from the members. Please keep an eye on your inbox for details and volunteer.

BNB

## For Sale

3 Cedar Thorne Hives (empty, used but cleaned and sterilised). With 2 supers. Each £180.

1 Paulownia Hive (empty, used but cleaned and sterilised). With 2 supers. For £150.

1 Cedar Thorne Hive + Full treated colony (red queen). 2 supers. For £250.

1 Nucleus + Small treated colony (red queen). For £75.

Frames can be added for extra to be discussed.

Please contact as soon as possible Matei Bolborea 07580 094449 or [mateibolborea@gmail.com](mailto:mateibolborea@gmail.com)

## Hints and Tips

### Thanks to Mike Townsend for this useful and timely tip

I like to change the floor, brood box, queen excluder and crown board on every hive at the start of the beekeeping year, it's better for disease management and because parts are not stuck together frames, for example can be lifted out more easily making the bees easier to manage. This assumes you have a spare hive set to swap over. I do the cleaning up in early Spring which means the propolis and wax has hardened making it easy to remove especially with the tools I use.

Beekeepers can minimise cost using an old chisel but I gave in and invested in a couple of Bahco scrapers that are expensive, but fantastic and easy to use safely.

The top one in the photo, Bahco 665, has a wide blade which can be used sideways in the frame channels of brood boxes and also scrape large surfaces inside boxes, crown boards and queen excluders. The large knob makes it easy to apply a little more pressure and with both hands on the scraper safer to use. The second one is a Bahco 625. It has a small triangular blade that runs down the channels into awkward corners etc.

The blades are cemented carbide and are so tough they can be used to remove rust on metal. The blades are reversible and last ages. I've had mine for years and am still using the same blades.

For a final clean up of the metal runners and queen excluders I use aluminium scouring pads and washing soda solution. Both scrapers cost around £23. I bought mine from Axminster Tools



With Halloween and Bonfire Night upon us soon, here's a timely recipe

## Honey Cinder Toffee

150g granulated sugar	1½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
50g honey	1 tablespoon of water

### METHOD.

Put the sugar, honey water in a pan and gently bring to the boil stirring constantly.

Once the temperature has reached 150°C quickly add the bicarb. And whisk until it is just mixed in.

Pour the foaming mixture into a silicon mould and allow to cool before breaking into pieces.

**WARNING THE FOAMING MIXTURE IS VERY HOT!**

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to [h.essex@virgin.net](mailto:h.essex@virgin.net)...

Thank you Helen Essex

Editor Roger Wilkes, email address is [roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk](mailto:roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk) or hard copy can be posted to him at: 12 Mercia Avenue, Kenilworth CV8 1EU. **Content to him for next month by October 27<sup>th</sup> latest.**

Please send in plain text, unformatted, using Microsoft Word or another common program.

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