

Romford Honey Show—Saturday 16th October

IT'S SHOWTIME!

Whether you are a seasoned exhibitor or a complete novice there are categories to suit all. Jars of honey, candles, wax, mead, something for everyone. Even if you don't have any honey of your own there are the bakery and photograph classes to enter.

We need to keep our expert judges Sue Carter and Bill Fisher busy with plenty of entries, so take a look at the schedule and try to enter as many classes as you can. If you are a novice beekeeper and want to know more about how to prepare and exhibit, please seek advice from other more experienced members.

The venue will, as usual, be the Ascension Church in Collier Row RM5 2BA

I will be taking entries at the October meeting where I will give out labels for your exhibits. Or you can email your entries to angelam59@hotmail.co.uk

Good luck

Angela Mander



Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: **Sue Richardson**

01708 381900 / 07971 957333 ~ susanmrichardson7@gmail.com

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



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

September 2021

Romford Division

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: NOTE! Tuesday 14th September 2021, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

October Meeting: Thursday 7th, Chadwick Hall at 8pm

We are delighted that Richard & Jane Ridler will be coming to talk to us. Both are Master Beekeepers, Jane is chair of Essex BKA and Richard chair of the charity Bees Abroad. Based around a project case study they will explain why beekeeping is such an effective and sustainable way of changing the lives of those in rural communities in the poorest countries in Africa. They will share their experiences and knowledge of beekeeping in Uganda and draw comparisons with beekeeping in the UK.

September Beekeeping Notes

Please also read the write-up of our August meeting about preparing our bees for the winter.

Try to get any feeding done as soon as possible this month as the temperatures will be dropping, especially overnight. This makes it very difficult for the bees to reduce the water content to a safe level for storage (below 20%). Do give some feed even if your bees are well off for stores as this will encourage the queen to keep laying, giving you lots of winter bees, and will also provide a mix of stores.

Varroa treatment should also be finished this month if you are using a temperature-dependent product. Remember to record the details of what you use – this is a legal requirement.

Once feeding and treating are over, remove the floor inserts. It is better for the bees if the mesh floor is open. For those of you using National hives with a brood box and super, swap the boxes so the super is underneath the brood box, and – **most importantly** – **remove the queen excluder**. Whichever hive type you use, ventilation at the bottom of the hive is better, so cover the holes in the crownboard.

Pat Allen

WINTER PREPARATION – Paul Wiltshire – 5th August 2021

The first job that has to be done for winter preparation is inspect the colony, checking your bees before deciding on which type of treatment you are giving your bees and before feeding. Check to see if the queen is lame or old. Check the stores. The bees need to survive the winter.

Treatment times need to be assessed. When deciding on which treatment to give your bees the timing needs to be considered. If it is too hot in August some treatments should be avoided. Also, the type of food is dependent on the weather and the type of treatment used. Apiguard needs a minimum temperature to work and has to be given after honey has been extracted. Apiguard can be used if it gets extremely warm, but it will slow down the feeding process. Aim to finish treatment by early/mid-September.

The floor insert needs to be in place so the treatment fumes do not escape, being needed for the treatment. If there is no floor insert wasps will be able to smell the honey.

It is extremely important at all times to keep up-to-date, accurate records at any time, but especially for treatment as it is a legal requirement. Record where and when you purchased the treatment, plus the batch number.

Feeding has to be determined on the weather. Whatever type of feed you chose

for your bees you need to finish feeding by mid-September. If you are preparing your own feed Paul gives his full colonies 2 gallons of feed per hive. The sugar syrup is a ratio of 2lbs sugar to 1 pint warm/hot water. There were suggestions of several additions to the feed that the bees seem to like:

- adding a pinch of rock salt to dissolve in the feed
- adding one tablespoon of cider vinegar per gallon
- adding two drops of lavender oil

If you are using fondant buy the fondant specific for bees and not the fondant for icing cakes. The amount of bee fondant is 2.5 kilo slabs cut in two halves and placed in the top part of the hive.

Rapid feeders can be used as you can top up a rapid feeder without disturbing the bees. The feeder is placed in the hive and there is a hole to allow the bees to enter from below to feed without drowning. Do not use a contact feeder or frame feeder at this time of the year.

- Check to see if the colony needs reorientating (box swop).
- Take away queen excluder.
- Check hives for damage.
- Check stands so that the hives are not on wobbly stands.

The hive stand should be on a concrete base

Take any grass away from around the hive to prevent damp entering the hive.

Add insulation – polystyrene block or eke and polystyrene sheet. You can use wall insulation on top of hive and on top of the crown board. You may be able to get cut off remnants cheaply from B&Q.

Replace the mouse guard into the hive entrance if you have removed it to prevent mice finding somewhere warm and dry to nest in the winter!!

Woodpecker guards need to be placed around the outside of the hive using chicken wire which has to be attached standing slightly away from the hive, rather like a radiator cover/guard.

The varroa insert needs to be removed as the hive needs air circulation.

In January winter varroa treatment should be given to help control an infestation.

JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL

Romford Honey Show

Now is the time to start sorting out your best honey for our own honey show. Look after any good frames, then pick the whitest & fullest frame you have. Make a note of the different colours so that you can enter more classes. Read your schedule when it comes.

National Honey Show

Try to enter the NHS show this year. The schedules are on the NHS website, so get your entry form sent off as soon as possible in order to get your labels sent back. There are 14 classes just for Essex so try to enter these if nothing else. I will take all the entries to the show & bring them back with hopefully some prize money, so even if you can't get there you can still enter.

Jim McNeill NHS Rep

Committee Matters

Not much to report as we have not had a committee meeting in August, since committee meetings are held every other month, although as always there are things going on behind the scenes. Just to remind members that the minutes are online in the members' section.

Congratulations to Paul Hewson who has passed his Basic Assessment and has been reimbursed for the fees. Well done Paul.

Sue Richardson

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