

# Cardiff and South East Wales Beekeepers' Association



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## Newsletter August 2008

The weather has again been wet and miserable recently, however we did have a good week while the Royal Welsh Show was on. I was complaining in the last newsletter that I hadn't seen any swarms when unexpectedly at the end of the sunny week, John was relaxing in the garden and heard a loud buzzing behind him. A large swarm had suddenly arrived in a pile of supers stored behind our summer house/shed in the garden. They had totally ignored the hive with the decent combs and swarm lure in, down in the teaching apiary preferring the old combs for their new home. We waited until the evening and then moved them down the field but it was warm and humid so many bees were still flying at 9.45pm. We put a small nucleus box with a few frames in to collect the flying bees and moved these the next evening to join the others. Very few bees returned to the original spot as it was raining over the next few days. So I now have a hive with bees that are extremely gentle to handle and a small (old) queen that has already started laying. They say that 'a swarm in July is not worth a fly', let's hope they are wrong.

Yesterday, when we looked at the bees there were many wasps around trying to get in the hives to rob them! It may be an idea to put wasp traps around and reduce all entrances so that they are not having a battle with them continuously. The out apiary meeting last weekend at David Corrick's was well attended and very enjoyable. All his hives were well behaved as were the beekeepers, thank you to David and Anne for hosting such a lovely afternoon. Dinah Sweet

### **Out Apiary and Training Meetings**

**Saturday August 9th at 2.30pm** Out apiary meeting at Julia Bartlett's apiary in Penllan Farm, Machan, CF83 8QE. Along the road from Caerphilly take the turning left opposite the school in Machan, then follow the lane for a mile and look out for the bee signs.

**August 16th at 2.30pm** Training apiary in Caerphilly. Open day with plenty of sandwiches, cakes and mead to celebrate its official opening one year ago.

August 17th Tree festival at Bute Park, Cardiff Beekeepers will have a stand.

Our **Honey Show at the Rudry Show** on Saturday 13th September (Schedule see over)

Newsletter contributions If you have any contributions for the newsletter such as letters, articles, poems, cartoons etc. copied from elsewhere or made up please send them to Dinah Sweet, GraigFawr Lodge, Caerphilly, CF83 1NF. Advertising rates for commercial / semi-commercial traders at £5.00 per year for approx. 1/8th page in 12 monthly issues. One off adverts at 50p/month. Non-commercial adverts i.e. for sale of surplus equipment are free to members for a single entry.



Photos from apiary visit at David Corrick's on the 26th July taken by Dinah Sweet using David's camera.

## Honey Show Schedule Saturday 13th September 2008 at the Rudry Show

All honey should be exhibited in standard honey jars with gold lids (screw or twist).

To ensure consistency of weight no light should be visible between the lower edge of the lid and the top of the honey. It is up to the exhibitor to enter the honey in the correct class but grading glasses will be available for guidance.

There is an entry fee of 25p for each entry in each class.

Prize winners (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>) will receive a certificate.

There is a first prize of £2.00 for each class.

Classes 1 and 2 are open to bee keepers who have been keeping bees for less than 3 seasons. (ie started bee keeping after March 2006)

Class 1. 1 x 1lb jar of light honey

Class 2 1 x 1lb jar of medium or dark honey

The following classes are open to all

Class 3 2 x 1lb jars of light honey

Class 4 2 x 1lb jars of medium honey

Class 5 2 x 1lb jars of dark honey

Class 6 A 1lb jar of chunk honey (approx 50% of the honey should be cut comb)

Class 7 A section of cut comb presented in a suitable container. (Minimum gross weight 200g or 7 ounces)

Class 8 A honey fruit cake made to the following recipe.

Ingredients: 200g/7oz self raising flour, 175g/6oz honey, 110g/4oz butter, 175g/6oz sultanas, 2 medium eggs, 110g/4oz. glace cherries (halved).

Preparation; Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F /gas mark 4. Cream butter and honey together. Beat eggs well and add them alternately with sifted flour then fold in sultanas and cherries. A little milk may be added if necessary.

Bake in a buttered circular tin, 6½-7½ inches in diameter, for approximately 1½ hours

The cake should be placed on a white paper plate and remain covered with cling film until judging.

**Bring exhibits to show for staging before 11 am that day**

### BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Peter Shaw (Thorne's Agent) Wide range of beekeeping supplies in stock. Competitive prices and free delivery in Cardiff area. **Tel. 01633 897195**

**Peter Shaw, 19 St. Basil's Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8PH**

### BEESWAX FOUNDATION

Foundation available at a straight exchange for wax. Beekeeping supplies available from stock.

Equipment new and used available.

**L & G R Chirnside, Bryn y pant Cottage, Upper Llanover, Abergavenny. NP7 9ES.**

**Tel. 01837 880625**

### FOUNDATION AND JARS

National foundation only - wired and unwired, deep, shallow and cut comb.

Jars and metal or plastic lids.

20p paid for returned boxes.

**Graham Loverage**

**Tel. 01495 762827**