

BURTON AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter: June 2017

Issue: No 3

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Varroa



Treatment plans for overwintering

We are getting to the time of the year when we need to plan what form of varroa treatment you are going to use this year. Our secretary, Dave Coates, was recently asked if it was necessary to treat for varroa in the Autumn if you were vaporising oxalic acid (Api-Bioxal) in the winter.

His response to this question was quite simply - **yes you do.**

Why?

Because the bees that will be born over the next few months will be your winter bees who will have to survive over the winter and get the colony going next Spring, if these bees have a high infestation of varroa going into winter then they will not be in the best of health from the start, which will increase your risk of winter losses.

Which ever treatment you used last year try to vary it this year, never use the same treatment more than two years consecutive as you run the risk the varroa becoming immune to some treatments.

Last year I used Apistan which was quite successful and vaporised oxalic acid in the winter. I did not suffer any winter losses. This year I will be using MAQS, which I have not used before so should be interesting.

There will be a talk on Varroa at our monthly club meeting on the 18th September, given by Alan and Sam.

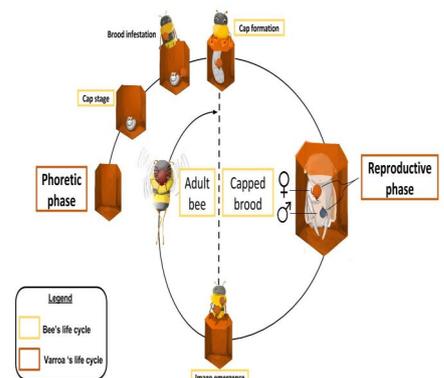
A recent e-mail circulated from the National bee unit advised that in some regions of the UK, colonies are starting to show symptoms of high levels of Varroa mites, for example wing deformities and perforated cappings. Therefore, as always, it is prudent to monitor colony mite populations.

If your colonies have a high amount of Varroa, i.e. 1000 mites after calculating it from the average drop, you may want to treat them with a registered varroacide. Suitable treatments where brood is present would include:

Apiguard, Apilife Var, Apistan, Bayvarol, Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS) and Thymovar.

If you wish to use an oxalic acid based product then a broodless condition should be created first.

Additionally, if you have honey for human consumption on the hives, remember that MAQS is currently the only registered product which can be used. When using any medicine it is important to remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions.





Committee Members and contact details:-

Chairperson:	Richard Matkin 01283 812958
Secretary:	David Coates 01283 713603
Membership Secretary :	Cath Ambler 07973 369888 cath.ambler @gmail.com
Treasurer :	Sam Hampton sam.hampton@btinternet.com
Education /Training :	Suzanne King suzanne.king21@btinternet.com
Website Manager:	Alan Ambler http://burtonbka.weebly.com/
Newsletter Editor:	Penny Ward 07817500741 badbkanewsletter@gmail.com
Club President:	Ken Logue



Club Meeting Dates for your Diary 2017

The Bowling Club
Henhurst Hill,
Burton-On-Trent,
Staffordshire,
DE13 9TB

August 21st	Clive De Bruyn	Products of the Hive
September 18th	Alan & Sam	Varroa
October 16th	Speaker TBC	Wax
November 20th	Grahame Royale	Microscopy
December 11th	Presentation Night	

Events Programme : March - August 2017

August:: Saturday 19th

Ashbourne Show - all day.

Burton & District 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

Saturday September 9th/10th

**Burton & District Honey Show, Coopers Square, Burton
Contact and Details - Cath Ambler, Membership secretary.**



The Bee Corner by Dave Coates



I recently received a telephone message from a farmer at Dunstall, who told me he had a box of Honey bees and what could he do with them. As you can imagine I was quite intrigued what was in the box, so I told him I would come over and collect them.

On arrival I was presented with a cardboard box about the size of two shoe boxes. He told me he had been inspecting his crops and parked in a small layby adjacent to his field, where he spotted the box on the road side. He went over to investigate and gave the box a push with his foot, the box buzzed back at him, so he decided to take it back to the farm. He told me he gently opened one corner and quickly closed it again when he was met by a 'Honey bee'.

I took the box home and wondered how I was going to deal with it. The box was sealed up tight, no air holes or means of ventilation! There was no knowing how long the bees had been in the box and they stood a good chance of being rather upset and I imagined looking to take it out on the first person they met, ie me. So suitably suited and booted, I began to open the box. I put my ear to the box and the buzz didn't sound quite right for honey bees, very course and erratic, not the usual low drone of honey bees. Cautiously, pressing on, I opened the box, being very careful not to upset the contents and was met by the sight of a beautiful white tailed Bumble Bee nest, whose inhabitants were surprisingly quite calm considering their situation. The nest looked as though it had come from the top of a compost bin. How can people do these things, I can understand moving it from the bin but to seal it up in a box and dump it on the road side is just not on. Left undiscovered these bees would most certainly have died.



What's on the Burton and District Bee Keepers Association Facebook page



I just love these two amazing pictures featured on our website by Alan Ambler of a worker bee producing wax from the glands on her abdomen. If you don't yet follow us on Facebook, it's certainly worth checking it out. Alan and club members keep it up to date with pictures, advice, points of interest and much more.



Honey Show

It's that time of year again, when Burton and District BKA holds it's Annual Honey Show. This is to be held on Saturday the 9th of September in Coopers Square Shopping Centre, Burton and to enter all you need to do is follow up on the e-mail circulated earlier this month by Cath Ambler. It's always a fun weekend, with honey and wax products for sale as well as the excitement of entering your own produce in the competition. It's great to see all the jars of honey etc. placed out waiting for the judge to take a look and place them. Its great fun and if you follow the judge, Michael Badger MBE, around and listen to him you can find out a lot about what a judge looks for!

So please, if you haven't already entered, or entered before, make this your first year. You have as much chance of winning as the next man, the judge doesn't know who has entered, and you could be taking home one of the many cups to sit in pride of place in your home for the year. If you need any advice or further information please get in touch with Cath. The show has 21 different classes, from jars of Honey, to Mead, Cakes, Wax products and much more. It is open to both novice and experienced bee keepers and competitors and we have 16 cups to be awarded!. The entrance fee is either a 1lb jar of honey or £ 6 if you prefer. Whether you enter or not, the show is an interesting event, where top tips and advice will be shared and you get to see and enjoy what your fellow bee keepers do.

Library Books **LIBRARY BOOKS MISPLACED**

This is an appeal to all club members.

Following a recent audit we have 2 library books missing.
They are:-

Medical Aspects of beekeeping by Harry Riches
Haynes Bee Manual by Claire and Adrian Waring



We should have 2 of both of these, but only 1 of each is accounted for. Unfortunately these books were taken out, at least 12 months ago, without myself or the person/persons concerned writing their name down on the list.

Since then, we have had labels printed for Burton Beekeepers which are in all the other library books we have at present and which we hope will help as reminders for our members when remembering which of our books they have borrowed.

Someone, somewhere, has these books, and probably has forgotten they have them. Please could you check your cupboards, bookshelves, vehicles etc.

It really would be most appreciated as I am sure you realise books cost money, unless they are donated, and we cannot afford to easily replace them.



Spotlight on a Member - Richard Matkin - Club Chairman

My first taste of bee keeping was whilst I was at Burton Technical High School. It was here that the biology teacher, Mr Lionel Pratt arranged, through the Scientific Society, for the school to keep a colony of bees. The hive was kept on the staffroom roof!

After leaving the Burton Technical High school I spent most of my working life working in construction in one way or another and it wasn't until 1992 that I started keeping bees myself. This was when Bob Hurd (many of you will have heard of Bob as a well known local Beekeeper) who came to help my



neighbour Bob Arden with his bees, encouraged me to have a hive of my own. It was Bob Arden who advised me to become a member of the Burton Branch of the Derbyshire Beekeepers Association and very soon afterwards I became a member of the committee. Since then, I have always been a committee member and it was around 15 years ago that I took on the role of Chairman for the Burton Branch. When I started, we had around 40 – 50 members, but in recent years, thanks to the hard work and input of our current committee, this has increased to over 100 members and I am pleased to now be Chairman of the newly independent Burton and District Beekeepers Association.

Where do I live?	Rolleston On Dove
What are my other interests?	I enjoy gardening and I'm a member of Anslow Gardening Club, I regularly play bowls and also badminton and enjoy looking after, my sons dog, Henry.
How many hives to I have?	I currently have six hives - four at home in Rolleston One in Coopers Square, Burton. One at National Forrest Adventure Centre.
One thing on my wish list?	I would like to visit my son Will, who has just moved out to Thailand. My wife and I do hope to do this next spring.
One thing I hate?	I have to admit that I don't like loud unnecessary music at Events and in public places, the kind that stops you from hearing others or being able to hold a conversation.



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:-

The Humble Bumble

At July's meeting, members were delighted with a talk and slide show by Mike Ashford from The Bumble Bee Society. Mike focused on work carried out by the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and highlighted the Trusts work in conserving our native Bumble Bee species, the environmental challenges they face and their efforts to reintroduce lost species and increase and improve habitat areas. Comparisons were drawn between the Bumble Bee (*Bombus Omnibus*) and the our Honeybee (*Apis Melifera*)



- 25 different species of bumblebee in the UK.
- Different species have different lengths of tongue. This means they feed from different shaped flowers.
- Bumblebees live in nests with 50-400 bees
- Only the queen hibernates, usually in a hole in the ground.
- The queen lives for one year, but the other bumblebees only live for a few months.
- They live in the wild, e.g. in gardens and hedge bottoms, old mice nests and occasionally bird boxes.
- Bumblebees only make small amounts of a honey-like substance to eat themselves.
- Bumblebee populations are declining mainly due to a shortage of flowers to feed from and places to nest in the countryside.
- They can sting more than once but only sting if aggravated.
- Don't dance but may communicate by passing pollen between worker
- Only one species of honeybee in Europe.
- All honeybees have short tongues so they prefer open flowers, such as Dandelion, Cotoneaster.
- Honeybees live in hives with between 20,000 and 60,000 bees.
- The queen and many of her daughters over winter in the hive each year.
- The queen can live for three - four years, workers and drones live between 6 weeks to 6 months .
- Honeybees mostly live in hives as part of an apiary setting with between 20,000 and 60,000 bees per colony.
- Honeybees can make lots of honey, which beekeepers usually harvest to eat or sell.
- Honeybees are declining mainly due to Varroa mite infestation and the consequent diseases weakening the colony.
- Honeybees sting if aggravated, but only once, as they die afterwards.
- 'Waggle dance' to communicate, passing on information about flower locations.



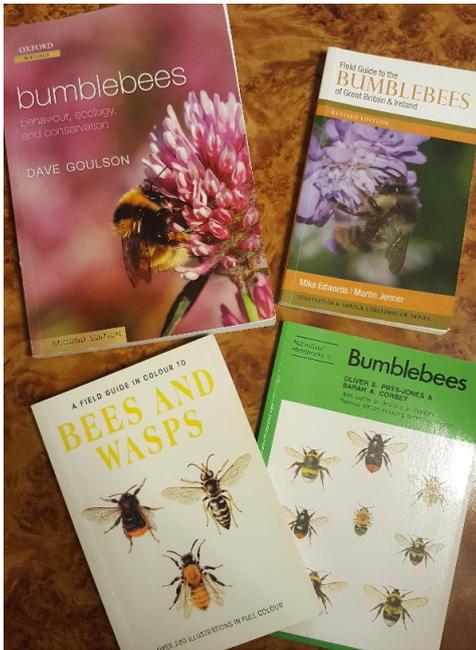
Books recommended by Mike Ashford for further study and identification of our native Bumble Bees.

or

For more information about the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust,

please visit :-

bumblebeeconservation.org



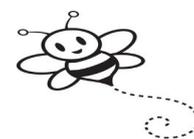
Products of the Hive



August's meeting was an excellent talk on 'Products of the Hive' by Clive De Bruyn, from Tiptree in Essex. Clive has been keeping bees for over 50 years and produces and sells a variety of products at Farmers Markets and to local traders. He began his talk by highlighting the most important "product" of bees, which is their effect on the environment, that being the incredible role of pollinator. From there, his talk covered the more obvious hive products starting with Honey, discussing techniques on how to promote it, label it and sell it and the importance of advertising how unique British Honeybee honey actually is. He then went on to delight us all with wax products, describing how to correctly dip and create candles, along with advice on types of wax moulds, which work best and tips on using them.



Following this, his talk included harvesting products that need more specialist equipment and techniques to do this and the higher range of market value, these being pollen, propolis and more unusually venom. Clive outlined the process for collecting each of these products and gave brief details on the markets that were available to bee keepings for selling it. In addition to products from the bees, also covered was the 'production' of bees, in particular queens and queen rearing and breeding better bees, advocating the procuring of local bees by keepers as these will be better suited to the crops which are particular to your area. Clive was thanked by Dave for a most informative and inspiring talk and thanks was expressed from the over 70 people who attended with a resounding round of applause.



Association Shop

At this time of year we're all hoping for a good honey harvest and thinking about preparing our bees for winter. Alan Amber, our association website manager, also runs our Association shop and as many of you know Alan brings a selection of items to every meeting. However, if ever you urgently need something, he and Cath are happy for you to give them a call and if they have it in stock, arrange for you to pop round to collect it.

Check out the full list of item and prices on our webpage.

www.burtonbka.org.uk

SUGAR

Dave Coates has arranged to work with a distribution company who have agreed to let us have any sugar that is damaged in transit instead of sending it to land fill sites. Dave will be collecting this on a regular basis, and selling it to members @ £3:00 for a 10 kilo bucket. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this offer needs to label an empty bucket with their name and pass it on to Dave for filling. Buckets can be bought from our shop for £3.50p. All funds raised through this will go towards our Association Teaching Apiary.

Dave has also had enquiries from people with land offering space for bee hives. The areas offered are in the **Uttoxeter** and **Abbots Bromley** Areas, please contact Dave for more information if you are interested.

SHOP PRICE LIST

Item	Price	Item	Price
ENGLISH FEEDER	£9.50	1LB JARS AND LIDS X10	£5.00
RAPID FEEDER	£4.50	1LB JARS AND LIDS X10	£5.00
NUC FEEDER	£4.60	½ LB JARS AND LIDS X10	£4.50
SMALL MILLER TYPE FEEDER	£1.50	STAINLESS STEEL DOUBLE STRAINER	£21.00
CANDIPOLLINE 1KG	£4.00	STRAINING CLOTH	£3.00
STAINLESS STEEL DOUBLE STRAINER	£21.00	STRAINING CLOTH	£3.00