



CBKA Newsletter

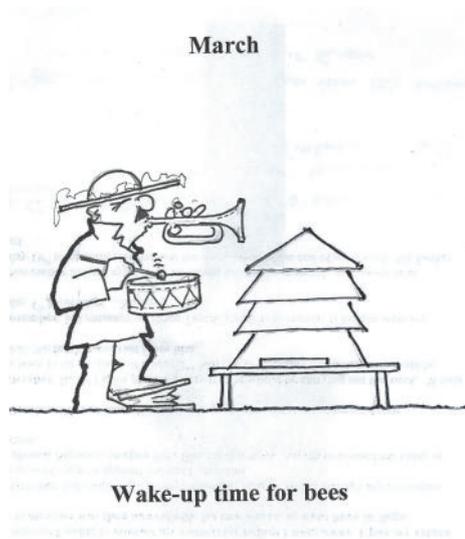
March 2014

Year 28/ 7. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

Chairman's Note

March has arrived and fingers crossed we are moving out of Winter without having too much bad weather here in the North East, however we could still catch a cold spell and we need to keep an eye on the stores our bees have and keep them topped up where necessary.

Soon I expect we will be hearing the roar of strimmers and lawnmowers as well as the hum of the



bees. It is not a sound the bees seem to enjoy and can make them quite aggressive so if you are thinking about cutting the grass around your hives either shut them in before starting or wear your protective clothing, never

mind what the neighbours think.

A reminder:

The coach for our trip to Chain Bridge Honey Farm in Berwick has been booked for our trip on Sunday 29th of June. The pickup point will be outside Boots the Chemist at Teesside Park at 8.30am and we should return about 5.00pm. I would be grateful if the people who have put their names down for the trip could send their payments of £15 per person by BACS to the Association account, sort code 40 43 11 A/c no. 91063758. Please make sure you add your name for reference. Alternatively you can send a cheque to me at 6 Forest Lane, Kirklevington, Yarm on Tees, TS15 9LY or pay at our next meeting.

Best regards

Rob Andrews, Chairman

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In the Apiary

Is this a false start or is Spring making a welcome early arrival? If the weather remains stable and it doesn't take a backward step then the feeding of your bees should change to reflect the warmer weather. You may have been feeding fondant to your colonies

since the New Year, and now a decision needs to be made if it is time to start the liquid feed which will stimulate the queen to ramp up her egg laying. A little bit of explanation about why you might want to do this... worker eggs laid today will take 3 weeks to hatch, then the young bee will be a house bee doing work in the hive for a further 3 weeks before she is ready to be a forager. Here we are in mid March, and six weeks from now will take us to the end of April. By the end of April and into May the rape might be starting to flower, together with most of the fruit trees, and you might want to have your colony ready to take advantage of the spring honey flow.

A 1:1 mixture of water and sugar is what is required if you want to feed spring syrup. Simply dissolve a kilo bag of sugar in a litre of water and feed to the bees via a contact feeder. One thing to note.... once you start feeding syrup you should continue feeding it until you feel your bees are finding enough nectar to manage on their own. As it says above, the feeding of syrup will stimulate an increase in egg laying, so its need will continue as the brood hatches and there are a lot of hungry mouths to feed. It's all a delicate balancing act as feeding for too long after more natural sources of nectar are available will accelerate the chances of early swarming.

I've had a couple of emails like the one below from Graham Clarke:

It's been such good weather recently that I looked at my hives today (Tuesday 11 March). The full sized hives had 4 to 5 frames of sealed and unsealed brood - and 2 to 3 frames of stores and plenty of stored pollen.

The Polystyrene nucleuses all had patches of sealed and unsealed brood over 3 frames with variable amounts of stores.

That's brilliant for this time of year, and thought it might be useful for others to gauge their hives by.

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First swarm call out of the year

Yes, really! Believe it or not on the 11th of March I got my first call out of the year. As it had been so sunny and unseasonably warm I thought it could

have been a real swarm. The householder called me to say he had bees in one of his bedrooms and that they had been coming in for years and every year they swarmed and went into his garden. Could I remove them from his loft, please?

I went to have a look in his loft and..... found two football sized wasp nests, empty of course. No honey bees or any signs of them.

So where these supposed swarms had come from I have no idea. *By Steve Jacklin*

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Microscopy Evening

Extra Meeting on Monday 31st of March 7:15

Bowling Club

Our plan is that this will be as hands on as possible so it would be useful if anyone who has their own microscopes could bring them and set them up prior



to the meeting.

1. We will have a quick demo of the two types of microscope used by Beekeepers and what they are used for, including health and safety aspects.
 2. A demonstration followed by a hands on session making pollen slides. We will have some pollen and slide making equipment. Depending on numbers we may have to work in teams of two or three.
 3. We will examine the prepared pollen slides.
 4. There will be an opportunity to look at a pollen database on computer. Discussion of how pollen can be used to identify where honey is from.
 5. Examination of prepared anatomy slides.
- Discussion about the equipment required for the preparation of anatomy slides and for dissection, and opportunity to handle some of the equipment.

6. Discussion about preparation of nosema slides and a look at a heavy nosema result.

7. We will also bring our collection of microscopy books which people will be able to have a look at. We would propose setting up the pollen microscope on one table and anatomy microscope on another so that people will be able to get a closer look and then swap groups.

If time allows and people are interested we can talk a little about preparation for the BBKA microscopy exam.

By Richard and Shirley Bond

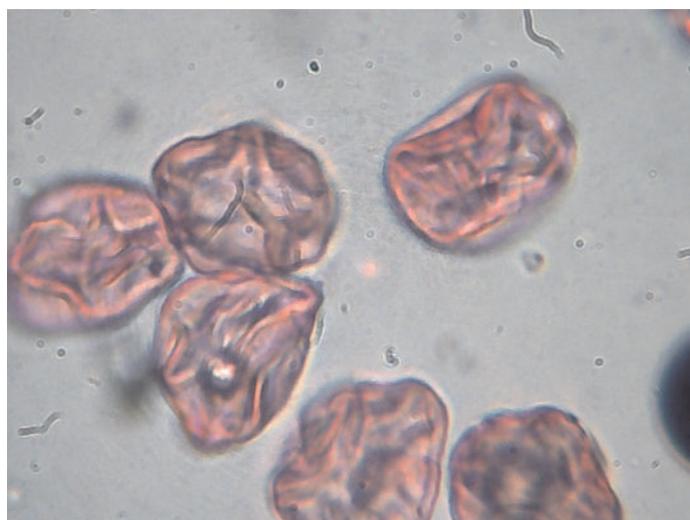
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Microscopy Pollen of the Month

Winter is over and once again my bees are bringing in pollen. Last year at this time it was snowdrop.

This year there is plenty of choice. I have seen snowdrops and crocuses, there is blackthorn and flowering cherry in abundance. The day I took this sample the bees were bringing in small loads of this white pollen. You can see it has a crinkled appearance and is 20-25 μ and no obvious apertures. I have no idea what it is, so if you have any ideas I would be happy to hear them,

By Graham Clarke



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Happy beekeeping!

Secretary: Steve Jacklin, 34 Juntion Rd, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1PL Tel: 01642 866240

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

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