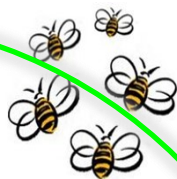




EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

July 2017

Romford Division



Bulk Buys – Lorna Pattle

I am planning to order MAQS as a Bulk Buy purchase if enough members should require.

The cost should roughly be £ 5.00 - £5.50 per hive to treat.

This treatment for varroa can be used any time throughout the year. The expiry date for these MAQS is April 2018.

There will be a list to put your name down at the July meeting or alternatively email me at lorna.pattle@outlook.com with number of hives to be treated.

Also, I still have Apiguard for new members should they need it.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 11th July 7.30, Jim's Place, Collier Row

August meeting: Thursday 3rd August, starting at 7pm (note early start again).

Venue: Teaching Apiary as in July.

Please let Pat Allen know in advance what demonstrations you would like to see.

July Beekeeping Notes - written by Pat Allen

July is usually when we get the main nectar flow in our part of the world, so make sure your bees have enough supers. Populations will be at their highest this month too, so they need the space.

Swarming should be over by July but the season was a bit late this year and we had most of the swarms in June and this may spill over into July. Keep watch!

You should be able to extend the time between inspections this month but do assess your colonies so you can decide which queens are the ones you want to keep and which need replacing. July is a difficult month to introduce a queen, better to do it in August if it's not an emergency. If you must replace a queen, do it via a nuc (read up on the procedure first).

Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary ~ Pat Allen

01708 220897 ~ pat.allen@btconnect.com

Chairman ~ Jim McNeill

01708 765898 ~ jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee ~ Paul Wiltshire

01277 375454 / 07870 258192 ~ paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

Website: www.ebka.org

June Meeting — Collecting Swarms



Jim McNeill gave the club members some valuable advice and tips about collecting swarms of bees at our June meeting. He said: Collecting swarms can often be challenging but nevertheless rewarding as you are able to collect a new colony with a queen.

To be safe, risk assess the situation; if you need another pair of hands, get in touch with other club members who may be able to assist. Before you visit the site of a swarm establish from the person reporting it, the location and height of the bees. Always remember your safety comes first.

Use a skep or cardboard box, or nuc box without frames for collecting the bees. Jim demonstrated the 'shake' or 'sweep' method used to transfer the bees into a box or nuc. If possible do not go up ladders or climb onto roofs. If you have to climb a ladder make sure you have a **reliable** second person with you to hold the ladder. Safety first!

Try to do the collection as late in the day as possible so that only one trip is necessary as the bees will have settled for the night. Then after collecting the swarm spray the site with fairy liquid as this tends to stop any bees returning.

If the swarm is within a domestic property or garden, warn the householder that a few bees will always be left behind and will find a new home the next day.

If you collect more than one swarm on one day – even if from different sites – merge all the swarms together, to avoid creating multiple colonies. (Where there are more than two swarms then they will not usually fight on the grounds they do not know who the enemy is).



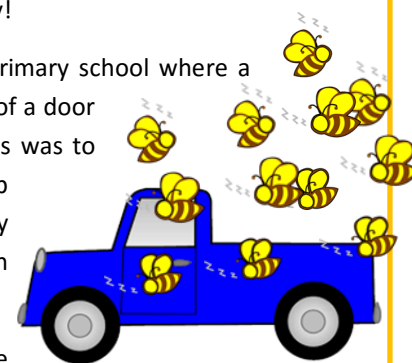
It doesn't matter if there are multiple queens either, as the bees will choose the best and kill off the others.

Do not feed a swarm straight away, let them use up the stores they brought with them first. If there is a nectar flow then you do not need to feed at all. It's a good opportunity to use some varroa treatment as there is no brood, and as soon as possible check bees for diseases in the usual way, and carry out regular inspections to check for brood.

Club members shared their experiences of swarm collecting.

Jim recalled when he was called to a lorry park that had a swarm of bees attached to the side of the lorry. But on arriving the lorry had left for Birmingham. When the lorry returned the bees were still attached to lorry!

Bob Manning remembered getting called to a primary school where a colony of bees had settled into the internal void of a door via the door lock. The only way to deal with this was to remove the door, which he took home. Bob placed the door over a hive such that the only way in and out was through the hive. The bees soon migrated into the hive.



Further tips were offered. Swarms must not be taken into the Club's Apiary until after the brood has been checked out – disease prevention. Keep swarm bees elsewhere during this period.

We heard how bees like compost bins as they are attracted to warm compost. Honeybees will use space above the compost and hang their nest from the lid. Bumblebees will build low down in the compost itself. Bumblebee nests can sometimes be collected if proving a nuisance and removed to a new site. Often Tree Bumblebees go into bird nest boxes so the best course of action is to take the bird box with the bees away and install it in another garden. Bumble bees do sting so beware!

Alan Kingsford