



BDBKA News



www.barnetbeekeepers.org.uk

Note from the Chair

The honey crop is harvested, the apiguard is on (I hope) and it is time to prepare the colonies for winter.

Honey yields have been variable this year and although some colonies have given a good yield, I know some of you have had a disappointing year. The weather conditions and the effects on forage have been responsible for this in some locations but an increasing number of colonies infected with nosema has also been a major cause. We need to get on top of this to improve colony health for next year. Retesting for nosema is recommended in the Autumn and infected and neighbouring colonies should be planned for comb change in the Spring (see article). Should you need help with nosema testing please contact me or a member of the committee. If the colony is weak they may need drawn comb as part of the change and collecting frames of good drawn comb can be done now as colonies are united or reduced in size, for sterilisation (see article) and use next Spring.

On a lighter note our Honey Show approaches and you should have received entry forms and schedules. I hope you will all be entering. Even if you have no honey, you may have wax for blocks, candles or something more creative. If not, why not try your hand at honey

Apiary Tips - September

If there is anything you want to us to include in the next newsletter please let us know!

The Welsh Beekeepers association have conducted research showing that feed holes in the crown board should be sealed during Apiguard Varroa treatment as if left open the efficiency can drop to below 70%. This is not definitive but is similar to research on using Apiguard on American style hives with upper entrances where efficiency appeared to drop to just 67% in temperate climates, Watch this space for more info.

cake or biscuits. It is always a good event with bee talk over lunch, exchange of ideas and friendly competition. Thanks to Linda and Mary for organising it again. Please support them on the day.

Other dates to remember are the National Honey Show 27th-29th October this year. Details on line www.honeyshow.co.uk and our AGM 26th November 2016 venue to be notified.

I look forward to catching up with you all at the show 24th September 2016.

Pat Morgan

In hot weather Apiguard is best put on hives in the evening as the bees become accustomed to the treatment overnight when it is cooler and small Nucs should have their dose reduced.

Honey Show 2016

Saturday 24th September

Calling all beekeepers – please consider entering the Honey Show this year. We have many different classes to suit everyone. If you don't have a lot of honey, how about making a honey cake or biscuits or entering your hive records. Don't forget the Honeybee Arts and Crafts class too. We will be sending the schedule out soon but to remind you:

We have 3 classes for just a single jar of honey – Runny Honey Gift, Set Honey Gift and Blind Tasting. Gift Honey entries need to be in squat 1lb jars. Choose new, clean jars to show off your honey to its full potential.

All other honey classes require 2 plain identical squat 1lb jars with metal lids. Again choose new, clean jars. We can help you grade the colour for the correct class and help you with the correct labels when you deliver them for the show. If you don't have any 1lb jars with lids, we can also provide them. If you have a nice super that you have not yet extracted, we can loan you a display case to enter the Comb Frame class.

So, no excuses!

The Honey Cake class gives the recipe that everyone must use but the Biscuit Class can be any recipe as long as you display a copy of the recipe along with 7 identical biscuits.

We have lots of cups and trophies including one for Novices so please have a go this year. If you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to email me on lindaperry25@gmail.com

Linda Perry (Honey Show Organiser)

Shook Swarm Comb Change

Until recently it was recommended that three frames of comb in the brood chamber were changed every year, giving a complete change every 4 years. This meant comb did not become too black or misshapen but did not address hygiene. Trials have shown that complete replacement of comb with new foundation can help control European Foulbrood, Nosema apis and cerana, chalkbrood and Varroa mite populations. It may possibly help with the control of some viral diseases. The simplest way of doing this is the Shook Swarm which is described here. Another method of comb change is the Bailey Comb Change which will be described in the next issue.

When to do it?

A shook swarm should be done in early Spring mid to late March. It can be done later but brood is lost and must be replaced and the later this is done the less likely a good honey crop will be produced. If it is done as treatment for EFB it must be done with the Bee Inspector at the time infection is identified.

Which Colonies?

A shook swarm can be a stimulus to the colony which can replace itself and prove stronger than before, presumably due to disease control. However a weak colony will benefit from a Bailey Comb Change instead. All colonies in an apiary infected with nosema should be considered for comb change and a shook swarm where appropriate.

What Equipment is required?

- A clean and sterilised hive with brood chamber, floor & entrance block, crown board and dummy board.
- A full complement of new frames with foundation.
- A clean queen excluder.
- A bag or container for old frames.
- A queen cage if used.
- Sugar syrup (2:1) or ambrosia.
- Feeder plus super to house the feeder.

Method

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1. Move the colony to be shaken to one side.
 2. Place the clean floor and entrance block on the original stand and put the queen excluder over the floor. This will prevent the queen absconding before brood is established.
 3. Put the new brood box with frames & dummy board above the queen excluder and remove the middle four frames. Flying bees will begin to enter the new box on the original site.
 4. Find the queen in the old brood box. Either cage her to keep her safe or put her straight into the new box between two frames of foundation.
 5. Shake each frame from the old box into the gap in the new, being careful not to crush bees as the frame is shaken. If you are confident lower the frame into the gap in the new box about 1/3 of the way down, lower quickly and stop suddenly, making the bees fall off the frame. If you are not confident of avoiding crushing bees you can shake the frames, as above, diagonally over the new box without lowering them in.
 6. Clear all old frames and the box of bees into the new box by shaking and brushing lightly with a bee brush or handful of grass.
 7. If the queen was caged, introduce her into the box between two frames.
 8. Replace the four central frames, put on the crown board and feeder within the super. Feed with syrup or ambrosia until all frames are drawn. Check outer frames regularly and turn them round if the outer surfaces are not being drawn.
 9. Pack and remove the old frames from the apiary.
 10. When brood is present, usually 7-10 days later remove the queen excluder.
 11. If infection was present burn the old frames. If not, they can be melted to reclaim the wax.

Disadvantages

Loss of all brood present at the time of the manipulation. A weak colony would find it hard to recover. If the queen is infected eg noseemic she will be laying poorly and may need to be replaced.

Advantages

It is a one stage manipulation. The colony begins to build again on clean disease free foundation with control of disease. It often results in rapid growth and a stronger colony than before.

Pat Morgan

How to take a crop of Ivy Honey



Yes, a crop of Ivy Honey, that nasty tasting stuff that smells of cough mixture and set solid so it blocks the brood nest in spring and causes slow build up.

Why would you want to collect Ivy Honey? Well the word on the street is that Ivy Honey is to become the next Manuka. I don't mean diluted or the Chinese honey with added tea tree oil which many fraudulently sell as Manuka but a new kind of super Honey. Current research seems to be coming to the conclusion that ivy honey has similar health benefits to true Manuka honey, So watch those supermarket shelves and prepare for a late Honey crop.

Getting a usable crop of Ivy honey is not easy because -

1. The ivy flow can start during your Varroa treatment.
2. It sets in the comb faster than Oil Seed Rape.
3. It is too late to feed syrup after you harvest.
4. It's the last flow of the year and bees top up there winter stores with it.

But it is possible to collect it and you deal with the colony in a similar fashion to collecting Heather Honey -

1. You choose a strong colony with a young fecund queen that is a good honey producer.
2. You take off your honey supers by 15th august and force them all into one box.
3. You treat for Varroa with MAQS that is a 7 day treatment period not six weeks like Apiguard or Apistan.
4. You feed them a gallon of 2:1 or inverted sugar syrup like Ambrosia.

Once the ivy flow and pollen starts to come in -

1. You add above a queen excluder a super of frames with only starter strips and the bees will draw it out and fill with Ivy honey.
2. If you extract the Ivy honey as liquid honey you will only have 30% liquid and the rest will be solid, it is therefore better to assume it will all be set, so you need to scrape all the comb out into a bucket and heat in a warming cabinet at 52°C for 24hrs or until the ivy honey melts and the wax collects on top.

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3. Drain the Ivy honey off, strain it and let it cool to 32°C then seed it with 5% of a nice set honey and put it into warm jars ready to sell.

Geoff Hood

The Beginners Course



The beginners course has been a lot of fun and I've thoroughly enjoyed it, more than I had anticipated. The group are a great bunch and we all get along very well – instructors included. I really had no idea how fascinating and important to us these little creatures are. I know I speak on behalf of many of my colleagues in this year's beginners course, the instructors Geoff, Steve and Wilf are extremely knowledgeable and always happy to share their experiences.

Garry Constable

Important Notice - Hive Clean



Dear Customer,

After many years of successfully helping beekeepers rid their colonies of Varroa Destructor Mites, HiveClean can no longer be sold in the UK. After lengthy discussions with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) we have agreed not to sell or import and more HiveClean after the end of October 2016.

BeeBay would like to thank every one of its customers for their support and apologises if anyone has been inconvenienced by these latest events. We do assure you that we will still be serving your beekeeping needs with organic products to protect and feed your honey bees. Please watch this space.

Please also feel free to protest to the VMD about this decision, should you so wish.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3LS

[Maisemore Apiaries - End of season sale - 1st October](#)

[10% Discount - Freeman & Harding Jars - BBKA Members](#)

[BBKA Basic Assessment Syllabus - Click Here](#)

[BBKA General Husbandry Syllabus - Click Here](#)

Diary Dates

2016

24th September - Honey Show and Lunch at Whalebones.

(Please park on the main road)

12 noon - Honey Show open for viewing

1pm - Members' Lunch - £5 each for members and guests.

We have many classes for you to enter and many trophies including one for novices so get those entries in. Please contact Linda Perry for more info.

Closing dates-

- Thursday, 22 September 2016: closing date for email entries to mary2block@aol.com
- Thursday, 22 September: lunch reservations, with fee, to Linda Perry linda.perry25@gmail.com
- Friday, 23 September: 19.00 - 20.30 hrs. - entries to be delivered to Whalebones.

[Click here for the Honey Show schedule](#)

[Click here for the entry form](#)

27th - 29th October - National Honey Show

See details online www.honeyshow.co.uk.

26th November - BDBKA AGM

Venue to be confirmed.

2017

25th February - Miidlesex Federation Day.

The event will be held in Ealing and so far there are three speakers booked.

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