



September 2016

Romford Division

EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 20th September, 7.30, Jim's Place,
Collier Row

October meeting: Thursday 6th at 8pm,
Chadwick Hall, Gidea Park

Topic: Pre-Conference Forum

National Honey Show (27th-29th October, Sandown Park Racecourse)



Pat cutting off bee abdomens



Clare Russell and Annette Friday setting up two microscopes



Nosema test prep kit

Romford Division Contacts:

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Pat adding water to bee gunk

Website: www.ebka.org

September beekeeping notes ~ written by Pat Allen

This is another critical month for our bees. Your actions this month can determine whether or not they survive the winter.

The honey crop should be off by now, and varroa treatment underway or finished. Treatments that rely on evaporation (such as Apiguard) need to be put on early, before the temperature drops too low for it to be effective. The floor insert must also be in if you have open mesh floors, to keep the fumes inside the hive. Don't forget to record your treatments.

Feed the bees heavy syrup (2lbs sugar:1 pint water or 1kg sugar:600ml water). Expect to feed a full colony at least two gallons of syrup, which is 16lbs sugar. Floor inserts must be in while feeding, with no access by the bees to the underside of the floor mesh. Assess the stores and feed accordingly. They will need about 20kg of honey/syrup stores to get through winter. A National brood frame holds about 2.5kg; Langstroth ~4kg; Commercial in between. Feeding should be finished well before the end of September to ensure the bees can evaporate the syrup down to the water content they need for storage.

When feeding and treating are finished, if you are wintering on National brood and a super, put the super underneath the brood box (remember to cut off any brace comb on the bottom of the brood frames). **Remove the queen excluder.** Floor inserts should be removed and left out for the winter and the holes in the crownboard covered (bottom ventilation is enough). Count the varroa and record the numbers.

August Meeting – Microscopy and Bee Disease Recognition— Led by Pat Allen

Pat first of all explained the various microscopes we had in use – compound (high power) and dissecting (low power). She told us that to diagnose Nosema, we need the compound microscope with 400x magnification. You need a sample of 30 dead bees to give a 99% chance of finding Nosema when 10% of the colony is infected. Nosema is a fungus which affects the lining of the gut and can only be detected under a microscope. It is better to collect older bees, these are often on the first comb inside the entrance and Pat advised us that it was best to collect bees from the entrance with a small transparent container. A cotton wool pad soaked in acetone-free nail varnish remover put into the jar will kill the bees, or they can be frozen for at least 24 hours. Freezing is fine for detection of Nosema, but if the bees are for dissection for Acarine it is better not to freeze them as they are then difficult to dissect.

The abdomens are where the Nosema infection is so these were cut off and mashed up in a pestle and mortar, and a few drops of water added. A little drop of the resulting liquid was put on a slide with a cover slip on top and put under the microscope. Low power was first used to focus and then turned to high power and refocused. If Nosema is present you will see little white sausages. Pat however, did not see any sign of Nosema in the sample.

Several members had brought bees, which they prepared and looked at themselves, but none had any signs of Nosema. The only treatment for Nosema is to change the comb, which is a good idea to do on a regular basis anyway.

There were other slides to look at showing different parts of bees, e.g. wings, legs, head, mouth, etc, and bees ready for dissection, as well as different types of pollen. We also had books on pollen and dissection. It was a very informative and proactive evening.

Written by Dawn Doyland

'TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY-TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR OUR CLUB!'

EBKA, Romford Division, 2016 Conference.

5th November. Tickets on sale NOW.

*4 tasty meals to choose from for lunch, *3 exciting speakers, *trade stands, *meeting other Divisional members.

Book through our website: romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com or email h.kingsford@btinternet.com or edwin.manning@virginmedia.com

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB BY ENTERING THIS YEAR'S HONEY SHOW

15th October.

You could be this year's winner in:

Honey, or mead, candles, wax, photos, or baking, categories.

New category - 3 types of honey.

Winning isn't important, but taking part is!

See the entry form in the newsletter or

Email: h.kingsford@btinternet.com

Or ring 01277 810075

***To make an interesting raffle, which will help us raise funds towards the cost of the conference, we are asking for donations. EG: Bottles of wine or spirit. New equipment for beekeeping. Large boxes of good quality chocolates, food such as preserves or fruit hampers. Vouchers for High St shops.

Please help us make this year's conference as successful as possible. Thank you.

Donations to Helen Kingsford, Pat Allen, Jim McNeil, Terry Watson.***

October 15th Honey Show at Ascension Church Hall

Judging will take place at 2:30— please make sure you get your entries to the hall in plenty of time. If you are unsure of the procedure, ask Jim.

The Annual Supper will be at 5:30.

This is a lovely relaxed evening to socialise and celebrate all the products we are able harvest from our bees.

Please register your interest with Liz McNeill (01708 765898 / jimandliz44@aol.co.uk) to enable her to prepare for a successful evening.

The cost will be £12 per head.