



FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

President: Miss Margery Cooper

December 2006
Number 605

Hon. Secretary:
Vacant

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

Saturday 21 st April 2007	BBKA Spring Lecture & Exhibition	Stoneleigh Park
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BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Your Berkshire Beekeepers Federation is still in need of a volunteer to act as General Secretary.

THE APIARY in DECEMBER

It was a good move to take the National Show to Hendon. No more London traffic and worries about where to park! Although the North Circular was as jammed up as ever.

The show was splendid, with lovely exhibits and first class speakers. I have heard grumbles that some were disappointed because there were no trade bargains to be bought. If you want this sort of gathering you must go to Stoneleigh which is a convention rather than a show. You can get some really good bargains there.

It has been an odd sort of autumn ("as usual", one might add). Not many years ago August was regarded as being the end of the season, feeding was finished by the end of September when the first frosts came and that was more or less that. This year the bees were out bringing in pollen – presumably from ivy but also from the many other flowers which were out such as gorse - right into November. They have been taking down syrup as well and, going by the feel of the hives' weight, they seem to be well-prepared for what promises to be a short winter.

There were quite a few varroa mites to be seen when we inspected the boards after treatment so we are planning to put at least one colony into a new hive. We will shook-swarm them in the early spring as soon as it's warm enough, onto fresh foundation. That way they will be clear of infected drone cells and hopefully eager to draw out new mite-free comb. I imagine this might be a useful form of defence against small hive beetle if it comes our way.

Incidentally – make sure you keep your stock of frames and foundation well wrapped up over winter. It has been a good year for wax moths.

Now is the time to check over your equipment and to plan ahead. One good resolution might be to look at the way you keep your records. If you are going to be on top of things next year, you must make careful notes of what is really going on in the hives every time you visit them. Apart from anything else, your notes will give you a clear idea of what you must do on your next inspection. You will know exactly what equipment you need to have with you and will cut down the time you spend dithering while you wonder whether or not you should do this or that which unsurprisingly annoys your bees.

Triad

From the Editor

It has been reported in ABJ that the small hive beetle was found in bees imported from Australia. Any one importing queens from outside of the British Isles should be on their guard.

Pyrethroid resistant varroa has been found in the Marlow area, right on our doorstep. It is advised that an alternative treatment should be used; at the moment only Apiguard is approved for use in this country.

From the High Wycombe News Letter: Tests carried out locally during the summer indicated that resistant mites are now in the area. The Associations Marlow Apiary showed only 4% effectiveness using current treatments, or, put another way, almost all the mites survived. Results from other apiaries included 6% effectiveness at Emmett's Farm Little Marlow 33% at Monkton Farm (Marlow Bypass), jumping to 80% upwards in apiaries around Flackwell Heath. **Resistant mites are here,**

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

READING and DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

On 12th October, Reading and District beekeepers together with members from nearby Associations, and some new interested people who had been in contact with Reading members at the Cross Lanes Apple Farm open day gave a good attendance at Caversham Heights Methodist Hall to hear a talk given by Alan Johnson with interactions by wife Margaret on their beekeeping in South Hampshire. This is a semi-commercial hobby including preparation of hive products and sales of honey etc.

Both Alan: past president of the BBKA and Margaret past BBKA executive have a fresh outlook on beekeeping several recommendations were forthcoming. This included their use now of unwired foundation as a strip across the top of a super frame, 5 strips cut from each sheet. This suits their purposes very well with their need for fresh wax for hive products and candles etc. Alan reports that the young wax builders are kept busy in the spring as the colonies expand and that the frames extract satisfactorily: no doubt careful control of the initial centrifugal speeds are needed.

Alan provides apiarists with the Exomite Apis system for varroa control and explained the way in which the bees pick-up the powder containing finely divided thymol, the lower levels of this compared to 'Apiguard' where some problems with colonies absconding have been experienced and how the bees distribute the active ingredient by grooming the powder from bees entering the hive. A number of the people present are taking 1-2 units of Exomite-Apis from Alan to trial in the spring.

Questions from the floor included methods of wax moth control as we no longer have access to PBC and have to revert to the highly corrosive acetic acid or 'Certan' almost as unpleasant to use. Alan recommended also storing extracted frames with a good space between each e.g. say 9 in a box. Apparently wax-moth larvae prefer faces of wax close together. I must say in the attendee's experience it's the closest frames, particularly where spacers maybe missing that are attacked first! A lot of information was to be gleaned from the Johnson's with thanks to them and those who attended.

Our 'Christmas Meeting' is at the same venue on Thursday 14th December. We plan to invite John Hammer from Blackhorse Apiaries in Woking to talk to us. Do come along and join us in a mince pie or two!

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

SOUTH CHILTERN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

On 17th October Peter Martin of the Honey International Packers' Association (HIPA) gave a very interesting talk to a well-attended meeting of the SCBKA.

The global market for honey which he described is an important one (the UK alone imports from 40 different countries), but the keeping of bees also has a value in the pollination of crops equivalent to seven to ten times the value of the honey produced. It is also of major importance in maintaining the biodiversity of the environment.

Peter discussed the international agreements and legislation that govern the standards of honey, and the problems of identifying and preventing residues of e.g. antibiotics. He also described testing and legislation for single source honeys. Methods used include determining the ratios of different sugars in the honey and pollen analysis.

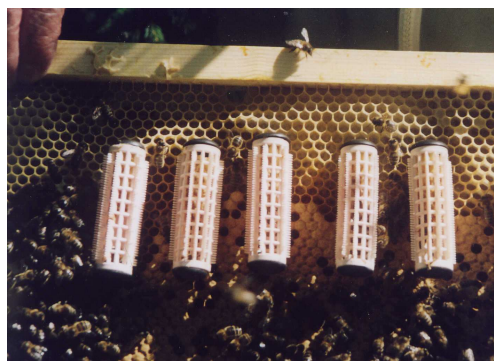
Finally, he talked about the production of honey in developing areas, the problem of maintaining the honey quality (log hive honey is not suitable for the international market) and the charities involved. He had some interesting pictures to show us of production abroad.

The talk inspired a great deal of discussion in the following question and answer session and afterwards.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday December 13th (note: second Wednesday of the month) for our usual Christmas gathering with seasonal food and a raffle. There will be a talk by a representative of the charity, "Send a Cow" which provides livestock including bees to poor countries such as Lesotho. Donations will be welcome.



Bee working Blackberries Photo Linda Clarke



Storing Queens. Photo: Reg Hook

Secretary: Phil Westwood – Tel: 07771 874284

E-mail: >southchilterns.bees@btinternet.com<

WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

We began our series of Winter Lectures with an illustrated talk by Tony Hayward of the RSPB. He went on a trip to the Galapagos Islands and has brought back an extensive collection of photographs illustrating the wide range of variations in the various species of birds and animals that have evolved on these isolated islands. They rest on a geological fault, which has given them two distinct habitats, which has encouraged special adaptation to local environments. Perhaps the most interesting fact he told us was that there are fourteen local species of finch on this small group of islands. It was a pleasure to see his remarkable and beautiful set of photographs of the landscape and of the wildlife.

In December we will be continuing to focus on the natural world with a talk on our National Parks by the conservationist Adrian Thornton.

Rosemary Bayliss

SLOUGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Our Annual Honey Show in October was very well attended and our Judge, David Sandwell, who came all the way from Hampshire, gave us a lot of tips for preparing entries. Though the entries were down a little from previous years, with 40 entries from 12 contestants, the standard was high and there were some difficult decisions to be made. The final results sheet is being sent with this newsletter and the Cups will have been presented at the AGM in November. We would like to thank David especially and everyone who entered, for their efforts in preparing and taking the time to help make the Show a success. We do hope that this will have inspired others to take part next year.

At this month's meeting, on Tuesday the 12th December, we shall be hearing from our (former?) Apiary Supervisor, Jim Cooper, who will be talking to us about 'Preparing for the New Season', with some timely advice and tips on getting off to a flying start with well prepared, and repaired, equipment. We look forward to seeing you all at the All Saints Parish Hall, on the corner of Frances and Alexandra Roads, Windsor, SL4 1HZ for an 8pm start. Our library will also be available, along with any surplus library books left for sale.

Our Annual Dinner in January has now been confirmed at the Aurora Garden Hotel in Windsor on Friday the 26th at 7pm for 7.30. This is a popular event and a chance to meet socially at an excellent venue with really good food. The menu and prices are also included with this newsletter, so please print out and/or fill in your requirements and return them to Don with your cheque in good time, at the very latest by the 17th January. As there is no newsletter in January, there will be no further reminder, so we do hope to see you all there.

In February, we shall be welcoming our BDI Ian Homer, on Tuesday, the 13th, for what is always an informative and interesting evening. The topic has yet to be finalised, so watch out for February's newsletter.

Meanwhile, your committee would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and an excellent beekeeping season in 2007.

Newsletter items: Joy Dodson Burnham (01628) 664091

Secretary: Michael Sheasby Farnham Common (01753) 642656

Beekeeping Classes:

There will be classes at Burchetts Green in 2007, details have yet to be finalized, they will be evening courses. Anyone interested should contact Yvonne Arnold on 01628 827482.

Web:

Our web pages are in the process of being updated, any constructive comments or suggestions will be welcome.

Newsletter "Deadline": - - Contributions, this includes **E-mails**, to arrive with the Editor by the **FIRSTPOST** (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

Working with Children and Vulnerable people



Introduction to the document

The BBKA wants children and vulnerable people to enjoy their involvement with the fascinating life of honeybees. It is important that we inform, educate and enthuse children giving them a greater understanding of the vital part honey bees play in the environment.

This document is in two sections.

The first deals with the **Policy** of the BBKA and its applicability, the second with 'best practice' **Guidelines** to be followed where children are involved with BBKA beekeeping activities in any form. A model consent form is also supplied for use where appropriate.

The Policy and Guidelines are there to help you to provide the expected protection of children and vulnerable adults and to avoid situations in which well-intentioned actions could be misinterpreted.

The Policy does not contain any complete definition of what is 'an abuse'; to prepare a rigorous 'legal' definition would prove difficult and is unlikely to include all possible circumstances. It does state some obvious types of abuse and how these might be extended in particular conditions. In any event, future legal decisions would soon make any definition obsolete.

Note:

In the Policy and Guidelines document children and vulnerable adults are collectively referred to as "children" in the interests of readability of this policy, although the great differences in needs must not be forgotten.

British Beekeepers Association Policy and Guidelines No 1

Working with Children and Vulnerable people

1. The Policy

Through this Policy the BBKA aims to:

- Adopt the highest possible child protection standards and
- Take all reasonable steps in relation to the safety and welfare of the children with whom we come into contact in relation to our activities within the BBKA and its Member Associations.

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO:

- **Treat everyone with respect. THIS IS THE GOLDEN RULE.** Any mis-use of power could be regarded as an abuse.
- Not physically, emotionally or sexually abuse any child or young or vulnerable person.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of any child in contact with the BBKA.
- Remember that children regard adults as role models and ensure your behaviour, language, gestures etc. are appropriate and above reproach.
- Be aware of Child Protection issues in relation to the work you do and do not become complacent.
- Ensure that no adult is ever normally alone with a child.
- Prevent any other person from putting any child in a situation in which there is a significant risk to their health and safety.
- Take appropriate action if you become aware of anyone physically, emotionally or sexually abusing a child.
- Report any evidence or reasonable suspicion that a child has been physically, emotionally or sexually abused whether by an adult or another child to the Local Authority Social Services Child Protection Team.

The policy applies to:

Any member of the BBKA or a BBKA Member Association whose beekeeping activities brings them into contact with children. This may include:

- organised visits to the apiary
- children attending training courses
- children undertaking correspondence courses. (This counts as 'contact'.)
- children attending shows or events, possibly as part of 'Education Days'.

The BBKA expects you to apply this Policy to all of your work with children and vulnerable people. You have a duty to do everything reasonable in your power to ensure the safety and welfare of children while they are in contact with the BBKA and to act in accordance with the guidelines below.

Remember that all children have a right to protection from harm and YOU CANNOT SHIRK THIS RESPONSIBILITY

Discussion of Child Protection

Open discussion of Child Protection should be encouraged since this helps to make members more comfortable with the issues involved. Do not keep it 'under wraps' for fear of upsetting or embarrassing people.

2.Guidelines

This section gives general *Guidelines*, if you have any doubt about best practice in any specific area, contact your Local Authority Social Services Child Protection Team for further advice.

A. Scope of your Responsibilities

1.Where children are accompanied by responsible adults, e.g. parent, teacher, or other group leader, primary responsibility for the children should lie with that person. The beekeeper remains responsible for safe beekeeping within the apiary.

If, owing to illness or another unexpected event a BBKA member is left in charge of a child or group then they should act in accordance with this Policy and Guidelines.

2. You should NOT undertake activities where you are the only adult present with children.

In all cases:

- Plan the activities and make decisions during the event following the principles set out in this Policy and Guidelines,
- Assign clear tasks to others involved in the children's activities, ensure that there is clear understanding as to which adults have responsibility for each aspect of Child Protection and that procedures

are followed, Maintain appropriate child-to-adult ratios as required by the relevant Local Authority (the guidelines for local schools for the appropriate age group are the best guide) and ensure that your decisions are based on the principles described in the Guidelines in this document.

This must underpin your main aim of providing an enjoyable and safe experience for the children.

3. Non-beekeeping Volunteers at an event.

Offers of help are always welcome and should be encouraged. However, take considerable care if the volunteer is not very well-known to you or you have the slightest reason for concern. When a volunteer assists to work with children they must have read the Policy and Guidelines and agree to work in accordance with it.

B. Emergency Aid or First Aid

A first aider should be in attendance, together with a mobile phone (which works at that location) and vehicle, if appropriate, in case of emergency.

Members should follow the advice given in BBKA publications concerning emergency aid. (See references at end). Permission to treat the child must be obtained, if possible, from both the responsible adult and the child. Ideally, the responsible adult should have obtained their own prior, explicit permission (or otherwise) to administer First Aid to the child. Failing this, it is best to obtain permission to carry out emergency aid in advance of a problem occurring using a simple permission form. (See the example at the end of this document.) Your Local Authority Education Department has guidance for schools which could be used. Make a written record of all First Aid given, regardless of who administers it.

C. Dealing with allegations of abuse

It is to be hoped that you will never have to deal with an alleged incident of child abuse, but it is sensible that you are prepared to do so if necessary. You have a responsibility to report ANY concerns regarding the welfare of children and vulnerable persons.

There are three likely scenarios which you should be aware of and be prepared to deal with if necessary:

- a) There is suspicion or evidence that a person associated with the event is abusing a child
- b) A child accuses a person associated with the event of abusing them
- c) A child discloses abuse happening elsewhere e.g. at home

In all cases you must:

- Act in a calm manner and as quickly as you can without causing any further distress to the child.
- Keep any details strictly confidential and share only on an absolute 'need to know' basis.
- Contact Social Services for advice ASAP. Make sure you know the contact point.
- Do not question the child further or give any undertaking of confidentiality to the child.
- Make your own verbatim written notes as soon as practicable.

D. Use of Information relating to children

Information about children e.g. names and addresses must be treated in strictest confidence. It must be kept securely by a responsible adult, used only for the purpose required, retained only as long as necessary for that purpose and disposed of in a way which maintains the young persons' confidentiality. Contact the office of the UK Data Registrar if further specific advice is needed.

E. Photographs of Young Members and Children attending Events

Permission should be sought from parents or responsible adults to take and/or use photographs of children attending events. Any information that can allow the young people to be identified by name or home/school location must not accompany the use of photographs of children in promotion or display materials.

F. Suitability for working with children.

At present, there is no explicit requirement in the circumstances applicable to this Policy for any checks regarding the suitability members or volunteers to work with children under the Protection of Children Act 1999. If you have any concerns regarding suitability, contact your local police (or use the Home

Office website) for information on how to proceed with checks against lists maintained by the Home Office.

BBKA Advisory leaflets referring to good practice in relevant situations:

- B1 Bee Stings
- B5 Managing live bees at shows
- B6 Organising an apiary meeting

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The National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

Consent forms

***ANYWHERE* BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

Visitors are required to adhere to the following code of conduct whilst in the apiary:

- To behave quietly calmly and avoid rapid movement.
- To walk away to an agreed area if alarmed in any way.
- If stung, to inform a supervisor immediately.
- Any person behaving in a way that is deemed irresponsible by the Supervisors will be asked to leave the apiary and demonstration.

"I give my consent for my child..... (Full name)

to attend the demonstration of live bees on

at"

Signed:

(Parent or Guardian)

"I give my consent for my child (Full name)

to receive any required emergency First Aid from a suitable-qualified adult at the

demonstration of live bees on

at"

Signed:

(Parent or Guardian)