



CBKA NEWSLETTER

Available online at
www.teesbees.co.uk

Year 31/7
April 2017

I am compiling the Newsletter whilst at the spring convention at Harper Adams University in Shropshire. There are nearly endless ways to learn more about beekeeping, and associated skills. The workshops range from *microscopy for beekeepers* through *bee diseases* and *queen rearing*, to *hedge laying* and *chainsaw safety*. A series of lectures run in parallel give by internationally recognised speakers. The trade hall provides temptations galore, often for things one never knew one needed, and may never use once paid for. I think I resisted most of the time. One of my finds however

Stockton Council held an awards ceremony on 22 March at which Cleveland Beekeepers Association was awarded a certificate in recognition of the Association's achievements in the Green category. We were represented by Ünal Metti and Ian Peacock, both of whom keep bees in the borough.



was the traditional crown of thorns queen marking cage with the elastic net. I lost mine last year and the replacement plastic one had only one benefit, its cost. I have just bought two on the basis that if I only have one it will vanish but two will stay together. There were at least three other local members there, and I did see them buying too.

Once I get back home there won't be time to look at the bees, other than to see they're upright. Any inspection will have to wait till the middle of the week. Given the amount of brood with some drone brood swarm cells can't be long in coming. I'm sure I will need to add a second super to two of my colonies in the very *Cont on page 2*

Mentor Scheme for all new beekeepers completing the beginners course joining CBKA. The basic aim of the scheme is to support new beekeepers throughout their first two years of beekeeping and following that whenever a situation is encountered that requires help or advice.

New beekeepers will be appointed a mentor who will offer support and guidance. This can be by email, a phone call or a visit to the mentor's or mentee's apiary covering such things as where to site the hive, swarm control, dealing with honey and preparing the colony for the winter. We also have a Facebook page. Please visit us at [@clevelandbeekeepersassociation](https://www.facebook.com/clevelandbeekeepersassociation) and share photos and enter into discussion with other beekeepers.

We are going to try out a new pyramid-mentoring scheme with the most experienced beekeepers at the top. This means that everyone has someone to ask for advice and that the person mentoring you will have done the beginners course and will not have forgotten what it is like to be the new owner of a colony of bees. The ultimate aim of the scheme is to support beekeepers to become confident and responsible and to inspire them to pass on their skills and become mentors themselves. Mentees must keep records of their beekeeping activities and encouraged to enter a jar of honey into one of the shows. We also recommend taking the Basic Assessment in your second year; it is a wholly practical and oral assessment for an hour or so. Passing the assessment is like holding a driving licence for beekeeping and means you are competent, understand disease control and the beekeeping year and proves to yourself and others your experience and knowledge. *Helen Hughes, Vice Chair CBKA*

BEE INFORMED

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

STOP PRESS

Flow Hive. Stuart Anderson will give a talk to Cleveland Beekeepers on his invention at 7:15pm on Thursday 8 June.

Summer outdoor meetings start in June year. These are at 2pm on:

Sunday 18 June

Sunday 16 July

Sunday 20 August

The apiary location will be circulated a couple of weeks in advance.

Honey Shows in 2017 include:

Great Yorkshire—11 to 13 July

Cleveland—22 July

Egton (Whitby BKA)—23 August

Stokesley—23 September

Countryside Live—21,22 October

National—26 to 28 October

If you can share a little of your time and skill to mentor a new beekeeper please speak to or email one the committee

Is your BeeBase entry up to date?

Please check and make sure, so that if there is a local outbreak you are fully informed and protected

Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1168761

Secretary: [Steven Jacklin](mailto:steven.jacklin@teesbees.co.uk)

All welcome to both our Winter Indoor and Summer Outdoor meetings

Full details at www.teesbees.co.uk

From page 1 near future. The next beekeeping job is to be certain what swarm prevention/anticipation to use this year. I think it will be Demaree again; it needs less space and seemed to work last year. I was looking at buying a Snelgrove or Horsley board here at the show, but the prices were unbelievable.

As I have moved a colony to an out apiary I must update the entry on BeeBase; its no good asking others to do it if I don't! My final planned April beekeeping job will be to get the Great Yorkshire Show schedule and try to anticipate (the closing date is toward the end of May) what I can enter. I hope I won't be the only Cleveland entrant so if you're interested but can't take the time to get there and back drop me an email and we can sort out transport for entries. **Safe, successful and happy Beekeeping** *John Canning, Chair CBKA*

What a busy start to this year for the Trustees, new people in post taking responsibility for different areas of management with new ideas and lots of enthusiasm. The office staff are also changing, Letitia will be leaving us but not exactly retiring as she has lots of interests on her farm to keep her busy, but her friendly voice on the end of a phone will be missed. Kate who looks after the Membership has also decided to leave to develop her own Lamp Shade business on the internet, art is her passion and we all wish her well in her endeavours to build up her business. Anna Chapman also wants to get her hours back to the contracted time instead of having to put in additional hours because of the workload, so we will be looking for someone with Accounts experience, Sage in particular but also conversant with database management to cope the membership from all the associations. If you live near enough and are interested, please let me know.

The International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) is in full flow, there was a commitment from the associations to contribute £1 per head of membership towards the cost of this exciting venture if we are able to raise £30K from sponsorship. We are well on the way to that but not quite there yet and have only received guarantees of about £20K but with a promise from a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous to cover any shortfall to the £30K if this sum is not achieved. I know that George Brown is also working very hard on getting sponsorship and there may be more to come, but we are asking if the Associations would please donate their £1 per member with just the funds already in place as shown above.

For the event itself the UK will be hosting several countries who will send their young beekeepers to compete with each other in the field of Beekeeping, it is important to us all that the craft is taken up by younger generations and this is a marvellous way of promoting beekeeping to that age group. George Brown is convinced that he can use that as a promotional tool for the future and also that we will get some good publicity from it all and it brings more young people into the membership.

All this is happening at Marlborough College from the 6th July to the 9th July 2017. It should be a very interesting weekend; hopefully there will be interpreters at the ready to make sure that everyone knows what and when to do things. I will certainly be there on a couple of those days to give support. Margaret Murdin will be writing to all the Associations to explain where we are with the finances.

Stephen Barnes, a new trustee has taken up the challenge of Governance. Sue Webster is now the budget holder for HR and has literally been thrown in at the deep end, she had been able to confirm George Brown as a permanent member of staff as he has completed his six month probationary period. She has to deal with finding suitable applicants for the accounts assistance and membership database.

The EC has agreed to look at the changes to the office accommodation, staff there are squashed together and certainly do not have the required space in which to work, they have battled on with this and it is now time to give them the space needed. It will all be internal work using the space already there but in a better way, there will be a small kitchen on the ground floor, as at the moment they have to take everything up the stairs to use the kitchen up there; not a good state of affairs. The secondary reception area will be incorporated into the office and the store room will also be reduced in size and some of that space utilised. There is also a need to have the 'swarm' telephone line either in a soundproof dome or in an area away from the main office administration. I have worked in that office on that line and the telephones are incessant; it is difficult to ignore them even though the majority of the calls are about bumble bees. We are awaiting quotations for the work so it will not be an immediate start and of course the office will be totally disrupted when all this happens. It would be good if it was completed by the next ADM, but we will have to wait and see.

I have seen the new GH book and it looks really good, I will be taking one on Holiday with me as I foolishly agreed to take that assessment this year, so wish me luck if I manage to squeeze it in between everything else. The book will be available at the Spring Convention, so go to the BBKA Stand and have a good look at it, I am sure you will agree it is worth buying. I will not be there this year, as I had prior holiday planned, but looking at the lectures and workshops I am sure it will be a great success. *Margaret Wilson, Link BBKA Trustee*