



CBKA Newsletter

April 2012

Volume 26/8. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

In the Apiary

After two weeks of hot weather and non stop sunshine the weather has gone back to its normal self for early April. Last week we had an inch of snow, and the hills still have a few white patches on them. The rain has helped the rape which had started looking a little limp, the fields are starting to colour nicely. Now what we need is a little warmth again. My first hive inspection revealed one colony to be doing nicely, and one which appeared to be queenless, with no eggs, and no unsealed brood or sealed brood, but plenty of bees. I couldn't find the queen. I selected a frame with some eggs and young larvae in the queenright colony, and after shaking off the bees gave it to the suspected queenless colony. Four days later I checked this frame and the bees had started to make new queen cells, proof that they were indeed queenless. It's a bit of a problem as the queen will be an emergency queen, and sometimes they tend to be smaller than ones the bees raise under the swarming instinct, but more importantly there are no drones around yet to mate with her. I have knocked down these first queen cells and given them a second frame to work on, in the hope of slowing things down until there are a few drones about.

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New Autumn/Winter Venue

I enjoy Abba as much as anyone, but listening to them at high volume when someone is trying to give a talk is annoying. Also, you might have felt that it is becoming more and more crowded in our present meeting place. The plusses are that it is a modern building with a nice overhead projector and screen which we can use, but overall it is time we "swarmed" to a better location, so the April meeting will be our last at Southlands Leisure Centre. The new location has a very large room which can seat us all in comfort. From Monday 17th September when we return indoors after our various outdoor apiary meetings please make sure you come along to:

Middlesbrough Bowling Club
Cornfield Rd
Linthorpe
Middlesbrough TS5 5QL

The Bowling Club is near the Middlesbrough Little Theatre and is not far from the top of Linthorpe Rd. Some parking is available on site, and plenty of street parking is available in the area.

History repeats itself - one of our members remembers coming to CBKA meetings in the Bowling Club when he first started beekeeping many years ago.

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Honey, Wax and Shows

This is our last indoor meeting before the Cleveland Show, and so my last chance to 'Speak' to some of you.

The shows are part of our main advertisement for promoting Beekeeping in our area. Our aim is to put on an interesting and informative display to educate the general public about bees and their importance in the general scheme of things. As well as our stand with Observation Hives, Hive parts, posters, honey tasting etc. we also strive to put on a varied display of different honey types, wax and other bee related exhibits. Last year we had multiple entries from many of the experienced beekeepers as well as some novice entries, but there was still plenty of room for more. This year the Novice class will also benefit from Philip Staniland's generous £10 prize to aim for. As at previous shows, if you are unable to attend the show I will be happy to take your exhibits beforehand, and stage them for you on the day. Tony Jefferson will be our judge this year and I am hoping that with a combined effort we can impress him with an overall improvement in our entries and displays, those with no honey to show could always bake a honey cake or take a bee related photo for the new photographic section!

Please note that the Cleveland Show date is Saturday 28th July, not as has appeared elsewhere. Please let me know if you would like an entry form which explains all the various classes of exhibits open to both experienced and novice alike.

The last show of the year is the Stokesley show, Sept 22nd, by which time the honey should have been flowing in, no excuses for not having a few

jars to exhibit, plus that lovely clean wax from all the cappings. My offer to stage your exhibits includes the Stokesley show but entry forms etc are dealt with by their show secretary Mrs J. B. Hugill, Manor House Farm, Great Busby, Stokesley TS9 7AT Telephone 01642 713209
Ada Newman Honey secretary CBKA

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Bees and Hives for Sale

The following are offered for sale by Len Duckworth, phone numbers 01287 633555 or 07825732663 for further details.

10 colonies, each set up as a National brood box and a half, one super with fresh wax and frames, a framed wire queen excluder, crown board, roof and a new rapid feeder.

Also other bits and pieces including two unopened parcels from Stamfordham Bees containing frames (150) and wax, a lot of wood cut ready to put together to produce supers – Len would be prepared to offer any hive purchasers these at the same price at which he purchased them. Len has other tools and equipment which he will sort out once he has sold his bees.

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Newsletter Articles - Prize: Free Membership

We are always looking for new and interesting articles for the Newsletter, and now we're offering the chance to win free membership for a year for the best original article that appears in our Newsletter during the next year. Are you an experienced beekeeper who wants to explain a procedure or task? A new beekeeper who wants to share his/her experiences?

Just a few guidelines to clarify things....

1. The author must be a member of CBKA at the time of entering and at the time of judging.

1. We always welcome any article which might be of interest, but to be eligible for this competition it must be your own original work.

2. It should fill about one side of our newsletter,

with accompanying photos if you want.

3. Judging will be this time next year so the winner will get their membership fee refunded.

4. Members of the CBKA committee are excluded from entering.

5. Judging will be by the CBKA committee whose decision is final.

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Outdoor events and Agricultural Shows

You are all welcome to the various apiary visits during the summer, it is always instructive to learn how different people tackle their inspections and carry out different procedures, there's always something to learn. Out of respect to the hosts I would ask that you turn up with clean beesuits, gloves and wellies. The need for apiary hygiene is important to us all. Please allow our newer members to get a ringside view at these events. The public seem to have an insatiable interest in bees, beekeeping and honey, and the local agricultural shows are great way for us to pass our knowledge on. Come along to the CBKA stands and see what we're doing and as Ada has asked in her article above, please support us by entering your honey, wax, honey cake and photos to make the shows a success.

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Keep in touch during the summer

There are no newsletters or indoor meetings during the summer, but do not feel that you're stuck if you need help. The members list circulated to everyone should help you identify mentors and fellow beekeepers in your area. Ring and make yourself known to your beekeeping neighbours and help each other out.

Wishing you all a good honey crop!

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Happy Beekeeping

Secretary: Derek Herring, 8 Wardale Avenue, Acklam, Middlesbrough. Tel 01642 282030

Winter meetings (September to April) are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15pm in the:

Southlands Leisure Centre, Ormesby Road, Middlesbrough, TS3 0HG. Visitors and new members welcome.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Allan, Tony & Richard Jefferson

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

Tel 07749 73 1945 or Tel/Fax 01947 893811

tony@stoneleabees.wanadoo.co.uk

Suppliers of all beekeeping equipment.

Honey bought and sold.

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