

# North Somerset Bee Keepers



December 2018

Welcome to the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of our branch newsletter. As usual your feedback and contributions are very welcome. Please send items to the editor by 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## Happy Christmas



Wishing all our members a very happy Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2019.



## Update from our Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November and draft minutes will be available soon on our website.



We were treated to a very interesting talk by our guest speaker, Marin Anastasov, on the subject of *The Mind of the Honeybee*. Pictured here with President Garry Packer

At the AGM, BBKA Module certificates were awarded. A full list of recipients is at the end of the newsletter. Photos are available on our website.

Also awarded were the Hans Wilson Cup to Jenny Wakenshaw and the George Simms Cup to Annabel Lewis. We also celebrated David Capon's prestigious award of the Bristol Silver Queen at the Avon Honey Show.

Refreshments included a honey cake cooked by Jenny Wakenshaw to a new recipe which was very popular and will be adopted at our next Honey Show.



The business meeting included the voting in of new committee members. We welcome:

- Eric Sortwell - Apiary Manager
- Rob Williams - Programme Manager
- Paddy Brading - Education Officer
- Heather Pitch - Membership Secretary

There were no volunteers for the position of Treasurer at the AGM, however after the meeting Tony Slater kindly

agreed to take on this role. In addition, Jamie Llewelyn agreed to take on the position of Deputy Apiary Manager.

### **THANK YOU – Annabel Lewis**

With new committee members taking on roles in the club this means that some long-standing committee members are now standing down. Our thanks go to Rob Francis who has completed two terms as Education Coordinator and has done much work to promote the education going on within the club. David Capon has also done two terms as Apiary Manager and has overseen many changes and improvements to our Apiary facilities. John Banks has run the programme of events, again for two terms of office, he has provided interesting events and speakers and ensured the running of those events goes to plan. Finally, Richard Ellis, who has done two+ terms of office as Treasurer and has kept our accounts and the related work in good order during this time. Whilst we say goodbye to these folks from the committee, I'm sure they will still be actively involved with club activities going forward. Four jobs very well done!

### **Long service awards**

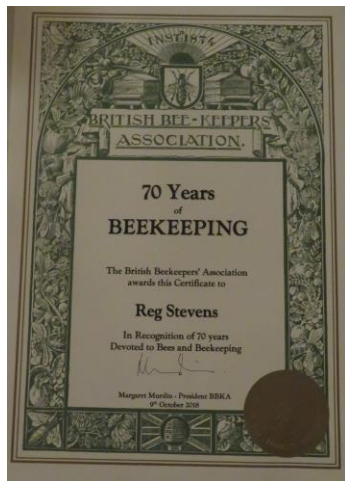


In recognition of 70 years of beekeeping the branch has awarded long service awards to Clive Wells and Reg Stevens. Unfortunately, Reg passed away before receiving his award which was presented posthumously to his widow Shirley at the Christmas meal.

Clive did not attend the AGM and so will also receive his certificate soon.

### **Honorary membership**

Also in recognition of Shirley Stevens's long association with the branch, Reg was one of the



earliest members, the branch was pleased to award her honorary membership.

### **Annual club membership renewal – Stan Wroe**

Membership Forms for 2018/19 are now available on our website:

<http://northsomersetbeekeepers.org/members-area/>

We are also requesting all tax paying members who wish to participate in the Gift Aid process to complete a fresh Gift Aid form this year.

### **Introduction to beekeeping course**

There are still places on our introductory course. If you know anyone who is interested in learning about beekeeping, please encourage them to sign up. Or buy them the course as a Christmas present.

<http://northsomersetbeekeepers.org/education-for-beekeepers/>

### **Branch events and courses schedule – Rob Williams**

The full schedule for 2019 will be posted on our website in the New Year; but attached is a sneak peak so you can put the dates in your diaries.

### **Winter Cluster – Paddy Brading**

The next Winter Cluster will take place at The Battleaxes in Wraxall on Tuesday 15th January at 12pm. Everyone welcome.

### **How about studying a BBKA module? – Paddy Brading**

Now that the bees are bedded down for the winter it might be a good time to think about studying for one of the modules offered by the BBKA. These modules are a great way to gain insight into all aspects of beekeeping and increase your knowledge and understanding of the ways of these fascinating insects. There are 7 modules which can be taken in any order except module 8 which must be studied last.

Some members form a small group and meet regularly to study the syllabus, but you can study each module independently if you wish. Exams are available in March and November but are not obligatory.

Until recently, the BBKA had stipulated that you should have passed the Basic exam in beekeeping before you could enter for a module exam. That restriction will be lifted 'in late 2019.'

If you would like to join or form your own group and get started please contact me for more information by email: [p\\_brading@hotmail.com](mailto:p_brading@hotmail.com).

### **Honey Bee Management – Margaret Myers**

I would like to put together a group to study: Module 1 Honey Bee Management. For more information please contact me by email: [myers@pandmmyers.plus.com](mailto:myers@pandmmyers.plus.com).

### **Apiary team – Annabel Lewis**

Anyone interested in joining the Apiary Team, please contact Annabel on [foot.print@btinternet.com](mailto:foot.print@btinternet.com) or 07814 225 319.

### **The Improvers Course (Basic) Starting on Tuesday 8th January 2019 – Rob Francis**

Just a reminder that there are still a few spaces on the Improvers Course. We meet for 7 sessions on every other Tuesday in St Andrews Church Hall in Backwell. At the end of the course you will have the opportunity of taking the BBKA Basic Assessment, if you wish. This acts as a gateway to further assessments.

If interested, contact me at [robfrancis@btinternet.com](mailto:robfrancis@btinternet.com) as soon as possible.

### **Winter sales – Jenny Wakenshaw**

Look out for information on the following forthcoming sales.

[www.thorne.co.uk](http://www.thorne.co.uk) Midnight Friday 28th December  
[www.paynesbeefarm.co.uk](http://www.paynesbeefarm.co.uk) Wednesday 26th December

### **Opportunity to buy branded garments**

You may know that we previously purchased T-shirts with the branch logo, particularly for use by volunteers on our stands at the country fairs. At the AGM some members expressed interest in buying one for themselves.

Jodi Moger has been in discussion with the company that produced these for us and there will be an opportunity to

Contact the Editor: [northsomersetbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:northsomersetbeekeepers@gmail.com)

purchase a range of garments with the branch logo. We are working with Monmark to update the logo and in the New Year will be inviting members to order garments using our essential items scheme on our website. There will be a minimum order for each garment. Further details to follow.

### **Bulk buy BBKA leaflets – Janet McCulloch**

The BBKA is offering several booklets at reduced prices for bulk purchase. These may be of especial interest to new beekeepers and to those studying for modules, but also of general interest. Further details are attached the email, but in order to gauge interest please let me know if you are interested in any of the following titles:

- BBKA Guide to beekeeping 2<sup>nd</sup> Edn £12
- BBKA News In the apiary £3
- BBKA News Honeybee anatomy £3
- BBKA News Feeding honeybees £3
- BBKA News Flower families for forage £3
- BBKA News General husbandry £8
- BBKA News Advanced husbandry £8

### **Out apiary available – Puxton Park**

We have been contacted by Puxton Park where they are keen to have a beekeeper with a small number of hives. If you are interested, and to arrange a site visit, please email the Park's Animal Team: [animals@puxton.co.uk](mailto:animals@puxton.co.uk)

### **BBKA Module Certificates awarded at the AGM**

#### **Basic Certificate recipients**

Margaret Myers	Heather Pitch
Andy Scarisbrick	Liz Scarisbrick
Eric Sortwell	Caroline Bartlett

#### **Module one certificate recipients**

Sandra Slater	Tony Slater
Rob Williams	Robert Cleeves
Stan Wroe	

Photos overleaf.



