

Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 21st March 2023, 7.30pm. This will be a

face-to-face meeting, at Jim's House

Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd March, 20:00

Topic: How to perform an Artificial Swarm

Venue: Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL

Speaker: Romford Division Tutors



FEBRUARY Beekeeping Notes

The new season is beginning this month, though still winter. It will be too cold to open the bees, but too late to do oxalic acid varroa treatment because the queen will have started laying again by now. Hopefully, on warmer days, you will see your bees flying, and pollen going in is a good sign that there is brood to be fed. It is also not a bad sign if some dead bodies are being thrown out – there must be something alive in there to be doing that.

So, get your equipment ready for the new season. Take advantage of the bulk buys (see item elsewhere in this newsletter). Discard super combs with mouldy pollen in them. It is difficult for the bees to deal with and is no good to them; the wax can be rendered down and the frames re-waxed.

It is important to remove Mouseguards this month if they are the metal ones with round holes. These tend to knock the pollen off the bees' legs, and fresh pollen is vital to the colonies at this time.

Finally, you will be needing new record cards for the new season – get them prepared now.

Pat Allen



Committee Matters

Having finally won our challenge for the reduction of the rates for Havering apiary, we have now received a further refund of £434.00. We now embark on another challenge. The licences for Havering, Hornchurch and The Chase apiaries all ran out several years ago. We were contacted at the beginning of 2020, just before COVID, by OneSource, on Havering Council's behalf asking to sign a new lease for Havering apiary at an exorbitant and unrealistic figure. After a bit of correspondence and having sought the help of my local councillor, we heard no more. We have now been contacted again by OneSource to ask about renewing licences, backdated to 2016. Whilst we obviously wish to have licences in place for Havering and Hornchurch, we are not too keen on the figures they are suggesting. We will negotiate and hope to have a face to face meeting with Havering's representative to sort out a reasonable licence for the apiaries. The Licence for The Chase has also run out, and the warden contacted us to arrange a new one last year. Despite several emails and phone calls during 2022, we still do not have a copy of the new suggested licence.

There is always room on the committee for new lay members, please do think about joining. New ideas are always welcome, don't hide your light under a skep!

Unfortunately, no members stepped forward at the AGM to take up the roles of Chair and Education Secretary. **These are both important posts on the committee and will have to be filled.** Please do consider volunteering, Paul and Pat will be happy to tell you what the posts involve.

Sue Richardson

Bulk Buys

We will be doing a bulk buy of **frames and foundation wax** as usual. We have been offered good prices. So check your stocks of spare equipment and get your order of frames and wax together for when you get the 'call for orders'. We will only be buying to order.

Pat Allen

Getting ready for a new season

In January or February on a nice bright day it's good to go through all your super frames and get rid of all the mouldy, miss shaped & any with pollen in them. so that you know how much equipment you have for the new season. Stack all the good frames back in the supers. have a clear bench to work on. instead of just running the hive tool through the top of the frame breaking the wires & putting the wax into buckets or bags to save the wax, it does not matter how much you bash it about it still takes up a lot of room. lay the frame flat on the bench & run the back of the hive tool across the comb breaking the hexagons if it's cold it breaks very easily then turn the frame over & do the same to the other side so you are left with just the mid rib & a lot of dust then carry on as usual it does not take any longer but you will see just how cleaver the bees are to make something so strong yet use so little wax now when you put the wax in a bucket it takes up hardly any room so you don't have so much to store till you melt it down.

Now you are left with a stack of old frames that need to be scraped to get them clean so they can be rewaxed but if you can buy an old boiler or tea urn & a lot of clubs & organisations are getting rid of them for more efficient ones now, you can sometimes pick them up cheap, you wont be able to make tea in it once you have cleaned frames in it but it makes it so easy to do.

Get your boiler going it's better to do it outside as it gets messy, put in a good handful of washing soda & when its boiling just stand a handful of frames in the boiler for a few minutes wear rubber gloves, give them a bit of a shake in the water then turn them over & do the other end you don't have to worry about scraping anything off the frames. once they have been boiled both ends lift them all out & dunk into cold water I do mine near my water butt from my shed so I just throw them in & put the next lot in the boiler then I use a wire brush on those in the cold water mainly to take off the scum from the boiler & they come up like new again cleaned & sterilized in one go. put back in cleaned supers & leave out to dry, then it's only a mater of taking out the wedge & putting in new foundation simple.

Jim McNeill



Photo Graeme Ellis

January Meeting - Annual General Meeting 2023

There was a disappointing turnout for our AGM on 5th January. It was a face-to-face meeting at our usual meeting place and, as the AGM does not take long, there was opportunity for chatter and catch-up and to get advice. So it is a shame that more people did not come – there was cake too! The minutes are elsewhere in this newsletter, and they will be checked for accuracy at this month's meeting.

Pat Allen

Spring 2023 Convention

Following the success of the face-to-face Convention in 2022, the event will again be held at Harper Adams in Shropshire, 21-23 April 2023, with the Trade Show on Saturday 22nd April. This is the BBKA's premier educational event of the year, a unique opportunity for beekeepers of all levels of experience to choose from 25 lectures and more than 60 workshops and seminars, together with the Trade Show and the usual opportunities to meet old (and make new) friends from around the country.

Sue Richardson

BOOK NOW!



Friday 21 - Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 April 2023

Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Lectures, Workshops and Seminars covering a wide range of practical and scientific topics, directed at all levels of experience, presented by leading experts

Bumper Trade Show Saturday 22nd

Speakers and Tutors include: Randy Oliver (virtually), Samuel Ramsey (virtually), Marin Anastasov, Martin Bencsik, Shirley & Richard Bond, Giles Budge, Stephen Case-Green, Julie Coleman, Michael Collier, Lynfa Davies, Stephen Fleming, Mike Garratt, Fani Hatjina, John Hendrie, Luke & Suzie Hutchinson, Lynne Ingram, Angela Kirk, Stephen Martin, Jane Medwell, Jenny Morgan, Chris Park, Tom Pope, Sara Robb, Anne Rowberry, Debbie Smith, Victoria Soroker, Sean Stephenson, Oliver St.John, Jane Stout, Jim & Val Vivian-Griffiths, Alison Wakeman and more......

For further information, **and to book** from 30th January see the Spring Convention pages of www.bbka.org.uk

February 2023

Membership Renewal

Many thanks to all those who have renewed their membership – and paid. You should receive an email confirming your renewal and this will tell you how to pay and how much. You will then receive your BDI Receipt – keep this safe.

Please note that the deadline for renewal and payment is 15th February 2023. If unpaid after this your membership, including BDI and 3rd Party insurance, will lapse. Those beekeepers with hives in Divisional Apiaries **must** be paid-up members and fully insured at all times.

Pat Allen

About Romford Division & Who Does What:

Information about our Division has been updated for 2022 and can be found in the members area of the Romford Beekeepers website:

https://romfordbeekeepers.org

Consider taking an exam

Many of you will have considered taking Exam's in your hobby, but perhaps just haven't quite made the plunge yet? My own experience of taking the Basic Assessment in 2021 was an enjoyable one, I was quite fortunate to have Jane Ridler as my assessor for both the practical and theory, a very relaxed experience and a pleasure to spend time with her in the comfort of her home and Apiary.

I joined Romford Beekeepers in 2015 and enrolled on the basic beekeeping course in 2016, going back to the theory was an interesting experience, and in truth, it was surprising just how much I'd forgotten. How many days from an egg being laid to the queen hatching again? The courses are not expensive, and we really should be striving to understand not just the basic elements of bee husbandry, but, the diseases and behaviours beyond. It's funny how you forget or mis-remember things over time.

It's 16 days from egg being laid to the Queen hatching, did you remember this? If you did, the basic will be a breeze for you, If you didn't, time to enrol and sit Pat's Basic Assessment refresher.

Graeme Ellis

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https://ebka.org

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