
VILLAGE BEE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VBNS 12

March 1970

1970

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR TO FRENCH BEE RESEARCH STATION AT BURES-SUR-YVETTE



At the suggestion of one of our County Durham members, who said that Canterbury was three quarters the way to France, and could we possibly arrange a short trip to the French Bee Research Station while we were so near, to see several things of great interest to us further north, and particularly their methods of comparing and evaluating strains of honeybees, we have taken steps to do so.

The trip will depend on our getting enough bookings to cover costs. As we have to put down a firm deposit without undue delay, we request that members wishing to join the trip should now send us their £3 booking deposit. As soon as we have 30 such deposits, we will confirm the booking. This is not to say that those booking later will not get a seat, of which we have 48 to fill, but the Committee have set a minimum of 30 before agreeing to run the trip. If any members feel inclined to go by car, over the hovercraft ferry, we would appreciate it if they booked with us until such time as we see that we shall attain our minimum, at which we would be prepared to return their deposit. If we fail to attain 30, all deposits will be refunded.

We particularly wish to hear from French linguists who would be prepared to guide part of the party, for example any who wish to desert beekeeping to see the sights of Paris, by day or by night. Several wives of members have already expressed such a desire! At the time of writing, we have had only two offers to assist as guides. The Director has undertaken to get out his school French dictionary and polish up his fading memories of forty years ago! However, they were adequate to get him to Bures-sur-Yvette safely last May, where Monsieur Louveaux treated him royally, and a most interesting visit, both to the Station itself, and to a testing apiary in the forest, ensued.

So:

- (1) Your bookings and deposits (to B. A. Cooper, Whitegates, Thulston, Derby DE7 3EW) please;
- (2) Volunteers from any members interested in joining the party who feel competent at understanding French as she is spoken.

April 1st is the deadline for bookings.

1970 VBBA CONFERENCE

BEE BREEDING

A Weekend Conference for Beekeepers, Teachers and all who wish to restore the native honeybees of these islands to favour and popular use

The Conference on Bee Breeding this year will take place at Rutherford College, University of Canterbury, Kent, from Friday September 18th, tea time to Sunday 20th teatime. Mrs Vigrass assures us that the accommodation is especially good, and if we cannot have the delightful scenery of Aberystwyth, at least we shall not have all those stairs to climb!

Speakers at Canterbury will include:-

- Dr Patrick Eehlin, of Cambridge University will speak on 'Pollens';
- Ray Williams, Pomologist, of Long Ashton Research Station, Bristol University, will speak on what the fruit grower needs in a bee for pollination.
- A VBBA member, speaking on behalf of Jean Louveaux, Director of the French Bee Research Station (which those who can stay on are hoping to visit), will speak on the scientific testing of strains of bee for honey production and other aspects of vigour and efficiency useful to the beekeeper.
- David Little, of Ipswich, will speak on the use of statistics in interpreting the results of trials, in designing comparison trials, and in many other sides of beekeeping where disregard of statistical principles may lead us astray.
- A series of four VBBA members, with very varied types of experience, but all with native or near-native strains of bee, will give short talks under the general heading of 'Case Studies', to show what they have been doing, or are planning to do, to conserve the native bees of their area. It is hoped that some of our members who are photographers, may be able to assist those speakers who are not, so that their audience may appreciate the countryside they have their apiaries in, and some of their techniques they use. They are:-
- Terence P. Theaker, of Leadenham, Lincs.
 Harold Meade, of Bridgwater, Somerset
 Alfred Hind, of Fatfield, County Durham.
 Arthur Dines, of Canterbury, Kent.

- each well known in his own part of England, but as far as we know, none have previously met or corresponded together.

In addition, we are hoping to arrange a visit to East Malling Research Station, near Maidstone, where, amongst a general view of the station, we hope to learn something of the methods of breeding fruit varieties, and how priorities on characteristics to select for are chosen, as well as a peep at another kind of breeding, the selection by the environment of insecticide-resistant strains of Red Spider Mite.

VBBA Conferences have been criticised in the past for being too general, and not directed enough at breeding itself. This time we are accepting the challenge and being single-minded, covering breeding for honey and pollination, the testing of bred strains, and surveying what others are doing to conserve their local bee, and hence what we should be doing for our own. This will be a Conference that will be different - with all the good company that one finds at any gathering of beekeepers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held at Pershore College of Horticulture, Worcs., on Saturday March 14th 1970.

This brief notice is merely to acquaint VBBA members of the Committee elected, and one or two of the main topics. Full minutes will be issued early in 1971 with the notice of next year's AGM, which it was agreed to hold preferably on March 20th or 27th at a venue in Lanes. or Cheshire - announcement will be made when the booking has been agreed.

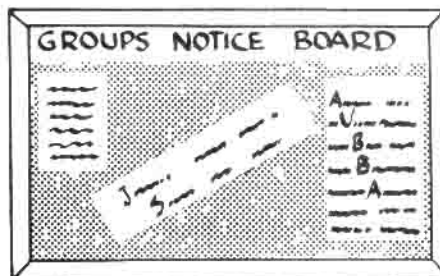
The Officers and Committee elected were B. A. Cooper (Director), David Allen (Secretary) and Miss M. Adams (Secretary), with C. H. Ansell, Mrs A. Brooker, G. T. Carter, H.J.V. Charlton, R. G. Davison, J. D. Frimston, G. Grinditch, Mrs J. Marshall, D. Saunders, Mrs H. Sanders, G. Somerville, H. Vigrass and Mrs M. Vigrass.

Published by Village Bee Breeders' Association, Whitegates, Thulston, Derby DE7 3EW. VBBA General Secretary is David Allen, Cedar Lodge, Thacker's Hill, Branston, Lincoln, and Enrolment Secretary is Mrs Anne Brooker, 4 Milton Road, Repton, Derby. Treasurer is Miss Maud Adams, 8 Crossway, London N. W. 9, and Conference Secretary is Mrs M. Vigrass, 1 Parkwood Crescent, Sherwood Vale, Nottingham NG5 4EA. Printed by Royden Greene Ltd, Derby.

Audited Accounts for both the General Fund and the Conference Fund were presented by Mr. Ansell. We shall need a new Auditor for 1970, as Mr. Ansell has now been elected to the Committee. Have we any Chartered Accountant members willing to act as Auditor to VBBA? The Director spoke of the loss felt by us all from the death of our Treasurer, Mrs Gilbert, last August, and thanked Mr. Gilbert for preparing the books for us to hand over to Miss Adams in such good order.

A discussion on the work of Groups was led by Mr Charlton, and a set of model rules to guide Groups in preparing their own versions were presented.

Richard Smiles spoke of the need for our members to reply, by word and by writing, to the onslaught now being made on VBBA and the native bee. He read his own reply to Brother Adam's recent articles in BBJ, which the meeting hoped he would send for publication. The Director hoped others would follow suit, but, above all, avoid personal attacks and keep to facts and figures.



NEW GROUP - MERCIA WEST GROUP - See. Jim Crundwell, Sunny Bank Cottage, Holly Green, Upton-on-Severn, Worcs. (tel. U-o-S 2841). Sub. 5/-, meetings first Sunday in month.

- GROUP FIXTURES - It would be appreciated if those planning to attend would notify the host.
- Wed. March 25, 8.30 pm - Lincs. GP - at D. Allen's, Cedar Lodge, Thacker's Hill, Branston, Lincoln.
 - Sun. Mar 29, 3 pm - E MIDLAND GP - at B. A. Cooper's, Whitegates, Thulston, Derby (work T. Shardlow 317)
 - Fri. Ap 3, 7.30 pm - NORTHANTS GP - at A. Perrin's, 90A Lower Thrift St, Northampton.
 - Sun. Ap 5, 3 pm - MERCIA WEST GP - at D. A. Brown's, 12 Silverdale, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
 - Tu. Ap 14, 7 pm - SHERWOOD FOREST GP - details from Mrs Grinditch, 10 Clipstone Ave, Mansfield, Notts.
 - Wed. Ap 15 - 7.30 pm - HANTS GP - at S. H. Pullinger's, Loekham's, Grange Rd, Alresford (T. A. 2855).
 - Wed. Ap 15, 7.30 pm - LANCs-CHEs GP - at F. Griffith's, 9 Heyeswood Lane, Hartford, Ches. (Sandway 2235).
 - Sat. Ap 25 - SCOTLAND WEST GP - Apiary visit, details J.M. Fraser, 44 South Beach, Troon, Ayrshire (T94)
 - Sun. Ap 26, 3 pm - E. MID GP - at Mrs MacKay's, Great House, Kegworth, Derby - please park in forecourt of Bryan's Garage on the A 6.
 - Fri May 1, 7.30 pm - NORTHANTS GP - at A. Perrin's.
 - Sun. May 21, 3 pm - E. MID GP - at A.J.H. West's, The High, Mount Pleasant, Repton, Derby

FUTURE FIXTURES - Please send details to J.H.V. CHARLTON, GROUPS SEC., 14 Oak Road, Sale, Cheshire.