

BURTON AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter: June 2017

Issue: No 2

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The Bee Inspectors Visit... Editors Apiary

I was feeling fairly good about my bees, I'd spotted queen cells early enough to do a Pagden swarm on two of my colonies and I was feeling happy, except for my quiet and somewhat smaller colony being slow to build up. As I was particularly fond of the queen, I was worried it may have Nosema or another problem, but there were no clear signs. So, when I got a call from our local Bee Inspector, Noel Parker, asking to call round and check our bees, I was delighted. However, as popping over meant he had a 2 hour journey from Birmingham, the inspection started with a quick cup of tea.

The check was routine, following a case of EFB that we had suffered 2 years ago. I was a little nervous, even though I thought everything looked OK, and I hadn't moved any bees off my property since, I was looking at setting up my first out apiary and healthy bees were a must, so I was mightily relieved when the EFB test showed clear.

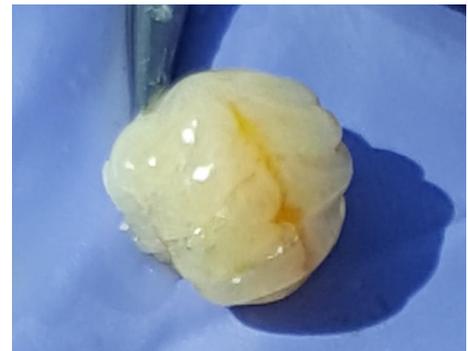


Clear EFB Text result.

Two blue lines would indicate EFB is present

Overall, my Bees were OK, the first colony had shown a very small amount of Bald brood, but Noel reassured me that this was so minor no treatment or action was necessary and the bees were dealing with it. More importantly, my smaller hive was fine, building up nicely and no signs of Nosema as I had feared.

However, as always when we get to talk to fellow keepers, especially inspectors, they are a mine of information, Noel kindly showed us how to also check our brood was healthy, good brood pattern, pearly white and curled up tight lava is a rule most of us know, but picking a grub out and looking for nicely segmented lava with a clean and defined creamy colour gut line is not something I had regularly done (See pic below)



The surprise of the visit was Noels detailed checking of my hive roofs and underside of the lids. I knew about Hive Beetle, but did not realize that, as I lived within 3 miles of an exotic bird and wildlife park, we were more at risk than most, due to food stuffs being imported to feed the animals & birds they kept. So the need for regular Hive Beetle checks was something I needed to be aware of. Needless to say, my weekly inspections will now have "double check for hive beetle" on the list.



CONGRATULATIONS

Well Done To

Victor Bridgett

for passing his BBKA Basic





Committee Members and contact details:-

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Newsletter Editor:	Penny Ward 07817500741 badbkanewsletter@gmail.com
Club President:	Ken Logue



Club Meeting Dates for your Diary

Our monthly meetings are held at:-	Meeting dates 2017
The Bowling Club Henhurst Hill, Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9TB	June Monday 19th
	July Monday 17th
	August Monday 21st
	September Monday 18th
	October Monday 16th
	November Monday 2nd
	December Monday 11th

Events Programme : March - August 2017

June: Sunday 11th 12 - 4.30pm	Farm Sunday, Stanton House Farm, Bridle Lane, Stanton, DE15 9TQ
August:: Saturday 19th	Ashbourne Show - all day. Burton BKA will have a display & sales stand.
August: 26th & September 9th please	Skep Making Day Course - £80 per person Organised by Mick Parker DBKA, For more information Contact Tel: 07806 598337 , Email: thebeeshed@gmail.com

B&D BKA news updates - Asian Hornet Watch

The 'Asian Hornet Watch' app is available to download on your mobile phone from the Apple and Android app stores. If you access our web page on your phone a link has been made available, courtesy of Nigel Collier, where you can download the apps on to your phone.



The Great Britain Non-native Species Secretariat is a joint venture between Defra, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government to tackle the threat of invasive species.

More information can be found on their website
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

Members of the public can also report sightings by email to:
alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk with a photo or by going on the Non-native Species Secretariat [website](#).

Details on the appearance of an Asian hornet can be found on [Bee Base guide](#) or the [non-native species identification guide](#).



Burton and District Bee Keepers Association - on Facebook

Favourite photos from our Facebook page. Remember it's easy to send a friends request and take part in our very own news, views, queries and answers facebook chat .

The more people who use it the better and more varied it will be.



One way to dispose of unwanted Drone Brood



A very particular swarm of Bees....
Must be a BEE MW!!

Honey Cooks Corner

Barbecue Spare ribs - Recipe by Roger Patterson



Ingredients

4 lb. Spareribs	1 cup honey
½ cup chopped onion	½ tsp salt
2 cloves garlic	1 tsp prepared mustard
1 ½ cup ketchup	½ tsp black pepper
2 Tbsp vinegar	2 Tbsp steak sauce

Method

Cut spare ribs in serving size portions. Simmer in enough water to cover, plus 1/2tsp salt for ½ hour. Mix remaining ingredients and cook over low heat for 5 - 7 minutes.

Drain liquid and place ribs in baking pan.

Pour sauce over ribs and bake at 400° oven for 40 - 45 minutes or until tender.

Baste every 10 minutes. Serves 6.

Honey Lamb Chops - Recipe by Roger Patterson

Ingredients

2 tbsp liquid honey	3 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
2 tbsp soft brown sugar	2 tbsp cornflour
Zest of 1 orange, plus 2 tbsp juice	2 tbsp Lamb Seasoning
8 lamb chops	



Method

Mix together the ingredients for basting sauce. Paint the sauce onto both sides of the chops. Grill or barbecue, basting and turning frequently for about 15 - 20 minutes, or until cooked.



Library Books

Our Association library, managed by Sue Coates, is available at every monthly meeting. We have a wide range of light reading and reference books available, free for loan for members, including many of the reference books highlighted by the BBKA for use by members whilst studying for the BBKA modules. Book loan is usually arranged on a one month basis, however, longer loans can be arranged with Sue if required. We also have a good supply of back copies of BBKA newsletter, always a useful read and source of information for our newer members. We do try to keep our library well stocked, but we are always grateful for any donations of books towards our collection, so if you have any gathering dust you would like to donate to us or just share with our members please see Sue. Can we also remind anyone who has a book, even on extended loan to remember to return it to Sue and help us continue to provide this valuable resource service.



Spotlight on a Member - Ken Logue—B&D BKA President

Ken Logue is Burton and District Beekeepers Association Club president and the club's longest standing member. His spotlight story tells of how he started out as a Bee keeper more than 50 years ago. In 1965 I was living in Scarborough, one summer evening a work colleague told me about his bees, I showed a little interest and asked a few questions and I was assured my new garden would be big enough for a hive or two. "I'll find you a swarm and get you started" said Reg, and a few weeks later my colleague came to work with a cardboard box with some frames of bees, "but I don't have a hive!" I said, to which he replied "We have one made in the work shop out of a packing case" So I went home on the bus, on my own, with a homemade flat pack hive in a poly bag and a cardboard box of Bees!



And that was how I started.

In April 1966 I moved my Bees from Scarborough to Repton, the journey was undertaken overnight in my Hillman Minx My car which was too small to fit the hive inside, so I removed the lid off the boot!. I travelled overnight as I had to go straight to work at Pirelli the next morning and so had to leave my car, complete with Bees and no boot lid in the staff car park. Needless to say, I had to park at the far end of the car park in the corner and my car was coned off ! - but the bees were happy enough, coming and going from their temporary home for the day. After that bees then stayed with a kind neighbour who agreed to let me put my hive in her garden for a week or two , this ended up being for almost a year but she didn't mind and was happy with a few jars of honey for her kindness. Later on we got a house in Rolleston on Station Road and the bees moved there with us. Don Saunders, our late treasurer, lived a few doors away and saw I had a bee hive in the garden, so he called on us. We became friends and I soon became a member of the Burton Branch of the Derby Beekeepers Association. At this time there were about 70 members and many of them were miners or ex miners.

Where do I live?

Bretby

What are my other interests?

I have enjoyed sailing with my wife for many years and have sailed to France, Belgium, Holland as well as up the Thames. We have a boat we keep in Essex and still enjoy time on it with our children and grandchildren.

How many hives do I have?

Currently I have two hives but have had up to five

One thing on my wish list?

I would like to visit my niece in Nova Scotia, Canada

One thing I hate?

Nothing really. But my wife has never liked honey.



Useful websites:-

DAVE CUSHMAN

www.dave-cushman.net

ROGER PATTERSON

Honey recipes

www.honeyrecipes.org.uk

BEE CONNECTED

beeconnected.org.au

BEE BASE

www.nationalbeeunit.com

<https://bibba.com>

BURTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

burtonbka.org.uk

Events Feedback:-

March Meeting.

On 20th March Club members were treated to an excellent talk on Swarm control, given by Master Beekeeper Julian Routh. The talk included a slide show which gave details on what signs to look for during hive inspections, selection of a good queen cell, and colony health. Julian then gave instruction on several methods of swarm prevention and control, advising on what you can do if you have limited space with the Demaree method, as well as looking at variations on the more widely used Pagden method. He advised on making the most of working with the bees natural instinct to reproduce and swarm, highlighting the need for regular observation and timing as the key to successful swarm control. The talk concluded with a short questions and answer session, after which Julian was thanked by the committee for his presentation.

April Meeting.

Aprils meeting was a fascinating talk given by Celia Davis and we extended a warm welcome to keepers from many other clubs including North staffs, Derby, Leicester, and Nottingham. Celia highlighted "planning" as key to successful swarm control, and to have considered the How, What, Where and Why of the action before the need arises. She also talked about Hive maintenance, looking at the Bailey Comb change method and 3 yearly comb replacement, explaining methods of hive hygiene ranging from the daily basics of using washing soda to annual use of blow torch sterilization and how, when and where to best use acetic acid. As a light hearted end to her talk she pointed to her latest book " The Honey Bee Around and About" as a reference book which included in depth information on the topics she had talked about during the evening. Every one thanked Celia for her talk and agreed the evening was most informative and enjoyed by all those who attended.

May Meeting

This months talk was on a topic that was very much in the minds of many of our clubs members at this time of year. Bees Nucleus' or Nuc as we often call them. Those who attended were treated to an informative talk on Nuc , from when and how to prepare or create a Nucleus of Bees, what it must contain and what types of Nuc hives were available to information on the benefits of using them to support current colonies, a queen breeding programme., or simply as a starter colony to increase your hive numbers. The Talk also tied in well with those club members who are taking Module one on BBKA course and whose last meeting included identifying the 15 possible uses for a nucleus of Bees.



Education & BBKA Modules



Study group report by Suzanne King

Currently the Burton association is running 2 study groups. One for module 1 and one for module 2. Hopefully as beekeepers progress we can have more study groups running concurrently possibly for all 8 modules even, as we can encourage people to facilitate the module they have recently studied.

Personally I see the study of the modules as a way to increase my knowledge, and with that, my confidence of bees and beekeeping. There are areas I wouldn't have thought of studying if it weren't for the syllabus and exam questions attached. The exam in itself is almost irrelevant, but it's useful to have a goal and deadline. The exams take place in March and November, but you do not have to want to take the exam in order to join the study group and further your learning.

The study groups take the form of small informal groups with a facilitator. We meet roughly monthly having hopefully covered a set section of the syllabus which is then discussed. The discussion is useful to clarify and share knowledge. Once the syllabus has been covered we turn to exam questions. Hopefully by the exam date we are well prepared.

The groups are a safe place to share, discuss and ask any questions. It's not only a pleasant way to gain knowledge, but also get to know fellow beeks, and discuss other beekeeping problems we may currently have. Going off topic is expected and useful, and often involves a fair bit of laughing (as my children have commented on).

If you should be interested in joining one of the groups in the future, please speak to myself or Dave or indeed any of the committee. Details of the various modules can be found on the BBKA website.



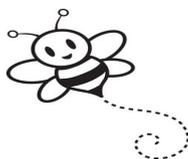
Ever wondered.....what the Queen said ?

WHAT THE BEE-KEEPER SAID...

My stocks this year are sound and strong,
In fact I think I shan't be wrong
In hoping I may take 'ere long
Two hundred pounds of honey.
What's that? A swarm! Oh, how insane!
Which hive? What! That one swarmed again?
It's quite enough to turn one's brain
And yet - it's very funny -
I could have sworn I'd killed their queen.
Either, how dense I must have been,
Or else, whatever can they mean?
Hello! Here comes the rain!
Shall I be scored off by a bee?
I'll put them back and make them see
They've got to do what pleases me.
(Next day) Great Scot! they're out again !

WHAT THE QUEEN BEE SAID...

Two new queens out? Why, then, I fear
There won't be room for me in here:
Go out, and seek a lodging near,
Then all fill up with honey.
Last night our master paid a call.
And turned us over, great and small,
Then killed the largest drone of all!
With lots of ceremony.
I'm sure he has some deep-laid plot
So swarm while yet the weather's hot,
For who can tell, if we do not,
We shall not all be slain?
Well, here's a door, so in we go
What? Our old hive! Not if I know!
Shall this mere man coerce us so?
Out, bees, and swarm again!



British Bee Journal 1908 via ebees