



BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Training Apiary Update

Richard Matkin (Committee Member, Burton & District BKA)

At the RSPCA site our Training Apiary is looking really good. We now have eight occupied hives or nucleus boxes on site, all of which are doing well. There is an empty WBC which Hamish has restored, and we have purchased both a long hive and a top-bar hive to demonstrate the various options for keeping bees.

All the fruit trees, both those around the perimeter fence and the step-over trees, are coming into bloom. Areas of the surrounding field have been scarified and sown with wild flower seeds, so with any luck we should have a wonderful display in summer. Our thanks go to Suzanne and all who have helped with the gardening.

The shop is doing well and is open from 10.00 am until noon each Saturday.

Finally, some excellent news: Following some hard work by Hamish Lowe, we have been granted £7640 by the J & O Lloyd organisation towards the purchase of the proposed classroom building.



Well done Hamish.

It is our intention, when we are 'back to normal', to have an open day to invite the RSPCA and all those organisations who have kindly made donations, so that they can see what we have achieved. §

Mated Queens and Nucleus colonies available to order

Sam Hampton, Acting Membership Secretary

I am expecting to have a number of established nucleus colonies and, hopefully, also mated queens for sale in July. These nucs and queens are currently being reared from the best of my own bees, a couple of Margaret Cowley's best queens and one very nice queen from Christian Murray-Leslie's apiary.

The price will be £100 for a nuc and £35 for a mated queen. All sale proceeds will go to the training apiary fund. These bees are only available at this price to members of Burton and District Beekeepers' Association.

What you will get

You will be buying a 5 or 6 frame nucleus colony on National frames with a marked queen (not clipped). They will have been carefully monitored for varroa mites and other diseases prior to delivery. If you want the queen clipped I can do this, for a small charge.

Order Soon

The weather hasn't been brilliant for queen rearing so far this year so numbers will be limited. On this basis I will be taking orders by email to ***sam.hampton@btinternet.com*** and the early birds will stand the best chance of success.

Delivery

Delivery will be in July, but this will depend on the weather. You can either collect them from my house (DE12 6BJ) in a Correx box for an additional £10.00 or I can deliver them to you using my own travelling

box for a small fee to cover mileage.

Alternatively I can supply them in a good quality expanded polystyrene nucleus box (BS type, which I prefer) for an additional £41.00.

If you are buying a mated queen only, this will very likely be posted in a Butler type cage with a number of worker attendants. §

Bees For Sale Keith and Jude Thomas

Over the next few weeks, we will have several nucleus colonies and full-size colonies for sale. They are all good-natured bees with young queens. The price is for the bees and the frames. Nucleus colonies can be supplied in a returnable box. Or the buyer could bring their own nuc box to put them in.

For full-sized colonies, the buyer would need to bring their own empty hive (including a dummy board) in advance for us to transfer the bees and frames into.

We use British Standard brood frames which fit National hives. They will be available in early summer. Please email (judet@btinternet.com) or ring (07879 836790) to discuss the options which suit you best.

We would like to sell to people who are experienced beekeepers, or have been or are about to go on a course, or who have an experienced mentor.

We suggest £180 for a nucleus colony or £200 for a full-size colony. §

The Burton Honey Show

The 2021 Burton and District BKA Honey Show has been booked!

Covid guidelines permitting, we will hold our annual honey show in Cooper's Square, Burton on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th October 2021.

Our entries will be scrutinized and places awarded by the honey show judge David Shannon on the Saturday morning. The display stays until the Sunday evening for all to view. There are some really impressive cups to take home to adorn your sideboard and occasional tables.

There are many categories, from honeys of all shades, frames of honey, cut comb, mead, candles and wax blocks and cakes and so on (see the next page for the complete schedule). There is also a novelty category, not necessarily containing any honey bee products, but to stimulate the interest of the general public as to the importance and fascination of the honey bee.

What we need is your entries (don't worry, not yet) to make a good honey show! Show us what you, and your bees, can do. It is a good learning curve to see just how meticulous you can be with the presentation of the products from the hive. Don't worry if you are just starting out, there is a novice class for honeys of all types and also a junior class for the under 18s. But it is not unheard of for a relative beginner to win some of the main classes. Everyone has a chance. Even if you do not have bees, or bees that won't produce a crop this year, you can still enter the novelty class or the cake classes – the honey in the cakes does not necessarily have to be from your own bees.

The honey show is also a chance to engage with the local community of Burton and promote not only the care and importance of the honey bee but of all pollinators. The interest in nature, and bees in particular, has increased hugely over the lockdown period, the association having had many enquires via our website. The public are always keen to ask about bees but also how to grow appropriate forage in their gardens.

We can educate about avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides and it is a good opportunity to show pictures of the Asian Hornet and make the general public aware of this potentially devastating invader to the UK. If you fancy chatting to the public for an hour or two over the weekend please feel free to come and join the stall. Nearer the time, we will be asking for help setting up and manning the stall.

So, consider putting aside any nice jars of honey, or that perfect frame of honey, and maybe practise making one of the honey cakes as a treat for the rest of the family. §



Items available to buy from the association shop:

HIVE PARTS:	
NATIONAL SUPER FLAT PACK	£19.50
NATIONAL BROOD FLAT PACK	£24
14 X 12 BROOD FLAT PACK	£35
4" ROOF FLAT PACK	£36
CROWN BOARD	£13.50
FRAMED WIRE QUEEN EXCLUDER	£18
MESH FLOOR	£32
BUDGET OPEN MESH FLOOR	£16
SLOPING HIVE STAND	£27
PLASTIC NARROW ENDS	£6.50
NUCLEUS HIVE	£82.85
FLAT PACK HIVE, STAND & ONE SUPER	£235
10 SPACE CASTELLATIONS (PAIR)	£3.44
11 SPACE CASTELLATIONS (PAIR)	£3.44
STEEL FRAME RUNNERS – PAIR	£1.60

FRAMES & WAX:

SN4 SUPER FRAMES 10 PACK	£10
SN4 SUPER FRAMES 50 PACK	£33.00
DN4 BROOD FRAMES 10 PACK	£10.00
DN4 BROOD FRAMES 50 PACK	£33.00
14 X 12 BROOD FRAMES 10 PACK	£16.24
SUPER WAX FOUNDATION 10 PACK	£8.00
BROOD WAX FOUNDATION 10 PACK	£11.50
14 X 12 BROOD WAX 10 PACK	£18.00
NATIONAL DUMMY BOARD (PLASTIC)	£7.50
NATIONAL DUMMY BOARD (WOOD)	£7.00

QUEEN MARKING:

CROWN OF THORNS	£6.00
QUEEN CLIP	£4.50
MARKER PENS - ASSORTED COLOURS	£5.00
BEE BRUSH	£4.00

FEEDERS & FEEDING:

ENGLISH FEEDER	£9.50
RAPID FEEDER	£4.50
NUC FEEDER	£6

SMALL MILLER TYPE FEEDER	£1.00
FEEDER EKE	£7.00

HONEY & WAX EXTRACTING:

STAINLESS STEEL DOUBLE STRAINER	£21.00
STRAINING CLOTH	£3.50
30 LB PLASTIC BUCKET	£3.50
BAIN MARIE	£14
NYLON HONEY BUCKET VALVE	£8.50
30LB PLASTIC TAP BUCKET	£15.00

GENERAL BEEKEEPING:

SMOKER	£35.80
HIVE STRAPS	£6.50
HIVE TOOL	£7.00
PIN HAMMER	£3.50
BEE DISEASE ID CHARTS	£6.00
FRAME NAILS 500G	£2.88
POLLEN ID CHARTS	£6.00

Shop Update

The shop will be open every Saturday from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

We will not be opening on Wednesday night until the demand for equipment increases. If you would like to purchase equipment, please contact Dave to check if the items you seek are in stock. Please bring your own buckets if you would like to buy sugar.

Dave's email : dave.coates32@gmail.com
Phone number : 07721 646274

The address is:
Hillfield Animal Shelter.
Hillfield Lane.
Stretton.
Staffordshire.
DE13 0BN