



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 18th September, 7:30pm, via Zoom.

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 4th September

Topic: Preparing for winter

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

Speaker: TBC

A bee watering station

Do you ensure that your bees have access to water at all times?

Photo Garry Furnell



AUGUST Beekeeping Notes

The hives should be bursting with honey at this stage, if there had been a normal nectar flow in July. However, many flowers stopped producing nectar as the weather was just too dry for them. August would be the usual month to remove the main honey crop, but I believe the bees have been consuming their honey, so be very careful how much you take off. And make sure they have access to water at all times.

When you've extracted the honey, give the wet supers back to the bees, above a crownboard with a hole in it so the bees can get in to clean them up. After a few days, you can remove these supers and store them carefully for winter.

You may find that just the brood box is enough space for your colonies for the winter (certainly if you use a larger design of hive such as Langstroth or Commercial), and once the main honey and supers are off, you can begin treating for Varroa and feeding for winter. Remember to remove the queen excluder in this case.

If you plan to overwinter with brood box and super, then remove the super while you use the Varroa treatment and replace the super and feed afterwards.

The autumn feed will encourage the queen to continue laying, thus producing those winter bees that are so important to colony survival through the winter. A decent-sized colony will need 40–50lbs (20–25kgs) stores to see them 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 have a super on.

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 comb about 3lb (1.5kg).

Don't forget, the floor insert must be IN while feeding, treating, or monitoring. Otherwise leave it OUT. At the end of the treatment period, remove the insert, check the Varroa drop, and record the results.

Pat Allen

EFB Update

At the time of writing I am still within the period of the Standstill Order, so my bees have not yet been declared 'EFB-free'. The Bee Inspector is due to visit to check the situation in early August. I have all my fingers and toes crossed!!

My own inspections meanwhile have shown the remaining three colonies to be doing well. So I am very hopeful that I am over the worst and that the Standstill Order will soon be lifted. Although I do not intend to move any bees or equipment in or out of my apiary, nonetheless it will be a weight off my mind not to have the Standstill Order. It will also mean that I can extract the honey in the usual way.

Sadly I still do not know the source of the infection but it may be that, because EFB is probably endemic, there was some extra stress on the colony (e.g. extreme heat and lack of rain) and this allowed the EFB to get the upper hand, whereas the other colonies were robust enough not to be affected. Always heed the advice to keep strong colonies!

Pat Allen

YLAH update 25th July

We did have confirmed sightings of yellow-legged Asian hornet at Fairlop Waters. Spoken to 2 members that helped setup monitoring station nearby. A big thankyou to Adam Ozbek and Dave Manley for setting up the monitoring station so quickly, the subsequent nest was found in Ilford at a nearby Next store and was destroyed.

NBU received 10 further credible reports of YLH's, a total of 78 sightings in 2025. New sightings have been reported in...

Kent, Harrietsham Maidstone, Betteshanger, Langdon Cliffs Dover, Church Hougham, East Sussex Hastings, West Sussex Wakehurst, Essex Ilford, Dorset Verwood

Four nests have been located this week alone:

Whitstable Kent (in a tree), Sissinghurst Kent (within a wall cavity), Rochester Kent (in brambles), Verwood Dorset (in a tree).

All nests will be destroyed and where possible, removed. There have been 31 nests so far this year.

I've been doing some research into how much the traps might cost and if we can purchase them at a discount, I will keep you posted.

Garry Furnell

Photo showing Veto-Pharma YLAH trap and bait



Committee Matters

The EBKA newly revamped June newsletter included an article on EFB, other outbreaks have been reported in Essex! Anyone that has not received this newsletter please contact me.

An update has been sought on how members can extend Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) in mid-season and the advice is to contact our Membership Secretary, Pat Allen, who can extend the BDI for you and tell you how to pay the additional premium. However, it is much better to make sure you pay for enough BDI as you renew your membership in January. It is only a couple of pounds extra and you do not have the penalty of the 40-day delay before the BDI becomes effective. I suggest you take a look at the BDI website for more information (beediseasesinsurance.co.uk).

On a more positive note at the end of May during our weekly inspections of our hives we found three queen cells. We removed two and placed the strongest cell in a nuc with a couple of frames of bees and after three weeks of waiting like expectant parents we were excited to find two frames of brood and a new queen. For relatively new Beekeepers this was exciting and gave us a sense of accomplishment.

Colleen Manley



Basic Assessment

Many congratulations to;

Eline Freeman who passed the Basic Assessment (BA) with Distinction!

And also to Courtney O'Shea who also passed her BA.

Well done to both of you! For those of you who are set to do your BA this year, good luck! Please do let us know how you got on or even put a few words together for the Newsletter so other members get some idea of what is involved.

If you are thinking about doing it next year – then please come and have a chat at one of the meetings. It does seem rather an involved process, few heads together is better than struggling with one!

Linda Dulieu, Education Secretary

Taster session.

We had 12 people turn up for session on the 5th July. I believe three people are looking to do the Beginners Course next year

Big thank you to the beekeepers that give up there time to help me run the course, it's very much appreciated. A selection of photos from the course can be seen below.

Garry Furnell



Preparation For Honey Show, Jim McNeill 3rd July 2025

Jim's top advice, firstly read your schedule twice to ensure you have all the requirements correct and all conditions of the entry are understood by yourself.

When showing honey it is advisable to strain the honey with a fine mesh, this takes out any debris that should not be in the honey.

When cleaning your equipment always wash in cold water, this is far more efficient in removing sticky honey.

Top up jars of honey before the show. You should not see daylight under the lid. When the jars are topped up you may need to skim the surface to remove anything that has risen to the top that should not be there. You may find that you get bubbles around the edge of the honey jar. If air bubbles are seen in the jar, the honey would be rejected without the judge even tasting it. Jim uses different shaped spoons to do this. All the "bubble honey" that Jim removes he puts aside and eats himself. When bubbles are all extracted from honey jars put the jars in a water bath. Water bath temperature should be 60 degrees for one hour. This is exactly the time and temperature. Do not exceed this.

If there is granulation in the clear honey the judges will shine a torch through the jar and will see it, this will result in the honey being rejected. Water content in the honey must not exceed 21%.

All the jars have to match exactly, being the correct size and round as stipulated in the show conditions. Set honey has to be 13 degrees, leave jars of honey outside overnight and this should keep the honey at the correct consistency to last the honey show even if it is hot. The honey should not melt. If exhibiting set honey there are two types, soft set or naturally set. The set honey has a thicker and grainier texture.

Find a nice comb now if you want to exhibit cut comb in the show. Different colour combs can go into different categories. Find a nice frame for extraction and put it in the freezer, remove from the freezer 3-4 days beforehand and it will thaw out before the competition.

Get your honey ready the week before the show, and do not open the jars after you have it prepared. The judge will open the honey jar lid and smell the contents. The judge wants to smell the aroma of honey. Presentation is the most important aspect. Presentation will win you 10 or 12 points, whereas viscosity and taste will only win you 5 points.

Candles for exhibiting should have the wax kept separately from the rest of the wax. There are classes for moulded and non-moulded. If you enter 3 candles, each candle has to match in size exactly. If using a mould, melt all the wax required first, fill up the mould then put the remainder in a bucket separate from other wax so that the next day when you do the 2nd moulded candle the colour will be the same as the first candle, and again with the 3rd candle. To judge the candles, the judge will light it to see how it burns and what it smells like.

The judges do not like wicks that have not been dipped as this makes them easier to light. The wick should be about half an inch above the top of the candle. When pouring the wax over the wick make sure you do this over a bucket to catch drips.

Jilly Speakman-Bell

Varroa Treatment Bulk Buy

Please see details on the last page of this newsletter for Romford Beekeepers bulk buy on Varroa Treatment, which is a significant saving on retail price. The order has been arranged by Alan Sansford and the flyer contains all the information you need to know to place your order. Please note the deadline for orders is 11/08/2025

Graeme Ellis

Romford Honey Show, Saturday 18th October

With extracting time upon us why not think about entering in this year's honey show. There are classes to suit everyone, even those without honey. Schedules will appear in next month's newsletter.

Angela Mander

Romford Division Contacts:**Secretary: Colleen Manley**

01708 381900 / 07971 957333. EBKASecretaryRomfordDivision@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.gf89@gmail.com

Education Secretary: Linda Dulieu

Lindybees.education@gmail.com

Newsletter: Graeme Ellis

07814 814844. graemeellis@hotmail.co.uk

Disease Liaison officers: Jim McNeill, Simon Perchard

jimandliz44@aol.co.uk 07743 310143, sjp6242@icloud.com 07712 194488



Romford Beekeepers

The Romford division of the Essex Beekeepers' Association

2025



VARROA TREATMENTS

National Bee Supplies

*Bulk Buy & Division

Name	Expiry Date	Book Price (per hive)	Discount Price*
Apistan Strips	03/27	£5.00	£2.60
Apiguard	09/26	£5.90	£2.55
Thymovar Strips	03/28	£5.99	£3.40

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 : 11/08/25

I will let you know when your order is ready to collect from :

Julie Mugglestone, 183 Dagenham Road, Rush Green, Romford, RM7 0TL

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