

Bee Brief

Plymouth Branch Newsletter

February 2016

PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS' Apiary Programme 2016

FEBRUARY			
Thursday 11 th	Branch Meeting: Martin Hann talking about "Bee Viruses"	Elburton Village Hall	7.30 pm
NB Date Changed to Wednesday 24th	Winter Study Group: General Husbandry Certificate: 'Improving General Bee Husbandry Skills' Kathy Lovegrove & Martin Hann (SBI)	Colebrook Community Centre, Peacock Meadow, Plympton	7 pm
MARCH			
Easter: Good Friday 25th March / Easter Sunday 27th March			
Sunday 6 th (Mother's Day)	General Meeting: topical items – all members welcome		10 am
Thursday 10 th	Honey Fest	Elburton Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sunday 13 th	Novice Meeting (1) – Introduction + Film		10 am
Saturday 19 th	DBKA AGM	ISCA Centre, Whipton, Exeter EX4 8NT	
Sunday 20 th	Improvers Meeting		10 am
Sunday 27 th (Easter Sunday)	No Meeting		
APRIL			
Sunday 3 rd	General Meeting: topical items – all members welcome		10 am
Sunday 10 th	Novice Meeting (2)		10 am
Sunday 17 th	Improvers Meeting		10 am
Sunday 24 th	Novice Meeting (3)		10 am
Saturday 9 th	Joint Nosema Day with Totnes & Kingsbridge	to be confirmed	

MAY (Bank Holidays Mon 2nd + Mon 30th)		
Sunday 1 st	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome	10 am
Sunday 8 th	Novice Meeting (4)	10 am
Sunday 15 th	Improvers Meeting	10 am
Sunday 22 nd	Novice Meeting (5)	10 am
Sunday 29 th (Bank Holiday Weekend)	No Meeting	

JUNE		
Sunday 5 th	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome	10 am
Sunday 12 th	Novice Meeting (6)	10 am
Sunday 19 th (Father's Day)	Improvers Meeting	10 am
Sunday 26 th	Novice Meeting (7)	10 am

JULY		
Sunday 3 rd	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome	10 am
Sunday 10 th	Novice Meeting (8)	10 am
Sunday 17 th	Improvers Meeting	10 am
Sunday 24 th	Novice Meeting (9)	10 am
Sunday 31 st	Novice Meeting (10)	10 am

NB. Meetings will be held at the Branch Apiary Site unless advised otherwise.

Directions to Branch Apiary at Lee Mill, Ivybridge:

- Turn left off the A38 at Lee Mill and follow the signs for Tesco.
- Drive past the Tesco entrance & take next right for Central Avenue on the industrial estate.
- Drive down the hill of Central Avenue, looking for East Way on your right.
- Drive along East Way, looking for Cadleigh Close on your left.
- Drive into Cadleigh Close and the apiary site is behind the big iron gates of the tyre factory.
- Park inside the gates, walk up the concrete path & you will see the portacabin on your right.

Chairman's Blog

Well, here we are in February already, so if there are any of you who have had a "dry" January, I hope that you are feeling better! We started the year with the annual honey show and I was impressed with the quality of the entries. Well done to those that were successful and if you didn't win a prize, do try again next year as one judge's meat can be another judge's poison! Thanks to all those who were involved in the organisation and to Mike Lawrence for doing the raffle.



Your bees have probably been quite active on the days when it hasn't been raining. There is even some forage for them, as snowdrops, crocus, hellebores and camellias are all coming into flower earlier than usual. On warm days, they will be able to collect pollen, important for brood production. I expect that the queens in most hives have been laying more often than they normally would, and will continue to do so from now on, no doubt. I have found that they have been eating quite a lot of their stores, so I have candy on all my hives. Some are getting through that rather quickly and may need more. If in doubt, feed with candy, not syrup. The most common reason for colony deaths over the winter is starvation. Whatever you do, don't open up your colonies. The bees need warmth within the cluster at this time of the year, so that the brood rearing temperature of 34 degrees C is maintained.

There were some interesting matters raised at the recent DBKA EC meeting. It was decided after some discussion to have the Year Book on the website. This makes sense, as any amendments can be done during the year and it will save at least £1600. The future of the magazine Beekeeping was discussed, as although the printing costs are reasonable, the postage costs are now prohibitive. A small working party is being set up to prepare recommendations for its future. The idiotic suggestion that the Gift Aid payments should be paid centrally and not to branches was rejected, I'm glad to say.

An obituary in the Telegraph caught my eye recently. Colin Butler, a bee researcher who was credited with the discovery of a pheromone known as queen substance, died on January 4th aged 102. He worked at Rothamsted from 1939 until his retirement in 1976. He was an honorary member of the BBKA and his name will live on, as he invented the "Butler Cage". If you want to read the very informative obituary, go to:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/12102107/Colin-Butler-entomologist-obituary.html>

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting on 11th February.

David

Branch Notices

You are cordially invited to the next

Winter Study Group

On 24th February 2016 from 7pm – 9pm at

Colebrook Community Centre
Newnham Rd, Plymouth PL7 4AN

(The postcode covers a long section of Newnham Road so I advise you to look on Google maps rather than rely on satnav if you are new to this venue.

This link for centre has a map to show the exact location

<http://www.colebrookcentre.co.uk/contact.htm>

Topic: Bee Husbandry - better care and management of colonies

Speakers: Martin Hann SBI and Kathy Lovegrove (Education Team)

The evening will cover:

- Apiary Hygiene
- Comb Changing in the spring
- Record-keeping
- and the BBKA Assessment

Here are some images to prompt your thoughts prior to the meeting



Strong colonies in almonds. Solid bees top to bottom. I'll add a third deep in the orchard for later March splits. These bad boys rent for super-premium prices.



Honey Show 2016

Jean Russell



Andy Lennon



Jean French



Peter Black



Phil Aitken
Best in Show



Sally Burchell



David Milford



Steve Russell













John O'Connell



No.	RESULTS				
	Class	Prize	Winner	Second	V H C
1	2 x 1lb jars of Light Run honey	Slater Cup	Andy Lennon	Peter Talling	Roger Round
2	2 x 1lb jars of Medium Run honey	Edwards Cup	Steve Russell	David Milford	Andy Lennon
3	2 x 1lb jars of Dark Run honey	Tucker Cup	No entries	No entries	
4	2 x 1lb jars of Crystallized honey	Winnicot Cup	Bernie Talling	Peter Talling	Steve Russell
5	2 x 1lb jars of Creamed honey	Perpetual Trophy	David Milford	Peter Talling	
6	1 Pair of beeswax Candles	Prosser Tray	Jean Russell		
7	1 Bottle of Mead	Mansfield Tray	Jean Russell	Steve Russell	Mark Ovenden
8	1 Shallow frame for extraction	Eric Goss Tray	No entries	No entries	No entries
9	1 Jar of honey Labelled for sale	Interserve Tray	David Milford	Jean Russell	Andy Lennon
10	6 x 1oz blocks of Beeswax	Poole Tray	Phil Aitken	Andy Lennon	
11	Wax Open Class	Bandvulc Tray	Jean Russell	Jean French	Steve Russell
12	Honey sandwich	Ward Cup	John O'Connell	Jean Russell	Sally Burchell
13	12 Pieces of Honey Fudge	Barton Cup	Jean Russell		
14	Novice class	Milford Cup		Peter Black	
15	Open class	Mayflower Marina	Jean Russell	Steve Russell	

**For those who were unable to make this event,
there are photos on the Plymouth Beekeepers website.**

PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS LIBRARY

-  The library is contained within three plastic crates, one for books on General Beekeeping; one for Specialised topics, and one for Novice beekeepers' books.
-  The library also has a number of DVDs which are currently being assessed for quality and content and which will be listed and available very soon.
-  The club meets once a month during the winter, and during the summer there is one general meeting; one improvers' meeting, and one novice meeting per month. It is intended to open the library for borrowers for 20 mins before and 20 mins after each of these meetings. I, or a member of the education team, will be checking out the books and receiving them back at the beginning and end of each meeting. They can be renewed for a further month, but must be returned after that. Renewal can be by phone or e-mail to the librarian (see below).
-  From now on the books can be borrowed for one month at the end of which they should be brought back to the library. If a book is not returned at the end of one month there will be a charge of £1 per week to the borrower.
-  There are three rare, and therefore valuable, books in the branch library. These books are listed in the relevant plastic crate, and can be borrowed only by arrangement with the librarian.
-  There are a number of books which are still missing from the library so please can you all have a good look around your bookshelves just to make sure that you haven't got these missing books.
-  If a particular book or books are constantly being borrowed it is the intention to buy further copies.
-  If you feel that a particular book should be included in the library, then please do give us recommendations and we will hope to get them for our library.
-  For those who have never borrowed books previously I urge you all to have a look through the boxes and see what's there.
-  If you have read one of the books and can particularly recommend it (or otherwise) then please give feedback to the librarian.

Liz Wallis
Windlestraw
Penquit
Ivybridge PL21 0LU
01752 698384

windlestraw@btinternet.com

PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS LIBRARY BOOKS AS AT JANUARY 2016

SPECIALISED TOPICS

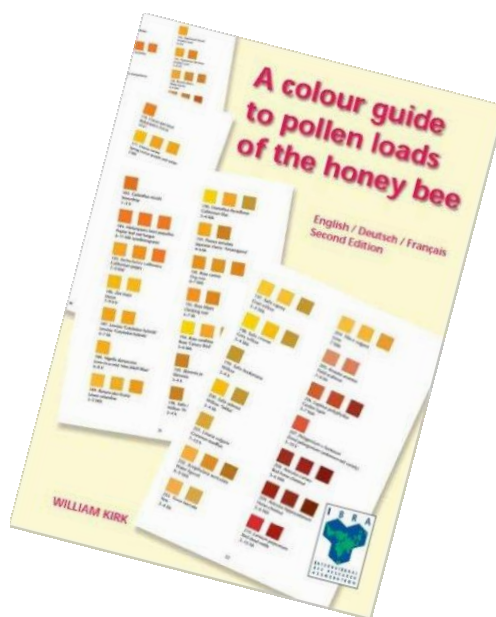
Book Number	Title	Author	Notes
1	The Introduction of Queen Bees	L E Snelgrove	Rare and borrowed by arrangement only.
2	Beeswax Candles	Clara Furness	
3	Honey	Jeff Rounce	
4	Queen Rearing	L E Snelgrove	
5	Beekeeping Study Notes Microscopy Cert. Mod. 9	J D & B D Yates	
6	Beekeeping Study Notes Microscopy Cert. 2nd Edition	J D & B D Yates	
7	Beekeeping Pract. Guide to B/K in school grounds	Dr John Feltwell	
8	Honey by the Ton	Oliver Field	
9	Bees: The Vision, chemical, senses and language	Karl Von Frisch	
10	Mary Workman's Honey Recipes - booklet 1	Clara Furness	
11	Honey Marketing	Harry Riches	
12	Garden Plants Valuable to Bees	Internet Bee Res. Assoc.	
13	Honey Cakes and Biscuits	Mary Wardle	
14	Candlemaking	David Constable	
15	Micronucs an Experimental Approach To Queen Mating	John Atkinson	
16	Managing Micronucs (copy 1)	Ron Brown	
17	Microscopy First Steps to a Secret World	Natural History Soc.	
18	Queen Rearing with Simplicity	Jack Berry	
19	Managing Micronucs (copy 2)	Ron Brown	
20	Anatomy of the Honey Bee	R E Snodgrass	
21	Anatomy, Physiology & Natural History of the Honey Bee	W Herrod-Empson	
22	Anatomy & Dissection of the Honey Bee	H A Wade	
23	Make Yourself a Nucleus Hive	F A Taylor	
24	Histological Methods of Entomologists	H Eltringham	Rare and borrowed by arrangement only.
25	Build Your Own Honey Extractor	Garden Way Plans	
26	A Colour Guide to Pollen Loads of the Honey Bee	William Kirk	
27	Pollen, Its Collection & Prep for the Microscope	John White	
28	Making Nests for Bumble Bees	Manfred Intenthron	
29	Beekeeping Study Notes Modules 1-2-3-4	J D & B D Yates	
30	Beekeeping Study Notes Modules 5-6-7-8	J D & B D Yates	
31	Beekeeping Study Notes for Basic Certificate	J D & B D Yates	

GENERAL BEEKEEPING

Book Number	Title	Author	Notes
1	Apis Through the Looking Glass	Graham Royle	
2	The Honey Bee Around and About	Celia F Davis	
3	Honey Bee Democracy	Thomas Seeley	
4	Teach Yourself Beekeeping	Frank Vernon	THIS BOOK IS MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY
5	Living With Varroa	Andrew Matheson	
6	The Industrious Bee	Bob Farnworth	THIS BOOK IS MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY
7	Beekeeping Study Notes	J D & B D Yates	
8	Bees & Mankind	John B Free	
11	The Bee Book	Daphne More	
13	Managing Varroa	FERA	
14	The Beekeeper's Garden	Hooper & Taylor	
15	The Honey Bee Pathology	Leslie Bailey	
16	National Honey Show pamphlets (set of 9)		
17	The Hive and the Honey Bee	Dadant Publications	
18	Beekeeping Up To Date	A B Flower	THIS BOOK IS MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY
19	At The Hive Entrance	H Storch	
20	Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey	Brother Adam	
21	Swarming - Its Control and Prevention	L E Snelgrove	
22	Beekeeping Senior Study Notes - Part 1	J D & B D Yates	
23	Oilseed Rape and Bees	Allan Calder	
24	Beekeeping and The Law - Swarms & Neighbours	David Frimston & D Smith	
25	Keeping Bees	John B Free	
26	The Social Organisation of Honey Bees	John B Free	
27	Honey Bee Biology	John B Free	
28	Recycling and Working with Beeswax with Simplicity	Jack Berry	
29	America's Beekeepers Hives for Hire (booklet)	Alan Mairson	
30	The Backyard Beekeeper	Kim Flottum	
31	The Golden Throng - A Book about Bees	Edwin Way Teale	
32	Honey Bees and Beekeeping	Keith S Delaplane	
33	Finding and Marking the Queen (leaflet)	BBKA	
34	Beekeeping for Dummies	Howland Blackiston	
35	Swarming of Bees	Min of Agr. & Fisheries	
36	Queen Rearing using the Cloake Board Method	Adam Vevers	
37	Drawings for the National Hive	Frank Walsh	THIS BOOK IS MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY
38	Bee Diseases Nosema/Amoeba/Acarine (leaflet) DEFRA LEAFLETS IN A FOLDER	Brian Palmer	

NOVICE

Book Number	Title	Author	Notes
1	Beekeeping - A Seasonal Guide	Ron Brown	Two copies 1985 and 2011
2	Practical Manual of Beekeeping	David Cramp	THIS BOOK IS MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY
3	Natural Beekeeping Organic Approaches to Modern apiculture	Gary Paul Nabhan	
4	Principles of Practical Beekeeping	R Couston	THIS BOOK IS MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY
5	Life of the Honey Bee - Ladybird Natural History Book	W Sinclair Ph. D	
6	A Beekeeping Glossary	Bill Clark	
7	A Case of Hives	Len Heath	Rare and borrowed by arrangement only
8	Beekeeping in a Nutshell, Manipulations (booklet)	Matthew Allan	
9	The Bad Beekeepers Club	Bill Turnbull	
10	Haynes Bee Manual	Claire & Adrian Waring	
11	Bees at the Bottom of the Garden	Alan Campion	
12	Honey Bees - A Guide to Management	Ron Brown	
13	Beekeeping - A Novice Guide	David Wootton	
14	Collins Beekeepers Bible	Phillip McCabe	
15	Practical Beekeeping	Clive De Brun	
16	A Guide to Bees and Honey	Ted Hooper	
17	The Complete Guide to Beekeeping	Jeremy Evans	



The Varroa Question– It's not all bad news!

By Kathy Lovegrove

The January Winter Study Group explored the issue of varroa in a different way by working through a series of questions. The evening started with how the mite's life cycle fitted in with that of the honey bee, making it such an efficient parasite. The second part dealt with how we can deal with the problems that mites create for bees and beekeepers. It was pleasing to see some very new PBKA members at the meeting and that they seemed to take the details of the topic in their stride. It was also encouraging to have a lively participation from members with a variety of experience who broadened the discussion out. This has led to the start of some plans to test out the value of different varroa treatments during the forthcoming season.

Liz Wallis kindly brought along the branch library and explained how it is organised and run. Her hope that the books, DVDs etc will be better used was immediately fulfilled as a number of people browsed through the collection in the break.

The key question at the end of the meeting was, "Which is the best treatment?" At the moment the answer is, "It all depends ...". During the course of 2016 the branch hopes to trial some products and give some reports on members' experiences.

In the meanwhile here are some points raised by the WSG:

- Varroa mites reproduce at a phenomenal rate when the colony has brood, even from one gravid (pregnant) female mite in the colony. It is accepted that we cannot get rid of them so it is matter of controlling the population.
- No one method is likely to be failsafe so go for an IPM approach (Integrated Pest Management)
- This year the branch colonies were treated with Hiveclean during the season, Apiguard in the autumn and oxalic acid in the winter.
- Maximum effect is only achieved with Hiveclean if it is applied weekly throughout the months that brood is present. Regular use during inspections will still be of benefit in supporting bee health but the anti-varroa results will not be sufficient without using other means at key points of the season.
- You may like to consider using Vitafeed Gold to strengthen colonies before and/or after wintering.
- Avoid using varroacides based on pyrethroids (notably Bayvoral and Apistan) as it has been recorded that widespread resistance has been developed to them.
- Change the product you use every 1-3 years to avoid local mites developing resistance to any other particular chemical.
- Refer to sources such as NBU (National Bee Unit), DfRA's booklet "Managing Varroa" (downloadable), BBKA and Dave Cushman's website for more neutral advice rather than rely on manufacturer's claims.

Finally, our apologies for the change of date of this meeting. The venue is a convenient one but it is obvious that Wednesdays are the better day for booking without risking a clash with more regular users.

The **next Winter Study Group** also has a change of date – **Wednesday 24th February** instead of the usual night for Elburton meets.

The topic then will be **Bee Husbandry – better care and management of colonies.**

20 January 2016

A pensioner had 90,000 bees stolen by raiders who built a bridge to reach his hives.

They carried them half-a-mile across muddy fields to a getaway vehicle after blocking entrances to save getting stung by the swarm.

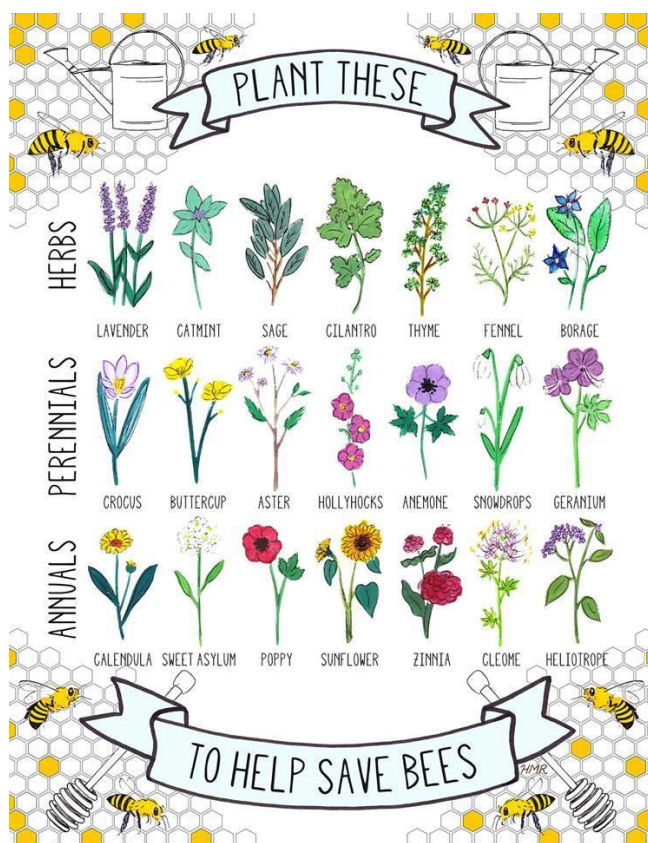
Owner Ken Gillman, 83, said: "They knew what they were doing and may have a customer lined up for the hives. This was a professional job and has never happened to me before.

"If you don't know how to block them in, they would get upset by the movement and would start stinging you. There's an awful lot to know about bee-keeping.

The thieves cut a hole in barbed wire fencing and lay corrugated sheeting over a brook to take three hives at Smalley. The bridge was left in place and Mr Gillman fears they plan to return for the remaining eight hives.

The hives cannot be seen from nearby roads but Mr Gillman said all UK hives can be located using Google. A friend carried out tests and Mr Gillman's remaining hives could be seen on an internet map.

Read more: [Read more on the Ilkeston Advertiser website](#)



BBKA Examinations Board

End of Season Roundup 2015

Dear All,

I'm pleased to say the number of Basic candidates has remained much the same with 701 assessments compared to 695 last year. General Husbandry numbers have also been maintained but the big increase has been in Advanced Husbandry where 40 candidates took the assessment. We had 15 candidates achieve the Master Beekeeper Certificate which was really excellent.

A lot of hard work by one and all so many thanks and Happy New Year.
Regards Val

Feedback from Basic Assessments

- As usual, swarm control and disease, also drone laying queens and laying workers were problem areas. The indications are a general lack of preparation and revision among the weaker candidates. Also still too many candidates taking the assessment with insufficient experience. A nucleus acquired in June does not prepare the candidate for assessment the following June – better to wait another year.
- **Feedback to candidates:** just a reminder that candidates do not receive any feedback from the assessment unless they fail – unfortunately it is not logistically possible. The assessors report is necessary in identifying any inconsistencies in assessments and general areas of weakness.
- **Credit rating:** This has been well received as a rough form of feedback. There are limitations to its accuracy given the subjective nature of a practical assessment but the reports accompanying credit ratings have been very consistent. The intention of the Board is that a credit should signify a candidate who is well prepared and proficient in their handling of bees and ready to consider modules or the general Husbandry; a pass indicates a lack of preparation/experience and more learning/practice needed before moving on.

Examinations Board discussions: this year have concerned ways to lighten the load of the General Husbandry Assessment without 'dumbing down' the qualification or incurring extra cost. Also, listening to many of your comments, the Board is looking at ideas for a qualification between the Basic and the GH – particularly in view of the increased experience required for the entry requirement. (See below)

Syllabus and Procedural Changes for 2016:

Basic Certificate

The Examinations Board has made a significant change to the assessment procedure. Instead of having to gain 50% in three sections, **the candidate will now have to succeed in four sections.** The new section is **swarming and swarm control.** This topic has been identified as a weakness for many years so given its importance swarming will now be assessed separately. Please warn candidates about the change. The syllabus has been re-arranged to match the four sections but the objectives have not been changed.

General Husbandry Certificate

Candidates continue to take this assessment before they have gained sufficient experience so the entry requirement has been changed to - **Normally the Candidate shall have kept and managed bees for at least five years.**

The task objectives have been clarified to distinguish between reasons for changing combs:

- 2.6 Demonstrate changing brood frames **for disease control** using a Shook Swarm technique.
- 2.7 **Demonstrate changing all the brood frames in a strong colony.**
- 2.8 Demonstrate changing brood frames **for disease control** in a weak colony using a Bailey Frame Change.

Advanced Husbandry certificate

Again, many candidates rush from the General Husbandry to the Advanced level without taking time to prepare, so the entry requirement has been changed to: **Normally the candidate should wait at least 18 months after passing the General Husbandry, before taking this assessment.** The examiners will allow for extenuating circumstances to be considered.

Examination Dates 2016

ALL MODULE Examinations

March– 19th March 2016

(Applications in by 10th February 2016)

ALL MODULE Examinations

November– 13th November 2016

(Applications in by 30th September 2016)

Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry

11th/12th June 2016

Reserve dates 25th/26th June & 28th/29th May 2016

(Applications in by 28th February 2015)

General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry date by

arrangement with the Examinations Board Secretary

(Applications in by 28th February 2016)

Microscopy Certificate

20th/21st November 2016 other dates as required

(Applications in by 31st August 2016)

Basic and Junior Certificate date by arrangement with
the County Examinations Secretary

(Applications 1 month before assessment last date for
Basic Assessment 31st August)



Assessor Training

We now have 202 Basic Assessors so the number of training sessions will be reduced to one a year. This year the event will be held in the North of the country. There will be one event at BBKA Head Office for General Husbandry Assessors. Both events will be held in May and invitees will be contacted in the New Year.

Fees in 2016

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT	FEE
JUNIOR	£2
BASIC	£18
MODULES	£25 each
GENERAL HUSBANDRY CERTIFICATE	£55
ADVANCED HUSBANDRY CERTIFICATE	£80
SHOW JUDGE	£40
MICROSCOPY	£45
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES	£55each

This interesting list shows the top 5 Areas for members with the Basic Assessment

Area	% of members
TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY	44%
DOVER & DISTRICT	36%
SHROPSHIRE NORTH	36%
SURREY	36%
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	36%

SUMMARY OF ALL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014

Module Results November 2014

Module	Total Candidates	Pass	Credit	Distinction	Fail	Pass rate
1	60	22	16	3	19	68%
2	41	13	12	7	9	78%
3	44	15	1		28	36%
5	20	11	4	2	3	85%
6	31	9	12	6	4	87%
7	20	5	10	1	4	80%
8	15	6	4		5	67%
	231	81	59	19	72	69%

Module Results March 2015

Module	Total Candidates	Pass	Credit	Distinction	Fail	Pass rate
1	92	36	30	7	19	79%
2	57	24	14	7	12	79%
3	65	27	8	2	28	57%
5	33	11	7	4	11	67%
6	47	18	20	5	4	91%
7	21	5	11	4	1	95%
8	27	10	7	4	6	78%
	342	131	97	33	81	76%

Practical Assessment Results 2015

2015(2014)	Applied	Assessed	Pass	Credit	Pass rate
Basic Certificate	(761)748	701(695)	214(685)	474	98% (99%)
General Husbandry	80(85)	62(57)	41(37)		66% (65%)
Advanced Husbandry	40(25)	40(24)	17(9)		43% (38%)
Microscopy (to date)	24(27)	(22)	(19)		(86%)
Junior Certificate	4(5)	3(5)	3(5)		100% (100%)

Other Certificates Awarded 2015(2014)

Intermediate Theory Certificates 48(40)
 Advanced Theory Certificates 32(25)
 Master Beekeepers 15(5)

Q: What goes zzub zzub?

A: A bee flying backwards!

Unofficial Dates

Now don't hold me to these, but if all goes to plan these are some more dates you might find useful:

Invigilator payments: 1st week April, 4th week November

March Module results to candidates: 3rd week in May
November Module results: 2nd week in January

March Module results in BBKA News: July
November results in BBKA News: March

Module Certificates to Area Secretaries: End of January and 3rd week in June.

Basic Assessor List Updated: 3rd week in May

Practical Certificates to Area Secretaries: 1st week October

Assessor expenses paid: End of October

Practical results on BBKA Website:, December

This is what we will aim for in 2016.



A reminder to everyone how to access the BeeCraft Hangouts.

Go to bee-craft.com/hangout.

It must have the hyphen or you get lost in the ether!

The next one is on Wednesday, 17th February: the topic will be around BBKA Exams.

5th ANNUAL BEE IMPROVEMENT DAY

Saturday 6th February

Dobwalls Memorial Hall, Higher Meadow,
Dobwalls, Liskeard, PL14 6LS

BipCo would like to invite beekeepers to the 5th Annual Bee Improvement Day

A day for all those interested in improving the quality of their bees through the assessment, selection and rearing of queens and drones.

Guest speakers:

Willie Robson of Chain Bridge Honey Farm, who has approximately 2,000 hives of native bees

Dr Katherine Roberts, who will talk about SMARTBEES

Trade stands in attendance
Light lunches and homemade cakes available
Complimentary teas, coffee and biscuits

Registration: 9am for a 9.30 start until 3.30

Tickets: £8.00 for members / £10.00 for non-members who register in advance
£10.00 for members / £12.00 for non-members who do not register in advance.

Confirm your place and an interest in purchasing lunch.

Email: nickbenthamgreen@hotmail.com

Tel: Nick (01566) 786786



The Buzz – Bees in the news



5 February 2016

Spread of bee disease 'largely manmade'

By Helen Briggs, BBC News

[Ctrl + Click to read more on the BBC website](#)

Chair's Comment on this item

"I should like to read the full report, if there is one. I am afraid to say that this is a load of academics stating what we knew already, that it is the varroa mite weakens the bees' immune system and they succumb to the virus. They do not state in this article which strain of DWV it is either. The mite can also pass on the virus as well.

They talk about moving bees around the world. The honeybees in Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada, to name but a few, all originated from Europe, being taken there by settlers.

I have always agreed that greater control should be exercised when importing bees from EU countries and, due to representations from me and Neil Graham (Teignmouth), the NBU has woken up to the fact that checks should be made at the point of entry. Martin Hann, Seasonal Bee Inspector, agreed with us and took it to the NBU on our behalf. When my queens arrive from Gozo, he will be here to open the box and check the cages and packaging before they are passed on to the purchasers. The workers that accompanied the queens **MUST** be destroyed and not introduced with the queen.

I would love to have a job which pays me for stating the bleedin' obvious! As I say in my talks, the bees' biggest enemy is the human race."



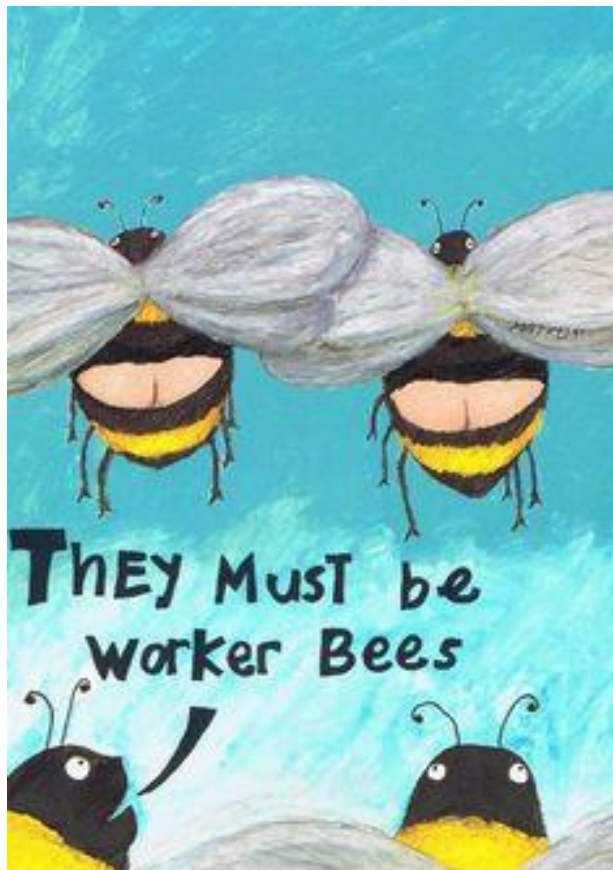
Wild pollinators at risk from diseased commercial species of bee

A new study from the University of Exeter has found that viruses carried by commercial bees can jump to wild pollinator populations with potentially devastating effects. The researchers are calling for new measures to be introduced that will prevent the introduction of diseased pollinators into natural environments.

[Ctrl + Click for this news item on the Exeter University website](#)

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