



CBKA Newsletter

September 2012

Volume 27/1. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

In the Apiary

We're fast approaching the end of the beekeeping year and your bees should be just about wrapped up for the winter. The Varroa treatment and winter syrup feeding should be nearly finished. Any further good weather will enable the bees to bring in nectar from ivy and any other late flowers to top up their stores.

We have had the wettest summer in a 100 years, and the coldest since 1991. Most people have had to keep feeding on and off throughout the summer and only those lucky enough to have taken off spring honey and a late batch brought in during the last month or so have a heavy crop of honey. However it would seem that a lot of people have had at least some honey because the Association bulk bought 20 gross of honey jars for the benefit of our members and we have just about sold out. At 30p each they were substantially less than the price at most other suppliers, and you could buy as few jars as you needed. We emailed everyone whose email address we had – if you didn't see an email offering you jars at a discounted rate then either look in your junk folder or check that we have your correct email address. We also advertised the bulk purchase on our website with details on how to order.

We have lots of new members and we hope that the poor weather this summer hasn't turned them off beekeeping, it isn't usually this challenging! The most common problems have been:

- * Numerous reports of “disappearing” queens – what happened to them? No eggs or brood and no queens. Did they just stop laying? Why didn't they get superseded if they weren't performing?
- * Drone layers because the new queens didn't get a chance to mate properly.
- * Many cases of starvation due to the inability of the bees to get out and forage.
- * Reports of swarms well into August – and I went to collect two swarms from the ground, where the bees had started making comb in the grass despite being surrounded by bushes and trees. I had never seen that before.

*

Membership and Beebase

An early reminder - Membership fees are due on the 1st of November, they will be £25 again this year for full membership if paid before the end of the year. Please try and pay sooner rather than later as it makes administration easier, and will save you £5 as paying after the New Year will cost you £30. The costs for other classes of membership remain the same too.

We have been asked several times by the Regional Bee Inspectors of the National Bee Unit based at Sand Hutton near York if we would supply a list of members for their Beebase database. They use this database to give beekeepers early warnings of problems and diseases in their area. We have been unable to supply this list because our membership renewal has always been done in a rather informal way so we have been unable to comply with data protection rules.

Members who have joined recently will have noticed that the membership form mentions that we will provide address details to Beebase, but long standing members have never been told this so we held back from forwarding their details. We have redesigned the membership form so we can use it as a renewal form too. In this way we will be able to comply with the data protection rules and in future we will provide Beebase with all our address details. Please rest assured that your address details are still tightly controlled – we hold them within CBKA and we only send them to BBKA as we're affiliated to them; we also distribute a chopped down version with incomplete address details to every CBKA member, and in the future we will send them to Beebase. That's it.

Please make sure that you fill in a Membership Renewal form this year. Do not send in payments without the Renewal form. It will be available from the website and a copy will be attached to the next Newsletter.

If you give us an email address we will inform you of any special occurrences, such as the jar bulk purchase which we emailed out early in the summer, or of changes of dates or venues for our meetings.

*

Beekeeping Suppliers in our area

After many years of supplying beekeeping equipment to our area John Allen has decided to retire from the business. I'm sure everyone who has dealt with John would like to wish him a happy retirement and send him a big thank you for always coming up trumps in supplying the goods and for offering advice when we scratched our heads over something. Simon Hill of Hillybees in Stokesley has taken over where John has left off and I'm sure we'll find Simon as helpful as John always was. See the advert at the end of the Newsletter for Simon's details.

We are lucky in our area as we continue to have two beekeeping suppliers, the other one being Allan, Tony and Richard Jefferson in Staithes who are always ready to fulfil our orders in addition to offering advice when the bees forget to read the instruction manual and decide to do their own thing. See their advert at the end of the Newsletter too.

*

News update from CBKA's exam secretary

This year in the March modules, CBKA members passed three theory modules. Two Basic Assessments were passed in the summer as well as one Advanced Husbandry Certificate.

It was good to see members other than me doing the modules! In November modules 1,3, 6 and 8 are being offered for examination. I need to have the completed applications for those interested in sitting these modules by 28th September to ensure they are received on time by BBKA. The syllabi are available on line. The examination date for the November modules is Saturday 10th November. Anyone interested in sitting a module please download the form from the BBKA website and send completed forms and fee to me... Good luck and get revising!

I was disappointed to see how few members did the Basic Assessment. This is the first step on the exam path which can end with the award of the Master

Beekeeper Certificate. It is however a stand alone qualification that proves that you are a competent beekeeper. The exam for the Basic Assessment is a practical and oral exam covering subjects that all beekeepers should know. The Assessment should ensure that the candidate has a grasp of manipulation, swarm control and disease recognition. To take the Basic Assessment you should have managed at least one colony of bees for a minimum of 12 months.

This year the Basic assessment cost £15 to sit, however as CBKA are keen for every member to pass the exam the Association will continue to pay half the cost for any member who wishes to be a candidate in 2013. The subsidy can only be claimed once by any member.

If anyone has any queries regarding the exams please contact me at: t.rettig@btinternet.com

Tom Rettig

*

Local Shows

There were many casualties of the poor summer weather, one of them being Cleveland Show which took the brave decision to cancel rather than risk turning the newly refurbished Stewart Park into a quagmire. We were invited to Bilsdale Show on the 25th of August and while the scenery was breathtaking the low cloud and chilly conditions soon worsened to become a proper downpour. Visitor numbers were low but those that turned out saw our new display and we even managed to have an observation hive - always a big draw even if some people think we keep wasps!!!

Stokesly show is always a big event, so we hope to be there on Saturday 22nd of September. If you are at the show come by the CBKA stand and say hello.

*

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:

Middlesbrough Bowling Club, Cornfield Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 5QL (Near the Little Theatre). 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.

Hillybees

A Hill and Sons, Station Nurseries, Station Rd, Stokesley, TS9 7AB

Tel 07931527117 Fax 01642 711797

Web: www.hillybees.co.uk Email: enquiries@hillybees.co.uk

Supply of all beekeeping equipment, queens, nucs

Honey Spinner and Filter Tank Hire

See website for more details