



FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

President: Miss Margery Cooper

October 2005
Number 592

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The Federation, its Council and its Officers cannot be held responsible for the views expressed in the Newsletter or possible errors.

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Future Events

21 st -23 rd October	National Honey Show	Hendon
Saturday April 21st 2006	Spring Convention	Stoneleigh

In the Apiary – October

Except for a flow from the ivy, the season is almost over, traditionally, September is the time to make sure that colonies are prepared for the coming winter. However, many beekeepers for various reasons carry out this work in October, Feeding with strong syrup can continue up to the middle of the month then if there are insufficient stores it is advisable to use candy or fondant. If in doubt, use fondant or better still, ask someone for advice. It is too late to feed once the colony is dead. Maybe you are fortunate or wise enough to have a mellifera mellifera strain that manage on less stores than most.

It is not too late to examine for disease, if there is a problem you should notify the Regional Bee Inspector, the seasonal officers will have finished for the season.

If you have not already done so, carry out your varroa treatment. Apistan or Bayvarol are only effective when the bees are active, treatment with Apiguard is effective when the ambient temperature is above 10°C, however I have found that Apiguard applied to a strong colony with a closed floor at any time is effective, possibly because the hive temperature above the cluster is sufficient. A colony on an open mesh floor treated in this way showed evidence of varroa in March.

I have heard of a colony still retaining its drones, this usually signifies queenlessness or a failing queen. A colony like this is best united to a queen right one, having said that, if the queen comes through the winter and is not a drone layer it is possible that there might be a successful supersedure in the spring

Triad

Your Regional Bee Inspectors are: -

Southern Region: - Mr. Ian Homer. Fax/Telephone number: 01308 482 161

South Eastern Region: - Mr. Alan Byham Fax/Telephone number: 020 8571 6450

SOUTH CHILTERN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Our first indoor meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19th October. As well as nominations for the committee, nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee are required.

Nominations should preferably be in writing, to the Secretary please. Do not forget to get the nominee's permission.

Our November meeting will be on the 16th November at Langtree Community Centre, the meeting starts at 7.30pm. Phillip Denwood, editor of Bee Improvement and Conservation magazine, talks to us on the subject of conservation of native and near native bee species. Visitors are welcome.

'ODE to SATANS BEES'

The honey season's over,
the crops all gathered in.
The winter stores are packed up,
my bees are snug within.

I've had a "gruelling" summer,
with Satan's Bees afoot,
I've hid amongst the bushes,
and left them to Reg Hook.

I owe him a big thank you,
as he wades in my hives.
He fights to get my honey off,
than running for our lives.

I've jarred a hundred pounds now,
and more stuck to the floor.
The dog's stuck to the cupboard,
and washing-up galore.

I've kept my wax for later,
to swap it for supplies.
I'll make an Xmas candle,
and give as a surprise!

The hives have now been requeened,
to pacify my fears,
Thank you to Reg and Linda,
I'LL DO IT ALL NEXT YEAR.

Secretary: Annette Cleaver (01491) 642021

WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Club apiary visits

Five members joined Nigel Perkins on Sunday 10th July to inspect some of his hives at Hurst. We looked at three colonies all of which seemed to be prospering although like most of us Nigel reported that honey production had been very poor this year. Nigel's site is an old nursery containing a large pond and is well populated with grass snakes although they were well hidden during our visit.



Nigel uses large brood frames



Nigel's tower block

Examination results

Congratulations to four of our members, Adrian Kyte, Bob Loades, Nigel Perkins and Peter Seagrave who successfully passed the practical BBKA Basic Assessment. Beulah Cullen was the examiner and was pleased with the standard of knowledge displayed by the candidates.

Evening meetings

Our first evening meeting is on Wednesday 12th October at the usual venue of St Paul's Parish Rooms. We are expecting a speaker from 'Friends of the Emmbrook', a newly formed environmental group aiming to protect and preserve the Emmbrook.

Secretary John Edwards 0118 934 0238

SLOUGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Incorporating Windsor, Maidenhead and adjoining communities.

With the summer season nearly behind us, Jim Cooper our Apiary Supervisor, gives us the following report:

The apiary bees have had their Apiguard treatment and it appears to have worked well. It is always surprising just how many varroa mites there are present in the colonies. Despite the fact that we have artificially swarmed all colonies this season and used open mesh floors, all colonies had a significant population of mites. Next season we will have to do more drone brood culling as well.

The process of feeding those colonies that need it has begun and will be complete by the middle of September. The colonies ear-marked for uniting have been dealt with and we used the icing sugar method, which worked well.

There will be a work party at the Apiary on Sunday 2nd October at 2.30 pm to clean & sterilise equipment, pack it away for winter and put the woodpecker cages on the hives. It would be particularly pleasing to see members, other than those on the committee, taking part in this activity!

The results of your own labours can be shown off at the Honey Show on Tuesday, October 11th and we do hope that everyone will support this event once again by attending and bringing along something to enter. The schedule is again attached to this newsletter and as there are one or two changes this year, do check it out first. If you are entering multiple classes, it would be helpful to know ahead of the Show so that the labels can be prepared in advance. Otherwise, just bring along a jar on the night – **staging** will be from **7pm**, **judging** will as usual be done in front of the audience and will start at **7.30pm**. Our judge this year is Nick Grey from Chalfonts Beekeepers, who has entertained us once before and encourages friendly exchanges from the audience as well as imparting some very useful advice for showing. There are several cups to be won, including Best Novice, so serious competition is also encouraged. The venue is as usual, the All Saints Parish Hall on the corner of Frances and Alexandra Roads, Windsor.

As usual, our library will be available at the meetings and there may also be some surplus books still for sale. Any member who wishes to borrow our labelling machine for stamping the "Best Before End" dates and "Lot Numbers" onto a separate label for your honey jars; please call me on the first number below,

Newsletter items: Joy Dodson Burnham (01628) 664091
Secretary: Michael Sheasby Farnham Common (01753) 642656

READING and DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

On Sunday 14th August Reading members met at Jon. Davey's home apiary for their annual 'Chairman's meeting'.

There were 5 colonies to inspect and the first was well populated with full supers (one was exchanged for an extracted one) however the queen did not appear to be active in fact the bottom deep box contained 12 frames completely empty and just a few drone cell's occupied with a little stores on the half brood box. The bees were quite happy with the inspection and our demonstrator recommended removing the remaining supers and adding a syrup feeder to stimulate the queen into laying. A second colony was the result of uniting two of this years swarms that were building-up fast. The brood boxes consisted of a 14 x 12-inch, where all the activity and brood cells were found, also a standard Smith deep, which had a few worker cells only. Having checked for the queen, our demonstrator inserted an excluder beneath the top brood box, retaining the one in position below the first super, subsequent inspection should reveal the workers to be emerged and no laying in the top 'former' brood box enabling the honey to be available for extraction.

All in all, not a bad result from the chairman with honey coming-in at a good rate, though he seems to have formed the habit of re-loading extracted frames into supers with the box the wrong-way-up! He'll have to break himself of that as the slight space caused by the top being proud, the crown-board or next super resting on the frames stimulates the bees into propolizing and the extra bee-space below to build comb downwards makes it a bit sticky to get-off again!

Many thanks to all who attended and to Jill Davey for the Pims and the prawn sandwiches.

Start of Reading Beekeeper's winter programme.

This resumes at the Methodist hall at Caversham Heights at 7.30 PM on Tuesday 11th October. We hope to have our much-travelled member Peter Bruce talk to us illustrated by his international honey collection at this or November's meeting. Please watch this space, we will confirm with an insertion in this newsletter. Please put Tuesday 11th October in your diaries for Reading beekeeping.

Secretary: Mr. R. Kiff, 114 Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading RG6 7LU Tel. 0118 966 5358

Beekeeping equipment and supplies from your Thornes agent in Berkshire
Large stock of most requirements available ex. stock. All other in range available only a phone call away. Deliveries in season at regular intervals. Please phone John Belcher on 01189 842321 for a quotation. Beeswax exchanged.

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Newsletter "Deadline": - - Contributions, this includes **E-mails**, to arrive with the Editor by the **FIRST POST** (Around 10.00am) on the First of the Month for the Following Month

To enable the Advertisement Manager to place adverts with the Editor for the 1st of the month deadline; adverts should be sent well before this time.

ADVERTISEMENT ENTRIES: - 2 Lines for £1.00. Commercial, £1.00 per line together with your

cheque made payable to FBBKA. To be sent to the Advertisement Manager: -

Mr. Michael Blackburn, M.B. Photography, 41 Prospect Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8JV. Telephone: - (0118) 947 9450/5451

For sale: quantity of Langstroth hives and supers, some with bees. A number of new Langstroth roofs, supers add frames in the flat. Crocker: 01189722315.