



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers  
October 2012

[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Divisional Honey Show – a detailed report

'I didn't think it was good enough,' admitted Ellen Farago, a first-year beekeeper arriving without the frame she'd entered. After some discussion (and a rapid return home) the absent frame was delivered, and soon achieved a Second Prize in Class 11.

At the other extreme, the experienced exhibitor Ted Gradosielski entered seven Classes and was rewarded with five Firsts, a Second and a Third. The following week Ted won two Firsts, two Seconds and a Highly Commended at the Essex Honey Show.

These two exhibitors share one thing in common: a desire to improve their display of beekeeping products, which after all, will ensure that they offer a quality product from Epping beekeepers. To emphasise this point, Ted's Frame for Extraction and Clear Light honey entry was rejected at the Essex Show. Other Epping Show competitors to mention are David Mallandine, a first-year beekeeper who won the Beginners' Clear, Mary West (Honey Cake) and Joe Chadwick with three Firsts (Mead, Moulded Candles, Photograph).

Our thanks go to Oonagh Gabriel (a favourite at Epping), for her 'open' Judging, in which she explained the process throughout. Thanks also to Ken Barker for his efficient and stylish Stewarding, to Joanne Alie for administering the paperwork with good humour, and to Don McHale for providing teas, generously baking a cake and decorating it with his allotment strawberries! 🍓 Report contributed by Eric Beaumont

### Results

Class 1/Clear Light: Ted Gradosielski  
Class 3/Clear Dark: Eric Beaumont  
Class 5/Beginners Clear: David Mallandine  
Class 8/Gift Class: Ted Gradosielski  
Class 14/Bottle of Mead: Joe Chadwick  
Class 17/Honey Cake: Mary West  
Class 21/Sequence of Photographs: K & S Attan

Class 2 / Clear Medium: Ted Gradosielski  
Class 4 / Crystallized: Ted Gradosielski  
Class 7 / Four various: Ted Gradosielski  
Class 11/Frame for Extraction: K & S Attan  
Class 15 / Candles (Mould): Joe Chadwick  
Class 20 / Photograph: Joe Chadwick  
Class 22 / Best in Show: Ted Gradosielski

## Wanstead Work Party

A group of willing volunteers turned up on two successive weekends to help clear overgrown vegetation and replace the fence at the Wanstead Apiary. As you can see from these photos, a significant amount of work was carried out, and the apiary is now much clearer and the fence has been secured. Once again, we are extremely grateful to Mark Stephens for the continued use of the apiary site and for kindly contributing to the cost of the fence repairs. 🍓



## Chair's Corner

We are very lucky to have a divisional apiary at Wanstead, which allows us to teach practical beekeeping and gives some members without gardens the opportunity to keep bees. When maintenance was needed this year, it was great to have such a terrific response from hard-working beekeepers who turned up on two Saturdays to carry out the necessary clearance and did it all with good humour. Many thanks to all those who helped with the work parties.

Ted Gradosielski 🍓

## Next meeting – Thursday 18 October

Don't miss this month's meeting back at the Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road Chingford E4 6NH. Roy Cropley will deliver a talk on microscopy, please arrive for 7.30 pm. Don't forget the National Honey Show will be held at Weybridge on 25-27 October. 🍓

## Bonfire Night

After the success of the summer barbecue, the Division will be holding a bonfire celebration on Saturday 3rd November from 4pm to 7pm at the Wanstead Apiary in Langley Drive. Ok, we also need to get rid of some of the wood produced by the clearance work, and raise some funds for the new fence! There will be a token firework display, but this is really about the bonfire and the hot dogs, and a chance to socialise with other Division members. Cost £2.50 to include refreshments, and there will be a raffle drawn at 6.30 pm. Any offers of raffle prizes will be gratefully received! 🍓

## Essex Beekeeping Conference

Don't forget that this will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November at Stewards Academy in Harlow. Advance booking is essential as the day includes a two-course lunch. There will be trade stands to view during the refreshment breaks as well as three interesting lectures. 🍓

## Tips from the Bee Man

You should have finished Varroa treatments by now and have given your bees as much feed as possible. This is a good time to familiarise yourself with the weight of a hive by gently 'hefting' it. By doing this you can gauge how many stores are left later in the year without opening the hive in colder weather. Fit a mouse guard to the hive entrance, and if your apiary is in a woodland area consider wrapping the hive in mesh to prevent woodpecker damage. 🍓

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