



CBKA Newsletter

October 2013

Year 28/ 2. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

Chairman's Note

As the beekeeping year comes to a close it's nice to have a look back at the season and make some plans for next year. This year has been good for our bees and hopefully they are all now tucked up for winter with plenty of stores and very few varroa mites. It will still be necessary though to keep an eye on the number of varroa mites dropping on to the sampling board and possibly treat if the daily mite drop exceeds 0.5 as stated in the Fera "Managing Varroa" leaflet. If anyone wants a copy of this leaflet please contact the secretary.

I have at last managed to get some heather honey extracted which can be a problem as the honey needs to be warm enough to press and run through the filters and usually ends up all over the kitchen, cooker, table, chairs etc. and it looks like I shall be heading for the divorce court once again.

Our next meeting is the AGM and we welcome any member who would like to join the committee. It is not a difficult job and only involves a few meetings per year and it is good to have new members with new ideas which keeps the association up to date and vibrant. *By Rob Andrews, Chairman*

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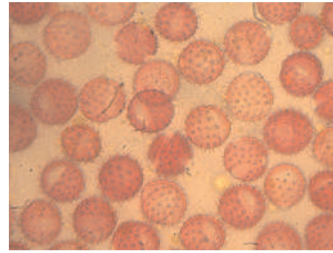
In the Apiary

As Rob says above, your feeding and varroa treatments should be completed by now. Make sure the mouse guards are on to prevent mice from entering the hive and eating the stores, bees, grubs and wax honeycomb. During the summer the bees are active and any mouse trying to enter would end up with a stings for their trouble, but from now on the bees will be clustering on colder days and the mice will have little to fear. Last year I lost two colonies due to a storm which upended my hive stands together with the hives, this year I am using concrete building blocks as stands and the solitary hive will be strapped on securely. Make sure your hives are similarly secured against the gales which will surely come along later in the year.

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Pollen of the Month

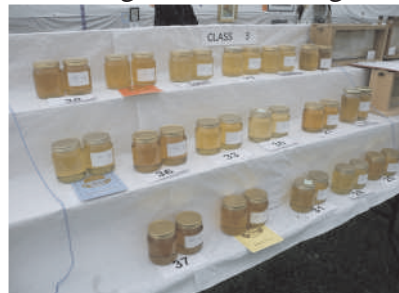
It's the end of September but my bees are still flying well and bringing in pollen. We are told that at this time of year the main forage is ivy so that is what I expected to see. It has however been a strange year



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Summer Show: Stokesley

The weather was perfect and thankfully it was a mild morning for us 'early birds'. The attendance at the show was good and we had our fair share of the general public eager to chat to us, marvel at the observation hive (supplied by Barrie Bloom), and taste the honey. The candle rolling had to be postponed until midday when things warmed up enough for the wax to be pliable. This is proving to be quite an attraction for the children, as is having their photograph taken with their faces on the body of a big Bee and not only the children, adults also joined in the fun. One child had a bit of a scare when he got his head stuck in the hole due to his ears being a bit on the large size! With the extra



attractions the stand has increased in size and now has something of interest for all age groups. Once again we were congratulated on

the quality of the stand.

The entries of Honey and Wax made a good display and folk seemed quite amazed at the different varieties of Honey. Quite unlike the supermarkets where it all looks much the same! I am sure a lot of people went home with a much greater knowledge of the workings and importance of the Honey Bee, which is after all what we are trying to achieve. My thanks to everyone who worked hard all day to give the public who visited us an enjoyable experience.

By Ada Newman, Show Secretary

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Adventures in Beekeeping

In August 2012 I got a phone call. "Hello one of my ladies has a swarm of bees" came a voice. "Ok, could you describe them" I responded, in the

meantime thinking it's was a bit late in the year for a swarm. The lady on the other end went on to say that they had watched the bees arrive back in June and that they had landed in an apple tree and there they had stayed. They'd been watching them all summer but had decided that as the lady who owned the house was going into a home shortly they would like to make sure the bees were safe. It was only round the corner so I was there in five minutes and was shown an apple tree with a lovely cluster of bees and wax hanging from a branch, just above head height.

I think that when they'd swarmed back in June they had landed in the tree and due to the bad weather we had had that summer they'd not been able to move on. Owing to the weather and work I couldn't deal with them then, so I said that I would return later and remove them.

I thought of two options to remove them. Either cut them off at the top and drop them into a box with a few frames of foundation and leave them until the spring to recover and then sort them out. This can be a very destructive method, you would kill bees, brood and possibly the queen and would destroy all the hard work the bees had done already. So I decided to use a less destructive method.

I returned the following Saturday with a brood box, floor, quilt, roof, five frames of drawn comb and the rest was empty frames. I gave the bees a bit of smoke just to calm them down as this was not like a swarm where they are already full of honey. Then I gently cut down each comb and shook the bees off into the brood box and replaced the quilt. Using elastic bands I fastened the comb (which contained brood and stores) into an empty frame. The operation was repeated for all the combs and the combs were placed into the centre of the hive with the bees. If the comb wouldn't fit in the frame it was cut to size and any remnants containing brood or stores were used in the next frame, anything else that was left went into a bucket to go into the wax melter. Once all the comb was in the hive I placed a rapid feeder of light syrup (1:1) on top of the quilt

and put the roof on. This would help the bees build wax between the inserted combs and make the combs stronger. The bees by now were fanning at



the entrance of the hive so it was a good indication that I had the queen, but there was still a cluster of bees on the branch

above, so I sprayed the branch with cheap lavender furniture polish, just something smelly to mask the scent of the bees on the branch and this dispersed them. I then left the hive in the back garden and advised the owner's carer that I would return in the evening to retrieve them once the bees had stopped flying. Throughout the operation I noted that these were very placid bees, and I totalled one sting in a glove. They survived through the winter and built up very quickly in the spring of 2013. *By Steve Jacklin*

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Membership Fees 2013-14

Membership fees for beekeeping associations affiliated to the British Beekeeping Association have an element called Capitation which is sent to BBKA. For the year 2013-14 BBKA have increased the Capitation by £2 to £17 for each member. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers running candle making at shows and exhibitions, and small profits from training events and from the sale of jars, etc, Cleveland Beekeepers has made a surplus this year so the committee has decided to keep the membership fee the same as last year at £25. Please complete a Membership Form when you renew, it makes administration so much easier with 150 members to account for!

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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

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