



## CBKA - June 2013



June 2013 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

Chairman – Mark Stott  
Secretary – Joyce Atkinson  
Treasurer - Tamar Devane

### Extended Newsletter available on line

#### ‘Well I Never!’

#### How do workers know which flowers have available nectar?

Worker bees build a static charge on themselves as they fly. This of course is useful as the pollen grains will tend to be attracted to them as they visit the flowers. What we did NOT know is that flowers can also have an opposite charge which gradually discharges as bees visit. When a worker comes within a few centimetres of a flower she can detect whether it has previously been visited (by the magnitude of the charge) and therefore make an immediate decision about whether nectar might be available (or not): it saves wasting time and energy on unrewarding visits!

#### Why is the lavender in the apiary always covered in bumble bees, despite there being many thousands of *Apis mellifera* in the vicinity?

This has always puzzled me for many years but recent research at Sussex University has yielded an answer: the Bumble is a more efficient forager and nicks it all!

The honey bee has a shorter proboscis (~2.5 mm) compared with bumble bees (~7-9mm depending on species). Hours of observations have revealed that the honey bee has to push her head much further into each flower head to reach the nectary taking much longer on each visitation: the bumble of course in the same time is able to visit 2 to 3 flowers –much more efficient foraging. Researchers found that when the bumble bees were chased away (over many hours) the honey bee population on the lavender built up quite rapidly and then dropped away again when the bumbles were allowed back again!

#### What do I Plant in my Garden for Bees?

It is a question often beekeepers are asked.

Although there are many garden flowers that do produce nectar (and pollen) for bees, there are certain wild plant names that always feature prominently in honey bee foraging: **dandelion, clover, blackberry and ivy!** No doubt it is the sheer volume that is important, but which brave person is keen to produce the true ‘bee garden’?

David Shepherd

### News from the Apiary – May

‘Well it has not been a good season’ were the words frequently heard at April’s BBKA Spring Convention (one respected member reckoned that it had been the **worst** he could remember): a poor mating year followed by a very long cold spring.

Our Croydon Division hives have certainly been hit hard, very much aggravated by the February vandalism when seven of our hives were pulled apart in freezing temperatures. The colonies were exposed for the best part of 24 hours but despite that we thought (with some ‘t.l.c.’) we might be able to rescue some of the clusters in time for the summer meetings; but alas as the cold weather continued, they succumbed one by one. We have now been reduced from over ten to two very small struggling colonies.

On a brighter note, not one of the members’ hives was touched and some of those are building well. We are so grateful for three kind members who have made their own hives available for our teaching sessions; it will certainly take quite a few years to build up our stocks to normal levels and apiary honey will certainly be in short supply in the mean time.

The Apiary Team continues to meet regularly (mid-week): a flowering hedge has been planted and we are busy tidying and planting.

Best wishes - ‘The Frustrated Drone’.

**Rosemary Collett** - It is with great sadness that we have to report that Rosemary Collett passed away on Wednesday the 08/05/2013. We understand from John that there will be a 'family only' service on Wednesday 29th May. Our thoughts and condolences go out to John and all their family members.

**Access to Hartley Down** - As of Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June through to August the bottom of Old lodge lane will be closed to vehicular traffic. Major roadworks are due to commence at the junction to improve traffic flow along the Brighton Rd. Time will tell if TFL succeed.

In order to access the Apiary via the Harley Down gate anyone coming from the Purley direction should continue along the Brighton Rd and take the next left into Stoats Nest Rd. Follow this under the railway bridge and take the next sharp left which is Hartley down. Key holders can access the site via Stoats Nest Rd between two houses on the left hand side.

### **Things to do in May :-**

I cannot emphasise enough that we should be vigilant in our inspections for the first signs of swarming, queen cups with the familiar creamy white larvae at the bottom. Once the bees get the idea that swarming is what they want to do only one thing will suffice, an artificial/controlled swarm. There are many methods which I do not intend to go into here but the essentials are that congestion should be relieved by increasing the amount of space in the hive. It may also mean the replacement of the queen. Lots of reading to do. Another thing to be aware of is the June gap. A gap in the flowering plants/nectar with large colonies needing lots of food. Make sure your bees are ok, and give a small feed if required. At this time of year varroa can also be a problem so monitor and keep the little blighters under control, we now have MAQS the latest method of control and the good thing is that it does not contaminate the honey. Bearing in mind that potentially the best weather of the year is fast approaching Queen rearing may be worth attempting, the Miller method seems to be the easiest so give it a go. Am happy to include a few pointers to the various methods when we get the web site sorted - real soon now!

### **Events**

8 & 15 June - Kingston Beekeepers fast Track Course for Beginners - [kingstonbeekeepers.org.uk](http://kingstonbeekeepers.org.uk)

24-26 October - National Honey Show, St Georges College Weybridge.

**Notes:-** Because of the costs of distribution I have decided to do 2 newsletters, an essential for the post and an extended one for the web. The first newsletter I did cost 90p per person around £10.00 per annum, not good value I'm sure you would agree.

Please take a look at our beekeeping neighbours' websites, a wealth of good stuff.

MAQS (the newly licenced treatment for varroa) is now available for sale within the UK. Please contact Richard our friendly supplier.

**Local Agent for E.H. THORNE (Beehives) Limited**

**RICHARD PALMER    Tel: 0208 679 0401**

Email: [palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk)

**ONE DAY EVENT ONLY**  
 AT  
**MAISEMORE APIARIES**  
 ON  
**SATURDAY, 29TH JUNE 2013,**  
**9.00AM - 4.00PM**  
**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED,**  
**LIMITED STOCKS OF**

**WE HAVE  
 EVERYTHING YOU  
 NEED FOR  
 KEEPING BEES**

**DON'T  
 FORGET OUR  
 EXCELLENT WAX  
 EXCHANGE  
 SERVICE**

**HIVE PARTS 2ND QUALITY (CEDAR FLAT) + 2ND QUALITY FRAMES FLAT(PER 50)**

<p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <p>SUPER = £13.50</p> <p>BROOD CHAMBER = £18.50</p> <p>SHALLOW ROOF 4" = £20.00</p> <p>DEEP ROOF 8" = £23.50</p> <p>14 x 12 BROOD CHAMBER = £28.50</p> <p>CROWN BOARD = £ 6.00</p> <p>OPEN MESH FLOOR = £15.50</p> <p>GABLED ROOF = £29.50</p> <p>HIVE STAND+LEGS+A.BOARD = £10.00</p>	<p><b>WBC</b></p> <p>OPEN MESH FLOOR = £38.00</p> <p><b>COMMERCIAL</b></p> <p>BROOD CHAMBER = £25.50</p> <p>SUPER = £15.00</p> <p><b>FRAMES (PER 50)</b></p> <p>SN1/DN1 = £25.00</p> <p>SN4/DN4 = £28.00</p>	<p><b>FRAMES (PER 50)</b></p> <p>BS 14x12 = £40.00</p> <p>BS MANLEY SHALLOW = £35.00</p> <p>COMMERCIAL DEEP = £35.00</p> <p>COMMERCIAL SHALLOW = £35.00</p> <p>M.D. DEEP = £35.00</p> <p>M.D. SHALLOW = £35.00</p> <p>LANGSTROTH DEEP = £35.00</p> <p>LANGSTROTH SHALLOW = £35.00</p>
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**PRE-ORDER ITEMS AVAILABLE TO ORDER IN ADVANCE & COLLECT ON THE DAY - FLAT**

MILLER FEEDERS - WBC / LANGSTROTH / M.D. / SMITH - (WILL NEED GLUING AND PAINTING) CEDAR	= £29.00
FRAMES (PER 50) - COMM MANLEY / LANGSTROTH MANLEY / LANGSTROTH JUMBO / M.D. MANLEY	= £35.00
FRAMES (PER 50) - SN2 / DN2	= £30.00
FRAMES (PER 50) - SN5 / DN5	= £35.00

**OLD ROAD, MAISEMORE, GLOUCESTER, GL2 8HT,**  
**TEL: 01452 700289    FAX: 01452 700196**  
**sales@bees-online.co.uk    www.bees-online.co.uk**

I make candles for my personal use and as gifts for friends out of used glass jars and natural beeswax (as I don't like to use paraffin wax and prefer all things natural). At the moment, I source my beeswax online but I'm trying to source a local supplier.

I wondered if any of the beekeepers that are part of your association would be interested in selling their wax to me on a regular basis? If you could extend this request across your organisation I would be most grateful, and pass my contact details on to anyone who is interested in striking up a partnership with me?

[contact@laura-jean.co.uk](mailto:contact@laura-jean.co.uk) / 07590 831666

Many thanks indeed,  
 Laura Jean Sargent

**Hampton Court Palace Flower Show**

The BBKA will be at HCPFS from 9 – 14 July this year. We will again be sharing the marquee with the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and Plants for Pollinators. As ever, I am looking for volunteers to do half a day on the exhibit and have half a day at the show. Would you please ask those willing to help to e-mail me as soon as possible with their outline availability.

Many thanks  
**Tim Lovett** <[tjl@dermapharm.co.uk](mailto:tjl@dermapharm.co.uk)>

## *Are you new to beekeeping?*

Would you like to see what honey, combs, wax and mead should really look like? The National Honey Show is the 'gold standard' honey show, the equivalent of Wimbledon for tennis players, this year the 82<sup>nd</sup> National Honey Show. There are almost 250 classes and beekeepers come from all over the world to enter. Walking around the displays is an education in itself. A full programme of workshops and lectures will run during the show and there will be a wide selection of trade stands with lots of equipment and books to buy. Guest speakers this year will include, once again, a great cast from the world of beekeeping: Norman Carreck, Celia Davis, Ricarda Kather, Mike Palmer and Dr Robert Paxton will all be on the main lecture stage, BeeCraft have a great lecture theatre in the recital room on Friday and there will be a full day of lectures in the recital room on Saturday for those relatively new to beekeeping or those waiting to refresh on some common themes. For the first time this year there will be lectures on Thursday morning starting at 9.30am, with the official opening at 1.45pm. On top of that is another great line up of very popular workshops and The Honey Show. If that isn't enough then you can get some bargains, advice and socialise in the trade hall.

Also new for 2013: on the Saturday we have a New to Beekeeping day with a lecture programme for new beekeepers but all are welcome, in the Recital Room. There will be lectures on Swarms and Swarm Control; Common Bee Diseases; Products of the Hive; Tasks Throughout the Year.

If you have already had success at your local or county show, why not enter some of the classes? Many counties have their own classes within the show – or you can put yourself up against the experts in the open classes to see how you measure up. As you do your extracting, why not keep that perfect frame aside? A little planning now will give you lots of potential show entries.

The 2013 schedule of classes will be published in August 2013 but in the meantime, you can get a good idea of what is needed by looking at the 2012 schedule. You can find this and lots of interesting information about the show on the N.H.S. website - [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk)

The show is at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 2QS on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm to 6pm) Friday 25<sup>th</sup> (9am to 6pm) and Saturday 26<sup>st</sup> October (9am to 4.30pm). Admission for non-members is £15 but you can become a member of the National Honey Show for £12 and then entry is free. Accompanied children of 16 years and under are also free. You can join at the door or visit the website - [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk).

# The British Beekeepers' Association

*BBKA – supporting bees and beekeepers*



## BBKA STATEMENT

Following the decision taken by the EU Commission on Monday 30 April, to impose restrictions on the use of three neonicotinoid pesticides, the BBKA continues to work hard to ensure that the interests of honey bees are a high priority.

It is important that we gain a full understanding of the precise details of the restrictions, their implications and proposed mechanisms by which the Member States, including the UK and its devolved administrations, will implement the proposed restrictions.

We are currently organising meetings with a number of key relevant organisations in order to better understand the ramifications of the recent vote and we will update our members in due course.

We remain concerned about the impact of the restrictions on our honey bees. We expect the European Commission to ensure that Member States put measures in place which take into account the impact of these restrictions and any resultant changes in agricultural practice or use of pesticides and which must be proven to be safe for honey bees.

Dr David Aston DB

Chair BBKA Trustees

## **We need your Samples please:**

You've seen all the press coverage now we need some action..... And your help!

We are all aware that we are losing the bees and don't really understand why. The purpose of this mail is to ask for your help, either directly or from any of your members.

We are acting as an independent data and sample collection service, assisting an organisation who is carrying out experiments to help determine the cause of the demise.

There has been an initial success in identifying early onset of hive collapse, dying hives and erratic behaviour. We now need to extend the work nationally, so we can carry out meaningful statistical analysis of our results so far.

All we are looking for is a sample of material taken from hives, smokers and surrounding soil and vegetation along with a little bit of information about the local environment. Only a small amount is required - see pictures below...Our job is to keep the source of the material anonymous from the testers, so we can genuinely provide meaningful data on the analysis: Hopefully we will find something statistically significant.

Bearing in mind all the press coverage regarding pesticides at the moment, I can state that this testing is independent and is not linked with any chemical company or pesticide producer. The research is privately funded by concerned individuals.

To help explain a little more, we have put up a website [www.beesense.co.uk](http://www.beesense.co.uk) that hopefully will provide more detailed information. This will also be used to keep you updated with any results and information.

Samples will be returned to us and tested for statistical purposes. If we identify potential problems in certain hives we will inform the owner (privately) to keep a close watch or ask them for additional information. As we are simply testing samples remotely there is nothing we are doing that will damage or cause harm to the Bees.

### **Example Samples**

I would really appreciate if you could ask your membership (or even circulate this mail) as we are looking for willing volunteers to help us establish the real causes of depletion in the colonies.

Ultimately we hope to create a proper understanding of what is going on in the wild, and hopefully some answers to the problem that will guide us in the right direction.

Please have interested parties contact me – by return email at [beesense@u4global.com](mailto:beesense@u4global.com)

PLEASE NOTE : We provide you or your members with the sample bags on request – sample instructions are on the website

Alan Routledge - U4Global Solutions Limited -

Epsilon House

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Enterprise Road

Southampton

Hants SO16 7NS Tel [+44\(0\) 2380 760909](tel:+44(0)2380760909)

## STATEMENT

28 May 2013

### Neonicotinoids – the new Regulation

In our 2 May 2013 statement we undertook to keep you up to date on developments with neonicotinoids.

The European Commission has now published the Implementing Regulation to restrict the use of neonicotinoids. It is Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013 of 24 May 2013 and was published in the Official Journal on 25 May 2013. Its full title is ‘Amending Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the condition of approval of the active substances clothianadin, thiomethoxam and imidacloprid and prohibiting the use and sale of seeds treated with plant protection products containing these active substances’.

It can be downloaded using [this link](#)

The main elements of the regulation are as follows:

- Restriction in the use of three neonicotinoids; 1. clothianidin, 2. imidacloprid, and 3. thiametoxam for seed treatment, soil application (granules) and foliar treatment on bee attractive plants and cereals.
- In addition, the remaining authorised uses will only be available to professionals.
- Exceptions will be limited to the possibility of treating bee-attractive crops in greenhouses, in open-air fields only after flowering.
- The restrictions will apply from **1 December 2013**.
- As soon as new information is available, and at the latest within two years, the Commission will review the conditions of approval of the three neonicotinoids to take into account relevant scientific and technical developments.

A longer article will appear in the July issue of BBKA News.

**Dr David Aston**

**BBKA Chair**

