



BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Page 1

October 2018

Issue No 10

Inside this issue

Winter Pressure	1
Who's Who	2
Diary Dates & Events Programme	
Pig Race Fund Raiser	3
Ged Marshall	4
Membership Renewal	&
Twelve Golden Rules	5
Honey Show Feed back	6
Spring Convention & Education	7
The Bee Keepers Year	8 & 9
Happy New Year	

Winter Pressure.

I'm sure we've all had our colonies tucked up, well fed and safe for winter and we're all enjoying a few months off from bee keeping! But this year is not a year to rest on your laurels, the mild, late start to winter has meant that the bees are still quite active, many colonies have already used up a large portion of their winter stores and may not have enough to last a harsh or late spring. Do remember to keep checking your hives, heft them to see if they are light and if in doubt, feed fondant to ensure your bees don't go hungry. This is also a good time of year to double check your hive stands for rot and ensure they are sturdy enough. Keep an eye out for signs of woodpecker damage and mesh cover your hives if there is a risk, check for possible damage from falling branches and strap your hives if they are exposed to animals/livestock or strong cross winds. However, remember winter is not a good time to move your hives, disturbing the cluster can be fatal to a colony at this time.

As spring approaches, this is the key time to start making traps and keeping an eye out for Asian Hornet Queens that have overwintered. Make spare traps, be prepared and have bait ready, choose the best sight in your area where the traps can be regularly checked and be ready to monitor your apiary. Every Queen we can stop now is a colony less to breed later in the year, and all reports help us to map the hornets range and spread throughout Britain. If in doubt over any finds, speak with our AHT team who will help



identify and specimens caught. The picture shown of an Asian Hornet on fish taken was at a Bordeaux market fish stall by David Crutchley.

All this aside, enjoy the free time to get creative, melt down your spare wax, make some candles or polish, design your new jar labels for next year, or get building that new hive you were bought at Christmas and remember to make sure your club membership and insurance has been renewed. Happy New Year

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Shelia Pirie	
Hamish Low	
Kathy Shaw	
Kevin Shaw	
Nigel Collier	

Club Meeting Dates for your Diary 2018

Henhurst & District Recreational Club
Henhurst Hill,
Burton-On-Trent,
Staffordshire,
DE13 9TB



Events Programme : January 2019

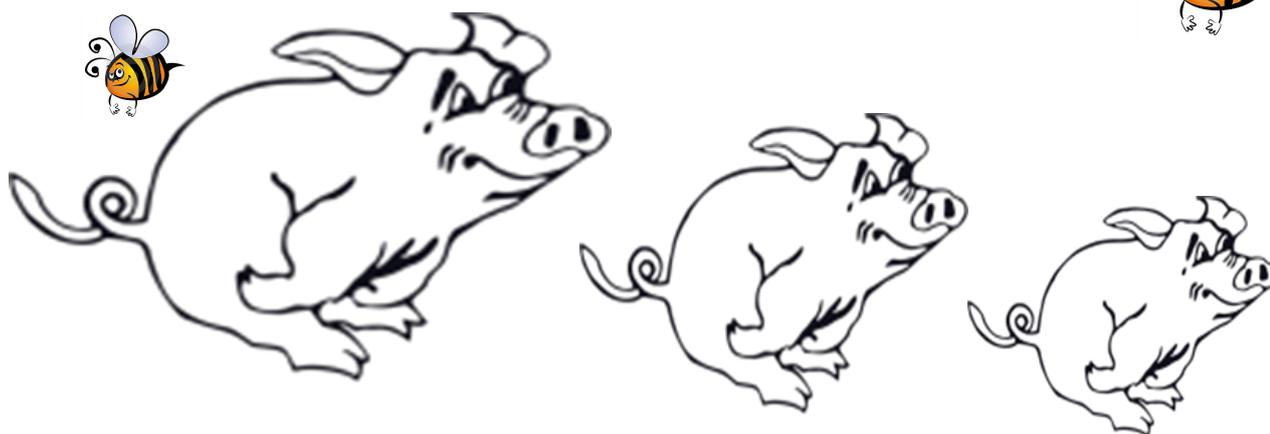
DATE	TOPIC
21st January	First meeting of the Year
18th February	AGM





BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

PROUDLY PRESENT A



PIG RACE NIGHT

with Pie & Pea Supper

at

Hanbury Village Hall

on

Saturday 2nd February 2019



Bring your own Drink

Tickets :- £9 adults £7 Children under 12 years.

Available to order from your committee and

collect at Januarys meeting. **SORRY SOLD OUT**





Events Feed back

November Meeting Feed Back.

Queen Rearing - Talk by Ged Marshall,

Part of Ged's business is rearing and selling queens , his talk and slide show was about queen rearing for small beekeeper's like ourselves . He particularly concentrated on the grafting of eggs for production of queens, giving tips on what to look for , the right size and age of the egg needed, the tools to use and the average percentage of success. He also covered the less easy to control area of drone selection, area saturation and cross breeding as well as the traits to look for, such as good temperament and brood production when selecting Queens for rearing from.

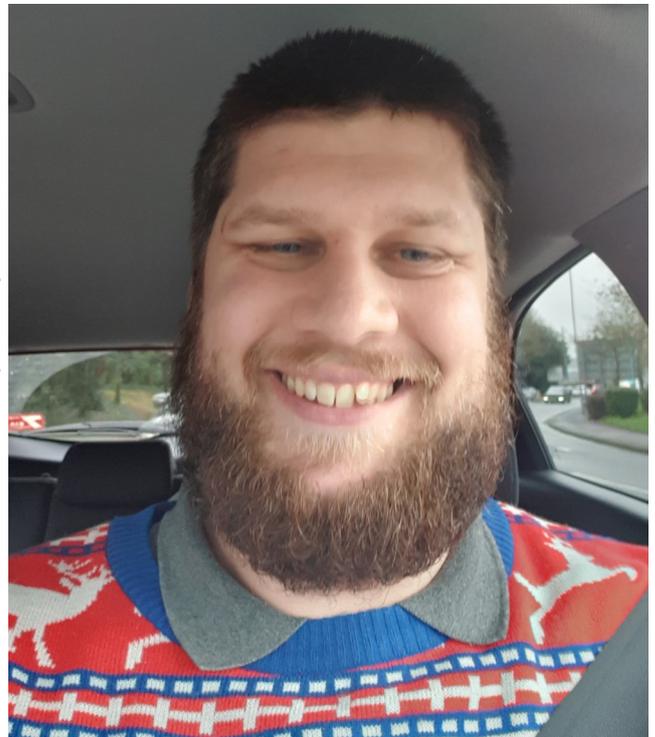
Membership Renewal.

Please remember that your annual Burton & District BKA membership renewals were due by December 31st. You should all have received an e-mail inviting you to renew, all you have to do is follow the link to renew your membership on line . If you have any queries regarding your renewal or what your membership includes, please contact our new membership secretary Francis Oldfield.

Phone: 07452834828

E-mail francis.oldfield@gmail.com

Remember if you let your membership lapse you will not be covered by BDI



SUGAR for SYRUP

If you need any icing sugar for making fondant for a winter feed, or sugar for Spring feeding, please contact Dave Coates or Alan Ambler, who will be only too happy to supply you with Sugar at just £3 per 10 kilo bucket, or Icing sugar at £2 a kilo bag. You can bring your empty food grade buckets to our monthly meetings to pass onto Dave.



Twelve Golden Rules

1 Smoke the hives before opening them

Using the smoker is an absolute must if you are going to be opening the hive (where any frames are exposed). Lifting the top cover to inspect the feeder or refill syrup does not qualify as "opening the hive".

2 Approach the hives from the back or the side

Guard bees stand at the entrance of the hive, watching for intruders. Don't give them an opportunity to put the colony on alert. Always approach the hive from the behind or the side and do all your work there – never from the front, except for a brief entrance examination in lieu of opening the hive.

3 Don't stand in the bees' flight path

Honeybees don't appreciate running into unexpected objects in their flight path. If they run into you, they may well be more prone to sting. (see Rule 2)

4 Move steadily and smoothly

You should always avoid sudden, jerky movements when you are close to the hive. Bees are especially good at noticing movement and vibration. If you move around steadily and smoothly while you are in the apiary, you will not attract their attention.

5 Avoid any strong or unnatural odours

Bees are especially sensitive to smell - their sense of smell is critical to the operation and social structure of the colony and to their ability to detect nectar sources. Thus, they will easily pick up strong, foreign odours near the hive.

6 Dress properly for the job

Various jobs call for different dress. Opening the hive requires you to wear your bee-suit. If you have defensive bees, you may also want to wear your gloves. But just performing a periodic inspection of the exterior of the hive or refilling syrup should not require putting on your entire garb.

7 Maintain a firm grip on everything

Never drop any hive components and don't drop anything on or into the hive. When you are working the hive, try to avoid wearing gloves unless the bees are especially irritable that day. You can maintain a much better grip with your bare hands. If you have ill-tempered bees and must wear gloves, take extra care to ensure you are holding things securely, especially the frames.

8 Never bump the hive

Maintain a slight gap between your body and the hive. This practice and keeping the apiary free from clutter, means you don't trip on things and ensures you will not bump the hive and so alert the bees.

9 Keep the apiary clean

Whoever said: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" never mowed, trimmed and cleaned an apiary on a hot summers' day while wearing a bee-suit! Nevertheless, keeping your apiary clutter free, both at your feet and your head, pays dividends in convenience, safety and comfort each time you visit your bees.

10 Don't open the hives unless you need to do so

One of the most fundamental practices (which also ensures the best honey production and the most docile bees) is to absolutely minimise the number of times you open up your hives.

11 Only open the hives early or in good weather

Never attempt to open a hive when a storm or cold-front is imminent and never open a hive in the evening, when it is becoming dark, or at night. Bees are especially defensive at these times and the foragers are also coming back into the hive before bad weather or nightfall. It is very likely that you will be greeted with stinging bees. Just don't do it.

12 Watch the bees' behaviour and react accordingly

Your goal in the apiary is that you seem invisible to the bees and they act as if they don't even notice you. Of course, they will notice you when you open the hive but if you properly apply smoke first and follow these rules of apiary etiquette, they will first be preoccupied with engorging on honey and then they will be too docile to care under most circumstances. Monitoring the bees' behaviour will ensure your safety and the success of your apiary visit. Twelve Golden Rules of Apiary Behaviour

Honey Show feed back



Those of you who submit entries to our annual Honey show know that you either pay an entrance fee or donate jar of Honey to the gift class. But what happens to our “ Gift Jar” ?

Each year, our show secretary, Cath Ambler ensures that the proceeds from the entries go to a local charity, St Giles Hospice. Below is a copy of their letter of thanks for our donation this year and our ongoing support. It's good to know that as a group we are also able to support such a good cause in this way.

So let's try and make 2019 a bumper year for both them and us.....get inventive....start making your show candles, practicing your cake baking and perfecting that mead, and who knows this year could be the best ever for Honey.

Spring Convention 2019

Volunteer Stewards required for the 2019 Spring Convention

A great opportunity for those wanting a more involved role at this year Spring Convention

The following is a reminder of an e-mail circulated by Dave Coates at the end of last year.

Planning for the Spring Convention continues, can you volunteer your time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday 12, 13 or 14 April at the 2019 Spring Convention as a steward? You would have three days' free entry to the Convention. You would also have some free time each day depending on your rota and you'll be recompensed to the value of a lunch voucher and £20 each day. Tasks could include activities like stewarding parking, reception, trade show or lecture buildings. If you are interested please contact conventionstewards@gmail.com by 15 February.



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



One-day Course for Beekeepers, Providing a Practical Approach to Coping with Swarming Saturday 30th March 2019

Does the prospect of your bees swarming fill you with dread?

Are you confused by the different types of Queen cell?

Do you just take down Queen cells and hope?

This one-day course is intended for early-stage beekeepers who would like to better understand what is going on within their hives and learn some practical methods for dealing with swarming preparations.

The topics covered will include:

- ◆ Why do colonies swarm?
- ◆ How to attempt to prevent the colony from feeling the need to swarm.
- ◆ How to recognise the signs that swarming preparations are underway.
- ◆ Practical methods for turning off the swarming instinct (fooling the bees into thinking that they have already swarmed).
- ◆ Collecting a swarm.

Time: 09:30 for 10:00 until ~16:00

Venue: Walton Village Hall, Kimcote Road, Walton, Lutterworth,
Leicestershire, LE17 5RR – ample free parking

Catering: Tea, coffee, biscuits and home-made cake available to purchase throughout the day. Bring your own packed lunch.

Raffle: We will be holding a raffle with some fabulous prizes

Registration: E-mail treasurer@lrbka.org with your name, postcode and preferred email address, together with the names of anyone else who will be attending with you and for whom you will be paying.

Payment details will be supplied by e-mail. Price £23.50 per person.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Founded in 1882
Walnut Lodge Park Lane Walton Leicestershire LE17 5RQ Charity No 1163520 A



THE BEEKEEPER'S YEAR

This is a suggested checklist of activities for the beekeeper. Note that weather, climate, neighbourhood and even the type of bees you have will influence such activities. The list gives you an overview of what's going on each month in the hive. It also suggests some important tasks for the beekeeper, and provides a rough estimate of the amount of time you might spend with your bees during a given month.

January

The Bees. The queen is surrounded by thousands of her workers. She is in the midst of their winter cluster. There is little activity except on a warm day (about 45-50 degrees) when the workers will take the opportunity to make cleansing flights. There are no drones in the hive, but some worker brood will begin to appear in the hive. The bees will consume about 25 pounds of stored honey this month.

The Beekeeper. Little work is required from you at the hives. If there is heavy snow, make certain the entrance to the hive is cleared to allow for proper ventilation. If a January thaw presents itself (in January or February) you provide supplemental, emergency food for the bees such as fondant (on the top bars) or granulated sugar (on the inner cover). This is a great time to catch up on your reading about bees, attend bee club meetings, and build and repair equipment for next season. Order package bees (if needed) from a reputable supplier.

Time Spent. Estimate less than an hour.

February

The Bees. The queen, still cosy in the cluster, will begin to lay a few more eggs each day. It is still "females only" in the hive. Workers will take cleansing flights on mild days. The bees will consume about 25 pounds of honey this month.

The Beekeeper. There is not too much to do this month. Attend those bee club meetings. Read. Attend bee club meetings, and get your equipment ready for spring.

Time Spent. Estimate less than one hour.

March

The Bees. This is the month when colonies can die of starvation. However, if you fed them plenty of sugar syrup in the autumn this should not happen. With the days growing longer, the queen steadily increases her rate of egg laying. More brood means more food consumed. The drones begin to appear. The bees will continue to consume honey stores.

The Beekeeper. Early in the month, on a nice mild day, and when there is no wind and bees are flying, you can have a quick peek inside your hive. It's best not to remove the frames. Just have a look-see under the cover. If you do not see any sealed honey in the top frames, you may need to provide some emergency food (fondant or granulated sugar if cold temps prevail, syrup if the weather is mild). But remember, once you start, you should not stop until they are bringing in their own food supplies. If you are going to do a spring Varroa mite treatment, now (or soon) is the time to start its application.

Time Spent. Estimate 2 hours this month.

April

The Bees. The weather begins to improve, and the early blossoms begin to appear. The bees begin to bring pollen into the hive. The queen is busily laying eggs, and the population is growing fast. The drones will begin to appear.

The Beekeeper. On a warm and still day do your first comprehensive inspection. Can you find evidence of the queen? Are there plenty of eggs and brood? Is there a nice pattern to her egg laying? Later in the month, on a very mild and windless day, you should consider reversing the hive bodies. This will allow for a better distribution of brood, and stimulate the growth of the colony. You can begin to feed the hive medicated syrup.

Time Spent. Estimate 3 hours.



May

The Bees. Now the activity really starts hopping. The nectar and pollen should begin to come into the hive thick and fast. The queen will be reaching her greatest rate of egg laying. The hive should be bursting with activity.

The Beekeeper. Spring mite treatments should be completed, and removed prior to adding any honey supers. Add a queen excluder, and place honey supers on top of the top deep. Watch out for swarming. Inspect the hive weekly. Attend bee club meetings and workshops.

Time Spent. Estimate 4-5 hours this month.

July

The Bees. If the weather is good, the nectar flow may continue this month. On hot and humid nights, you may see a huge curtain of bees cooling themselves on the exterior of the hive.

The Beekeeper. Continue inspections to assure the health of your colony. Add more honey supers if needed. Keep your fingers crossed in anticipation of a great honey harvest.

Time Spent. Estimate 2-3 hours.

August

The Bees. The colony's growth is diminishing. Drones are still around, but outside activity begins to slow down as the nectar flow slows.

The Beekeeper. No more chance of swarming. Watch for honey robbing by wasps or other bees. There is not too much for you to do this month. Have a little holiday.

Time Spent. Estimate about an hour or two.

September

The Bees. The drones may begin to disappear this month. The hive population is dropping. The queen's egg laying is dramatically reduced.

The Beekeeper. Harvest your honey crop. Remember to leave the colony with at least 60 pounds of honey for winter. Check for the queen's presence. Feed and medicate towards the end of the month (the first 2 gallons is medicated). Apply mite treatment. Continue feeding until the bees will take no more syrup. Attend bee club meetings.

Time Spent. Estimate 2-3 hours.

October

The Bees. Not much activity from the bees. They are hunkering' down for the winter.

The Beekeeper. Watch out for robbing. Configure the hive for winter, with attention to ventilation and moisture control. Install mouse guard at entrance of hive. Setup a wind break if necessary. Finish winter feeding. Attend bee club meetings.

Time Spent. Estimate 2 hours.

November

The Bees. Even less activity this month. The cold weather will send them into a cluster.

The Beekeeper. Store your equipment away for the winter. Attend bee club meetings.

Time Spent. About one hour this month.

December

The Bees. The bees are in a tight cluster. No peeking.

The Beekeeper. There's nothing you can do with the bees. Read a good book on beekeeping, and enjoy the holidays!

Time Spent. None

