



CBKA NEWSLETTER

Available online at
www.teesbees.co.uk

Year 30/6
February 2016

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLE

So here we are on the verge of another exciting Beekeeping season. Equipment is all cleaned and made up ready for the new year, or in my case not. This time of year I'm normally ready and raring to go but work and Land Rover seem to have got in the way. Even now, as I write this, the Land Rover has overheated and another weekend of tinkering awaits.

Last year I managed to break one of my Glass Quilts. Now I've been a big fan of Glass Quilts ever since I started beekeeping. It can give you quite a good idea of the condition of the hive without having to actually open it. You know that if they are building wax on the quilt they are getting short of space and they need a super, when they are confined in the hive they can get water from the condensation that forms on the glass and just being able to look through the glass allows you to see what they are doing.

Anyway I decided to replace the broken quilt. I looked at the various suppliers and was horrified by the price. So I looked at the construction of the ones I had and realised that really they are a very simple design. Just five bits of wood and 2 pieces of glass. The side pieces are all machined the same. I used a router table to cut the half lap joints and the slot for the glass, but you could use a hand held router to cut the slot and tenon saw to cut the half laps. Then I found a local glass supplier who would cut the glass for me. Total cost £4.70 per quilt for what the suppliers charge nearly £20.

At last month's meeting the panel was asked a question about using plastic foundation. It's something I've never used, but in the interest of experimentation I have taken the plunge and bought two supers worth. I shall report back to the association later on in the year. *Steve Jacklin*

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The Chairman and Committee of Cleveland Beekeepers Association are pleased to offer congratulations to members of the Association who have passed Assessments and Examinations in 2015 .

Basic Assessment	David Gawthorpe
General Husbandry	Sal Mancina
Microscopy	Sal Mancina
Module 8	Sal Mancina
Module 7	John Baines
Module 3	Steve Jacklin

Sal has now passed all the modules and the General Husbandry Assessment therefore he is awarded the Advanced Certificate and is one step away from Master Beekeeper.

Associate Members Richard and Shirley Bond have also passed the General Husbandry.

The deadline for the November modules is in September Please consider advancing your knowledge and skills. More details are available from the CBKA's examinations officer, Tom Rettig, email: qualify@teesbees.co.uk / 01642 596158 .

On 9th February I attended a presentation lecture at Cafe Scientifique in the ARC Centre delivered by Professor Geraldine Wright, Professor of Insect Neuroethology at Newcastle University entitled 'Drinking from a Poisoned Chalice'.

Her talk gave a fascinating insight to her 10 year study and research on behalf of National Insect Pollinator Initiative, extensively looking at Neonicotinoids in nectar and other olfactants, studying their effects on bees.

She found that bees are actually attracted to nectar containing neonicotinoids and choose to forage nectar containing them from such as OSR. Similarly, her work has included studies in other nectar sources including coffee which also proved much the same results indicating bees actually become addicted to nectars containing neonicotinoids from such sources.

She also made comparison similarities with caffeine and other drugs in humans, including nicotine and the neuro-

biological mechanisms involved in nicotine dependence. It seems bees are able to remember the effect they get from nectar impregnated with neonicotinoids and actively forage for them as if they are a high value crop. A high risk was also identified from exposure via dust residues in nectar or pollen giving bees an active drug 'High' directly effecting colony structure with lack of coordination and eventual death in sufficiently high or repeated doses.

Professor Wright concluded by arguing proof that these systemic insecticides also pose a serious risk of harm to a broad range of non-target invertebrates such as honey/bumblebees and other pollinators at often below the expected environmental concentrations. She debates that their present scale use is therefore not a sustainable pest management approach which also compromises the actions of numerous stakeholders in maintaining and supporting biodiversity and subsequently the ecological functions and valuable services these diverse organisms perform. Small wonder then that those chemical companies producing these pesticides as neonicotinoids spend millions to counter these claims when currently there is a rising world market worth close to £2bn . *Jim Turnbull.*

DRINKING FROM A POISONED CHALICE

EVENTS & MEETINGS

There are plenty of opportunities to keep up to date with your beekeeping and learn something new. Here are some of the ones we know about. If there are others which you have found helpful please [email me](#) so that I can include them in a future edition of the CBKA Newsletter. *John Canning—Newsletter Compiler*

5 March: Cleveland BKA course *Beekeepers Hygiene*—Payment is now required to secure your place.

21 March: Cleveland BKA *Pollen Ecology*. 7;15 pm Middlesbrough Bowling Club

18 April: Cleveland BKA *Bumbling through Beekeeping*. 7;15 pm Middlesbrough Bowling Club

8 to 10 April: BBKA's annual *Spring Convention*—full details below

16 April: North of England Beekeepers Convention—Newcastle: *Better Beekeeping*. Full details are available on the website www.nebees.org.

If any members are interested in sharing transport to either of these Conventions please send us an [email](#).

PLANTING FOR BEES

Last month the Newsletter had a detailed article on the Pollinator Strategy and encouraged members to contact their local councillors and encourage them to work for biodiversity. Those of us that have done this have, mostly, had an encouraging response and are continuing to press for change. If you haven't written yet, please do—details are on the last newsletter on our webpage.

Bees need a wide and diverse selection of forage to be healthy. In recent years building and loss of meadows, hedgerows and wooded areas have diminished forage for our bees, often more in rural areas than the towns. So what can we do as beekeepers? Over the next few newsletters there will be ideas for those of us with gardens to plant even more for bees.

Even if all you have is an odd square metre please plant with bees and other insects in mind. There are several seed collections for insects with a mix of common and rare wild flowers & grasses to attract bees and other insects. Have a look on eBay where you can buy a few grams or several Kilos—maybe get together with a neighbour or other beekeeper to get a better deal. Please let us know how you get on—maybe your wild flower selection will provide the setting for the winning photograph in the show?

...SUMMER...

Its hardly started winter yet, but are you ready for the summer? Cleveland Beekeepers programme doesn't finish with the last indoor meeting in April, but continues thought the summer with a series of apiary meetings and, this year, a special indoor meeting on Showing

Honey, given by a National Honey Show Champion, Peter Shollick. The dates are in the box alongside, with full details on the website.

Please also remember the shows. This year we are hoping for more than 100 entries so that we can award a National Honey Show Blue Ribbon Award. There is a saying among beekeepers: ***If your honey is good enough to sell, it is good enough to show.***

The **39th BBKA Spring Convention** promises to be one of the best; more than 30 lecturers by leading speakers and 50 Workshops & Courses to tempt and stimulate delegates. Add to the excellent facilities, good food and accommodation and all is set for a great weekend.

[Tickets](#) must be purchased through the BBKA [On-line Shop](#) or by post. All delegates must wear the relevant wrist band (ticket) to gain admission so please purchase your tickets first. Then return to this page to plan which lectures you wish to attend and which courses you would like to book. Read [How to book](#) using the web-based system.

The [Events Listing](#) and [Events Schedules](#) give an overview of what's on offer to help plan your visit. Read about the [Lecture Programme](#) here and the [Courses & Workshops](#) here. You need to pre-book most Workshops & Courses. Course fees are payable for many workshops. By paying a modest booking fee you can secure your place on the bookable courses. Click on the [BookEventsandServices](#) link to take you to the booking web-site. Read about the [Accommodation & Catering](#) that's available and then book it too, by clicking on the [BookEventsandServices](#) link.

Special features for 2016: The [Trade Show](#) is a must and Day Tickets for the Trade Show only are available on the day at reception. The Trade Show will be open on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. All the main suppliers and leading companies are represented in the 2000M² Exhibition Halls.

Download the [Full Programme](#) and book your Tickets, Workshops & Courses and Accommodation now, by clicking on the hyper-links above - **Make a real weekend of it!**

Dates for the Summer Diary:

May 15
June 20
July 17
July 23
August 21
September 17



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Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Secretary: Iain Makinson Tel 01287 634995

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.