

November Beekeeping Notes—written by Pat Allen

There is not much to do this month as your bees should be well settled for winter already, with woodpecker and mouse guards in place.

If you have open mesh floors, make sure the floor insert is out and ensure good circulation of air under the hive to keep the bees dry (not a gale). Close off ventilation at the top and put a layer of insulation over the crownboard under the roof, to keep the bee cluster dry and cosy.

Bulk Buys

I will be making a Bulk Buy purchase in the New Year of wired wax foundation, National Bee Supplies SN1 & DN5 frames and Apiguard in February.

Please check and make a list of your requirements over the winter.

Details of costs and ordering next month.

Thank you.

Lorna Pattle

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EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

November 2018

Romford Division

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: The Committee Meeting scheduled for 6th November, has been **cancelled** due to a clash with a critical EBKA meeting in Chelmsford which several committee members will be attending. The meeting will be rescheduled for some time in January, after the AGM.

December meeting: December 6th 2018, 8pm, Chadwick Hall
This will be our usual pre-Christmas Social. Jim will have a fun quiz for us.

Please bring:

- some goodies along to share (sweet or savoury)
- a small present, gift-wrapped, for the free raffle

A note from the Membership Secretary

This is a plea for help. At the AGM earlier this year I stood down from the post of Secretary after about 15 years. Nobody came forward to take on the task so Romford Division has been without a Secretary for the whole of 2018. I have tried to cover as best I can but I do have other roles and I need some help.

The job simply entails arranging Committee meetings (6 a year), producing the agendas, and taking the minutes. I do also arrange for the production of the monthly newsletter but I am willing to continue with that if necessary. I will make sure there is a good handover and the committee members are there to help too.

So please consider giving a few hours of your time to helping your Division. The more people we have helping the more we can do for members and the easier each job becomes. The AGM is on Thursday 3rd January 2019. Please come and put yourself forward.

Pat Allen

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE USELESS – TAKE TWO - 4th October 2018

Our intended speaker was unfortunately unable to give his talk due to ill health. Luckily several members stepped in and gave us a very interesting & amusing talk.

Bob Manning brought a bag of wooden cat litter pellets. He said he uses them for his smoker and found them to be a worthy alternative to much more expensive products; being able to buy a large sack for a fraction of the price of like merchandise.



Graeme Ellis brought a bee gym. He had mixed feelings as to its worth, although he did say that it did seem to work. It is a grooming apparatus to help rid the honey bees of the varroa mite. The bee gym has small plastic flippers which the bee crawls over therefore scratching off the mite. It is completely chemical free. The problem with it is that it gets propolised and is very difficult to clean.

He also said he prefers to use galvanised metal runners rather than plastic, to rest frames on the inside of the hive. Jim suggested putting Vaseline on the runners to prevent propolis sticking.

Graeme spoke very highly of the wasp traps. Pat explained that wasps eat sugar from the larvae during the summer, but cannot get it in the Autumn, which is why the wasps try to get honey at that time. Wasps do not eat meat, but collect it to feed the larvae.

Paul Wiltshire showed us a hive tool that looked like two different hives tools in one, with a wooden handle in the middle. Paul was not impressed with it and said it is far too difficult to use with the wooden handle in the middle. He also had a manipulation cloth. It is canvas on stainless steel rods to weigh it down over the hive. The opening in the middle is to enable you to check



frames without exposing the other frames. Paul said it was another useless piece of equipment.

Terry Watson showed us an English multi feeder which goes on top of the super or crown board. It has no space underneath, and the bees don't drown in it. Terry also had a tool called a wire queen excluder scrubber which cleaned the frames. He thought both these items were worthwhile.



JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL

ROMFORD DIVISION 2018 HONEY SHOW

This year proved to be as hotly contested as ever with an amazing 115 exhibits covering all categories. The exhibits once all displayed looked impressive in the church and smelt wonderful too!

The judge, Sue Carter, worked her way through 133 jars of honey, 5 beeswax blocks, candles to light, cut comb to weigh, frames for extraction, 9 excellent photographs, 29 items of delicious bakery and finally found herself tasting from 7 bottles of mead.

Honey Display—
Photo by Tony
Andrews



She commented on Romford beekeepers ability to put on a good show of exhibits for judging.

The supper afterwards proved to be a good social event, a chance to catch up with fellow beekeepers, with Liz and Pauline supervising the food and drink for the evening.

If you missed out this year make sure next years show date gets booked in your diary early.

Well done to all those members who took part.

**ANGELA MANDER
SHOW SECRETARY**

Lots of fun and lively conversation was enjoyed during the meal culminating in the prize giving awards. Results to follow in the December newsletter.

JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL



Enjoying
the
show—
Photo by
Tony
Andrews