



CBKA NEWSLETTER

Available online at
www.teesbees.co.uk

Year 31/3
November 2016

JOHN'S JOTTINGS

To start this series of jottings in the Newsletter I would like to thank you for electing me as your chair. I hope that during my term of office I can rise to the challenge of promoting beekeeping and the benefits bees, and therefore Beekeepers, provide to the local environment.

Therefore, I hope these jottings will be of some interest, and would value feedback, both positive and critical, to help me make them more interesting. I thought it might be good to start with something about me and my own beekeeping so as to know something other than a name!

Although I have only been keeping bees for a few years it is something I have wanted to do since I was a child, and more particularly since I came to Middlesbrough some 36 years ago. I didn't take up the hobby then as I didn't think that as a junior doctor then a GP, I would have the time. As retirement approached I decided not to put it off further and took the plunge. I am still working as a GP and have a commitment to a role in London, although that was supposed to have concluded in September it seems to be going on a bit longer giving less time for bees than I had anticipated.

This past season was, for me, one of two halves. Spring & Summer and Heather. The first was not good for either colony development whereas the latter was excellent as the Heather seems to have been around us, unlike the reports I have heard from Wales and the Pennines.

During October I went to the National Honey Show, where I met a couple of our members, but sadly I was the only one exhibiting. The National is a long way to go, but seeing over 1,600 exhibits is spectacular. I hope that during my time as chair we can promote ourselves on the National stage and show the South how good we are. I tried to do that this year and was lucky with a couple of seconds and thirds; the second for the Heather Honey was particularly pleasing. Next year I want to try to arrange transport for exhibits and therefore be able to bring more prizes home. I know my predecessor, Steve, is sure he could have beaten me, as he did at the Countryside Live Show the week before. Why not plan to enter in 2017?

I am writing this in Nova Scotia, where beekeeping seems to be strong, with the major crop being blueberries. Some things are different though. We don't need 7,000 volt electric fences to keep the bears away! It is also forbidden to bring unsuspected bees into the province because the neighbouring provinces have Small Hive Beetle.

On the subject of exotic pests the Asian Hornet is with us; are you prepared? I will be making a couple of traps when I get home ready for putting out in February.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Christmas Social evening on 12 December. Happy Beekeeping. *John Canning, Chair CBKA*



24 jars of honey on show



One of three aisles of honey on display

BEE INFORMED

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

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 November meeting and then by email. Details of the Cake Competition are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

Tees Barrage: Environmental Objectives Monday 16 January 2017 at 195. A talk by Jonathan Hart-Woods, environment manager Canal and River Trust.

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

Membership fees: Membership fees were due on 1 November.
Full membership £26
Reduced membership £16
Payment after 31 December attracts a £5 administrative fee.

Are you Registered on BeeBase?

With disease levels locally being low some have thought it unnecessary to register. The arrival of the Asian Hornet has changed that. All beekeepers should now register with BeeBase.

Registering is simple. Just click [here](#) and fill in the form.

Registering protects you and other beekeepers. *You know it makes sense. Do it today!*

TRANSYLVANIAN BEEKEEPING



Whilst travelling in the Transylvania region of Romania in May I noticed large lorries parked in forest glades. Initially associating them with logging I later discovered them to be mobile bee hives. The beekeeper /lorry driver drove his lorry to the forest chasing acacia blossom.

The trailer has three rows of eleven hives on each side, each coded with a coloured symbol and fitted with alighting boards of a variety of hues. The main lorry has three rows of sixteen hives, so a total of one hundred and sixty two hives with further hives laid out on the grass behind the lorry. The beekeeper was expecting a yield of about four and a half tonnes of honey during his stay during which he lives in the small accommodation unit in the trailer.

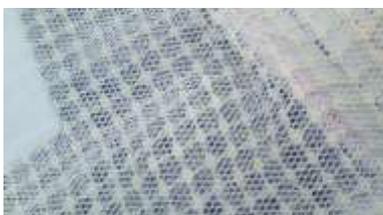
I asked about swarm control, he shrugged his shoulders and said "I keep them busy". *Ian Makinson*

HORSES SWEAT...

Horses sweat,
men perspire and
ladies gently

glow! Well in my beesuit, in summer, I am much closer to the horse end of the spectrum. So when I came across the new ventilated beesuit I was interested enough to buy one. They are made of a wide heavy plastic mesh in between two layers of fine nylon mesh (think net curtains). These three layers are not attached to each other so usually there is a considerable distance between the outer mesh and you.

I have also heard people calling them anaphylactic suits as the chances of bees stinging through them is very small - to date not once for me and in fact the bees seem not to even want to land on them.



Do they keep you cool? For me the answer is yes, so long as there is a slight breeze. The down

side at the moment is that they are relatively expensive but if you are due a new suit definitely worth considering. *Graham Clarke*

GENERAL HUSBANDRY

Have you been beekeeping for 5 years and passed your Basic Assessment?

Then this is the next practical step. Details of the assessment, which takes place at your own airay, can be found on the [BBKA website](#).

The BBKA have arranged training around the country, including the North East and Yorkshire. 20 hours training covers practical and theoretical aspects of the assessment.

Enrolment fee £50 per person; contact manastass-ov@aol.com

Find us on 

Cleveland Beekeepers has a Facebook Page. Why not [follow us?](#)

BE PREPARED

Now is the time to prepare your fondant for use later in the winter. This is a tried and tested recipe for home made fondant. Into a stainless steel pan add 1kg of sugar; 250ml of water and 23g of liquid glucose (13g gives a firmer fondant)

Bring the mixture to the boil, stirring all the time. *Caution: Hot syrup scalds!!!* until the mix reaches 117C (use a cooking thermometer).

Take off the heat and float the pan in a sink of cold water, stirring as the mixture cools and starts to crystallise into a white paste. Measure the temperature every so often while stirring. When down to 40C mix the fondant with your hands until it feels smooth.

Break into two lumps and wrap each piece in cling film until you need it.

READY, STEADY BAKE ...

As reported the 2017 Cleveland Show Honey Section Cake recipe will be baked to the recipe which is the most popular at the Association's pre-Christmas supper.

All you need to do is bring your cake to the Pie and Peas supper on 12 December.

Use your favourite recipe, find it on the net (honey show sites are a good resource) or design your own.

The cake must contain honey and should:

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

Happy baking

Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1168761

Secretary: Steven Jacklin secretary@teesbees.co.uk

Full details of our meetings are shown on our website

www.teesbees.co.uk.

All are welcome