



South Chilterns Beekeepers Association

President: Ian Wootton

**The Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 20th October starting at 7.30pm at the Langtree Community Centre, Langtree School, Woodcote.
See Secretary's report.**

Newsletter No.22

October 2004

Forthcoming events:

National Honey Show
October 21st – 23rd
RAF Museum, Hendon

Spring Convention
16th April 2005
Stoneleigh Park

Apimondia Dublin 2005
21st – 26th August

www.apimondia2005.com

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In the Apiary, October

This year the June gap extended through most of July followed by the wettest August for many years. The result of this is that in many cases bees were starving, particularly the lighter Italian types of bee. Feeding can usually continue until mid October after which candy or fondant may be used.

My usual practice in the past has been to take my honey late (September) so that the bees have been able to take down what they need and pack it around the reduced brood nest. Normally I wintered the bees on a double brood chamber (beekeepers do nothing invariably); one chamber being replaced with new foundation each spring. Losses are unusual but not unknown. I have enough colonies that I can afford to take the occasional loss as part of a selection process to reduce genetically poor winterers. As I am now down-sizing and have difficulty managing large colonies I will have to re-assess my methods. Beekeepers with only a few hives may not wish to do this.

I was recently asked if left over Apiguard could be mixed with syrup. If it will mix, I see no objection; after all it used to be a common practice to mix thymol with late winter feed to avoid fermentation.

Only if the weather is ideal, make last inspections and decide which colonies require re-queening with a docile strain in the spring. A beekeeper should be able to work his bees four times out of five without gloves. Ideally the queens concerned should be marked to make them easier to find.

Check that hives are sound and weatherproof.

If Bayvarol or Apistan has been used, strips should be removed after six weeks, certainly not left in all winter. Apiguard left in should cause no problems. After all the Frakno method is successful and is still used by some beekeepers; research is still ongoing.

Before winter sets in, entrances should be reduced and mouse-guards put in place, also measures to deter woodpeckers using either wire netting or plastic sheet tied round the hives.

Ron Crocker

FROM THE SECRETARY

OCTOBER MEETING:

The first meeting of the winter programme will be the 23rd Annual General Meeting and will be held at the at Langtree Community Centre, Langtree School, Woodcote at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th October. The AGM is particularly important this year because a new Constitution and Rules have been drawn up by the Committee to be submitted to all members at the AGM for discussion and approval. Prior to the meeting all members will be circulated with a copy of the proposed Constitution and Rules.

Brian Carter

AUGUST MEETING

Normally we don't have an August meeting but this year at the request of some of our newer members your Committee arranged an extracting session at the home of Lynn Penfold at Littlewick Green.

John Westcar kindly agreed to act as demonstrator and to show his methods of extracting on a small scale. John does not uncap in the usual way using an uncapping knife but favours using an uncapping fork. I have a feeling that some of our members will be trying this out in the future. Thanks to Lynn for hosting the meeting.

George Butler

FROM THE EDITOR

Nominations needed for AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is this month. Nominations for Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary are required, particularly for Chairman and Treasurer also for Committee members. Most of the existing members have served longer than their allotted period. Nominations should ideally be in writing (with the permission of the nominee) and a seconder if possible, nominations to the Secretary. I am prepared to propose or second anyone that will volunteer. – Give me a ring! (01189 722315)

A copy of the proposed new constitution is enclosed with this newsletter for you to examine, note changes and propose amendments if necessary. For anyone that wants one, a copy of the existing constitution can be obtained from the Secretary or the Editor.

Disease

Questions have been raised as to why disease charts have not been published this season. It is expected that one will be available shortly; we should not rely on charts before we examine our bees. At the moment it is not known how we will proceed in the future. It is hoped that a new seasonal bees officer will be recruited for our area for next season. In the meantime be vigilant. We do not want a repetition of the problems we had in the '60's and '70's. We have one EFB apiary and one AFB apiary reported by John Vickery and Reg. Hook

Advertisements: Small advertisements free to members. Traders £1 per issue (up to five lines) additional lines 20p per line. Cheques to be made payable to South Chilterns BKA and forwarded to the Editor.

Wanted: Second hand solar wax extractor. Paul Moorcroft. 0118 9863743 (Not the number on the membership list.)

Beekeeper Downsizing Four colonies in Smith hives available, BS short lug frames, QX, ventilated floors, C/B, metal covered roofs. Local strain all aggression culled. £50 each O.N.O. 01491 574728

Wanted: Observation hive in reasonable condition. Paul Moorcroft. 0118 9863743

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