



CBKA Newsletter

January 2013

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In the Apiary

Last month we had an article and some pictures from one of our members who had to go and rescue his hives from a flooded field. This month another tale of submerged hives...

On the 25th September 2012 we got a call off the farmer's son who owns the land where our apiary is



to get our feet wet but the water was that high it came straight over the top of the wellies, we thought "We are wet now so let's get on with it!". We decided to raise each whole hive by placing an empty 14x12 brood box underneath to get the brood box with the



bees out the water. Our hives are in a farmer's field with a shallow beck called Goosepool Beck running behind the apiary. When we picked the apiary site we did not even think that this could fill up so much as it did. Speaking to the farmer after the flooding he said he has never seen it that high before and he's been there many years. We're pleased to say that the girls were out flying once the weather improved, so all was OK. *Kevin Smith & Tony Jones*

saying we better get down there as soon as possible as the hives were flooded out. As you can see from the image he was so right. On with the wellies we thought and carefully waded to the hives trying not

Nucleus Nest Temperature during the Winter of 2011-2012

Temperature probes were used to monitor the nest location within the nucleus hive over the winter period. Another observation was made with respect to wax production.

Diary of Events.

5 September. Bees with unmarked queen out of observation hive put into Nuc 4 with one frame of brood.

6 September. Nuc 5 with bees and white marked queen from apiary and three frames of brood placed on top of Nuc 4. Temperature probes were then placed in the centre of Nuc 4 (bottom Nuc), in the centre of Nuc 5 (top Nuc) and the centre of the top frames.

18 September. A three inch Eke and a John Dews over-frame thymol evaporator put on.

6 November. Thymol evaporator removed.

25 December. Last of 2011 wax scales seen on floor.

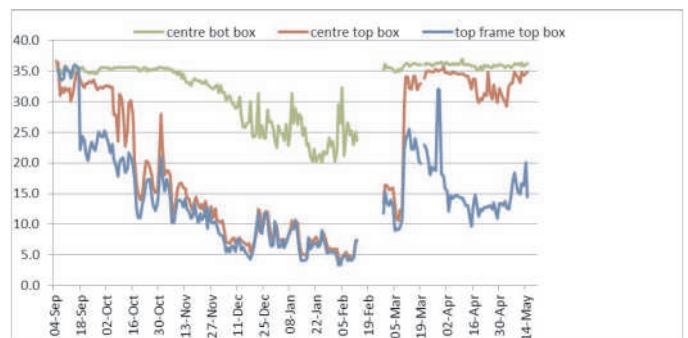
8 January. Start of 2012 wax scales seen on floor.

28 March. Lots of wax scales on floor due to comb building in Eke.

29 March. Super put on.

16 May. Two frames of brood & unmarked Queen put into observation hive. Nucs 4 & 5 with remaining brood moved to out apiary to raise new queens.

26 June. Queens seen in both Nucs & each have two frames with eggs and larvae on.



Conclusion

By the 5th of October the bees had concentrated the nest in the bottom Nuc, indicated by the higher temperatures, so they could use the top Nuc for storing food. By the 27th Feb brood rearing was in full swing (sorry about the gap in the graph). Towards the beginning of March the bees started to

expand the nest, moving up to the top Nuc. On 11th March brood started in the top Nuc.

Barrie Bloom

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For Sale

Refurbished secondhand National Hive. Includes floor, brood box with frames and foundation, queen excluder, two supers with frames, crown board, roof, hive stand, a new stainless steel smoker, a new bee suit smock and gloves, standard and J type hive tool, a round feeder and two packets of foundation. *Derek Peat, Tel 01642 780771*

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'Bee Friend' Project

As 2013 starts, Middlesbrough's innovative 'Bee Friend' project draws to a close. A little over two years ago, a partnership led by Catherine Boyle at



Middlesbrough Environment City, with Middlesbrough Council and Cleveland Beekeepers met with the aim of

promoting beekeeping amongst community gardeners and allotment holders. As custodians of some of the richest bee friendly habitats, and with an 'Urban Farming' initiative thriving in the town, interest was mounting as to how better encourage bees and other pollinating insects into veg patches and mini-orchards and a need for more training was identified. Catherine approached the Big Lottery's 'Local Food' funding scheme and a grant of £10,000 was approved to buy shared equipment and to roll out a training programme. The first intake of prospective beekeepers started training with Unal from Cleveland Beekeepers in February 2011 on a cold and wintry night in the Hebrew Prayer House in Linthorpe Cemetery! Ten weeks on and eight people had really been bitten by the bug. Desperate to start, Katy and Peter at Whitehouse Community

Allotment, Kevin at Town Farm Community Allotment, Jan and Sarah at Saltersgill Community Allotment and Francine and Nicky at Stewart Park collected their hives and nucs from John Allen at



Long Newton and had their mentors appointed by CBKA who helped them set up and settle their colonies. Each was equipped with a suit, veil and gloves, hive tool and smoker and the first season passed,

thankfully, without incident. The hive at Stewart Park even produced some honey!

2012 saw additional funding arrive from Middlesbrough Council's 'Healthy Town' initiative and from the Co-operative Community Fund, which enabled Martyn from Hemlington Hall set up the town's first school-based hive and Hartley expand the Saltersgill Community Apiary. Five new community apiaries have been created and nine hive custodians appointed to share their beekeeping skills. Many people have continued to keep bees in their own gardens, allotments and community centres. A pool of shared equipment, including spare suits and honey extractors, is available for loan so anyone can take their first steps. One school has its own apiary, and a further three have hosted beekeeping workshops. These accomplishments far exceeded the ambitions of early 2011!

Catherine Boyle, Middlesbrough Environment City

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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

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

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Supply of all beekeeping equipment, queens, nucs

Honey Spinner and Filter Tank Hire

See website for more details