



BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

A survey into the distribution of treatment-free beekeeping

Alexandra Valentine

As part of the final year project for my zoology degree at the University of Salford, supervised by Prof Stephen Martin, I am investigating the distribution of beekeepers who are and those who aren't actively treating against varroa mites in the UK.

I am so pleased to hear of your association's interest in taking part with the survey. Members can take part by clicking on the link in the email which brought them this newsletter.

I am hoping to build a map of the UK of all the local associations and to collate this with their responses to get a comprehensive picture of UK beekeepers and the proportion of those who are actively treating and those who aren't.

I am investigating this by asking all beekeepers in the UK to complete the survey to assess their treating habits – whether they treat, how often they treat, when they last treated and what they treat with. The survey is completely anonymous apart from asking the participants which association they are in so I can collate their

responses with the association's location on the map.

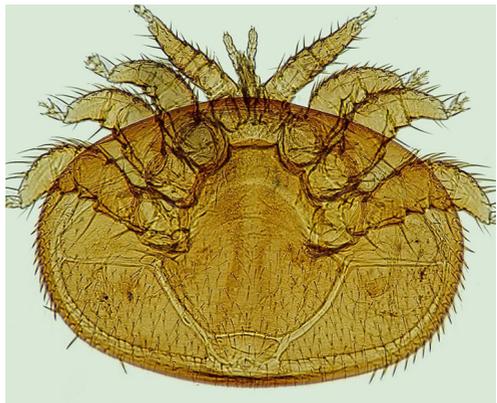
The deadline for responses is the middle of February.

In the case of this project we are defining treatment as any form of external/ additional control administered to bees by their keepers with the aim of reducing ***Varroa destructor*** mite numbers. Any responses would be extremely helpful!

Thanks again for all your help and if you have any other questions please let me know.

Alexandra Valentine

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NBU Western Region Annual Review 2020

*Colin Pavey Regional Bee Inspector,
Western England*

What a strange year, with many new words/phrases and some old ones with new significance – key worker, shielding, PPE, daily briefing, social distancing, we all had to get used to these terms. Zoom used to be a 1970's ice lolly! Now it is the way BKAs meet, host speakers and generally keep the bee info flowing!

One of the big casualties of the year was our beekeeper education programme – all our Healthy Bee Day Events, Safaris and apiary meetings had to be cancelled, along with our presence at the BBKA Spring Convention.

Generally speaking, spring was better than usual for the bees, sustained good foraging weather, leading to an excellent spring surplus. Summer was indifferent, not brilliant but OK in most of the areas we cover.

Regarding contacting our team, from April 1st 2021, you can use the post code search on the contacts page of BeeBase to check for your local SBI, who can be contacted from the beginning of April until the end of September. During the winter period of October to March please direct all enquiries to me, 07775 119471.

BeeBase Registration

We desperately need to have as many beekeepers and apiaries registered on Beebase as possible, if we are to keep

on top of Foul Brood outbreaks. Many beekeepers think that joining the BBKA results in automatic registration on BeeBase – this is not the case. Each beekeeper has to register themselves. The only exception is registration by our inspectors after an apiary visit.

As a beekeeper, with apiaries and your e-mail address registered on BeeBase, you get email alerts when foulbrood or exotic pests (including Asian Hornets) are found in the area of your apiaries. The benefit to the wider beekeeping community is that inspectors know where to look for disease or pests so that outbreaks can be quickly brought under control.

Our inspectors work from a risk-based list, taking account of disease history. However, should you see anything suspicious, take a photograph and email it to your Seasonal Bee Inspector or Regional Bee Inspector, or you can contact us by phone to describe the problem. If we can't rule out it being a statutory disease or pest, we will arrange to visit (no cost to you). Please note that it's a legal requirement to inform the NBU if you know or suspect a statutory, notifiable disease or pest is present.

Disease and Pests

Over the season we have come across people who have mentioned that they are taking a light touch with regard to the treatment of varroa; this may be fine, until the varroa population takes off, some virus or other comes along and the colony fails. No one wants to

introduce treatments unnecessarily into their colonies. The answer is to monitor varroa levels regularly and be prepared with a treatment for those colonies which need it. Despite the awareness of potential varroa problems and the ready availability of safe, approved varroa treatments, we still see colonies suffering severely and in dire need of help.

Yellow-legged Asian Hornet

This year has seen a reduction in confirmed Asian Hornet sightings in the UK with just one Asian Hornet nest found (see photo above right by Peter Davies) and destroyed by NBU inspectors in an apple tree in Gosport, Hampshire on Friday 11th September. This followed reports from two householders in the area, one of which was a beekeeper who had identified Asian Hornets feeding on his grapes (see photo below by Gordon Brooks). The nest was small, approximately 20cm in diameter. Local beekeepers were made aware through the Asian Hornet Teams (AHTs) and monitoring has continued in the area.

Many thanks to you for having us to inspect your bees and to the team



of SBIs for getting out there in difficult times, and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Colin Pavey

*(covering Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, , Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire, Avon and N Somerset)
N Somerset)*

To Do List for January

- Protect your beehives against strong winds and large mammals.
- Make sure mice cannot get into over-wintering hives by using mouseguards or entrance blocks with shallow openings eg, 8 mm high.
- Check that there are sufficient stores during mild weather. Provide fondant if needed.
- Plan how to replace old queens. Will you rear some new ones?

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

Shop News

Many thanks to all those members who have visited the shop at the training apiary to purchase equipment.

We have been open regularly on Saturday mornings but as winter draws ever nearer and the rush for equipment has diminished, we have moved to a more flexible approach. The shop will now be open on Saturdays 10am-12 noon by request until early next year.

If you would like to purchase equipment, please contact Dave who will arrange for the shop to be open. It would be much appreciated if advance notice could be given.

Dave's email : dave.coates32@gmail.com

Phone number : 01283 713603

Sugar

Every few weeks, Dave continues to collect sugar from the supplier. The sugar is available for members to purchase.