



CBKA Newsletter

September 2009

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It seems like a long time since our last Newsletter, we were all looking forward to a "barbecue summer" and a big improvement in the weather and beekeeping conditions compared to the previous two years. In the event the weather was mixed to say the least, but still an improvement on 2007 and 2008. The first swarms started very early, and I heard of swarms into August. I hope that you all have some honey to show for your efforts, and that your bees are heading towards the winter in better condition than for a few years.

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Is this a record ?

Our Association's centrifugal honey extractor is available for all members to use. John Allen (of Long Newton Beekeeping Supplies) kindly looks after it and members can contact him if they wish to borrow it. John has told me that Peter Garbutt asked to use the extractor on the 26th of April - and has been the first person to use the extractor for the 2nd year running. Is this a record ? When did you get your first honey this year ? Well done Peter, you have to share your "early bird" secret with us.

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CBKA at Cleveland and Stokesley Shows

Cleveland Show - 25th July

A fine sunny morning greeted members as they arrived at Stewart Park, Middlesbrough, to help with the CBKA display at the 2009 Cleveland Show. Aided by a £75 funding from the Co-op Group's "Plan Bee", we exhibited honey products, including bottles of mead and cakes, supplemented by pictures and photographs, information sheets, a quiz and honey tasting. Enthusiastic beekeepers mingled with an interested public, for whom the observation hive -



hundreds of milling workers and a green crowned queen - was a particular fascination. We welcomed Tony Jefferson (of Stonelea Apiaries, Staithes) as our judge. He was scrupulous and informative in every way, and we owe him a large debt of thanks, not least for donating his fee to

CBKA, which in turn paid for the various bee-logo prizes given out to children who participated. As a very new and inexperienced Show Secretary I was well supported both before and on the day itself, and wish to thank everyone who contributed to our success. *Gayle Lowe.*

Stokesley Show - 19th September

The 150th anniversary of the show may have had something to do with it, or perhaps it was because the grey skies of the previous week had given way to brilliant sunshine, but the day brought huge crowds to Stokesley Show. An excellent turnout of willing helpers on the CBKA stand spread the word about the importance of bees in the environment and answered questions about beekeeping. At times it was impossible to get through the crowds around our stand. A special thank you must go to Unal Metti for providing the Observation Hive once again - it was as usual the main draw for an enthusiastic audience. Thanks again to Tony Jefferson who judged the honey section, which I thought had a greater number of entries than the Cleveland Show. *Sal Mancina.*

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The Story of Bryan Hateley's Beekeeping Equipment - by Neil Hateley

In October last year Bryan, my father, finally gave up keeping bees and asked if I would like to have the hives and equipment, an opportunity I grabbed with both hands. We packed it all into a van and drove it down to Buckworth, where it filled the shed and part of the garden. The space in the shed was limited, so complete hives were sited behind it awaiting the new year and the prospect of a new beginning in the milder climate of Cambridgeshire. Come the spring, the bees which lived in the local church spire decided to swarm, and they picked one of the hives which stood in the garden to use as their new home. The hives had been secured for storage, and as there weren't any gaps into which the bees could enter, they set up home under the lid of one of them, picking the oldest lid with gaps round the sides. In a mad rush before travelling north to help my Mother pack up the house prior to moving, I tried to get the swarm into a nucleus hive. The bees appeared to move into the box, but some clustered underneath and

refused to go in. As I was committed to go north, the colony was left to fend for itself for three days, and they chose to move into a hive which had been set up to store empty frames, totally ignoring the bait hive I had set up only a few meters away. I put some frames with foundation into the brood box as they had already started to build comb in the empty frames, but at an angle of about 30 degrees to the normal foundation orientation. So things they are a-happening, and Bryan's beekeeping equipment is seeing a new life in the south of England.

In June, I visited the East of England show at Peterborough. On the beekeepers' stand they said they do not use Smith hives, "You need to get rid of them and use Langstroth hives in the south because you get many more bees than they do up North". I nodded, and put my name down for their beginners course, and then went away thinking we will see how it goes first, as there is much more life left in the old Smith hives. The bees appear to like them and they know best.

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The Committee Wants YOU!

With the sad death of Bryan Hateley in early 2009 and the growing membership of CBKA we have need of two new members in the Committee. If you are interested in organising and helping to run the Association please let us have your name for consideration.

If you have suggestions to improve the format of our regular monthly meetings please let us know.

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Joint Meeting with other Associations

Richmond Beekeepers have organised a joint meeting and all CBKA members are invited. This should be an interesting evening as the talk is 'The Joys of Queen Rearing' and the speaker is Clive De Bruyn, who wrote 'Practical Beekeeping' which ranks alongside Ted Hooper's 'Bees & Honey' as a beekeeper's bible. It is on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm in the Functions Room at the Premier Inn, Morton Park Way, Darlington [near the Brick

Train & Morrison's]. Please let Sal Mancina know if you would like to attend. A small donation towards costs is suggested.

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Wild Colonies of Bees

I recently received an email from Catherine Thompson who is doing a PhD at Leeds University examining the health of feral bees. She writes "... *in theory feral colonies shouldn't really exist without beekeeper intervention or that if they are found they are likely to be swarms from the current year. If anyone knows of feral colonies that seem to have occupied an area for a couple of years I would be interested in a sample of them. We hope to analyse the bees genetically to see if they survive from year to year. We will also use a new technique to quantify the level of disease in the bees. This would entail collecting between 40 and 50 bees from the colony once a year for the next 3-4 years to chart the survival of the bees. I am happy to visit the site to collect the sample, alternatively if members can help I can provide details of how to collect samples for genetic analysis, and a vial of 100% ethanol for the purpose.*" This is an opportunity for CBKA members to help in an interesting project which might lead to a breakthrough in solving problems with honeybee health. Please let Sal Mancina know if you can help.

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This month in the Apiary

You should be well on with feeding your bees and with Varroa treatment by now. If you overwinter on just one brood box the supers should have been removed, cleaned and stored for the winter. The weather will probably take a sudden change for the worse soon and you need to have your hives and bees prepared, and things like mouse guards, blocks of polystyrene, pieces of carpet or whatever insulation you prefer should be put in place. Place a brick or stone on the hive roof if your hives are in an exposed site.

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HAPPY BEEKEEPING

Secretary: Ian Brown, 48 Thames Ave, Guisborough, TS14 8AF. Tel 01287 632851

Meetings are held at Lingfield Farm Countryside Centre, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough on the 3rd Monday of the month from September to April at 7:15pm. Visitors and new members welcome.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Allan, Tony & Richard Jefferson

Stonelea Apiaries, 1 Dalehouse Bank, Staithes, Cleveland, TS13 5AN

Tel 01947 840723 or Tel/Fax 01947 893811

tony@stoneleabees.wanadoo.co.uk

Suppliers of all beekeeping equipment.

Honey bought and sold.

LONGNEWTON GRANGE BEEKEEPERS SUPPLIES

John R. Allen

The Grange, Back Lane, Longnewton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 1BN

Tel 01642 585896 or Tel Home 01642 582460

beekeepingsupplies@longnewton.fsworld.co.uk

Suppliers of all beekeeping equipment.