

*****ATTENTION*****

There is some limited stock of wax foundation and National Bee Supplies Frames available for sale on a first come first served basis. If you wish to make a purchase please e-mail your request to :-lorna.pattle@outlook.com

Wired Wax Foundation
British Standard
Brood £9.50, Super £6.10,
Commercial
Brood£13.00, Super £8.25

National Bee Supplies SN1 Frames £10.75

Collection
Payment by cash or cheque must be made on collection/delivery

Lorna Pattle

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Websites: www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

June 2018

Romford Division

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Thursday 12th July 2018, 7.30pm. Jim's Place, Collier Row

July meeting: Thursday 5th 2018, 7pm

Hive demonstrations. Please let Pat Allen or Jim McNeill know what you would like to see demonstrated – e.g. Artificial Swarm.

Venue: Teaching Apiary, Thames Chase, Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS.

*****NOTE EARLY START & VENUE*****

Club Outing: Saturday 23rd June, all day. Visit to The Hive at Kew.

Refresher Sessions

Sessions have been arranged for the following topics and dates. There are still places available but please book your place.

Managing Nucs & Mini-nucs: Tuesday 26th June, 6.30pm. No session charge but there is £2 pay & display parking. Venue is the Thames Chase Teaching Apiary. **Spaces available.**

Integrated Pest Management: Thursday 14th June, 6.30pm. No session charge but there is £2 pay & display parking. Venue is the Thames Chase Teaching Apiary. **Spaces available.**

Pat Allen

2018 Essex County Show – Saturday 1 September at the Orsett Show

In last month's newsletter Jim McNeill noted that it was not too early to start thinking and planning about entering this year's County Show. You will see in this month's edition of The Essex Beekeeper are inserted the Show Schedule and Entry Form for the 131st Annual Show.

Please take time during the month to read through the Show Schedule and decide which of the Show Classes you would wish to enter. The closing date for entries is 12 noon on Friday 31st August as judging will take place later in the afternoon. As in previous years, if you are unable to take your entries to the Show Ground at Orsett, those entries can be transported on your behalf.

Each year our Divisional Honey Show has excellent and prize winning entries in many classes so this year let us extend that level of participation to this County wide event. You will see from the Show Schedule that there are many special awards presented including the "President's Cup" awarded to the Division whose members gain the highest number of points in all classes.

We also need members to volunteer to help on the day of the Show. It is a good opportunity to get involved and meet members from other Divisions.

Michael Webb

Chair of the EBKA Show Committee

June Beekeeping Notes by Pat Allen

June is a top swarming month and may be especially so this year with the late spring, so be vigilant and inspect weekly.

If you take off the spring honey, give the bees back the empty supers as soon as possible as they will need the space. There is oil seed rape about this year and this should be extracted as soon as capped or as soon as the fields go green because it sets quickly and hard. Remember to leave the bees enough stores though.

If you have new virgin queens, give them up to 28 days to start laying, but no more than that, or you may end up with a doomed colony. If you want a swarm to give you a new colony, let me know, but you must be prepared to collect it, with an experienced beekeeper if you have not done it before.

Fun with Pollen Traps by Bob Smith NDB - 3 May 2018

In a well illustrated talk we learned from this Master Beekeeper why pollen is important, how it is used and the kit needed to make pollen traps. Pollen is an important source of nutrients, bees obtain protein which is important for colony nutrition and nurse bees feed it to the brood. Bees are well adapted for carrying pollen which is stored in the hive.

From his base in Kent, Bob Smith illustrated how he has developed his own pollen traps, which are also available commercially. The bees returning with pollen before entering the hive go through a grid where the pollen drops into a collecting tray. The traps are installed for collection in a 10 minute period at various hours during the day and month. The pollen on these trays is then analysed and sorted into the different colours. It is necessary for a competent level of microscopy in order to collect the data and records the results.

When analysing the results of the pollen collected it was clear bees like wild flowers as a good source of pollen, mainly from poppy, rosebay willowherb, bramble and clover. Not so much is collected from flowers in the daisy family. Bob also noted the importance of tree pollen much of which is wind pollinated.

In a question session following his talk it was clear that Bob was not enthusiastic about using pollen patties. In what was an enjoyable and entertaining presentation, the final word was from a member of the audience who noted that whilst the talk was entitled "Fun with Pollen Traps" it wasn't much fun for the bees whose hard work as foragers was lost in the collecting tray!

Michael Webb

