

The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – December 2013

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS



Wednesday 11th December

7 for 7.30pm Christmas meal at Best Western Tiverton Hotel, Blundells Road, Tiverton, EX16 4DB – there a 2 spaces available. Please contact Sarah or William Lines ASAP if you would like them email.

Wednesday 15th January, 2014

Bee Anatomy – Dr John Carr

Wednesday 19th February

Bee Behaviour – Basterfields

Wednesday 19th March

tba

Please come out and support your branch at our meetings at Uplowman Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Important Membership notice

Many thanks to those who have already renewed their membership for 2014. Please will all others do this before the end of the year, as membership will be cancelled if not renewed. The subscription form is again attached to the e-mailed Buzzette, or please contact me if you need me to send you another paper copy of the form.

I will be using a new system provided by Bee Disease Insurance to send out receipts and BDI certificates.

Thanks again

William Lines
Membership Secretary

Do you still have hive parts and equipment to clean before the spring? Dennis Cooper has a boiler he will loan to Branch members. Cost will depend on mileage to deliver. If interested phone him.



The Practical Bee Guide by J. G. Digges (1918)

Page 194, Advanced stages foul brood treatment by burning

Use of bi-sulphide of carbon

Close the door of the hive: separate two frames, and push down between them a piece of tow, cotton or wool: on this pour a tablespoon full of bi-sulphide of carbon: drop a lighted match upon it, and immediately set on the quilts and roof.

THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT EXPLOSION when the lighted match comes in to contact....: but there will be NO DANGER to the operator if he be careful to keep his head back.

Found by Keith (please speak to him first if tempted to try)....

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers presented to me at the AGM on finishing my term as your Chairman. It has been an honour to be the Chairman of the Tiverton Branch of DBKA and I thank the committee members for their enthusiasm to see the Branch move forward in many different aspects of our beekeeping. As Malcolm Jenkins takes over as Chairman, please support him and the committee in all that they undertake on your behalf, thank you.

Barbara Brannam

Time for Reflection

How has this year been for you and your bees? For Devon it was a long cold winter which caused quite a few problems for some of our members. With reports of high loses of colonies some as high as 50% and a few members losing all of their bees by late April or even early May. My own bees came through quite well, with only a 10% loss but three small colonies hung on till early May then died out through lack of good bees. I think the very small colonies that hung on into April with stores just could not replace the winter bees fast enough and just dwindled and died. I could see no other reason for their demise. Lack of food in the right place was a common failing. In frosty weather the cluster of bees must have food close at hand as they are unable to move around until the weather improves. Hopefully you have all fed your bees well this autumn. Although feeding early in the new year is frowned on by some. I would always recommend feeding with candy or sugar past rather than risk losing bees through starvation; if the bees don't need it they would not eat it. With a long cold winter food supplies are bound to be low as the colonies start to build up. I needed to feed several of my colonies in late March and April with sugar syrup, not something I would normally have to do.

May turned out to be a cracking good month after an abnormally miserable cold April. The problem for many beekeepers was having weak stocks, hence bees were unable to take full advantage of the spring flowers. Hazel had come and gone while the bees stayed huddled in their hives and did not really get going until the dandelions and buttercups were out in mid May, a good four weeks late. My bees in the cider apple orchard had a field day, with a good sheltered site they had come through the winter the best of my three sites. With both pollen and nectar coming in the bees rapidly built up needing supers before the apples flowered. With the apples coming into flower my bees were up for it, that is in between some of them swarming; not a problem if you are all prepared. Unfortunately for beekeepers that came through the winter with weak hives, and slow to build up until late June the best part of this season was over. Normally colonies that have built up by late June will do well on blackberries flowering in July but this year the blackberry was later flowering and the ground had dried out to the point that the nectar flow was severely reduced. By early August the honey season for my bees was almost all over. Supers were removed and promptly extracted, a good yield for me, ten pounds above my ten year average. It was pleasing to learn that other members also had a good year.

Temperatures in late August were good, so people treating their bees with Apiguard against Varroa should have had a good kill; average day temperatures need to be above 16 C for it to work well. For the first time I have treated ten of my hives with MAQS, the new treatment for Varroa. The product is easy to use although a little more expensive than Apiguard. A quick check on two hives four weeks after treatment, one from each treatment produced just one dead mite. I will let you know how the hives get on in the spring. Good weather in September was ideal for feeding colonies for the winter. I had almost completed feeding by the end of the month with just a top up with Ambrosia on a few when I returned from holiday in mid October.

AS I write this in mid November the temperatures at night have started to drop. Time to put on the mouse guards and lift the back of the crown boards with match sticks as I am on solid floors; job done, time to relax and enjoy the clubs programme of winter lectures.

Keith

An Introduction to Beekeeping Course dates

December	4th	The history and origins of bees and hives and	18th	The beekeeping year
January	22nd	Swarms, their causes and prevention		
February	5th	Queen rearing,	26th	Pests and diseases
March	12th	Bee plants and hive products and	26th	Getting started

For sale:

Plastic Honey Tank with nylon
honey valve 40kg £12.00

Plastic Honey Tank with nylon
honey valve 70kg £30.00

Contact Keith Owers

Christmas Recipes

Honey Marzipan

125g Ground Almonds

1 tbs Thick Honey

Almond Essence

Mix almonds & honey to a firm paste adding
a few drops of essence.

Honey Marzipan Truffles

Roll marzipan into small balls

Drop into melted chocolate, coat & drain

Roll in chocolate vermicelli & enjoy

Honey Fruit Punch

4 tbs Clear Honey 150ml Lemon Juice

300ml Orange Juice 150ml Grapefruit Juice

600ml Water Slices of orange to garnish

Mix all in punch bowl or jug

Store in fridge until ready to use

Garnish glasses with a slice of orange

Many thanks to Angela Owers

Note from your Buzzette Editor

Many thanks for your contributions. If anyone would like to send me
an article on 'My life with bees, and how it all started' or anything else
you would like to share please send it in to:

Post Galleons Lap,
Plymtree,
Cullompton,
EX15 2LQ

Or pass on a note at the meetings.
Sarah Lines

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/tiverton/>