



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 23rd January 20:00 via Zoom

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 16th January

Topic: AGM

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

Speaker: No speaker, It is our AGM.

Honey Bees with a strong aversion to wired foundation

Every colony is different, but this particular one also removed the wire leaving only small pieces under the nails. Photo Graeme Ellis



DECEMBER Beekeeping Notes

This month you can take it easy beekeeping-wise, and concentrate on your Christmas preparations instead!

However, if you are considering an oxalic acid varroa treatment this winter, this is probably best done in December, when there is the least brood in the hives. The oxalic acid will not affect varroa in sealed brood cells, you want a state where all the varroa are out and about in the hive (phoretic phase). Between Christmas and New Year would be a suitable time. This is an opportunity to give the bees some fondant too, if you wish.

Take a moment to check the hives are upright and weatherproof and not being attacked by woodpeckers.

Back indoors, make sure your records are up to date (including varroa treatments) and plan for 2025. The Division will probably be having the usual bulk buy of frames and foundation wax to members' orders in February/March. For anything else, check out the suppliers' sales.

Pat Allen

Courses

Hello, I'm Linda Dulieu and I've taken on the role helping out Pat as the Education Secretary.

I'm pleased to announce that the forms for the new Beekeeper's Course for 2025 is now on our website and open for course sign up.

The course will run as usual on a Tuesday evening at Thames Chase, Pike Lane, Upminster. First date is Tuesday 1st April. The cost is the same as last year.

If you know of anyone who would like to start the course next year, then please get them to email me on:

Lindybees.education@gmail.com

Hopefully once I settle into this role my scope will broaden. I know that some of you are keen to find out more about the next levels of beekeeping, from Basic Assessment to Master Beekeeper.

Come and find me at the December meeting and have a chat about any courses that you are interested in.

Linda Dulieu

Membership Renewal for 2025

Membership for most of our current Members and Associates comes up for renewal on 1st January 2025. (The exceptions are those booked on the Beginners Course for 2025, or who joined the Division in or since October 2024. These people are already members until end of December 2025.)

Renewal will be online through the Membership System, called eR2. In very early January 2025 you will receive an email Renewal Invitation. This message contains a link which will take you to the renewal page for your record on eR2. You need to check that your details are correct and amend them where necessary. Also make sure the number of hives for Bee Diseases Insurance is correct (being under-insured means you are not insured at all). Enter any apiary rental that is due for hives in a Divisional Apiary (£13 per overwintered hive). Check that the membership category is correct for you and select the appropriate subscription from the drop-down list. When you are sure all details are correct and the total amount at the bottom is right, then press the SUBMIT button. You will receive a confirmation email which will tell you how to make the payment.

As the sender (**membership services**) is probably not in your contacts list, these messages are likely to end up in your junk/spam mailbox. Please check this mailbox, the messages are genuine. Your payment receipt/insurance certificate will be emailed to you after you have paid. Note that these are usually sent out in bulk to renewed members in late January.

Membership categories are: Registered Member £36.50 (includes BDI up to 3 hives); Partner Member £20.00 (no BDI); Associate, aka Local Member, £11.50 (no BDI).

Pat Allen

**Romford Division Honey Show 2024
Winners List**

Congratulations to the following beekeepers who won a trophy at this years show

Light honey - Jim McNeill
Medium honey - Angela Mander
Dark honey - Dawn Doyland
Soft set honey - Pat Allen
Clear honey for sale - Jim McNeill
Set honey for sale - Pat Allen
Three different honeys - Angela Mander
Gift honey - Julie Mugglestone
Novice honey clear - Long Ridings School
Cut comb - Garry Furnell
Frame for extraction - Roger Honey
Dry mead - Jim McNeill
Sweet mead - Filippo Negri
Beeswax - Jim McNeill
Candles - Jim McNeill
Honey fudge - Roger Honey
Honey cake - Sue Richardson
Honey loaf - Dawn Doyland
Honey bakery - Roger Honey
Photograph - Angela Mander
Edith Stevens trophy - Best honey in show - Angela Mander
W.G. Chant trophy - Best exhibit in show - Pat Allen

Angela Mander

Members Contribution on beginner beekeeping

I went on the Romford Beekeepers Association's Beginners course in the spring of 2024. For my bees, I decided to use the horizontal hive design, (built for me by Filippo Negri) an experienced beekeeper and member of Romford Division. Filippo is also my mentor. I used the Zest plastic frames designed by Bill Summers.

My hive is in a Lavender farm in Aveley. I am pleased to say I did harvest both early spring and late summer honey. Next year I plan to increase the number of my hives for more honey harvest.

All the honey I took this year was given out to friends and family as samples, for them to taste the goodness of pure local honey. Orders are already pouring in.

Thank you to all our teachers at Romford Division beginners' class and my mentor Filippo.

Gabriel Egemonye



Members Contribution on a late season swarm.

The picture below is what appears to be a primary swarm under one of my open mesh hive floors. Nothing unusual in that as I clip my queens so mother won't go far.

However what is odd is the timing. 20th Oct 2024, following winter feeding and varroa treatment. I'd popped down to remove the Apiguard trays and have a check on colony weight. This colony looked light on bees following previous inspection but not wanting to disturb the brood I passed it by. As I was about to leave the apiary I noted out of the corner of my eye some bee activity under the floor to the rear of the hive, following a little kneeling in the damp grass there it was...swarm.

Following a bit of head scratching I decided to brush into a nuc and place adjacent to the main hive... feisty was an understatement of their temperament and so once I'd got the majority bees brushed into the box I closed the lid and beat a hasty retreat nursing sore ankles and wrists. (They always find the weak spots).

Returning a week later the nuc was empty and the bees had returned to their preferred place under the floor.! Grr.

Following a couple of stern words to them about last chance saloon and up coming winter I unceremoniously turfed them back into their main brood box to join their sisters, where they appear to have remained.

Only spring will offer the opportunity to see what the outcome of this will be. but swarms in October!!! This is my first in over 25 years of beekeeping.
Forever learning and surprised.

Andy Casson



November's Meeting

The meeting was a general chat about the outcome of the Honey Shows and the Conference. Jim spoke about the National Honey Show, he took 14 entries from Romford members and 13 won prizes, so, it was very successful.

Jim also brought a Queen Rearing Mini-nuc , a wax melter and other wax equipment to give to anyone who would like them.

Julie thanked all the Conference Committee members for all their hard work which made the conference a success.

Dawn Doyland

Committee Matters.

We are delighted to welcome Linda Dulieu as the new Education Secretary. Linda will be doing the admin for the 2025 beginners' course, helped and supported by our experienced team of tutors, all long standing beekeepers. Garry Furnell has volunteered again this year to run the bee taster sessions, which will be running in July. Big thanks to Pat who has been education secretary for a very long time and deserves a rest from this post.

Committee meetings are held every other month currently via Zoom, and any member is welcome to attend and see what goes on. Also if any member would like to join the committee as a lay member, please let us know.

Vacant Positions on the Committee

The following positions on the Committee will become vacant at the AGM in January as the current holders are standing down.

President

Figurehead for Division: give general advice and guidance. Promote Division and beekeeping outside the Division. Formulate and support Divisional objectives and activities.

Secretary

Arrange Committee meetings. Take minutes, or arrange taking of minutes, of Committee meetings. Produce, or arrange for production of, monthly newsletter. Email papers to all members with email addresses. Handle Divisional correspondence. Principal contact for the Division. Formulate and support Divisional objectives and activities.

Programme Secretary

Responsible for arranging annual programme, contacting speakers, etc. Produce, or arrange for, report of previous meeting for monthly newsletter. Formulate and support Divisional objectives and activities.

Apiary Warden Havering Apiary, Havering-atte-Bower

Attend Committee meetings. Maintain good order at Apiary, with frequent visits to check against vandalism, etc. Ensure Apiary rents are paid in good time; list of members & hives to Treasurer. Ensure tenants have signed, accepted and adhere to the Apiary rules. In the event of a tenant defaulting, take such action as agreed by the Committee. Arrange for Working Parties for clearing, tidying, repairs, etc, as necessary. Coordinate Apiary meetings/visits as required, including RBI/SBI inspections. In the event of disease resulting in a Standstill Order, ensure tenants are aware and comply. Receive concession of apiary space and free rental for three colonies. (The Warden may rent space for further colonies under the usual apiary criteria and rules.)

Please don't be put off by these role descriptions, although they may look rather daunting in writing! The Committee works as a team and we all support each other. These roles are not really quite as rigid as they may look.

All of these posts are vital to the running of the division and we would not be able to function without volunteers in place.

If you have any questions about the roles, please do ask.

Susan Richardson

Asian Hornet Update

On 11th November a nest was found in Bexhill on Sea. The nest has been removed and destroyed. This brings the total to 24 this year. Observations will finish at the end of November.

Terry Watson.

November Cover Photo

Members will recall that in November Roger Honey set us a question for the cover photo, well done to everyone who identified it as [Diplolepis rosae](#), commonly known as "Rose Gall" and "Robins Pin-Cushion", inside will be gall wasps.

It is harmless to the rose, the adult wasp lays eggs in the buds or developing leaves during mid-summer period. The eggs hatch into small white larvae that secrete chemicals that cause the abnormal growth.



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

01245 523245 / 07889785089. rogerhhoney@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Pat Allen

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

Taster Bookings: Garry Furnell

07866 430079. garry.furnell@virgin.net

Education Secretary: Linda Dulieu

Lindybees.education@gmail.com

Newsletter: Graeme Ellis

07814 814844. graemeellis@hotmail.co.uk

Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>