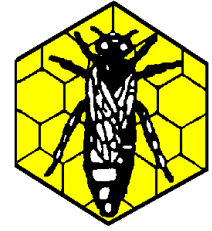


# Cardiff and South East Wales Beekeepers' Association



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## Newsletter December 2008

The weather has become quite wintery in the last week or so with some sunny spells around mid day for the new bees to pop outside the hives and orientate and then quickly go back inside again. As it becomes colder outside the queen lays less eggs and all the bees in the colony hug together in a tighter cluster. The cluster tends to move slowly upwards as it consumes it's honey stores which can be fine but occasionally may lead to problems. If they have been wintered on a brood and a half with the queen excluder left between the two boxes the queen may find herself alone in the lower box. This could lead to her death from cold and this will result in no new brood and the death of the hive. Another problem that may occur is that the cluster becomes isolated from it's stores and unless the weather warms up for a while allowing them to expand towards their stores then they could starve even when there are enough stores present. So the best advice is, to have a very quick look at them every few weeks and feed candy directly over the cluster if they look as though they need it.

The Association honey show last month was really good fun with many members finding at least one jar to bring along. As usual the honey cakes were all fantastic so thank you for making so many which made my job as judge so enjoyable.

Barbara has just looked at February 2008's AGM minutes where we voted to put the subscription up to £20.00 for individual membership and £25.00 for family membership for the 2009 subscription. This will be due in January 2009 and I will put a form with each Jan/Feb. Newsletter. I will attach a PDF for those that I e-mail. Dinah Sweet.

### **DIARY - EVENING MEETING DATES**

**Tuesday 9th December at 7.30 pm** Association Christmas get together with mead and honeycake. Llandaff Village Hall.

**Tuesday 10th February at 7.30 pm** Association AGM

**Beginners Classes** will start in the new year. The Bedwas class starts on January 22nd and the Thornhill class (which is full) starts on February 5th. Both will have 8 sessions but the Bedwas class has a break for half term (Feb. 19th) Please contact John King for details if you have not been allocated a place yet.

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. 1/6th 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.



This photograph shows myself judging the large class of 24 jars of honey at the National Honey Show in Weybridge, London at the end of October. My steward was Dennis Ryan who is President of the Federation of Irish Beekeepers. It was a daunting task as I had to examine every single jar but the different tastes and aromas made it so enjoyable. This is the largest honey show in the UK. The Welsh Beekeepers Association have their show in July 2009 so I am happy to take jars up to Builth Wells for those who would like to enter.

### **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

### **BEEWAX 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**