



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday May 16th at 7.30 pm via Zoom

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 4th April

Topic: Planting for Pollinators talk

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

Speaker: Mark Patterson of Apicultural

Brace Comb in the roof of a hive, Summer will soon be with us, Do you have enough Frames and Wax? Bulk Order details in this newsletter.
Photo, Graeme Ellis



MARCH Beekeeping Notes

If you have not yet done so, remove those Mouseguards! The bees need free access now to bring in pollen and remove the dead bodies and Mouseguards can make this difficult for them.

Remember that March is a most dangerous month for bees. Cold weather can restrict their flying, yet they need to get out to forage. Old bees are dying but they need bees to look after the new brood. A difficult balance for them. Do have a **very quick** inspection if the weather is above 14°C and feed if really necessary, but don't restrict the queen's space for laying, you want them to build up.

If you wintered with super under brood box, then towards the end of the month swap them round and put in the queen excluder. If the colony is strong, put another super on top above the crownboard (i.e. crownboard with a hole!). The bees will go into it if they need more space, and you can remove the crownboard then.

Pat Allen

Courses

Beginners Beekeeping Course: Begins 23rd April and runs till 25th June. Booking form is on the website. Zak Bickhan is the contact. zak_bic@hotmail.com

Taster Sessions: Two sessions planned for July. Dates to be confirmed. Poster will be on the website when dates confirmed. Garry Furnell is the contact.

Refresher Sessions: I will run sessions on various topics **if there is interest by members**. Each session would be stand-alone on one topic and last about two hours. Suggested topics are: No-Stress-to-the-Bees Inspections (including Disease Inspection); Bailey Comb Change; Making Up & Managing Nucs. **Let me know** if you are interested in any of these topics, or any others. There would be a very modest charge.

Basic Assessment Preparation: A session covering the **BBKA Basic Assessment syllabus** will be run **if interest is shown**. You can come to this session even if you are not taking the Basic. A very modest charge.

Pat Allen

EBKA AGM by Zoom

The date for the EBKA AGM is 20th March 7.00 pm via zoom. As we are hosting the 2024 year please make an effort to attend.

All members will have received an email from EBKA Admin on 12 February containing the agenda papers. Zoom joining details will be sent out nearer the time. **Members are asked to ensure their name (and not any nickname) is shown on their screen** when they join as the names of those attending will need to be authenticated as EBKA members entitled to vote at the meeting.

Michael Webb

Where to get bees?

Be very careful where you get your bees. Here are some reliable sources. For bees this spring you need to order **now**.

David Rudland: 361 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0BF. (The nucs are expensive but very good gentle bees.) 01883 622788 / 07798 915480 enquire@eastssurreybees.co.uk

Ted Gradosielski (Ted Grad): Nazeing, Essex (Good bees, reasonable price.)

01992 890986 / 07966 310004 teds.honeybees@gmail.com

Filippo Negri (Romford Member): Filippo may have a colony or two to spare. negrifilippo7@gmail.com

There are good reports of **Paynes** bees too – see advertisement in *BBKA News*. They are based in West Sussex.

Pat Allen

EBKA Conference Saturday 2nd November 2024, Romford is Hosting!

Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to help. If anyone else would like to help or you are thinking about it please do contact me as we can't leave this to the last minute. We need to push forward with the organisation of this, and help in any capacity would be much appreciated.

We still need a theme for the day and the speakers, if you have any ideas for a theme, please do mention them to me or the committee. There is much to do and many hands make light work!

Please Email: juliemugglestone@gmail.com

Julie Mugglestone

Nature Recovery In Practice, 1st February 2024. Chris Bawtree

Ground Control is the largest commercial landscaping company in the UK, care of the environment is the core of their business. They give 5% of all their profits to the Evergreen Fund, which was set up in 2020. The Evergreen Fund invests in green equity, planting of trees, re-investing profits and are involved with land for nature projects.

In 2021 they purchased 298 acres of woodland in North Essex and in 2023 they purchased 100 acres of farmland to maximise the environmental possibilities.

Wildfell Centre for Environmental Recovery is a 398 acre site in Braintree. It consists of arable land, woodland, grassland, hedgerows, ponds, ditches and a river corridor. It involves the local community, Essex County, Braintree District and Wethersfield, Parish Councils, the Forestry Commission, Essex Wildlife Trust, Environmental Agency, RSPB, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group and other wildlife groups. It has at its centre work on restoration, on plants, fungi and pollinators.

They also conduct a surveys of protected species; Bats, birds, great crested newt, reptiles, otters, water voles, mammals, pollinators and flora, soil survey and above ground biomass surveys.

The Wildfell Centre has sightings of seven species of bats, the great crested newt, brown hare, fox and weasel, 52 species of birds, red kite, barn owl, skylark, otters, rare bees and wasps.

Pollinators sighted are large headed resin bee, large meadow and bryony mining bees, 5 banded weevil wasps, 8 species bumblebee. 11 species solitary bee, 7 species solitary wasp, 17 species butterfly and the European hornet.

Ground Control are actively involved with restoring ponds, and have found that once cleared and restored there are seeds and plants in the depths that have not flowered for 50 years, and are capable of springing to life again. As well as restoring three ponds they've also managed to create 11 new ponds, and have been busy with hedgerow planting and woodland grass seeding.

The plan is now to start orchard planting, and to continue with the hedgerow planting, to complete a workshop and barn, working with the establishing habitat and managing it, and to create volunteer opportunities. In the future they want to arrange school visits to interest the children in this vital work. Their aim is to have an impact on influencing others to work towards nature's recovery.

Jilly Speakman-Bell

Request for photos.

A reminder to please send your beekeeping related photos to me for inclusion in the newsletter, I've been collating the newsletter for a couple of years now and have to make a conscious effort during the summer months to take photos for the cover, I must admit I'm scraping the bottom of the (honey) barrel! Hence the photo of brace comb. It would be lovely to have some members photos to feature.

Please send photos and a small caption to graemeellis@hotmail.co.uk

Graeme Ellis

Asian Hornet Team

Terry Watson, Garry Furnell, Jim McNeill and Filippo Negri have volunteered to be Romford Division's Asian Hornet team. With Terry being our Asian Hornet coordinator. Please watch out for further updates on the AH.

Sue Richardson

Hornet Traps - Have you bought yours yet?

We still have a few AH traps left, supplied with bait and instructions. If you have already put one up in your apiary, maybe you would like to consider putting one up in your garden too? We need to cover as much ground as we can with traps. If you would like another trap please contact Rose McCarthy, details below, and make payment as follows:

Account Name: Essex Beekeepers Association Sort Code: 20-72-89 Account Name: 90353213 Please quote your surname and membership reference number (if known) when paying Email me: Gipsyrose_1066@yahoo.co.uk 07803 893892

Traps and bait can then be collected from Filippo Negri at an arranged time. Please bring a jar to put the bait in.

Sue Richardson

Updated Advice on using Asian Hornet traps

Previously we have recommended placing sticks or stones into traps to reduce by kill. We would now recommend a trap to have a jay cloth or similar in which soaks up virtually all bait. 6mm Holes should be drilled/melted into the sides near the top to allow by catch to escape. New definitions for most traps as follows, a monitoring trap is one which catches the target insect. A monitoring station allows any insect to visit and leave. Spring queen trapping should be done with monitoring traps as in the attached picture. Traps should be visited as often as possible and ideally every day to release any bycatch which are trapped. Any AH should be bagged and frozen in the trap if necessary for at least 24hrs. Alert the AH teams and also the NBU via the Asian hornet watch app.

Dave Garratt, EBKA Bee Health Secretary



2024 BBKA Spring Convention

Bookings and ticket sales for the [2024 BBKA Spring Convention](#) (12-14 April, at Harper Adams University) start at Noon on Monday 29th January.

As well as the customary range of lectures, workshops, seminars and Saturday's Trade Show, this Convention is being held during the 150 year anniversary of the BBKA and is truly a historic event, with some extra treats.

This is your organisation and your Convention - an opportunity to meet up with, and learn from, beekeepers and traders from all around the country and indeed from other parts of the world.

Stewards are also being recruited, any member's interested in stewarding at the convention are asked to contact conventionstewards@gmail.com

Joyce Nisbet, BBKA Trustee & Spring Convention Committee Chair

Message from Braintree EBKA:

Braintree Division are planning to hire a coach to the BBKA Spring Convention on Saturday 13th April and would like to extend the offer to members of all our Essex Divisions.

Preliminary enquiries suggest a cost for the coach of £28 pp with members paying their own entrance fees (£23). This would be a full-size coach with plenty of luggage room for all those bulky purchases!

As it is some distance, we would be leaving at approximately 6am to get as much time as possible at the event. But you can sleep in the coach on the way home! Pick-ups would be from Chelmsford and Braintree.

The coach seats 53 people and we would need all seats taken for the trip to be viable.

If there isn't the demand to fill a 53 seat coach, a second option would be minibus hire @£47pp.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Kate Dannatt ASAP so she can make the booking in good time.

Text or WhatsApp Kate on 07786 261935.

Last Call for Bulk Orders, Frames and Wax

Please see the last page for details of this years Bulk Buy Price List.

Send your orders to me: Alan Sansford at: pandaprinting@hotmail.co.uk

Please pay at the same time as ordering to:

Name: Mr A G SANSFORD

A/C No: 14822170

S/code: 09-01-26

Stating your name in the Ref Box.

Dead line date for orders: 07/03/2024

I will notify you when your order is ready to collect from Julie Mugglestone.

183 Dagenham Road, Rush Green, Romford, Essex. RM7 0TL

If you have any problems, please don't hesitate to call me: 07980 208840 (please leave a message)

Alan Sansford.

Committee matters:

The committee met on Thursday 29th February and as usual there was much to discuss.

We have a new education officer, Zakir Bikhani, who will be taking on the role of organising the beginners' course, supported by the tutors. Garry Furnell has volunteered to run the two taster sessions, held in July. The dates for these two sessions will be confirmed soon and details put on the website. So if you know anyone who might be interested, do pass on the details.

The spread of the Asian Hornet is a top priority to all beekeepers. The committee has been discussing this and Terry, our AH coordinator, has brought to our attention the huge surveillance operation that Dover and District Beekeepers' Association have been undertaking and continue to do so this year. There have been 52 AH nests cleared in Kent so far. The majority in the Dover and District's area, over 10 of these were not at or near an apiary

Their plan is to section the whole of their area, dividing a map into 1km squares. With members participation, do a sweep through the area at certain times. Members will be allocated a grid square, in their neighbourhood or adjoining it. Each will be given 5 traps [slightly different model, new design to protect European hornets] to spread around in their km square.

Traps will be approximately 500 – 700m apart. Attractant will be supplied.

These traps will **not** need to be moved about, the spacing should ensure random AH will find them by scent

This will start in February, **10°C** temperature is needed for the Queens to start to move.

There will be a finite number of Queens to be caught, and they will be supported by NBU.

Members are spending a lot of their own time doing this to provide front line protection from the AH. The area they cover is from Hythe all the way to Sandwich Bay, a considerable length of coastline. Buying and putting up this many traps is quite expensive. They are carrying out a very comprehensive trapping and monitoring drive and the committee has discussed sending a donation to them to help them with the large expense. I contacted them at the weekend to offer a donation to help cover some of their expenses. They thanked me very much, but suggested that we would also need considerable funds in the fight against the AH. They have very kindly given us some comprehensive information regarding the AH and what they have done so far, with details of making traps, labels for the traps and baits. The committee will be passing on any important information in due course. They really are providing a formidable line of protection for the UK from the AH.

Susan Richardson

Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: Sue Richardson

01708 381900 / 07971 957333. susanmrichardson7@gmail.com

Chair: Julie Mugglestone

07852 224262. julie.mugglestone@gmail.com

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee: Roger Honey

01708 342416. rogerhhoney@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Pat Allen

01708 220897 / 07958938427 pat.allen7@icloud.com.

Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>

Romford Beekeepers

The Romford division of the Essex Beekeepers' Association

**2024****Straight Sided Frames**

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
Super SN1	59.13.81	£19.75	£15.80
Broad DN1	59.13.93	£19.75	£15.80
Super SN2	59.13.83	£21.75	£17.40
Broad DN2	59.13.95	£21.75	£17.40

Hoffman Frames

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
Super SN4	59.13.14	£23.75	£19.00
Broad DN4	59.13.26	£23.75	£19.00
14 x 12 N4	59.13.08	£29.50	£23.60
Super SN5	59.13.16	£26.25	£21.40
Broad DN5	59.13.28	£26.25	£21.40
14 x 12 N5	59.22.39	£32.25	£25.80

Manley Frames

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
Super SN7	59.13.75	£26.25	£21.00

Sterilised Wax Foundation (Wired)

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
BS Shallow	59.17.67	£10.50	£8.61
BS Deep	59.17.80	£16.25	£13.32
BS 14 x 12	59.17.64	£26.95	£22.10
Commercial Shallow	59.17.90	£14.95	£12.26
Commercial Deep	59.17.98	£22.50	£18.45
Langstroth Shallow	59.17.75	£13.95	£11.44
Langstroth Deep	59.17.73	£20.50	£17.18