

CBKA Newsletter

November 2014

Year 29/ 3. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

Chairman's Note

First of all can I thank the membership for electing me as your Chairman. Secondly I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Rob for his work as Chairman and also congratulate him on organising an excellent programme for this year. I'd also like to thank Derek Passmore for his work as Treasurer and wish Carol Anderton good fortune in taking over from him. Well, I suppose you are all asking the same question I ask myself most mornings "Who am I?", so I better introduce myself. I was born in deepest, darkest Lincolnshire in the village of Great Coates. Where my father to this day still keeps bees with the able assistance of my sister-in-law. We have four beekeepers in the family so you can guess what the topic of conversation is when we all get together. Professionally I started out as a Process Supervisor in a Chicken Kiev factory. I also have the distinction of being able to fillet two hundred chicken breasts an hour. I went on from there and did my HNC in Instrumentation and Control from where I progressed to doing a degree in Electrical Engineering at Newcastle University where I met a Teesside lass called Sarah who I eventually married. I now work as a Chartered Systems Engineer programming industrial control systems. I live in Norton with Sarah and two wonderful children who I will be bringing along to apiary visits.

My earliest experience of bees was when I was in my mid-teens, I was camping at the local Scout camp when a swarm flew by. Everyone else ran and hid, I just stood there and the bees just flew round me. My dad took up beekeeping when I was in my early twenties and I became his beast of burden and would often find myself in obscure parts of Lincolnshire at some unholy time of the morning. That sort of first kindled my interest. I started getting more interested when I shared an office for a couple of weeks with a certain Tony Jefferson who I knew as an Electrical Switching Engineer at SembCorp and for whom I was working on a project. Anyway, I was rapidly approaching 40 and was thinking about fast cars and loose women, but Sarah said "no" so I ended up with a few thousand bees and a very ancient Land Rover. How would I describe my beekeeping? I go with "what I know works for myself and my bees", but I

would also describe myself as a technical beekeeper. I'm always interested in learning new things and expanding my knowledge. This year I've used the Jenter Method for raising my own queens. I managed to rear a grand total of two queens, looking back I think I was a bit too eager, but I am going to have a further go next year. I've also tried poly hives this year, something I will do a review of in another issue of the newsletter. I did have one setback in my beekeeping when I found out the hard way that I was allergic to stings, but three years further on I've just about finished a desensitisation course and find I hardly react now.

Many years ago I read a book by Sir Edmund Hillary and three things stood out at me. He was a New Zealander who kept bees and had been to Everest Base Camp. Two of those things you could apply to myself and I'm certainly not a New Zealander.

by Steve Jacklin, Chairman.

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In the Apiary

It's time to catch your breath at the end of the beekeeping year. Make sure your mouse guards are on and make sure your roofs are weighed down

THE BEEKEEPING YEAR

Autumn



Feed and Treat the bee-keepers

with a brick or stone to prevent the wind from rattling them around. Collect all those little bits of wax gathered in your tool box and melt them down, they are less liable to wax moth attack if in a block. Unzip the hood/veil on your bee suit and soak overnight in soapy water with some washing soda in it. Rinse thoroughly the following day. The washing soda will help shift propolis marks. If you have a two piece suit soak the whole top and rinse. For those with a one piece suit, put the suit in the washing machine after removing the hood, adding some

washing soda. If you put a hood with veil in the washer it mangles the wire supports and distorts them and you also risk the veil tearing. Clean your hive tools with some surgical spirit and then wash in some hot water with washing soda. Check your gloves and clean them or get new ones. If you use calf skin ones put them in the freezer for a while and you will find the propolis becomes brittle and easier to remove.

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2014-15 Committee members

Many thanks for their hard work in the association go to Derek Passmore and Barrie Bloom who have stepped down from the committee. Rob Andrews, our outgoing chairman, remains on the committee.

Chairman	Steve Jacklin
Vice Chairperson	<i>Vacancy</i>
Secretary	<i>Vacancy</i>
Treasurer	Carol Anderton
Website Editor/Diary Sec	Graham Clarke
Apiary Manager/Librarian	Billy Ellerington
Newsletter/Membership Sec	Sal Mancina
Equipment Hire	Unal Metti
Show Secretary	Julie Saxton
Technical Officer/Exam Sec	Tom Rettig

Other committee members:

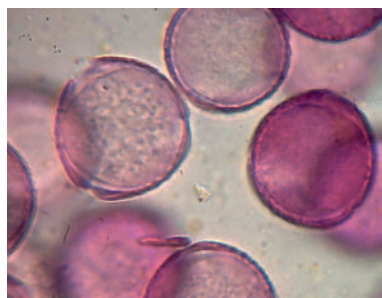
Tim Anderton
Rob Andrews
John Canning
Peter Rowland
Lynn Taylor

There are two vacancies as you can see above.

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Pollen of the month

Not really a surprise this month. About the only thing still available is ivy and that's what it is. Textured membrane at about 28µ with 3 pores. What is a surprise is that this was gathered on 26 October and all my bees were flying as if it were summer. I have finished feeding them (ie. they stopped taking feed 2 weeks ago). When I look at them through their glass quilt there is no sign of any of them forming a cluster, the strong hives are still



bursting with bees. If this warm spell goes on for much longer or leads to a mild winter I can see them getting through their winter stores very quickly and almost certainly

needing early feeding next spring.

Written in late October 2014 by Graham Clarke

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CBKA Membership Renewal

Many thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership.

Renewal was due from the 1st of November, so if you have not renewed please do so soon. Renewal is £25 for full membership. If you renew after 31st of December it costs £30, so there's a little bit of encouragement to do it sooner rather than later.

by Sal Mancina, Membership Secretary

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Christmas Social Event

CBKA are holding a Pie and Pea Evening on December 15th at the usual time and venue. Tickets cost £3.50 and are available from Derek Passmore. Please book early as we have to order the pies and peas in advance. If you want to order Vegetarian Pie then let Derek know. Our guest speaker Tony Jefferson will be talking about his new book "A Practical Guide to Producing Heather Honey".

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Queen Rearing Programme

We are at the very early stages of planning a queen rearing programme for next year. If you have experience or knowledge about queen rearing and wish to join the discussion please let me know. If we are successful we hope to have some queens available for distribution sometime during summer 2015, so at this point there's no need to register your interest if all you would like are some queens.

by Sal Mancina

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Happy beekeeping!

Secretary: Steve Jacklin, 34 Junction 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.

"Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know it so it goes on flying anyway."

Mary Kay Ash

Cleveland Beekeepers

Visit our website at www.teesbees.co.uk. You will find our programme for the coming year and all our past Newsletters.