



CBKA Newsletter

April 2013

Volume 27/8. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

Chairman's Note

It is April 6th and at last we have a small sample of Spring weather when the bees are able to get out in force and we can start to think of the beekeeping season to come.

We had a good turnout at our March meeting for the visit and talk by Dr. David Aston, the current BBKA chairman, on integrated pest management which was enjoyed by all.

Presentations were made by David Aston to Alan Jefferson of Honorary Membership to CBKA for all his support to the association over many years. Tom Rettig received the award of Master Beekeeper which is a great honour for Tom as well as our Association and I am sure we will be calling on his expertise much more in the future. Sal Mancina and John Baines also received certificates for their beekeeping Module studies.

I would ask all members who do not yet have the Basic Beekeepers Certificate to consider having a go at it this year as it is not hard and will give you a good grounding to becoming better beekeepers.

Please contact Tom Rettig for details.

The new 2013 CBKA swarm collectors call out list has been sent to BBKA and all members on the list have agreed to follow the protocol as laid down by BBKA.

There has been much publicity in the media regarding use of pesticides and the possible damage caused to bees and it will be interesting to see our government's response.

Here's looking forward to a great new beekeeping season.

Best regards, *Rob Andrews (Chairman)*

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In the Apiary

At long last there's a change in the weather. If you live in a town then you will have noticed the first bushes and trees have started to come into bloom, but out in the country it appears that things are still well behind where they should be. If the temperature remains near the seasonal average the bees will fly but they will find little forage for a while yet. Now is the time to start giving them liquid feed to substitute for the lack of nectar. In the autumn we gave a double strength solution of syrup, in spring we need to give a 1:1 solution - easily made up by mixing 1

kilo of sugar to 1 litre of warm water. This makes up just the right amount to fill the common "Rapid Feeder". The syrup will stimulate the queen to start egg laying, and you will need to continue the feeding regime until the blossom is fully out and the bees are able to collect enough for themselves. Those brood boxes, crown boards and hive floors which you cleaned and repaired during the winter will be needed now. At the first opportunity of a nice warm day you should swap the existing hive floor and brood box for those nice clean ones. The floor especially may be dirty with dead bees and bits of wax and other debris accumulated during this long cold spell. Check the outer frames as they frequently go mouldy during the winter, swap them out for clean drawn frames or frames with new foundation.

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Summer

This is the last newsletter of the spring and it coincides with the last indoor meeting. Check the programme and come along and support the outdoor apiary meetings, it's always interesting to see other apiaries and there's always something to learn. There's not too much in the way of addresses in our programme because we don't want to advertise where there are bees. Ring Rob Andrews or any other member of the committee if you need directions, any last minute changes in venues or times will be shown on our website. In early summer we will again bulk order honey jars. Many thanks to the members who have already registered their interest in buying them. An email will be sent out when they are delivered so you can get your order in promptly. Let's hope our bees produce a lot of honey and we need a lot of jars!

If you don't have email or internet access keep in touch with your beekeeping colleagues who do and they will keep you up to date.

A reminder that the association has a centrifugal extractor which members can borrow by booking with Unal Metti on 01642 786234. Please do not keep it for longer than a couple of days and make sure that it is cleaned thoroughly after use ready for the next member. We also have a honey press for heather honey, again available by booking in advance.

Taking the Basic Exam

Members of CBKA who want to take the basic exam this year are asked to get their application to Tom Rettig by the end of May. The form can be downloaded from the BBKA website:
www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations__assessments/basic_assessment
Please enclose a £7.50 cheque made out to CBKA.

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Shows and Honey

As this is the last newsletter for a while I thought that I would take this opportunity to mention the Shows. I appreciate that it is early days to be thinking about your entries. The bees are having a very slow start due to the poor spring weather, and we have not yet been able to give them a proper inspection. However, as always, we Beekeepers are ever hopeful of things improving very soon and then the honey will come flowing in! As soon as this happens please give a thought to putting some aside to enter into the shows. Our Judge for the Cleveland show will be travelling from Doncaster and I am hoping that we have a good display for him.

One jar of honey is all that is needed for each of the two Novice classes. There is the added incentive of the £10 prize, kindly donated by Philip Stanniland for the next 5 years, for the Novice gaining the most points. That is on top of the show prize. Surely something to aim for? No Honey? No Excuse! Enter the Honey Cake Section, the Wax Section or a Bee related photograph. The more the merrier, give it a try. As usual, if you are unable to get to the show then get your entries to me and I will be happy to stage them for you. Please help us to have a splendid display this year.

Schedules for the Cleveland show will be available nearer show time. There will be a few old schedules and entry forms available at the next two apiary meetings, or by post on request, so that our newer members in particular can have early notice of the different classes.

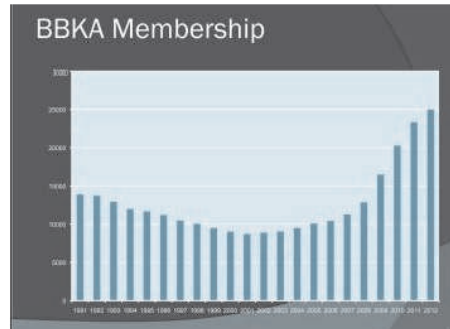
I have asked that a Novice Section be included and

also a Honey Cake of your own choice be included in the schedule for Stokesley Show. The judge at Stokesley show this year will be Mr Tony Jefferson. Entry forms to be sent directly to the Stokesley show secretary, Mrs J. B. Hugill, and should be in by the end of August but lets think about the Cleveland show first and then we will be ready for the Stokesley too. *by Ada Newman*

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Training Workshop

We recently attended a training workshop organised by BBKA. The primary reason for this is to address the training needs generated by the recent massive increase in membership in the last few years as is obvious from the BBKA graph. Apologies for the quality - the last year shown is 2012, with a membership of 25000. In our own association 62% of the membership has joined since 2010. This has led to a situation where the training has had to



focus very heavily on basic skills for novice beekeepers and this training workload has fallen on a relatively few

experienced beekeepers. The BBKA now wants to refocus training on the development of this cohort firstly to attain their Basic certificate (in our association only 12% have this certificate) and then to encourage members to continue towards the certificate in General Husbandry. There are many training resources available, though not always in our region. If you feel you would like to further your skill and knowledge in beekeeping please approach one of the members of our education committee and visit the Qualifications page of the BBKA website. *by Graham Clarke and Unal Metti*

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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:

Middlesbrough Bowling Club, Cornfield Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 5QL (Near the Little Theatre). Visitors and new members welcome.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

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