

Courses Report

The **Beginners Course** is now in the practical phase. The weather has sometimes been a challenge but the bees are doing fine. The students all seem to have taken well to handling bees. The hive-building afternoon was enjoyed by all the students who came, with brood box and super and frames to fill them being made.

One **Improver session** has been run so far – on Swarm Control. The weather was so cold that it had to be held indoors with the virtual hive rather than in the apiary with the live bees, but I hope the message got across anyway. The next session will be on Thursday 11th June, and will be about Making Increase.

CLUB SUMMER OUTING

Come and join us for a family fun day at Barnard's Farm, Brentwood Road, West Horndon, CM13 3LX on **29th August** which will be open on that day exclusively for us.

The grounds and beautiful gardens are extensive and houses the largest collection of malus (ornamental crab apple) trees in Western Europe, as well as a variety of most interesting sculptures. There is a miniature railway which is run by volunteers. The railway has steam diesel/hydraulic, electric and petrol locos. Also we will be able to view the vintage car collection.

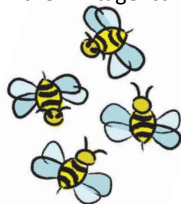
Meet at the entrance at 2.00 p.m.

Entry price which goes to charity:

Adults £6.00. School aged children £2.50. Under 5's free

Tea and cake £3.00 for each age group i.e. no reduction for children

Booking and payment is required in advance, therefore anyone who is interested, please pay Liz McNeill the money for entrance and tea and cake at our next club night.



Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary ~ Pat Allen

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June 2015

Romford Division

EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

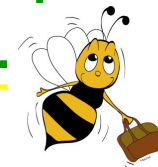
DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Thursday, July 16th, 7.30, Jim's Place, Collier Row

July meeting: Friday 3rd, 8pm
Lifting and Carrying for Beekeepers
with Keith Sparling

Eastbrookend Fair
Saturday 7th June 11am-4pm
Can you help? Would you like to sell some produce?
Contact Pat Allen if you are interested.

Beekeeping notes for June ~ written by Pat Allen



I suspect there will be a lot of swarming in June this year. The bees have been a bit behind with the cold April and changeable weather during May, but they will catch up. Keep inspecting weekly throughout June, which is the peak month for the queen laying.

Any honey from oil seed rape needs to be off the hive if you want to harvest it as it will granulate in the combs and be impossible to extract in the normal way. But make sure you leave the bees with some stores – populations are high and they need lots of food.

Let's hope we get some sustained good weather now and virgin queens will be able to mate properly. Remember to give a new queen up to 28 days to start laying, but do not wait longer or you may end up with a doomed colony. If you want a swarm to give you a new queen/colony, then let Pat Allen know that you are prepared to collect one. If you have not done it before, be prepared to accompany an experienced beekeeper doing so.

Queen Rearing by Terry Watson – 1st May 2015

Terry started by saying that there are lots of different ways of rearing queens, and four are explained in Ted Hooper's book.

Terry and Norman went on a queen rearing course with Clive de Bruyn and he said that the best way to rear a queen is to pick a good, strong queen to start with. This was only one method of several that Terry explained.

To make artificial queen cups use a length of wooden dowelling 5/16th in diameter with smoothly rounded ends, mark 5/16 from the rounded end to ensure the cup is the correct depth. Soak the dowel in cold water to get it thoroughly wet. Dip in wax that has been melted in a Bain Marie about six times.

Return the dowel to the cold water to chill the wax, and the cups can be twisted off. The cups are then fastened onto bars with melted wax and the bars fitted on a frame.

A swarm box that is light, robust, well ventilated and easy to carry should be used. It must hold at least 2 inches deeper than the depth of the frames side bars, have an easily removable lid and be capable of being bee tight.

To make up the swarm box, put the nurse bees from 6 brood frames into the box together with a frame of pollen, two frames of stores and a frame feeder of syrup. The swarm box should be left for four hours. After this time a bar which has been grafted with one day old larvae is put into the swarm box. After 9 days queen cells are removed and placed into a prepared mini NUC.

To make up a mini NUC block the entrance and open vents. Place sugar into feeder and spray with water. Place a queen cell into a frame and place that frame nearest the stores but facing away from it. Protect the queen frame with another frame before adding a cup full of bees. Put on a crown board and the roof. Leave in a cool dark place for 2 days before opening the entrance.

Queens can be raised in a swarm box and mini NUC. The advantage of using a mini NUC is that you only need about one cup full of nursery bees with the queen cell. Also queens will develop quicker, meaning that you can use this method four times per year. The mini NUC can be moved and stored easily. The disadvantage is that it will need more attention as it is smaller and may cause the bees to swarm, as they may starve or it can get easily congested.

Terry advised having ready when queen rearing:

1. Mini NUC
2. Swarm box. He told us that the swarm box must be robust but light in weight so easy to carry and must be ventilated with vent on roof and underneath.
3. NUC

By JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL



Romford Beekeepers Honey Show - October 17th 2015

Bees and honey are awash with myths and beliefs, handed down through the years. As these 3 myths show.

- In early traditions bees were believed to have originated in paradise and were known as "little servants of Gods". It was considered bad luck to kill one.
- In Wales a bee buzzing around a sleeping child means the child will have a happy life and a virgin can always walk safely through a swarm of bees.
- The Romans believed a swarm of bees was bad luck and that they were divine creatures which originated directly from the gods.

(Extract from Bee Folklore <http://www.crossmoorhoney.com/folklore.php?s=198>)

Some people believe that a drink of honey and cinnamon is good for your joints, bladder, circulation and sleep.

I don't know if any of this is true, my joints creek just as badly even after a teaspoon of honey. But I do know that the honey, wax, candles and mead that are produced from the bees kept by Romford Beekeepers is the best in town! Nay, the best in Essex! Better even than that! How do I know this? Well come along to this year's Honey Show - October 17th - and judge for yourself.

We welcome all members to exhibit honey, photos, and baked goods and candles, mead wine both sweet and dry.

*New members - No honey or wax to show this year, well other club members may have some spare for you to use in the bakery section or to make candles. Or start taking some photos of bees and their activities.

Show rules and entry forms will be issued soon, but meanwhile if you have any questions do email me and I will respond.

Helen Kingsford - Romford Show Sec.

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