



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

June 2017

Welcome to the newsletter of the Yeovil & District Division, Somerset Beekeepers' Association. See also our website: www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

**Next Meeting –June Apiary Meeting:
Bernard Diaper demonstrates
"The Control of Varroa by Queen Trapping"
2:30pm Saturday 17th June
at Andrew Cooke's Apiary**

Bernard will be demonstrating Varroa control by queen trapping. It is a method of control suitable for hobby beekeepers who prefer to avoid the use of chemicals. Something we all should be aiming towards!

He became interested in beekeeping as a young boy working with his father and grandfather and has subsequently kept bees since 1961. He has served on the National Honey Show Executive for over 20 years and holds the Senior National Honey Judges Certificate. He is currently Life Vice President and Custodian Trustee of Warwickshire BKA having held the positions of Chairman and President.

He is now the claims manager for BDI and is a retired Mechanical Engineer and Insurance Claims Manager.

Directions

From Yeovil take the A37 towards Dorchester after about 5 miles, you will pass the Rest and Welcome pub on your left, drive over the hill and take the next left turn signposted towards Chetnole/Stockwood. If you are driving on a three lane road you have driven too far!! Follow this road all the way along, driving over the railway bridge. Once you reach a T-Junction turn left. Follow the road for half a mile and just before the pub (Chetnole Inn), turn right, leaving the pub to your left hand side and church to the right. You are now in Chetnole! Drive straight on, following the road around two bends, up a slight hill and Park House Farm is on the right hand side. Please use the first entrance (white stone drive) where there should be sufficient room to park.

Alternatively, you can always use your sat nav – the post code for the property is DT9 6HH and should take you right to the farm!!!!If anyone has any issues finding the Apiary they are welcome to call me on my mobile (07912069001).

April Apiary Meeting with Suzie Perkins at Tasha Steven's Apiary

Despite an unpromising forecast, plenty of members came to Chiselborough on the 17th April for a meeting at Tasha Stevens-Vallecillo's apiary. The setting was lovely - a micro farm on the edge of the village, with a wide variety of forage for the bees right on their doorstep. Thankfully the skies cleared as everyone suited up, and we all took the opportunity to watch Suzy Perkins demonstrate how to handle combs and perform an inspection.

I found Suzy's advice and practical demonstrations very useful, particularly showing how to create enough space to take out and replace frames without rolling the bees, as well as using the different types of hive tool to lever the frames apart and push them back together again (always a struggle with bees that propolise a lot). Thanks to a recently swarmed colony, we also saw how to cull queen cells and even saw a new queen emerge during the demonstration!

After the second colony had been inspected, the weather closed in once more, and we all retreated to the house for tea and cake. Many thanks to Tasha for hosting, (and to her bees, which were very docile, despite the threat of rain), and also to Suzy for a very useful and practical demonstration.

Neil Cook

Chairman Carnegie

I hope you are well and that you have extracted your OSR honey and plan to sell it chop chop, blend it or cream it. Better still have your plans to do an artificial swarm worked well?

I have been on swarm call out but have had far less this year. Those that have rung have often waited hours before getting a grip, and when I get there they have gone. My worst was going to Rustywell, a static home site, where there is no logic in the numbering. It must be a joke where 69 is next to 128 and then 34 and so on. I spoke to my Postman and he laughed and said that they once lost a postman in there and sent a search party!

I have been camping at the Bath and West Show for the setting up of the Bee tent, working the four days and then for the dismantling. Thanks go to Andy Dobson too for all his hard work. I learnt a huge amount as you will see in the article in this newsletter. The 10x5 metre marquee goes up at the Queen Camel Church Fair this Saturday and then in front of our terrace for the weekend of June 17th and 18th (3.30-6pm) for a two day party in memory of Jo Cox who was murdered. You Beekeepers are all welcome with family too. Just bring buns or cakes and suchlike. This will be good practise for putting it up at The Yeovil Show.

Locally, I am determined to get a very disabled young man into a mesh box into which his wheelchair will fit. In front will be his sewn in gloves so he can handle the bees. His live-in full time carer will also become a beekeeper. If any of you have any experience which might help me, do get in touch.

I have been a bit busy so my hopes and plans for the Divisional Apiary and Meeting Hut have gone on hold for a bit, but persistence pays and when the dust settles a little I will resume the search. Yeovil Council are much in favour and one of their number has been very useful. To find somewhere which has good parking and electric nearby is hard, but the demolished Ski Slope ticks all the boxes. Plans for a fully insulated bolt together building with adjustable feet, is in planning. Another person, preferable close to Yeovil Town Council, would be very useful to me. Is there anyone in the Division who could help me?

John Carnegie

Chairman

Keep on the Alert for EFB

Have you checked your colonies for EFB yet? If not, here is a repeat of last month's article.

EFB is close to Yeovil again this year. There is one reported outbreak in Illminster and two in South Petherton.

Now is a good time to check your colonies for EFB. When the colonies are expanding, there is more chance that you will see any infected brood. So make your next inspection a foulbrood inspection.

If you do not know what you are looking for, this is a good reason for you to find out. So how to find out?

- Read a book - there are plenty in the Divisional Library, contact our librarian
- Attend a "Bee Health Day". Taunton are holding one this year with Simon Jones, our RBI.

A summary of the symptoms are shown below, copied from the NBU web-site. A colony would show some or all of the following:

- Erratic or uneven brood pattern;
- Twisted larvae with creamy-white guts visible through the body wall;
- Melted down, yellowy white larvae;
- An unpleasant sour odour;
- Loosely-attached brown scales;
- Unlike AFB, the remains of larvae that die from EFB do not rope when drawn out with a matchstick.

If you are unsure about EFB in your colony, you can contact a member of the Divisional committee to confirm. But if you suspect EFB, you must contact our Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) Simon Jones. He is very helpful and will very quickly come back to you. His contact details are below.

EFB is a notifiable disease. You must not try to treat it yourself and you must not move any of your colonies or equipment if you suspect EFB. It is very contagious and easily spread!

Simon Jones

simon.jones@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Tel No: 01823 442228

Mobile No: 07775 119459

Swarms

The peak swarming is now past but the swarms will keep on coming through to July. The swarm collectors are getting weary of collecting and saturated with swarms, so do contact John if you can help gather or hive a swarm.

Note that only full Yeovil members should apply for a swarm and you need to make sure that you have equipment available to hive the swarm as it will be gathered in a very temporary container, e.g. a cardboard box.

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Committee and Yeovil Show Meeting	Wednesday 7:30 14th June	Airfield Tavern, Yeovil	All members welcome to discuss division and show matters
Apiary Meeting	Saturday 2:30 17th June	Andrew Cooke's Apiary	
Somerset Bee Health Day	Saturday 17th June 9:00 to 16:30	West Buckland Village Hall & Heatherton Park Apiary	Presentations & demonstrations of bee diseases by Simon Jones
The Yeovil Show with our Honey Show	Sat & Sun 15th & 16th July	Yeovil Showground	The Yeovil Divisional Honey Show in our Honey Tent
Apiary Meeting	Saturday 2:30 22nd July	Crispin Bond's Apiary	

The Yeovil Show Preparation

The Honey show documents are now complete. You can view and print off the Honey Show Entry Form and the Show Schedule which includes the Show Rules on the Yeovil Show web-site:

<https://www.yeovilshow.org/competitions/2017-show-schedules/>

Members who have made an entry in the Honey Show can also sell their produce at the Honey Show. The attached form must be completed with your produce. There will be a standard price for the general honey products. 10% of the sale price will be retained by Yeovil Division towards the costs of the show and a further 10% will be retained by the Show Organisers.

If you are able to help with the Show, just come along to our next committee meeting at 7:30 on Wednesday 17th May at the Airfield Tavern in the meeting room just beyond the restaurant.

Winter Losses

If you had a few Winter losses this year, have some sympathy for US Beekeepers They have reported losses of 33 percent of bees in 2016-17! See the following link for more information:

<https://phys.org/news/2017-05-survey-honeybee-losses-horrible-bad.amp>

Somerset Bee Health Day

Taunton are hosting a Bee Health Day on 17th June. Simon Jones will discuss bee diseases, show typical diseased comb and go on to demonstrate in the Taunton Apiary.

Full information is available on the SBKA web-site:
<http://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/bibba.html>

Or contact Mike Dillon

E: mikedillonbees@gmail.com

T: 01823 669619

M: 07585 537030

Time to Start Preparing Your Entries for the Honey Show

The Honey Show is only a few weeks away now. This is **your** show and your chance to show off your produce, so please take this opportunity to join in. It is a good exercise in preparing your produce. It is the taking part that is important

Attached to the newsletter is a copy of the show entry form. The schedule and show rules are available on the show web-site at the link detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The SBKA newsletter had a very useful guide on how to prepare your entries. See page 11 of:

www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/129%20april%202017.pdf

So what is the show all about and what are the show judges looking for? Well here is my simple guide to the different classes: For all the honey classes with two jars, each jar and its contents should be the same. Note that it is difficult to judge the entries, so the judges will set entries aside if he notices any imperfections. These will not get as far as the taste test!

Note that the judge uses a torch to shine into the clear honey and the wax cake to spot any debris - something you can do before you enter just to make sure!

Classes (1) & (2): These are clear (runny) honey. The judge will be looking for nice clear honey, so it should have no misty haze and no suspended bits, bee legs or wings included. There should be no debris on the bottom of the jar or floating on the top, including bubbles. Most of our honey will be medium but some honey, such as OSR, will be light in colour. The colour is not something that can be described, but can be determined by comparison with the judges grading glasses. The jars must be filled to the "full" mark on the jar, just below the level of the lid.

Class (3): This is a jar containing a chunk of cut comb and drowned in clear honey. The cut comb should be as tall as the jar and completely sealed. The honey should, of course, be clear.

Class (4): Crystallised honey is set honey. This is naturally set (solid) and should show no contaminants or air bubbles on the side of the jar, the bottom or the top. Ideally, it will be a uniform colour but light "frosting" as it sets is acceptable.

Class (5): Soft set honey, or creamed honey should not be solid but should be set enough to not pour when on its side. It should also have no contaminants or bubbles on show.

Class (6): The three jars can be any identical type and should be correctly labelled as for sale.

Class (7): Novice one jar of clear honey: guidance same as above.

Class (8): Novice one jar of set honey; guidance as above.

Class (9): One frame for extraction. This is a wired super frame which is, ideally, completely sealed. The frame should be nice and clean, free of burr comb and mounted in a glass-sided bee-proof case.

Class (10): cut comb. The comb should be completely sealed with the sealed honey still runny. There should be no runny honey drained in the container. The weight should, of course, be within the weight limits.

Class (11). Cake of beeswax; the wax should be a nice pale colour, darker wax may have been over-heated. There should be no debris or discolouration and the surface should be nice and smooth and have the delicious aroma of fresh beeswax.

The remaining classes are more general and their respective guides would of course apply.

John Carnegie's experiences in the Bath and West Bee Tent.

By far and away the most popular activity was children drawing one of the three types of honey bee on yellow hexagon paper with all sorts of crayons and suchlike. It suited the youngest and oldest children because their work went up on a huge board until it was full and looked like a colourful piece of giant comb. While two supervised children the parents rested on bales of straw covered in astro turf and caught up on their phones! No charge for this and how they funded the paper, online pictures of comb and bees, crayons and all, was a mystery. It took up a lot of room and diverted walkers on a diagonal to other places which meant that anyone who entered the tent had to pass most things. Loss leader.

Candle rolling was the fastest activity and most satisfying for the children as they also took it away. You need to be behind a table and start the rolling that way. We stuck a bee pin to give the candle some more class and put it in plastic bag. (175x225 mm-Bookers) It was sweet when the odd child asked if they could keep it! We used coloured wax which we cut up before the public came and dipped wicks too. Two of us ran this as a queue is not a good idea. Sometimes nothing to do then lots. I always had a good Maths person with me because I struggle to calculate the change from three candles and when given an £20 note. In fact while one took the money the other was engaged with the making of the candle. On average we made £250 each day. You need a long box to put the wax on and underneath this was a hot water bottle. We charged £1.50 for this.

Huge profit in this activity.

Making badges was even more popular. There were lots of things the children could colour or use readymade ones straight from the internet. Again popular and a huge money spinner. I would ramp this up from 50p to 1.00

The two sites that gave bee demonstrations were well practised and slickly delivered. The microphone was a must as there were chain saws and band saws all nearby. Bees were there for the duration of the show and were depleted of fliers beforehand and each hive only had 4 or 5 frames. These events were very well attended. They had a big area to keep the bees in but only two hives for three demonstrations a day. This will be announced from the Tannoy at the Yeovil Show I believe. There is a BBKA sheet about setting up hives for shows. Also be aware that at this show, in the past, one colony swarmed, one watcher was stung and had to be airlifted to hospital and paramedics and police were stung too. Proper planning needed here.

Observation hives were a must and extremely popular. They must fly free as the one that did not was in terrible distress by the end of the day. Both free fliers looked lovely. The one on the street had a sheet in front of it and the bees flew over the top. No danger. The other one went out the back of the tent but was set up just the same. Observation hive that rotate use up less room. I have 2 national Observation hives.

The virtual hive (ours has gone missing) was a waste of time and very few looked at it. Those that did look at it got bored very quickly even though there was someone standing by it all the time to explain the depths. Let's not buy another!

Standardised rules failed on the first day when three different people took the money from the candle rolling and in the evening we had chaos. We must appoint a treasurer who is in sole charge and is accountable for things we need for the two days which needs to be taken from the total cash and then a percentage given to the show.

Honey tasting was another very popular activity. 4 pots and chopped up lolly sticks. Taste and then vote for the best 3. No double dipping allowed! Needs vigilance! Two people needed. Next in line was selling honey. Lost leader? Not really as those who tasted realised that supermarket honey was awful compared with these four, all different.

Selling honey was a huge event so bring what you can. It would be a dreadful event without honey to sell. Candles sold well too. We must not run out. The Bath and West came too close. Apparently, those who bought honey chased the seller for more honey in the future.

It struck me that too many display items had red Do Not Touch boards. I would think that we could give them comb without worrying as well as insects.

We will fail in some way at The Yeovil Show but now I have written this it should be easier to set up the tent and all therein.

I am due to meet the organiser of the show to see if we can have more space for pop up tents, and where the demonstrations will take place. I am happy to supply the hives x3 and the bees for the Observation hives.

John Carnegie

Divisional officers

President	Fred Horne	01935 421623	Treasurer & membership secretary	Sharon Blake	01460 242124
Chairman	John Carnegie	01935 851234	Librarian	Tasha Stevens	07814 742653
Vice-Chairman	Marvin Collins	01935 426153	Newsletter editor	Nic Bard Nic_bard@hotmail.com	07877 284545
Secretary	Andy & Lorraine Dobson	07825 912274	Mentor Liaison Officer	Jacqui Taylor	
Swarm Coordinators	John Carnegie Tasha Stevens	01935 851234 07814 742653	County Delegates	Malcolm Blake John Carnegie	

The Yeovil division secretary email address is : yeovilbee@gmail.com.

Please contact any officer with your comments or suggestions.

Please send any suggestions, articles or comments or ideas to share with our other members directly to the editor at nic_bard@hotmail.com.

Yeovil 2017 Programme

2017

- 17th June '17 – Apiary demonstration at Andrew Cooke's apiary
- 15th/16th July '17 – Yeovil Show - honey show a **must**
- 22nd July '17 – Apiary demonstration at Crispin Bond's apiary
- 19th Aug '17 – Apiary demonstration at Sarah Theo-Jones' apiary
- 19th Sept '17 – Anne Rowberry at TBD
- 17th Oct '17 – AGM at TBD
- 30th Oct '17 – Joint Meeting with SW at Over Stratton Village Hall
- 2nd Dec '17 – Skittles social evening, The Phelips Arms, Montacute (TBC)

2018

- 16th Jan '18 – Ken Basterfield (TBC) at TBD
- 18th or 19th Feb '18 – Lecture at TBD
- 20st Mar '18 – David Maslen at TBD

TBD - venue not yet decided!

April to August outside apiary meetings start at 2.30pm