



BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Updates from Suzanne

November Exams

If there are any beekeepers wanting to take module theory exams in November, the closing date for entries is 30th September.

Entrance requests should be made to Suzanne via email suzanne.king21@btinternet.com and you will receive a link to the entrance form by email.

Theory exams can either be taken online or hand-written as previously. A few Burton candidates took exams online in April and found it well run and set up. The only challenge is finding a quiet place in the house away from noisy family and pets!

Honey Show Reminder

The dates for the Burton Honey Show are 9th and 10th October.

Entry forms will be sent to you by Sam with the next mailing.

Completed entry forms need to be with Suzanne by Friday 1st October and show entries delivered to Cooper's Square between 9:00 and 9:30am on Saturday 9th unless otherwise discussed. Judging will commence at 10am. §



Message from Chesterfield BKA

We received this message from Kathy Warren, Secretary of the Chesterfield and District Beekeepers' Association:

One of our members has had kit stolen from a farm location in the Chesterfield area comprising two National hives with double broods and stands, and two nucs, all with bees, plus a bait hive. They were last inspected four weeks ago and all brood boxes, floors and roofs are branded 'ABM'.

We would be very grateful if you could spread the word and let me know if anyone should be offered them to buy, or see any of the kit advertised anywhere.

Your own members should also be vigilant on their own hives. There are obviously some unscrupulous beekeepers/thieves around!! Sad days. §

Hygiene in the Training Apiary

As with the care of all livestock, hygiene and disease prevention is an important part of beekeeping husbandry. Every beekeeper should be aware of good hygiene practices in their own apiaries. Hygiene and disease prevention are even more important where more than one beekeeper is using an apiary and may visit several apiaries. It is known that the beekeeper is the greatest culprit in disease transmission from colony to colony and apiary to apiary.

Once a disease, for example European Foulbrood (EFB), has entered an apiary, it may take many years to eradicate it, with standstills of hive products and colonies, loss of colonies and poor honey crops along the way. If this is a training apiary, many other apiaries could be infected as the beekeepers carry infection from one site to another unless hygiene is strictly adhered to. Even the lesser diseases cause stress to a bee colony which in turn make it more susceptible to other diseases.

To help protect our training apiary at the Stretton RSPCA site from disease, we have started to put together a set of safety measures for all who visit to follow. A full and detailed policy is being drawn up and the guidelines here may be added to and updated once the full policy is agreed. The full policy will eventually be available on the website.

Personal protection

Beesuits should be washed prior to visiting the apiary. Most beesuits can be washed in a domestic washing

machine at 40°C. Adding a scoop of soda crystals helps to remove propolis. Fencing veils can be zipped up in the body of the beesuit, or stuffed down a sleeve.

Gloves should be worn which can be washed between hives. Washing up gloves are ideal as they are easily washed in soda solution between inspections. Washable gloves are preferable to disposable gloves to reduce our impact on waste materials. Leather gloves should not be worn unless under a pair of washable gloves. Leather gauntlets harbour disease as well as sting venom and alarm pheromones.

Boots should also be cleaned in soda solution and rinsed off between apiaries as these, too, can carry infection into an apiary.

Equipment

Smokers and Hive Tools

We have three smokers and two hive tools available specifically for use at the training apiary. These should remain in the apiary and not be used elsewhere. They should be scrubbed in soda solution between hives when gloves are being washed. Tools are kept in the soda solution box between inspections.

Soda solution made with 1 part soda crystals to 5 parts water is antiseptic due to its strong alkali property (~pH13). Skin and eye contact should be avoided. In case of accidental contact wash out with plenty of water.

To be continued in the October newsletter

Congratulations!

Several Burton members have achieved BBKA modules and practical assessments:

Rob Boswell	M1 & Basic Assessment
Nigel Collier	M7
Suzanne King	M8 & General Husbandry
Jane Ratcliffe	M3
Chris Ring	General Husbandry

Forthcoming Events

20th September

Meeting of the Burton & District BKA, at the Henhurst Club, Henhurst Hill, Burton DE13 9TB. Starts at 7.30 pm and ends around 9 pm. Books are available to borrow.

9th & 10th October

Burton & District BKA Honey Show

at Coopers Square, 19 St Modwens Walk, Burton DE14 1HL

To Do List for September

- Complete your honey harvesting
- Return sticky super frames and cappings wax above a crown board in the evenings for your bees to lick clean
- Collect them after a few days and store them
- Assess the stores available for winter. If less than about 40 pounds (20 kilos) per colony, feed syrup or fondant.

Bee or not (to) Bees?



This photo (above) was taken and sent to us by Liz Ratcliffe, one of our new beekeepers. We suspect it is a propolised bumble bee who died whilst stealing nectar from the honeybees.



Strange bee-like insect

I have not received any replies identifying the above insect. I suspect it is a Pellucid hoverfly *Volucella pellucens*. It is one of the largest flies in Britain, so named because of its translucent middle section. Its larvae live in the nests of wasps and bumblebees, eating waste products and bee larvae. As an adult, it favours bramble and umbellifer flowers.

– editor

Who's Who

<i>vacancy</i>	<i>Club Secretary</i>		
Sam Hampton (temporary)	Membership Secretary	<i>sam.hampton@btinternet.com</i>	
Bob Hurd	President	<i>pat90bob@gmail.com</i>	
David Coates	Chair	<i>dave.coates32@gmail.com</i>	01283 713603
Suzanne King	Education and Training Secretary Honey Show Secretary	<i>suzanne.king21@btinternet.com</i>	
Sam Hampton	Treasurer	<i>sam.hampton@btinternet.com</i>	
Sue Coates	Librarian	<i>susan_coates@talktalk.net</i>	
Hamish Low	Asian Hornet Team (AHT) leader	<i>hamish51151@gmail.com</i>	
Sheila Pirie Jane Ratcliffe M Baker	Committee members	<i>smpirie@hotmail.co.uk</i>	
Richard Matkin N Alsop M Schumskij Sarah Winfield Graham Blues		<i>richjomatkin@btinternet.com</i>	01283 812958
Chris Ring	Website Editor	<i>ChrisDRing@outlook.com</i>	
Sarah Winfield Margaret Cowley	Minutes Secretary Newsletter Editor	<i>newsletter@honeybee.org.uk</i>	
Trustees	Bob Hurd David Coates S Hampton S King H Low R Matkin Graham Blues	Volunteers	C Ring P Yates R Wykes R Harrison I McMillen