

Surrey Beekeepers Association

CROYDON DIVISION

Chairman Mark Stott 0208 684 1098
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www.croydonbeekeepers.co.uk



Perhaps a little morbid these are another couple of the fine woodcuts from 'Lark Rise to Candleford' provided by Colin Packington.

APRIL 2011



Those who receive this edition by post will find an up to date membership list enclosed, it should be available too with the 'e mail edition.

MEETINGS and EVENTS

SATURDAY 2nd. APRIL

Central Association of Bee-Keepers Spring Meeting

Details of this were detailed in last months edition, it may be too late to book for the lunch but the meeting is free.

Auction of bees and equipment at Mickleham, Surrey.
Details of this were also in the last newsletter.

THURSDAY - 28th. APRIL

An all day opportunity to learn about the foul brood diseases with Alan Byham, the local bee inspector - the morning session will be in a hall near Hartley Down followed by a light lunch, then at our apiary for the afternoon where hopefully there will only healthy brood to be seen.

The cost for the day is £8-00 including lunch.
CONTACT Mark Stott to book a place or if you wish to know more - 0208 684 1098

SATURDAY - 30th. APRIL

Auction of bees and equipment at Pulborough, West Sussex.
Details for this were in the last newsletter.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE FLOW ?

Richard Palmer can supply any equipment you are short of.
palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk or 0208 679 0401

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION

Also in April, 15 th. 16 th. and 17 th.
Full details of this, like many other events appear in Beecraft.

SURREY COUNTY SHOW

Bank holiday Monday 30 th. May.
As usual there will be the Surrey Beekeepers tent - so a chance to enter the honey show there or help steward which gives free entry to the show so if you can assist contact Ann Buckingham - 01252 714069

SURREY BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY WORKSHOP

Friday 3 rd. June at Claygate, Surrey.
This is a whole day event, cost £8-00 with morning and afternoon refreshments but not lunch
For further information contact S.Fraser - -1372 464889
OR see the Surrey BKA web site.

HARTLEY DOWN APIARY MEETINGS

Sundays - 10 th. and 24 th. APRIL at 2-30 p.m.

Thanks to all who helped at the 'Tidy up Day' to prepare for our meetings.

Re-queening an aggressive colony

My recent article on artificial swarming prompted a CBKA member to ask how he might deal with an overly aggressive colony which he had twice attempted to de-queen in order to re-queen. On both occasions he failed to find the queen, and gave up because the bees were becoming increasingly hostile, which he found unnerving.

The following notes form the basis of my reply. As always it is better to work with the bees rather than against them. The solution lies in removing from the search the foragers, which are also the main aggressors.

Hence, prepare an empty hive complete with combs. Introduce a frame or frames containing eggs preferably from a more docile colony, but failing that from the aggressive colony itself, as the temper is likely to improve after any new queen has taken over from her predecessor.

Put the new hive with eggs—made up to 11 frames - on the original stand, and replace over a queen-excluder any supers. Move the original colony to one side in the same apiary. The flying bees will return to join the new hive. This depletes the original brood-box to create conditions in which the chances of finding the queen are considerably enhanced. Once found, she may be killed off, or transferred pro tem to a nucleus box with some bees (plus food) as a hedge against failure.

This presents two opportunities. Either the old brood-box may be re-united to the colony on the original stand, or the separated colony may be left to produce a new queen for itself. The latter course should only be followed if the beekeeper wishes to make increase and has no other colony better suited to the task. If re-combining the two units is the preferred option, this may be accomplished in either of two ways. The preferred approach would be to go through the original brood-box to remove queen-cells before re-uniting. Alternatively, this could be done shortly after re-uniting (always over newspaper) when nurse-bees only are in attendance.

To eliminate queen-cells from the original brood-box by either method would be preferable to re-uniting with queen-cells present, as ultimately it will become necessary to re-arrange the brood-frames in the bottom box. If, when doing this, a virgin were introduced unnoticed, the consequences could be disastrous, especially if she had become infertile by being trapped "upstairs" for too long.

Malcolm Brierley