

# High Wycombe and District Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity No. 299638

Chairman: John Crick 01494521557

President: Jim Earley 01628521881

Secretary: Christine Hazell 01494 531599 chazecamber@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Edward West 01494520874

Swarm Officer: Stewart Thorburn 01494510327

## *Newsletter - September 2006*

### Diary

#### Forthcoming Events

- 29th September - AGM. Environmental Centre 7.30pm
- 19th October - National Honey Show

#### 29th September - AGM.

The AGM will start at 7.30 promptly as we have a busy evening scheduled. All reports are attached to the newsletter and will be taken as read. Elections will begin after any issues needing clarification/raising are dealt with.

At 8.15 there will be presentation of certificates for the Beginners Course, followed at 8.30 by Dr Max Watkins of Vita-Europe, who will be talking to us about Apiguard. It is anticipated that we will be advised soon to begin to use this product, due to pyrethroid resistance. It is important that you are aware of this product and its correct use, so please come to hear Dr Watkins and raise any queries you may have. Christine Hazell

#### 19th October - National Honey Show

Although the show does not take place until 19th October

#### **ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY 20th SEPT**

Use the schedule of classes for Bucks which were included in last months newsletter to select all the classes you might enter.

If you would like to try the open classes you can find the schedule on the National Honey Show Web-site <<http://www.honeyshow.co.uk>> Entries must be made on the official forms. Please e-mail me, sylvia.chamberlin@zen.co.uk so I can e-mail a copy to you.

You can deliver your own entries on Oct 19th if you wish but if you get them to 61 Wordsworth Road I will also arrange to get them to the show on Wednesday.

#### **HAVE A GO! at least PUT 2 JARS OF YOUR HONEY IN THE BUCKS CLASSES**

Please ask if you need help. Ring me on 01494 522082

*Sylvia.Chamberlin*

#### Recent Event Reports

##### Apiary Tour & BBQ 15th July 2006

We had a wonderful day, well tempered bees and good turnout for this event; which linked to a barbecue. It took place on a lovely hot summer day, and was based at Widmere Farm off the Lane End / Marlow road. Beulah Cullen, the former MAFF Southern Region Bees Officer, gave her time again as the visiting Expert. 'Bee-Interested, but Non-Beekeepers', including the families of some of our new beekeepers, made up a significant part of those wishing to participate: so, this special audience was provided with bee-suits and in the apiary the level of detail was shaped for their needs, rather than the usual 'Improver Beekeepers'. These changes were much appreciated by the audience.

*Continued on page 2 column 1*

### Chairman's Chat

Very many thanks to those members who gave assistance at the Wycombe Town Show. We were given the use of a spacious marquee completely free of charge and we made good use of it. A lot of hard work was put in on planning and presentation and the result was a very informative display from which our association gained a great deal of publicity.

September is the time for renewal of our subscriptions but I would like to draw your attention to the donations to research. As part of your BDI payment there is support for our national research of bee diseases but some years ago the committee decided that we would ask all of our members to make a donation to the fund set up by BBKA for further research. The recommended donation has been a minimum of £1.50 for some years and I would you all to support this proposal.

Thank you to all the members who have supported the 'Make a Buzz' raffle run by our neighbouring association at Chalfont. This provides direct support for the people in Kenya to become subsistence beekeepers and follows the pioneering work of Anna Chambers. To date the raffle has earned well in excess of £1000 and money has already been sent out to support four people to be trained.

Please make every effort to come along to our September meeting. After a very condensed AGM we will be presenting certificates to all of our beginners and early beekeepers in addition to learning essential details on Apiguard.

#### Varroa Control

We have been aware for some time that pyrethroid resistant mites were fast approaching our part of the country but made a decision that we could recommend Apistan for use this year and thereafter to change to IPM methods.

At our association woodworking day in February we encouraged members to build the IPM mesh floors for better examina-

*Continued on page 2 column 1*

### Subscription Reminder

Attached to this Newsletter (page 7) is a membership renewal and subscription form for 2006/2007.

It is important that you renew your subscription by 1st December

*Continued from page 1 column 1*

After the apiary work, we moved about half a mile away for a delightful BBQ in a very attractive hidden valley. There were Chalk Downland type wild flowers much in evidence, and grasshoppers and butterflies everywhere. Bob Hunter acted as Chief Chef for the BBQ and it was a very informal and happy gathering.

Afterwards William White our farmer and host gave us an enlightening impromptu talk about his wildlife friendly farm and how he has organised it. He explained the modern farming techniques he uses and how farming is changing to use minimal use of pesticides etc. For a fourth generation farmer to be able to run a six hundred acre farm single handed, demonstrates how farming has adapted to current demands. He grows a special type of wheat under contract for Weetabix and uses contractors for the various specialised tasks of crop production when he needs them.

The farm is being used as one of the trial sites for Rothamsted Research's Big Bee Project, which is investigating ways of achieving 'bee-friendly' agriculture. (Solitary bees and bumblebees, as well as honeybees are under investigation.) We had hoped to have a short tour to see some of the specially planted areas, and unusual types of clover being trialed for the project, but unfortunately this was not possible because the drought had caused the vegetation to die back, so there was little to see.

Many thanks to John Crick and Christine Hazell for organising this delightful event.

*Clive Hill*

## **Dennis Pigram In Memoriam Donations**

Dennis Pigram passed away on the 8th of April 2006. He gave long and stalwart service for well over 20 years to the Association and his wife Felice was our Secretary for that time as well.

Dennis was particularly involved with Beekeeper Education and technical matters. He ran Beginners Classes for a good many years and also classes for the BBKA Intermediate Certificate qualification – which a good bunch of us achieved. In this, and in many other essential ways, Dennis did an enormous amount of work for our Association, and for the wider world of Beekeeping.

The Committee of HWBKA has marked Dennis's passing by making a donation to 'The C.B. Dennis British Beekeepers Research Trust'. Felice has been really thrilled to hear about this; and their sons see it as a fitting gesture.

Members who knew Dennis Pigram may wish to make their own donations to the Research Trust. The association is acting as a focal point for such donations. Please use the Gift Aid form on page 6, with a separate cheque payable to the Charity. If you do this when you renew your subscription to HWBKA, we will forward the donations and the Gift Aid forms to the Research Trust Charity.

*Clive Hill*

*Continued from page 1 column 2*

tion and control of their colonies. At our forthcoming meeting this September we have invited along a very knowledgeable speaker to explain the merits and application of Apiguard as an alternative treatment. At the woodworking day in 2007 it is our intention to encourage members to build the 'ekes' as an appropriate method to apply the treatment.

The colonies in the Association apiaries were treated with Apistan during July but in recent days they have been inspected by our Ministry Inspector Margaret Holland, She carried out a full 'wash down' test on one colony and had 2 varroa mites knocked down with Apistan and a further 48 washed down from the sample. Apistan was only 4% effective!

This clearly demonstrates that pyrethroid treatments can no longer be relied upon in this area as a means of controlling varroa. **You have been warned!!** Act now, otherwise you might not have any bees left. The solution is available to you but unless you take action it might be too late.

### **Training**

As part of our efforts to ensure that current and prospective members receive adequate training we are running three stages of courses this winter.

1. Our 'An Introduction to Beekeeping' course starts on Weds March 7th 2007 and over eight weeks of talks followed by two practical sessions will ensure that interested persons will be fully informed on our hobby. If you know of anyone who is interested in this please put them in touch with Christine Hazell or John Crick.

2. For people who have already started beekeeping we are running the course for the BBKA Basic Assessment. This revises and develops on the information learned on the beginners course, extends it in certain areas and includes a 'Proficiency in Handling' practical training. There are proposals that unless you hold this qualification you will no longer be covered by the BBKA third party insurance. For further details contact the course tutor Clive Winslow on 01494 812344

3. People holding thr Basic Assessment are invited to go on to Modules 1&2 of the BBKA Examinations.

Module 1 covers Honeybee Management whilst Module 2 covers Honeybee Products and Forage. Discussion evenings will be held throughout the winter months in preparation for the examinations in April. The course tutor is Clive Hill and he should be contacted as soon as possible on 01494 526557

We are not trying to turn everyone into highly qualified 'boffins' but we are very aware that in the present environment a degree of knowledge is becoming essential.

### **Communication**

At the Stoneleigh Convention in 2005 I was surprised to learn that there are only two species which can communicate with each other - humans and honeybees. This is defined as instructing others where to go instead of leading them - I thought my wife was the only expert in this. We now find that in addition to the well known 'waggle dance' discovered by von Friisch there are a further five defined dances which are used regularly. Stand by for details of a forthcoming speaker.

*John Crick*

# Seasonal Tips and Reminders

## September 2006

September, the honey crop is off, Varroa treatment started ..... so, what is to be done?

Completion of feeding and varroa treatment. Starting preparation for winter. Removal of varroicide strips and checking that they worked! Selling honey.

The remaining Bee Forage. The summer nectar and pollen flow flowers are now over. On recent trips from home I've noticed a little residual Willowherb and quite a few Hawkweed flowers on the verges. The wild Japanese Knotweed should also be in flower at the moment. These, and late summer garden flowers such as Golden Rod, Michaelmas Daisies etc, the bees will work avidly. The only significant nectar flow yet to come will be from Ivy. This usually flowers in October, but sometimes starts earlier, say late September.

### Preparation for winter.

Honeybee colonies are now shrinking in numbers by natural wastage. This leaves a population of younger "winter bees" to go through to spring. A useful thing the passing "summer bees" can do is to use their time and enzymes to work up sugar syrup feed and turn it into winter stores. Working-up syrup to stores is slow process: you need to allow time for the enzyme-induced inversion of the sucrose, and the reduction of its water content to 18% - like ripe honey. But how much syrup do you need to feed? and what is the best way to do so?

Lets start with some facts and figures about sugar syrup. The "standard concentration" talked about in beekeeping books is 2 lb. of sugar to 1 pint of water: but you don't need to be accurate - the bees won't notice. In the simplest format, put some granulated sugar in a container; then add enough water to fill the air gaps between the sugar crystals; then stir to dissolve. Hot water or cold won't matter, but you need to stir longer to dissolve the sugar if it is cold water.

8 lb. sugar gives 1 gallon of syrup, which weighs approx. 13 lb. The water content of this syrup is 38.5%, the sugar content 61.5%. The specific gravity (density) is about 1.3. A gallon of this syrup, when fed to the bees, will produce approx. 12 lb. of stores and this will be equivalent to 10 lb. of honey stores.

If you think in metric quantities, then a rough metric equivalent to 2 lb/pint (but a little stronger) would be 1 kg sugar to 600 ml water. Scaling this up, 5 kg sugar plus 3.0 litres water gives 6.1 litres. 5 litres of this syrup will produce approx. 6.0 kg of stores and this will be equivalent to 5.0 kg of honey stores.

Feed syrup as early as possible during September. When you feed it, give it in the evening, and keep the hive entrance small. Feed all the hives in the apiary, even if it is just a little for some colonies, because this will help prevent robbing. A small entrance will help the guard bees to protect the colony from prowling robbers, or wasps.

A colony needs access to some 35 - 40 lb. (16 - 18 kg) of stores to overwinter successfully, but may only use 20 - 25 lb. (9 - 11 kg) in some winters. (It is not an exact science!)

The traditional way to check hive weights is by "hefting" them - lifting them gently and guessing the weight. (They should feel significantly heavy!) However, a better way is to use a spring balance to weigh the hives and so check more accurately that

they have enough stores. Position the balance midway on either side of the floorboard. Round head screws located in the centre at either side of the floorboard will help you to locate the balance. Use a piece of string, to link balance hook to the screw. Lift from both the left and right sides in turn, noting the balance reading when the floorboard is just eased off the hive stand. Add the two weights together to give the total weight.

To have the recommended 45 lb. (20 kg) of stores, the following total weights should be achieved. (These figures include floorboard, crown board, brood box, combs and bees.) National Brood Chamber - 68 lb. (31 kg). National Brood and a half - 77 lb. (35 kg) National Double Brood 85 lb. (38.6 kg) Commercial 16" x 10" - 75 lb. (34 kg)

If you have a WBC, you can still weigh the hive as above, but since these hives vary widely in the type and thickness of wood used, the empty weight and correct target weight required is rather more problematical. Here is a way round the problem ..... You need a spare floor, brood box porch lift and coverboard. Put a carton onto the bathroom scales, then load it with bricks to 50 lb. in weight - this allows 10 lb. extra for frames and bees. Put the loaded carton into the hive, then test its weight by hefting, or by using the spring balance as before.

### Varroa Control / Treatment.

In August I stressed the need for Varroa control - to ensure healthy bees for the over-winter period. There is still time to treat the colonies, if you missed that time window: but if there are significant numbers of mites, you'll not get such good colony strength in the spring. Remember, it is vital to remove the varroicide strips at the end of the six-week (Apistan 6 - 8 weeks) exposure period. Wrap the used strips, then discard them with the domestic rubbish.

All this assumes that the mites present were vulnerable to the pyrethroid varroicide present in the strips: but we now know that resistant mites have been found in the area. So it is essential that you use a Varroa Floor (open mesh floor) to monitor the colony's mite drop rate during the treatment (to see that it is working) and again after treatment. If a significant number of mites are still falling **after** treatment with a pyrethroid, then you have **Resistant Mites**. In these circumstances you must treat either with a thymol type treatment, such as Apiguard, or Exomite apis; or with a suitable organic acid type treatment; or decide to chance that the colony will get through to the spring and then use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) type controls with associated mite level monitoring. The CSL DEFRA booklet 'Managing Varroa' (PB10859) June 2005 explains how to do this. HWBKA has a small stock of these at The Environment Centre, so ring me on 01 494 526557 to get one.

Otherwise you can view the text on-line at the CSL NBU website <http://beebase.csl.gov.uk/> or get your own copy of the booklet from CSL.

Finally,

do make the time to sit beside a hive .....

and wonder where they're finding that pollen!

*Clive Hill*

# AGM - 29th September

## 7.30pm at the Environment Centre

To save time at the meeting most of the officers reports are reproduced below so that they can be taken as read at the meeting

### Chairman's Report

As we come to the end of another Association year it is encouraging to look back and realise how busy we have been. Our monthly meetings introduced us to an excellent selection of speakers and subjects and were as well attended as ever. The committee have worked very hard to arrange many other events.

Our President Ron White retired at the end of his term of office and was replaced by Jim Earley, and having elected Christine Hazell as our secretary she has proved to be hardworking and full of initiatives.

The woodworking day was a great success and is to be repeated next year, work is going ahead on setting up our Association web site, we are deeply indebted to Sylvia and Raymond Chamberlin for their huge contribution to the latest exhibition at the Environment Centre, our Field Day / BBQ this year took on a different format and was blessed with an excellent day.

We have recently taken part in the Wycombe Town Show and our marquee was a prominent centre of attraction and I thank all the members who gave up their time to support it.

Our training has encouraged 16 new people to take up beekeeping as a hobby this year and four of our 2005 intake have successfully completed the BBKA Basic Assessment.

The monthly Newsletter goes out to an ever increasing readership and we must congratulate Terry Kelly for his sterling service on the first day of every month, Amy Fenge for her postal distribution and the faithful officers for their contributions and we hope that more members will submit articles for next year.

As I now reach the end of my three years term of office as your chairman I thank you all for your support and I am confident that my replacement will take over a keen and healthy Association

*John Crick*

### Vice Chairman's Report

#### Environment Centre

We continue to enjoy excellent relations with the centre and we are it's most active group. Our Committee Meetings, Lecture Meetings, and Beginners Course Lectures are all held here. Contacts at the Centre are via Dawn Eliston (Office manager) and Francis Alexander (strategy). Raymond & Sylvia Chamberlin are heavily involved with the Centre and I continue to be our committee's link to it. I also hold the Association's set of keys to the place.

#### New Cupboards & Display Bench

Last autumn HWBKA was asked to help update the facilities in the main Lecture Room by sponsoring the installation of a display work-top with cupboards under, along the wall by the observation hive. By so doing we would gain the use of much more readily available storage space, a much better display area; and free up other storage space for better use.

### Secretary's Report

Speakers this year at the members evenings included Margaret Thomas, Nick Withers, Will Steynor, Wycombe Wildlife Group, Bill Turnbull, Norman Carreck and Beulah Cullen speaking on a variety of topics; running a marathon for a beekeeping charity; swarm prevention/control; beekeeping in Mexico; latest research at Rothamstead; healthy bees; local flora and fauna and beekeeping as a profitable sideline.

We started off in the winter with two work parties, one to clear the bushes and scrub at Hughenden Apiary and the other to make items needed for the schools programme. There was a successful woodworking day in February, with the main item being mesh floorboards. This will be repeated in February 2007 with the emphasis continuing to be on varroa floorboards and including ekes. Ekes will be needed for when members start to use Api-guard, which we may be advised to do next year, given the current situation of pyrethroid resistance.

A trip to Sonning Mill was again enjoyed by many of the members and the Apiary Tour had a different format this year to include a barbeque on site at Widmere Farm, with the inspection of Marlow Apiary in the morning and a talk on modern-day farming after lunch. Several non-beekeepers attended, which made for some interesting, and at times amusing, questions and comments.

At Wycombe Town Show we had a large marquee, which was shared with Wycombe Wildlife Group. Our display was excellent and enjoyed by many who attended the show.

I telephoned all members during the winter and enquired about members thoughts on the association and our activities. Members were overwhelmingly supportive of our speakers programme, the content of the newsletters and the support offered to new beekeepers, so it does feel as though we're not going too far wrong on what we offer, given our resources. I am also aware that we need to canvass all members to see if they can help at one or two events/occasions - in any voluntary association, there are always some members who put in a great deal of time and effort, however, in order to be sustainable, a little effort from a lot of members ensures that the workload is spread and the very active members feel that what they can offer is manageable. The response from members to assist at one or two events was positive last year and I'll be ringing everyone again this year.

Next years speakers include Ian Homer, Michael Badger, Norman Hughes, Will Steynor, Margaret Holland, Sarah Robb and Andrew Gibb. They will be tackling a variety of issues including:- team work; tips/collections of good ideas; queen rearing; making toiletries/cosmetics; pests and predators and 'beekeeping and another full-time job'. The latter talk was scheduled for earlier this year, however the speaker was unwell on the night.

Thank you to all who've contributed to the association this past year. We look forward to another active and interesting year.

*Christine Hazell*

I took on the role of HWBKA prime mover for this project. After much debate in committee and prolonged negotiations, we agreed to fund it. The units were installed in mid May by a small team of volunteers (including myself) led by Philip Pitt, the Centre's highly skilled Jack of Many Trades. It was not a simple job, since the standard kitchen units we bought had to be heavily modified to allow the relatively low level worktop which runs full length, beneath the Observation Hive.

The total nett cost to the Association has been some £680, which is the biggest item of capital expenditure we have ever funded. Despite much concern during the planning stages, once the units were there for all to see, everyone has been delighted by our investment. The installation has completely changed the appearance of the room and made it much smarter. The display space so generated allows much better communication with the public. The low-level worktop is ideal for allowing children to view Display material properly. Our Library will at last be easily accessible to users, without our Librarian needing to haul extremely heavy boxes of books around. And the storage space is being used to store a wide range of HWBKA items in a convenient central location – something we have needed for a considerable time.

### Observation Hive

This is still the Centre's fundamental visitor attraction with many people coming into the Centre especially to see the bees. The hive works extremely well. It was designed and made by Raymond Chamberlin to encourage the bees to build some comb against the glass – so you can watch them at work. Raymond monitors the colony and I help out as needed. The hive was taken out of commission for a short while at the end of February. This was for a 'Spring Clean' and to replace the colony, which was very weak. The colony has not swarmed this year, but has superseded the original queen, so at present the queen is not marked.

Close to the hive we have a permanent display about Bees, Beekeeping and HWBKA. Honey has again been on sale at the Centre, and also our Honey Cookery Books. The sales are a useful income extra for the Centre.

### Links with other Groups. Small Worlds Exhibition

We continue to build links with other organisations that use the Centre. This has resulted in Wycombe Wildlife Group participating in the exhibition in our tent at Wycombe Show. Raymond & Sylvia Chamberlin led the Small Worlds Exhibition back in May/June, which was a Prestige Event. WWG, Butterfly Conservation and the WDC Rangers also were involved in the Small Worlds Exhibition. This included material on Bumblebees, Solitary Bees and Honeybees, for which I was responsible. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Raymond and Sylvia for their work with the observation hive and at the Centre.

### Diseases

CSL Bee Inspection The Southern Region bee inspection service for Bucks is run by Ian Homer, who is based in Dorset, but who has visited our area several times this season. Margaret Holland, based in Silverstone near Buckingham, is our local Seasonal Bees Officer. Bee Disease data is available on the NBU website <http://beebase.csl.gov.uk/> This is very easy to use, although the disease monitoring data available there appears to be a few weeks out of date.

EFB The inspectors have found cases of EFB in the Little Marlow / Bourne End area and Margaret and Ian have recently been scouring the Marlow, Bourne End and Flackwell Heath area bee colonies, to see if the disease has spread. They have been particularly concerned to track down semi-derelict apiaries. So far as I have been able to find out, AFB has not been found in our area this season.

**Apistan / Bayvarol Resistant Varroa Mites Varroa is of course endemic in all honeybee colonies in our area. To date the majority of members have been controlling the infestation level using pyrethroid type acaricides. However the efficacy of this methodology is now at least suspect and may have become ineffective as the Bee Inspectors have found cases of Resistant Mites between High Wycombe and Maidenhead.**

**My articles in our Newsletter have been designed to help members make optimal use of the current anti-varroa medication. Our Chairman, John Crick, has led the introduction of Integrated Pest Management: particularly with the large batch of Varroa Floors assembled at the Woodworking Day session. We all need to check the level of daily mite drop-down after the August treatment; if minimal mite fall is found, then control has been OK. If heavy mite fall still continues, then resistant mites are present and Bayvarol or Apistan are now non-viable treatments. Control will then have to be with a thymol type material such as Apiguard, or exomite apis. From next season we must all move to varroa management by means of IPM. Material in the Newsletter will reflect this strategic change.**

### Apiary Tour Day

This year our tour was again linked to a barbecue. It took place on Saturday 15th July a lovely hot summer day, and was based at Widmere Farm off the Lane End / Marlow road. Beulah Cullen, the former MAFF Southern Region Bees Officer, gave her time again as the visiting Expert. 'Bee-Interested, but Non-Beekeepers' made up a significant part of those wishing to participate, so we provided them with bee-suits and in the apiary the level of detail was shaped for their needs, rather than 'Improver Beekeepers' as usual. These changes were much appreciated by the audience. After the apiary work we moved about half a mile away for a delightful BBQ in a very attractive hidden valley, where Bob Hunter acted as Chief Chef. Afterwards William White, the farmer gave us an impromptu talk about his wildlife friendly farm and the methods he uses. Many thanks to John Crick for organising this delightful event.

### Newsletter Items: Reports on Meetings & Monthly Notes

Our Newsletter is prepared by Terence Kelly each month. We owe him a great debt for this task. Also to Steve and Amy, who have handled the Circulation of the Newsletter.

In the past year I have prepared reports for our newsletter on seven talks which we have at our monthly meetings. I have also prepared the Monthly Hints and Tips section of the newsletter.

In the coming year it seems likely that I will be taking on the role of Chairman, so I have decided to fundamentally change my role within the newsletter. One of our new members has indicated that he will take on the reports on meetings. I'm sure we will all enjoy hearing things from a new perspective.

Clive Hill

## School visiting team Report 2005-6

Our regular members have continued to visit local schools with an observation hive, bee specimens, the virtual hive and other items to stimulate children's interest and understanding of the role of bees in our environment. We are pleased that two of our newer members Sally Cowley and Amy Fenge have joined in with this work and hope more will find the time as we know that there are many schools to visit.

During the 5 weeks of the Small Worlds exhibition we had another opportunity to reach children and the general public and eight more of our members came on different occasions to man the bee display and observation hive. Two schools and all the Marlow Beavers visited the centre too and Raymond and Sylvia were on hand on each occasion to explain all about bees.

Most of our teaching aids are now stored in the cupboards in the Environment Centre and I am in the throes of getting this in good order.

*Sylvia Chamberlin  
coordinator  
August 2006*

## Swarm Officer's Report

To date a total of 17 swarms have been reported to the swarm office for the season. Either through Wycombe District Council, Association Members or the local Emergency Services (great fun). Those 17 swarms have been taken and used by members to stock their own apiaries. One going as far as Thame to help a very young beekeeper in his first year. Many calls were taken from the public regarding Bumble Bees. Most, if not all were persuaded to delay garden clearing and let the bees die out in the autumn. One resident in Totteridge, High Wycombe had 3 swarms in his garden in the space of one week! It would not be possible to operate a swarm collection "service" without the cooperation of Association members and I would like to thank all those beekeepers that I contacted over the summer. I know some folk put on hold Sunday lunch to go out and collect a swarm. I must also thank Felice Pigram for her patience.

*Stewart Thorburn*

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### THE C.B.DENNIS

### BRITISH BEEKEEPERS RESEARCH TRUST

### GIFT AID TO A CHARITY

Certificate of a single payment or a series of payments by an individual to a charity.

I certify that I (name in block capitals): .....

Address: .....

Post code: .....

Have made a single payment in the sum of £ .....

I declare that this is a gift aid donation to the charity The C. B. Dennis British Beekeepers Research Trust Registered Charity No. 328685.

I therefore wish that any donation I have made from the 6th April 2006 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, to be treated as donations under Gift Aid.

I certify that I am a UK taxpayer and will pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on all donations I make from this date until further notice.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

You are under no commitment to make any further donations and you are able to cancel this declaration at any time.

Registered Address: 104 Lower Luton Road, Wheathampsted, Herts. AL4 8HH

## High Wycombe & District Beekeeping Association Founded 1944 Registered Charity Number 299638

The High Wycombe Beekeepers Association (HWBKA) is affiliated to the Buckinghamshire Beekeepers Association (BucksBKA) which is in turn affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA). The HWBKA democratically elects members to represent it at a BucksBKA co-ordinating committee, which represents the interests of its District Associations to the BBKA. The BBKA is concerned with National and European issues as they affect beekeeping generally. Affiliation fees to the Bucks BKA and the BBKA are paid as part of a member's subscription to the HWBKA. BBKA has increased by £1 this year, but Bucks fee is reduced by £1 so the total remains the same.

Included in a paid-up member's BBKA affiliation fee is a Public Liability insurance covering members to £5 million providing they show due care and responsibility in the way they keep and maintain their bees and providing they do not take it upon themselves to admit responsibility for any claim by a third party. From 2004 members have had to display Warning Notices at any out apiary and when examining hives.

The official journal of the BBKA, Beecraft, is available through the HWBKA at the reduced (- 10%) subscription of £19.80 for 2007; the subscription year runs from **January to December**. **Will members please let me have their subscriptions by December 1 to catch the January edition.**

Bee Disease Insurance Limited (BDI) insure against losses due to notifiable bee diseases. Scheme A covers beekeepers with up to 39 colonies. Beekeepers should ensure they pay sufficient to insure all hives (excluding 'apidea' or similar hives) containing bees regardless of size of the colony. Take into account any planned increase for the following season. If an inspector is called in to validate a claim and the number of colonies managed exceeds the number of colonies for which a premium has been paid, no cover will apply under the policy. The scales for scheme A for the 2006/7 season are unchanged from 2005/6 and are as follows: -

These are the Total Amounts Due for the Colony numbers

For 0 to 3 colonies: a premium of £2	For 3 to 5 colonies £4.00
For 6 to 10 colonies £7.25	For 11 to 15 colonies £9.75
For 16 to 20 colonies £11.50	For 21 to 25 colonies 13.10
For 26 to 39 colonies Add £0.50 for each additional colony	

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### SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM FOR 2006/7

#### PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name .....

Address.....

Post code..... Telephone No \*.....E-Mail Address .....

Parishes or Ord. Survey Ref. where bees kept \*.....

\* If different to previous year

No of Colonies .....

Subscription: BBKA - agreed at National Level by your representative £11.00

Bucks BKA - Notified by Bucks BKA Treasurer £2.00

HWBKA - recommended by your committee to remain as last year £12.50

BDI for ..... colonies - see scale above (recommended by your committee) .....

**Compulsory minimum for membership £2.00**

Beecraft - £19.80 through the Association .....

Voluntary contribution to BBKA General Research Fund - £1.50 is suggested .....

**TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

If you currently pay tax on direct income, savings or investments, we can reclaim the tax.

Tick here if you want us to reclaim tax on your subscription

**Please send this completed form to our Treasurer -Ed West, Beechwood, The Common, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP13 5YL Tel: 01494 520874**

**Please make cheques payable to: High Wycombe Beekeepers Association (HWBKA accepted!).**

**Please pay your subscriptions promptly in order to retain your BBKA accreditation.**