



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 12th September 19:30 via zoom.

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 5th September

Topic: Honey Extraction demonstration

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

Speaker: (TBC)

A white-eyed drone, photo taken by Sue Richardson



AUGUST Beekeeping Notes

Well... normally I would be warning about your bees overheating this month, but I have no idea what we will be facing this year. Do make sure the bees have water at all times though.

There has been a good nectar flow through July so there should be a decent honey crop to take off during August. Don't take all their honey though, there's bound to be some uncapped honey that you can leave and I expect they will be starting to put some stores in the brood box as the queen slows down her egg-laying, which you should leave.

When you have extracted the honey, give the wet supers back to the bees, above a crownboard with a hole in it, so they can clean them up for you. Then take them off and store them carefully (more next month on this). If you have National hives, then a good colony will need a brood box and one super for winter. Any more and this will be too much space for the bees to keep warm in winter. For a smaller colony, or if you use larger hives, just the brood box will be fine.

Once the honey's off you can start to feed for the winter. A decent-sized colony will need about 40–50lbs (20–25kgs) of stores to see them through the winter, and the autumn feed will stimulate the queen to carry on laying, producing those winter bees that are so important to colony survival through the winter. If you make up syrup feed for them it must be from plain white granulated sugar (cane or beet, it doesn't matter which), in the proportions 2lb sugar:1pint water (1kg sugar:1.2litre water). This is thick syrup, which the bees will store for winter. Use a rapid feeder of some type (not a contact feeder). Leave the queen excluder **on** while feeding.

If you are new to the game and need advice, speak to your mentor or read about feeding in your reference book. (Be wary of what you read on the internet.) I feed my bees two gallons (10 litres) of syrup and then assess their stores, and feed more if necessary, which I seldom need to do. As a rough guide, a National brood comb can hold about 5lb (2.5kg) stores, a super about 3lb (1.5kg).

August is a good month to do a disease inspection. Put in the floor insert for a few days to check the varroa mite drop. Decide what varroa treatment you will use once the honey is off, and get the treatment. **Note that the Division will be buying varroa treatments to members' orders later in August, and details are elsewhere in this newsletter.** Don't miss the opportunity, the Division gets discounts for buying in bulk!!

Don't forget, the floor insert must be **IN** while feeding, treating, or monitoring. Otherwise leave it **OUT**.

Pat Allen

Courses

Beginners:

In total, we've had 15 people booked onto the beginner courses this year which was run over two courses, And well supported by members of the committee, Sue Richardson, Pat Allen, Paul Wiltshire, and Dawn Doyland. *See photos on the next page.*

I'm pleased to report that we already have four people showing interest in the beginners course next year

Garry Furnell

Reference Books: I have a few copies of the **BBKA Healthy Hive Guide** available if anyone missed the offer to members last year and would like one. This Guide is very comprehensive, and the finish is such that it can be kept in your tool box and taken to the apiary. The member's price is £4, which is a substantial discount.

Pat Allen

Photos taken during the beginners beekeeping course



Romford Honey Show 2024,

Saturday 19th October. Ascension Church, Collier Row, RM5 2BA

Hopefully you are all enjoying a good beekeeping season despite the up and down weather. Now is the time to start thinking about exhibiting at this year's Romford Division show. Why not give it a try? It's a great experience and you may even win a prize or two! Schedules will appear in the September newsletter.

There will be classes for all, novices, seasoned beekeepers, and for those with no honey there are the baking or photography classes. If you have any questions re showing please ask for advice, there are plenty in the division willing to help. Also, Jim is speaking at the August meeting about how to prepare honey for showing. Jim is an expert at this, his prize winning is testament, so take some notes!

Angela Mander

July Meeting, Bees under the Microscope

Our July Meeting was a Microscopy Evening. Annette and Pat brought the microscopes and set them up. There were slides with bee parts to look at. Sue Richardson brought a white eyed drone which she put under a microscope and was very interesting.

Pat explained that to test for *Nosema* you need to collect approx 30 bees in a jar at the entrance to the hive. Then put them in the freezer to kill them. You have to remove the heads and then mash the abdomens. You need a microscope with 400x magnification to see if there is *Nosema* infection you will see what look like tiny grains of rice.

To test for acarine, you have to remove the head and then the collar of the bee, so that you can see into the tracheae. A healthy trachea is a uniform creamy white but if infected by acarine mites has patchy discolouration or dark staining.

The members enjoyed looking at the bee parts under the microscopes, it was interesting to see all the detail of the bee's anatomy.

Dawn Doyland


Varroa Treatment, Division bulk buy

Romford division have arranged a bulk buy of Varroa treatment, the deadline for orders is Sunday 11th August 2024

Collection will be from Julie Mugglestone, 183 Dagenham Road, Rush Green, RM7 0TL.

Alan Sansford

Romford Beekeepers
The Romford division of the Essex Beekeepers' Association



VARROA TREATMENTS

*Bulk Buy & Division

Name	Expiry Date	Book Price (per hive)	Discount Price*
Apivar Strips	10/24	£6.60	£3.50
Apiguard	04/26	£4.60	£2.25
Thymovar Strips	11/24	£6.75	£3.75

Send your orders to me ALAN SANSFORD at: pandaprinting@hotmail.co.uk
 Please pay the same time as ordering to:
 Name : Mr. A. G. Sansford
 A/C No. : 14822170
 Sortcode : 09/01/26
 Stating your NAME in the Reference box.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS : 11/08/24

I will let yo know when your order is ready to collect from :
 Julie Mugglestone, Rush Green, Romford, Essex, RM7 0TL

If you have any problems, please don't hesitate to call me on : 07980 208840

Committee Matters

Monthly Meetings - topics and speakers - Dawn Doyland , our programme secretary, would welcome any suggestions for topics for speakers or demonstrations for our monthly meetings. If you have any suggestions, please do let Dawn know. The topic does not have to be strictly bee related. maybe something off on a slightly different tangent? Do let us know. New ideas are always very welcome. Many thanks.

High Granulated Sugar Prices - Have you seen it at a good price anywhere?

You have all probably noticed a steep increase in the price of sugar in the last year or so. A 5 kg bag was recently spotted at a supermarket for £5.00. The committee discussed the logistics of making a bulk buy of sugar, but decided it would not be an option. So if anyone sees granulated sugar at a good price, please do let us know and we can pass on the details to members. Thank you.

Sue Richardson

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Websites:

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