



**FEDERATION OF  
BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS**  
President: Miss Margery Cooper

July 2001

Number. 544

Hon. Secretary  
Mrs. S. Napper  
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## NEWS

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

20 October	Federation Event and Honey Show	Gen. Secretary:- 0118 945 5094
November 15,16,17	National Honey Show	

**This year there will be an August and a September Newsletter** but there will be no January edition. This will avoid delivery problems over the Christmas period. Copy For the August issue by 1<sup>st</sup> July please.

The Federation Autumn Event and Honey Show will again take place at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road Caversham 20<sup>th</sup> October Details:- 0118 945 5094

### FROM THE EDITOR

So far, year 2001 is following the prediction that we will experience a year similar to that of 1947. The government of the day seem to have dealt more swiftly and efficiently with their Foot and Mouth outbreak than the people in charge today. The swarming period has started and beekeepers have reported a number of swarms in the last week of May.

Swarm collection! It has come to notice that some beekeepers are advising that swarms are removed as a public service without charge, it is said to have also happened in our own Federation area. One person (not one of ours) after giving this advice refused to remove a swarm because his hives were full. It was left to a pest control officer who called in a beekeeper who did make a charge. I will guarantee that once these people have filled their hives and collected easy swarms, they will leave it to the genuine beekeepers to do the dirty work, particularly at the end of the season. Some of these do not really want these swarms and but collect them to avoid them "going feral", it is only fair for them to at least recover the cost of their transport. If swarm collectors do not wish to be paid, they could at least obtain a donation toward some deserving fund.

On applying to put my name forward for a refresher course on foulbrood, I found that the local one-day-course organized by BFA was already over-subscribed. This is good news; It is a shame that there is so much apathy within our own Associations, the few "Apiary Tours" that have been organized (with difficulty) have been a great success, some resulting in the discovery of foul brood. Perhaps we could follow the BFA example.

For those with access to a computer, the Apimondia Treatise of Apitherapy will shortly be in your library. I have not yet studied it but I am told that it is very informative.

RFC

## THE APIARY IN JULY

Doubtless many of you will have bees that have collected Oilseed Rape in the previous weeks and have by now extracted it I hope! If you haven't, it will now have set rock hard in the comb and the comb will have to be cut from the frame and the whole lot melted down in the Pratley tray.

You may have heard people say this is an undesirable crop, so let's discuss this further. Yes it does granulate rapidly, and needs to be extracted as soon as possible. Yes it granulates rock hard and will bend a spoon quicker than Uri Geller can, but it does so with a fine crystal structure. It also produces a lot of froth during the extracting process, and clogs up your filters. As the froth contains moisturized air, it will raise the water content and may lead to fermentation. Although fermented honey will be edible it will be unpalatable and is un-saleable.

However I like this crop and so do my customers apparently. At extracting time I pass it through a wire filter. This will clog from time to time and is freed by scraping the granulation out with a spoon to allow the honey to continue to percolate through. It is then poured into a settling tank fitted with honey tap, and left overnight. In the morning I remove the froth, then pour it into food grade polythene buckets fitted with lids, holding 30 lbs. of honey, (these are available from the appliance dealers). It is then left for several months and is allowed to granulate.

My warming box is a tea chest insulated with straw, heated by a 40watt lamp, and fitted with a thermistor which will regulate the temperature by switching the lamp 'on' and 'off continuously (This I purchased from The Shop on the Bridge, Oxford Road, Reading).

The 'summer honey' is completely liquidized by setting the thermistor on 'Full' for 24 hours. For the seed honey, (the granulated honey), the thermistor is turned down such, that the lamp is switched 'on' and 'off for the same periods of time. This will produce soft granulated honey after about 48 hours. After it has been stirred with a paint stirrer fitted to an electric drill, it will become pourable and can be added to the 'summer' honey. Both are then stirred together so that they are well mixed. Be careful not to introduce air into this mixture. It is then ready to be poured into honey jars, and will soft set in about a week to nice honey with a fine grain structure. This sounds a complicated process but it is much easier to carry out than it is to describe the method.

Enjoy your beekeeping.

Ambrosia

Zeit ist Honig.  
Wolfgang  
Willnat, Belau



Schweiz. Bienen-Zeitung

## Article 3.

### £7.50 –Third (and last) report from the BBKA ADM.

Despite what I have written in the first two articles on the ADM we did get a few decisions taken:-

- 1) Surrey wanted BBKA to get the Ministry to update the disease information on its website weekly rather than quarterly –this was agreed.
- 2) Surrey also wanted the Ministry to accelerate research on bee viruses – also agreed.
- 3) Berks wanted the BBKA to tackle the increase in EFB by developing and co-ordinating the Disease Contact role. This sort of thing seemed to us just what the BBKA was there for. The meeting, however, felt that each Association should deal with its Regional Bee Inspectors in its own way and the proposition was thrown out.
- 4) Yorkshire wanted the BBKA objective in the Constitution to include professional as well as amateur beekeepers –passed.
- 5) Harrogate wanted a substantial increase in the cash spent by the BBKA on research and education – failed. Props. Requiring unspecified large spends always fail.
- 6) Harrogate also wanted each module of the beekeeping exams to be examined annually rather than every other year –failed. There are not enough people taking the exams to justify the expense.
- 7) Avon and Yorkshire wanted the Open Forums to continue and the meeting agreed. There was a long and heated argument –entirely unresolved –as to who should pay the expenses of Associations who travel long distances to the Forum.
- 8) Leicestershire wanted the BBKA to send its newsletter directly to members (at an undefined extra cost) OR by the present method at the choice of Associations. This was passed. If Berks opts for direct mailing we will have to give individual members addresses to the BBKA, a thing we are required to do anyway.
- 9) Yorkshire wanted the BBKA to be more aggressive on environmental issues and join forces with like-minded organisations such as the RSPB. This was also passed.
- 10) Bucks wanted to charge non-BBKA members more for the use of BBKA facilities and services than members. This was remitted to the Executive for an evaluation of its practicability. They didn't seem keen.
- 11) Kent wanted statutory powers to require pest control companies to keep records of honeybee destruction –passed.
- 12) Norfolk required Associations to examine the role of the BBKA Executive to improve the efficiency and National standing of the BBKA –whatever that meant. Passed with a large majority , so we'll have it on the Council agenda some time. South Chilterns please note, perhaps a more specific proposition from you next year!
- 13) Norfolk also wanted Associations to publish supporting information to make ADM propositions much clearer (they could have started with item 12). This would involve an enormously increased amount of ADM paperwork and, in my opinion (I have to read it all) there is enough already! Nevertheless it passed.

14) Finally Yorkshire wanted to completely overhaul the BBKA Constitution – 2 years after the job was last finished. Since this proposition was accepted by the Executive in advance it was not debated and will happen. I tried to protest, but at the end of a long hard day the rest of the delegates were too tired to show any interest.

When you have a minute, look through these propositions and make up your mind how many of them will move beekeeping forward!

Bernhard Schumann.

## DISEASE

### BERKSHIRE FEDERATION FOULBROOD MAY 2001

Number of infected apiaries in 10km squares  
[Number in brackets ( ) = Number of infected colonies]

SU29 Buscot	SU39 Stanford in the Vale	SU49 West Abingdon	SU59 Dorchester	SU69 Benson	SU79 Stokenchurch	SU89 High Wycombe <b>EFB 2(5)</b>	SU99 Amersham	TQ09 Rickmansworth <b>EFB 1(1)</b>
SU28 Bishopstone	SU38 Letcombe Regis	SU48 East Wantage	SU58 Blewbury	SU68 East Wallingford	SU78 Henley on Thames	SU88 Marlow	SU98 North Slough <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	TQ08 Uxbridge
SU27 Aldbourne	SU37 Lambourne	SU47 Chieveley	SU57 Yattendon	SU67 Pangbourne <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU77 Reading <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU87 White Waltham	SU97 Windsor	TQ07 Staines
SU26 Great Bedwyn <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU36 Inkpen	SU46 Newbury	SU56 Thatcham	SU66 Burghfield Common	SU76 Shinfield	SU86 Crowthorne <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU96 Ascot	TQ06 Weybridge <b>EFB 1(2)</b>
SU25 Ludgershall	SU35 Hurstbourne Tarrant	SU45 Litchfield	SU55 Kingsclere <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU65 Basingstoke <b>EFB 1(1)</b>	SU75 Hook	SU85 Farnborough	SU95 West Guildford <b>EFB 1(4)</b>	TQ05

01/06/2001

In view of adverse weather conditions curtailing the number of brood inspections in May, the above chart shows an alarming picture.

The Editor has cartons and pre-paid labels for sending complete combs to the National Bee Unit. He and your secretary can also provide plastic containers to send suspect larvae for examination or, on application; one of the inspectors will send a box or plastic container

Your Regional Bee Inspectors are: -

Dr. Beulah Cullen. Hillingdon, Middlesex.  
South Eastern Region:- Mr. James Morton

Fax/Telephone number 01895 810469  
Fax/Telephone number 020 8571 6450

### Appointed Bee Inspectors:-

Mr. Julian Johnston. Oxfordshire & North West Berks: Telephone number 01993 850432  
Mr. David Purchase. Hampshire & South West Berkshire: Telephone number 01256 781288

## **BBKA Annual Delegate Meeting 2002.**

This will be held in January next year so we have to agree any propositions from Berks at the August Federation meeting. If you wish me to bring anything up please get an outline in to Sandra Napper by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, or discuss it with me, if you wish. We already have three tentative propositions which you might like to comment upon. Remember, it is only really practicable for a county to put up two propositions, so we will need to choose the two most beneficial to beekeeping as a whole.

1. In view of the ease and cheapness of communication by Email, Berks propose that the BBKA establish a list of contacts in each affiliated Association. These contacts to administer routine communication between the BBKA and Associations and also the distribution of the BBKA newsletter.
2. In view of the long timescale involved in the current ADM formal procedures Berks request the Executive to use its website to advance its policies and seek grass roots opinion
3. Berks require the Executive to cease accepting ADM propositions as policy without debate at the ADM or similar forums. This establishes an undemocratic practise of deciding policy without reference to the membership.

Bernhard Schumann, Berks delegate.

## **READING and DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a beautiful spring day, when about ten of us were the guests of Peter Kimber. I particularly liked the gazebo Peter has built in which he has installed his hives. This of course will allow him to examine his bees in wet weather as well as providing welcome shade from the hot sun.

His bees were a joy to work with and appeared not to resent our intrusion into their nursery. Most of the hives contained frames of nicely capped 'wall to wall' brood, and bodes well for their future development. However one had swarmed and several sealed queen cells were removed. I made a mistake in opening one of these whilst over the brood combs, and she nipped smartly out of sight down between the frames!

A couple of hives were pushing for more room although there were already two supers on each of them, and Peter had run out of supers. We did the next best thing and removed the second super from two that were less populous, after smoking them heavily first in an effort to disguise their odour to minimise any aggression they might receive.

The moral here is that it is recommended you should have at least three supers available for each colony you have. I must write a hundred lines, 'I must not open queen cells over an open hive!' Thank you Peter for allowing us to look at your bees, and your wife for providing us with cakes and drinks.

Our July meeting has been re-scheduled for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July and will be at Vicarage Cottage Mapledurham, courtesy of Tim Wittacker. Details from the Secretary.

Hon. Sec. Mr. R. Kiff, 114 Silverdale Rd, Earley, Reading RG6 7LU Tel. 0118 966 5358

## **SOUTH CHILTERN BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION**

A very interesting afternoon was spent at the home of Basil and Viola Crowe, the venue of our May meeting. Four colonies were inspected, queens marked, and a small swarm conveniently parked in a nearby tree was collected and dealt with. In the past, the Wallingford area has had its fair share of foulbrood but the position is now much improved and Viola's bees were in very good shape with no evidence of disease.

Our July meeting will take place at Cuxham near Watlington. We have been invited to visit the Apiary of Adrian Stanmore and as this is the first visit to Adrian's bees, we are all looking forward to see how he does it.

Hon. Secretary: - George Butler 0118 983 2735

## **SLOUGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY**

There is not much to report so far as the apiary is concerned. Having been unable to get along to see for myself because of either holidays or illness, I am told that the bees are doing their job well this year and bringing in plenty of honey and that all seems to have stabilised quite well now.

Nothing more has developed regarding the proposed practical demonstrations of queen rearing etc. due to lack of interest by our members. Only the usual one or two are attending the apiary visits, so the idea has been shelved for now. We can only hope that this means that everyone is kept busy tending their own bees and that the Honey Show scheduled for the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October will yet again be the roaring success it has been for the last two years!

The next apiary meetings at Fulmer are scheduled for the Sundays of 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July at 3pm. Your support at these would be much appreciated. Please call our Secretary, Michael Sheasby on 01753 642656 to find out more details.

Newsletter items: Joy Dodson Burnham (01628) 664091

## **WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

Due to foot and mouth disease restrictions there have been no apiary meetings so far this year. Meetings will resume when the restrictions are lifted. Now is the time to select entries for the Federation Family Event and Honey Show.

Hon. Joint Secretaries: Sylvia Smallbone & John Edwards 0118 934 0238

**Newsletter "Deadline":** - Contributions to arrive with the Editor by the First Post on the First of the Month for the Following Month.

To enable the Advertisement Manager to place adverts with the Editor for the 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**GET THE BEST DEALS LOCALLY** by ringing John Belcher on 0118 984 2321 for the full range of Thornes equipment. Most items are in stock and the rest just a phone call away. Apistan, together with other approved treatments at very competitive prices including the recently released Thymol based products, Apiguard, and Thymovar. Rendered beeswax in exchange for foundation.

**"Free to the first person** willing to collect from Shurlock Row, 7 WBC inner supers with most frames and some foundation, plus one empty brood chamber, all in good condition and ready for use. Bernhard Schumann, 01189 343501".