



CBKA NEWSLETTER

Available online at
www.teesbees.co.uk

Year 31/2
October 2016

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLE

So my final chairman's ramble, for a while anyway, so I thought I'd make it a corker.

It started one day many years ago. I'd just bought my first two hives. They were second hand so needed cleaning up. So, one Sunday afternoon in

April I set to with my young son cleaning the hives.

While we were doing this I started receiving visitors. Bees kept coming and flying around the hives, going in investigating and flying off. I mentioned this a few days



Cleaning Frames with Daddy

later to a beekeeping friend from Staithes. He immediately grabbed a couple of scabby old frames from the back of his van and advised me to setup one of my hives as a bait hive. A few weeks later while inspecting my one hive (those were the days) under the tutelage of my father we noticed a lot of bees investigate my spare hive. We left them alone that day but I returned the following day to find the hive full. They turned

out to be very gentle and very prolific black bees that came from, I later discovered, the chimney of a house on the local village green.

I'm not allowed to keep bees at home, it has been ordained by a higher power (the wife), but having lots of beekeeping equipment laying around does tend to attract them. Although I always keep all my spare equipment well sealed, there is always the odd opportunist hanging around.

I keep all my spare supers in a north facing lean too next to the shed as over the winter the lower temperatures help kill off the wax moth. One year I noticed an increase in interest around the lean-to. Unfortunately, I was going to be working away for the next week, so I had the bright idea of leaving a poly nucleus in the lean too just in case I got lucky. The following day, I received a call from the wife "There's a lot of bees around your shed". Don't worry I said "They'll go in the nucleus". Wrong. They decided that the area between the nucleus and the back wall was the ideal place to live. To this day you can see the area on the back wall of the lean-to where the comb was built.

From that day forward I always keep a bait hive in the garden. It normally lives on top of the chicken run, well away from the family. I work on the understanding that they are relocated to the out-apiary at the earliest opportunity.



Swarm Arrives

This year the bait hive has been particularly busy having had two swarms arrive. I've also had a further two swarms land in the garden. One in a brand new nucleus hive which wasn't as well sealed as I thought, and the other managed to get into a 14x12 poly hive filling both the hive and the feeder with bees. All but the last

(Continued on page 2)

BEE INFORMED

The *at a glance* quick guide to local beekeeping events and other important information.

Membership fees: Membership fees are due on 1 November.

Subject to formal approval at the AGM, which takes place after the Newsletter is finalised these remain at 2015 levels:

Full membership £26
Reduced membership £16

A membership form is attached to the newsletter. Payment after 31 December attracts a £5 administrative surcharge.

Honey and Hive Products: Monday 28 November at 1915 (a week later than usual). A talk by Vera Rider, a local Beekeeper and producer of hive products for sale.

Northern Bee Quiz: Wednesday 7 December at a venue to be advised in the Durham area. All welcome; lifts will be available.

Christmas Supper and Cake Competition: Monday 12 December at 1915 (a week earlier than usual). Tickets will be on sale at the AGM and then by email. Details of the Cake Competition are included elsewhere in the news letter.

2017 is coming! Some dates for your new diary:

7-9 April BBKA Convention
22 or 29 Jul Cleveland show (TBC)
23 Sept Stokesley show
11-13 Jul Great Yorkshire show
21-22 Oct Countryside Live

Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1168761

Secretary: Iain Makinson

Full details of our meetings are shown on our website www.teesbees.co.uk.

All are welcome

swarm to arrive were moved to the out apiary the same day.

The remaining swarm arrived one Sunday tea time and originated from a feral colony in an ornamental dove cote about half a mile away. The colony in the bait hive is still there as I write this. They have been kept busy cleaning up my soggy supers once I have got them extracted and now they are too heavy for me to lift. I will have to wait until the winter when hopefully the weight will have reduced to make lifting easier.

I'm lucky I have two feral colonies in the village that I pick up swarms from every year. The bees themselves are very gentle and are very prolific. The prime swarms will normally fill at least a National and often a 14x12. In fact, most of my bees originate from these two colonies and one over in Stockton. If you know you have good bees in your area, then I would recommend you put out a bait hive. It doesn't take much, just an old wooden box with a bit of old comb will do, but at the end of the days it is the bees that choose. As I seemed to of proved this summer with the bees going into a brand new nucleus as opposed to a smelly old bait hive. In some ways I think that bait hives are a civilised way of catching swarms. You can sit in the garden drinking a glass of something cool and just watch them arrive. *Steve Jacklin, chair CBKA 2014-2016*

CAKE COMPETITION

As was reported in the last newsletter the 2017 Cleveland Show Cake Class will be baked to the recipe which is the most popular at the Association's pre-Christmas supper. The committee want to offer the widest opportunity to members to supply the recipe.

Members are invited to bring one or more cakes to the December meeting for members and their guest to sample and score. The winning recipe will be the 2017 show recipe, this may be rotated in future shows with other entries

The rules are simple. The cake must:

- contain honey
- use a cake tin of 7-9" or a 2lb loaf tin
- not be iced
- have the recipe available

STEVE JACKLIN

Members will wish to thank Steve who has chaired the Association for the past two years and steps down at the AGM this month. His rambles have amused newsletter readers and his commitment behind the scenes to the Association in managing emails and queries is remarkable given that he not only has a young family, but is often required to work away from home.

ASIAN HORNET HAS ARRIVED IN UK

As you will probably have heard, the Asian Hornet has arrived in Gloucestershire and Somerset. It seems likely it has been there for some time during the summer and that the colonies will have already produced queens which will hibernate for next year.

The only positive fact seems to be that the Asian Hornets found in England are from the French stock, rather than new imports from Asia; that means that the genetic material is being inbred and potentially becoming weaker.



Courtesy The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Crown Copyright

Asian hornet trap bait.

Sweet baits are highly attractive for the first captures of Asian hornet queens. French beekeepers often use a mixture of beer and sugar. Proprietary (wasp) trap baits are available to buy.

At the height of the beekeeping season, when predatory worker hornets are seeking high protein foods, consider adding raw meat or fish to the bait mixture.

Feedback on the content of the newsletter would be helpful. I would also like some ideas on what you would like to read in in future Newsletters. Even better, write an article! *John Canning, Newsletter compiler* newsletter@teesbees.co.uk

Identifying the Asian Hornet

- Vespa velutina queens are up to 3 cm in length; workers up to 25 mm — slightly smaller than the native European hornet *V. crabro*
- Entirely dark brown or black velvety body, bordered with a fine yellow band
- Only one band on the abdomen: 4th abdominal segment almost entirely yellow/orange
- Legs brown with yellow ends
- Head black with an orange-yellow face
- *V. velutina* is a day flying species which, unlike the European hornet, ceases activity at dusk

According to the NBU the spread is about 60km per year. The current outbreak has been a much bigger jump than that so it could be with us next year. **Are you prepared?**

Asian Hornet traps can be bought, or made very cheaply from fizzy drink bottles and [designs are available on line from the NBU](#).

The traps are designed to catch the Queen hornet and should be in place by February. Once set, they should be inspected as often as possible - ideally daily. Take a clear sealable plastic bag such as a freezer bag with you each time you visit the trap. Never remove the lid without first inspecting the contents of the capture chamber. If you are completely certain there are no Asian hornets in the chamber, then open the lid to release the entire catch A description of Asian Hornet is attached to this newsletter. Any non-target insects caught in the trap are released as soon as possible, without harm.

If you suspect that you may have caught an Asian hornet, place the whole trap into the freezer bag and seal it tightly, place the bag containing the trap into a domestic freezer. Notify the [Non Native Species Secretariat immediately at their helpdesk](#) or on their [website](#). It could help if you take a photo and attach it to your email.

Finally if you aren't registered on [BeeBase](#), please do so, to get their updates.