



The Daily Worker

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Press Release

It's official! The Holsworthy Branch Spring Convention is now one of the largest beekeeping events in the south west. This year's event took place on Saturday 27th February at Chilsworthy Village Hall and attracted almost one hundred beekeepers from across Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.

We all know of the unsurpassed challenges we face as beekeepers from successive wet summers and exotic pests and disease, but there was an upbeat and enthusiastic exchange of information, ably supported by some of the best qualified speakers in their field of expertise.

The National Bee Unit, this year represented by Adam Vevers, the South West's Regional Bee Inspector, continues to give this event its full support. Adam, who opened proceedings, was able to bring delegates fully up to date on national and international beekeeping issues, particularly the ever present risk of new exotic pests arriving in the UK. Adam was keen to emphasise the need for improved bee husbandry.

In a full and varied programme, highlights included presentations from Dr Declan Schroeder and Professor Richard White.

Dr Schroeder, based at the Plymouth centred Marine Biological Association where he is a Principal Research Fellow, emphasised the importance of the honey bee as a crop pollinator. He also referred to increasing world wide bee losses which were a key reason for his research into bee viruses. The overview of his team's work presented an enlightening, if a little disturbing, picture of the health of bees, particularly here in Devon.

With no let up in the quality of presentations, delegates heard from Professor Richard White from Worcester University where he is Professor of Tissue Viability.

Professor White gave a thoroughly informative account of his work on the healing qualities of honey and the development of honey based wound

dressings. Professor White is also a Senior Research Fellow in Tissue Viability at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, with responsibility for clinical research in wound management.

Nosema Day

Saturday 24th April at the Stables, Chilsworthy. Samples of bees to be delivered between 10am and 11am.

Up to 6 samples per branch member will be free, above that £1 per sample. If members will not be able to deliver their samples on that morning contact Anne Binns and she will try and suggest an alternative means of delivery.

Please read instructions on how to sample bees at

[Nosema testing and diagnosis](#)

Helpers Needed. This is an ideal **Learning Opportunity.** Both technical and administrative help is required, but no experience necessary.

Contact Anne for further information **and offers of help.**

Email j.binns990@btinternet.com

Phone. ?????

The Devon County Show Ho Ho!

20, 21, 22 May Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We need your help please!

1. We need 12 stewards for our own branch Stevenson Trophy exhibit. Two in the morning and two in the afternoon for each day. Just to remind you the Stevenson Trophy is a display promoting any aspect of the craft of bee-keeping aimed at interesting the general public. This year ours is Honeybees in Human History. If you fancy helping out for half a day and looking around the show for the other half please get in touch stating when you can help and we will sort out a ticket for you. Please ring Anne 01409 261152 or email pingle.bentham@virgin.net.

2. We need loads of us to enter the classes. Last year Holsworthy branch missed the Divisional Challenge Cup by a whisker - can we do better this year? There are classes for honey, wax and meade, as well as photographs, cookery, art and flower arrangements. So there are some classes you can enter even if you don't have your bees yet. We can copy you an entry form or you can enter online www.devoncountyshow.co.uk.

Everyone **staging** more than 6 entries will be issued a one-day Show admission ticket. The entry closing date was 1st April but I am told late entries will be accepted.

3. The County Honey Show committee are also looking for Stewards in the Bees and Honey Marquee. If you can help there please get in touch with Barry Neal email Tupnce@aol.com.

Thanks Anne

Events Secretary

Branch Apiary

It is no secret that we are currently looking for a new Branch Apiary site, and indeed it was reported in the last edition of this newsletter. It is perhaps not as well known that the owners of the current Apiary site at Hollacombe have indicated that they intend to develop the site for building. No times scales have been laid done, but it would be quite wrong if your Branch committee did not actively seek an alternative site.

We have now been offered two sites: one at Tamar Lakes by South West Lakes Trust and one at Dunsland House by the National Trust. Both have their strengths and weaknesses, but both offer a significant increase in apiary size.

This is a large venture for the Branch and your Committee is keen to ensure every member is kept informed of developments. In addition, if any member would wish to visit either or both potential sites, please feel free to do so. For further details, please contact our Chairman, Christopher Smith (tel 01409 254457 or email christophersmith.270@gmail.com) He is also eager to hear any comments that members might have at this stage.

Swarm Liaison 2010

There are, it seems to me, three ways for a beekeeper to react to swarms; there's the 'Oh no! Not a swarm, what shall I do? panic, panic', other beekeepers may say 'Oh well! What a nuisance, here we go again' but I think that we should all be saying 'Great! A swarm, free bees, tell me where it is'

Well if you are in the latter category now is the time to make yourself known to all. Holsworthy Branch has a Swarm Liaison person (it's me) and my job is to compile a list of all those beekeeping members who are happy to be called out when a swarm of bees is reported in their area. I send the list to the police, local authorities and publish it on the branch website and the BBKA website.

If you want to be contacted about swarms, please let me have the following information by 19 April 2010:- your name, telephone number and the area that you are willing to travel to for a swarm. I will put you on the list for 2010. If you were on the 2009 list I would like confirmation that you want to be on this year's list.

My contact details are: Graham Jones, tel: 01288 361147, email: jones@maves.co.uk

When a swarm is reported that is in your area you will either be contacted directly by the police, local authority or a member of the public or I will ring you up if I am told of a swarm.

Our website lists some of the things to be considered and questions that the beekeeper might want to ask to determine whether it is possible to help.

But remember, there is no legal requirement for a beekeeper to collect a swarm of bees. However, it is good public relations to offer assistance where this is practicable and you may get a free colony of bees! Remember that it is you who decides whether to collect the swarm and that the notional contract is between the member of the public and the beekeeper.

You may wish to remind the member of the public that you are a volunteer and that there is a limit to the risks you are willing to take to remove the swarm. Know your limitations and do not be afraid to say no. If you are unable to assist, for whatever reason, the referral may be passed back to the council and the member of the public advised to contact a pest control company, many of which are listed in Yellow Pages.

Graham Jones

Nucs for Sale- orders are being taken for 5 frame nucs for June/July- will deliver and install in North Devon. £90.

Contact Chris Utting 01237 474500

Diary Date Holsworthy and Stratton Show 26th August

Quotation

Said to be by Lord Baden Powell

'Bees have a moral society. Bees respect their Queen and kill the unemployed'