



Romford Division

Courses update:

Beginners: We have reached the practical stage of the **Beginners Beekeeping** Course (at last). Students have their jackets & veils and have played with the smokers, and, by the time you receive this newsletter, they will have got hands-on with the bees. All we need now is some sun and warmth!

Refresher sessions: A session on **Managing Nucs & Mini-Nucs** was held with 9 members on 22nd May. Unfortunately we were unable to open a hive as the weather was so cold and some rain too, so it was more a lecture than a demonstration. However all participants said they enjoyed it and found it useful. We ended by sharing the lovely cake made by Mina Goyal – thanks, Mina.

Honey Extraction: It may be possible to hold a demonstration of Honey Extraction in late July (assuming we get some honey to extract). This would be at my house and numbers would need to be limited as my honey room is not very big and I do not have a lot of parking space for cars. This is suitable for beekeepers of one or two years experience who are likely (hoping) to get a largish crop of honey for the first time. Email me if you are interested.

Basic Assessment Preparation: Three members came to a **BA Preparation** session recently. Two of them will have done their Assessments by the time you get this newsletter and I'm sure they will have done well, despite the uncertain weather at present. Perhaps we can get them to tell us about their experiences to encourage more members to take this Assessment.

Pat Allen

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

Meeting: The July 1st meeting is on '**Bees for Development**'. It is at 8pm, venue and format to be confirmed.



"I think my bees might have swarmed...!!! Luckily, I'd clipped the queen's wings, so they all came back – minus the queen, of course. Once they went into the hive, I was able to check them and split the colony, each part with a queen cell. So all was not lost – provided we get some decent weather so the new queens can get mated."

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Reading the Colony—Buckfast Speakers, May 6th

Clare and Martin gave us an insight into how different situations in the hive can be interpreted.

Gaining knowledge from discussions with other beekeepers and reading books can help to determine what is happening in the hive. Keeping records and checking them before inspecting the colony also helps.

Weather, the time of year and locality all have an influence on the bees and how they react. Watching the entrance and the behaviour of the bees on the outside of the hive are all clues.

Inside, examining frames and cells, the bees' behaviour and attitude towards the Queen, and her behaviour, have to be noted.

All the available information has to be added up to get as clear a picture as possible. Sometimes the possible outcome seems unclear and you may need to take a gamble or buy more time. But in general if you are vigilant and observant you can determine what is happening. Clare and Martin gave us a lot of helpful and interesting information to help read the colony.

Dawn Doyland



Resuming Monthly Meetings in Chadwick Hall

With the further easing of COVID restrictions due to take place on 21st June, we hope to be able to start holding our monthly meetings in Chadwick Hall again soon.

After discussions, the committee have decided to keep the July meeting as via Zoom, as the talk is being given by a speaker from Bees for Development, who is some distance away. We plan to hold the August meeting back in Chadwick Hall, with a talk on winter preparation which will be presented by Paul Wiltshire.

We are looking at having the September and October meetings both as Zoom and Chadwick Hall meetings, if the technology can be arranged. We will keep members informed.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in person again!

Sue Richardson

JUNE Beekeeping Notes

Flaming June! Will it be? Surely this cold, wet weather cannot continue much longer?

Some colonies have good stores, some have hardly any, so make sure you check these out each time you inspect. Despite the weather, do try to inspect every 7–9 days through June, or you will be losing swarms and with them, your honey crop. Also, they may still need supers to give them space, even if they are not putting much in them just now.

If you have a new queen, be patient and give her time to get mated – it could be up to 30 days from emergence. Do not inspect between 10am and 3pm as she may be out and get confused by you when she returns. If she enters the wrong hive (a queenright one) she will be killed. Check carefully for eggs, she will start by laying just a few in the centre of a comb and they can be hard to spot. If she is not laying after 30 days, or if the sealed brood has raised cappings (drone layer), then the colony is doomed unless you do something to correct the situation as soon as possible. If you are not sure what you can do, speak to your mentor or bee buddy.

Pat Allen