



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

July 2021

Romford Division

Courses update:

Beginners: By the time you read this we will have finished the series of practical sessions and some of the students will be starting out with bees. Others have decided to wait till next spring to begin, which is quite a good idea given that this season has been so late starting and conditions so uncertain. For the course itself, we have just the final summary session to come in July. I do hope all the students have enjoyed their experience, and I must say, we have been very lucky with the weather for inspections.

Refresher Session: I can run a **Honey Extraction** session if there is interest in this. The timing will be tricky as there has not been much honey so far this season. I will have to pick a date at short notice when I find I have some honey to extract. Please email me if you would be interested in this.

Pat Allen

Stop Press! Stop Press!

Members are asking about reliable sources of bees. If anyone is wanting a nucleus colony next spring then they should order this **now** for next year. Below are three reliable sources but all of them will have had a challenging year just as the rest of us have, so they may not have so many colonies available as they usually do.

David Rudland: 381 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0BF
07798 915480 enquire@eastssurreybees.co.uk

Terry Thrussell: Westcott, Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Standon SG11 1NW
01279 842367

Ted Gradosielski (Ted Grad): Nazeing, Essex
01992 890986 / 07966 310004 teds.honeybees@gmail.com

Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: **Sue Richardson**
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Chairman: **Paul Wiltshire**
01277 375454 / 07870 258192 ~ paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee: **Jim McNeill**
01708 765898 / 07743 310143 ~ jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

Membership Secretary: **Pat Allen**
01708 220897/07958 938427 ~ pat.allen7@icloud.com

Websites:

www.ebka.org
romfordbeekeepers.org

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Thursday 15th July 2021, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

August Meeting: Winter Preparation presented by Paul Wiltshire.
Zoom or Venue to be confirmed

July Beekeeping Notes

This is such an unusual year that almost anything could happen this month. However, I am hoping that swarming will be over and the new queens will be settling down and colonies will be taking advantage of the main nectar flow – which is supposed to be July, but who knows this year – and building up for winter. Remember to give the bees space for the nectar and honey.

This month it is time to assess your colonies and make a few decisions. How many colonies do you want to take into winter? Which are the best colonies? For instance, which are the best-tempered, which queens are laying the most brood and best brood pattern, which colonies are storing the most honey, etc? Don't forget that, for every hive you keep in winter with bees in it, you will need a spare hive to be available next spring for swarm control.

Beginners, continue to feed your colonies to help them build up for winter. It is better to feed them well and build them up than try to get any honey this season.

Pat Allen

Committee Meeting Minutes

These are now on the website in the members only area. Committee meetings are held every other month, and the minutes will be put on the website once they have been agreed as true at the following meeting.

BEE HEALTH – WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG - Robert Smith – 3rd June

Robert started by saying that most colonies are healthy, but we need to have a stringent approach in our beekeeping to ensure that we recognise a healthy brood and make specific checks on our hives for the state of its health, to recognise when things are not correct and to know what the remedy would be to regain a healthy hive.

Beekeepers should make sure they do not place colonies too close together. Beware not to transfer diseases between colonies and apiaries. Be certain you follow hive hygiene diligently. Maintain good habits when you start beekeeping.

Robert explained the bee life cycle and said that the larva stage was the most vulnerable, while it is being fed persistently for six days.

Robert clarified diseases the bees are most susceptible to: pathogens, parasites and pests. He showed us signs of EFB, AFB and Varroa, showing that the damage varroa causes may confuse the bee keeper as to which disease the hive is suffering. He compared the diseased frames to a healthy one, so that we could see the difference.

If your hive has a statutory disease you must contact a Bee Inspector. You will normally have to initially send a photo of the diseased frames. If the disease is caught early enough it is much more likely to be treated successfully.

To try to keep disease free you must follow an important regime of hive hygiene. Keep clothes, especially gloves, and tools clean. Soda crystals are a good cleaning product. Also clean down between attending to each colony.

When removing supers to extract the honey, ensure that they are replaced on the same hive. Do not mix supers between colonies. Robert marks all his frames to ensure they are returned to the correct hive.

Therefore, the summary for keeping bees healthy is:

- Keep rigorous apiary hygiene.
- Examine hives regularly and ask for clarification from an experienced beekeeper or bee inspector if you are in any doubt as to the health of your hive.
- Make specific inspections by shaking bees off the frames and taking a close look at the cells.
- Be assured that most colonies are healthy.

JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL

Havering Apiary Update – Rates and Licence

The committee are working towards getting a new licence and reduced rates bill for Havering Apiary in Pinewood Road.

In January 2020 we were contacted by OneSource, acting on behalf of Havering Council, with a proposal to increase the yearly licence fee for Havering Apiary from £131 per year to the sum of £2,500 per year, plus rates. Needless to say this was unacceptable and the committee began negotiations to try and sort out a new licence at an acceptable sum. The previous licence had run out in April 2016, and despite previous attempts to arrange a new one, Havering Council staff frequently changed and no headway was made. We had hoped to meet with the council on site last year, but COVID prevented this. After speaking with Brian Eagling, a local councillor, who kindly offered to take up our case, we hope to finalise a new licence this year.

The Committee are now trying to apply to get the rates reduced since we believe the rateable value is now incorrect. The apiary had a large shed on it, but as some members will know, this was sadly burnt down in an arson attack in April 2010. There was no building at the apiary until March 2018 when a new smaller metal container was put on the site. It is much smaller and we also think it should be classed as a store, both facts should mean it should have a lower rateable value. We are now going through the rates valuation office process of asking for the rateable value to be reduced. We do get a large charity discount, but a new rateable value would significantly reduce the current rates bill of just under £300.

It will be nice once the COVID restrictions are lifted further to start using the cabin for some divisional workshops or demonstrations.

Sue Richardson

BBKA Exam Modules – Fees are on us!

The committee have discussed how to put some of our Divisional funds to good use and it has been decided that on successfully completing BBKA exams and modules, members can apply for the fees to be reimbursed.

It is hoped that this will encourage members to take the modules and increase and consolidate their knowledge of beekeeping.