

The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – July 2014

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS



July – Bulk Buying Apiguard Orders in by 17th July, see below and attached order form

Saturday 26th July

Mid Devon Show – Branch Stand

Thursday 7th August

Honiton Show – Branch Stand

Sunday 7th September

Branch BBQ & Honey show

Wednesday 17th September

Members meeting

Wednesday 15th October

Members meeting

Wednesday 19th November

Branch AGM

Wednesday 10th December

Branch Christmas Dinner

Please come out and support your branch.

Events our display is attending throughout the summer are listed below.

2014 Branch Show Display Programme.

The theme of our stand this year is The Swarm .

These are the events we are visiting:

- Saturday 26th July Mid Devon Show
at Showground, Tiverton
- Thursday 7th August Honiton Show

We always need help on the stand from members just to come and talk to the public about keeping bees; you don't need to be an expert.

If you can help at any of the above events please let me know.

Tony Lindsell

Tiverton Beekeepers Competition Time

We would like members to design a 'logo' for the 'Tiverton Beekeepers' to go on a club sports shirt/ sweatshirt/ beesuit, as a machine embroidered badge.

All entries (on paper please) to reach Jackie Crook by 1st August 2014, post to the address listed in the DBKA Yearbook.

Competition to be judged by the Committee

Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)

With so many swarms being collected, please remember that for your BDI to be valid for any of your colonies all of them must be insured. Your BDI certificate (emailed directly to all those who have email, and posted to the others) shows how many colonies you are insured for. If you need to increase the insurance, please contact me and I will arrange this.

Many thanks

William Lines

Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Bulk Buy - Apiguard!!!

Well – we had some clever Beekeepers earlier this year who saved a bob or two (£208 overall) on their Wax Foundation and although it is not yet time to be putting Apiguard on our colonies to do battle with the Varroa Mite – it is certainly time to start the planning process! I have been in contact with the manufacturers to get the best possible price and am seeking orders for Apiguard from our Branch Members the price for this year is **£1.61 per tray** – a MASSIVE saving of £1.09 per tray against the Thorne prices – and even then you have to purchase 10 trays!.

Our Local Bee Inspector, David Packham, advises that Apiguard should first be put on, following the honey harvest, in the first week in August! Don't forget you will need two applications, the second two weeks after the first! So start doing you sums and work out how much you need – you will make a considerable saving and let's see if we can get a bumper order together. **Please return your orders to me asap – but not later than the 1000 hours - 17th July!**

Robert Fyfe – Bulk Buy Coordinator

Mid Devon Show – 26th July 2014

Once again the Branch will have a stand at the Mid Devon Show where our Swarm display from the Devon County Show will be exhibited. We will also be using our new, more robust and easier to erect mini marquee. We hope to get it embroidered with the Branch name and badge in due course.

If you would like to help on the stand for a couple of hours during the day you will be most welcome. Please let me know and I can organise a rota. In any case if you are at the Show call in and see us.

The Show offers us an opportunity to sell our Honey and Wax. All members are welcome to sell their honey on the stand. The price is set at £5.50 (1LB) and £4.50 (12ozs) with 20% going to Branch funds. Please let me know if you would like us to sell your honey.

You will also find our Swarm Display in the Bee & Honey marquee at Honiton Show on Thursday 7th August.

Tony

Beginners' Apiary Meeting Dates

Saturdays 9th August

Apiary space

Pippa Eyles has offered some space for hives in her farm orchard in Thorverton. If you are interested please email her at:

pippastiles@hotmail.com

We receive several notices each month about talks and events that may be of interest in Devon and surrounding counties. There is not always room to include them in the Buzzette so I try to avoid repeating items each month or articles that you may find in the DBKA news. I will include as much as I can and on our last page this month you will find information about Dorset BKA convention. For other articles please see the DBKA website

www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/otherevents

Sarah

June Apiary Visit – Regicide!

Nine of us met near Plymtree to inspect our apiary on a blazing June afternoon while trying to seek shade.

Originally, when the Branch committee was planning dates, we had been keeping only 1 colony for the last 18 months so an apiary visit was not practical. How quickly things can change. At the beginning of May we divided our one colony into two – relieved to expand. By the end of the following fortnight we were up to 5 colonies as, along with many other swarm collectors, we were receiving daily phone calls about swarms and had been filling up our own and any other members available hives.

We skipped inspecting the original colony (H3, more of that later) and the 2 swarms were building up nicely (H2 & 4). The division from the original hive (H1) had thrown a cast which we had retrieved and put in a nuc so these 2 colonies had new queens which had their first brood hatching.

Imagine our disappointment and horror to discover that H1 only had capped brood, no eggs or larvae but plenty of emergency queen cells. Not wanting to think too much about what happened we followed Keith's advice and destroyed most of the emergency cells, leaving one slightly more planned looking version in the middle of a frame.

We then retired to sit in the shade with ice cold drinks and cake and a copy of our inspection record. There it was quite obvious – REGICIDE! Hands up - it was me. The previous week I had used a queen marking trap and marked the queen. Now I know next time to use it at an angle so that her abdomen is not trapped so tightly as the rest of her.

Beekeeping is always a good reminder of how there is always more to learn and Keith always a comfort with stories of his Beekeeping adventures.

Back to H3, well we did not get around to inspecting that until this weekend when a swarm was seen disappearing over the hedge. Lo and behold, the colony contained 3 hatched queen cells. We now have another nuc! The good news is we also have a new queen in H1 – so thank you Keith. All is organized chaos and we are 7 years young in beekeeping but still fascinated and enjoying our craft.

We would love to hear your Beekeeping experience in the Buzzette please send your tales in.

Sarah & William Lines

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/>



26 October 2014. Dorset Convention. Stratton Village Hall, Stratton, Dorchester, DT2 9WG. Key note speaker: Prof. Robert Pickard (Emeritus Professor of Neurobiology, University of Cardiff, and international authority on the biology of honeybees), also Tim Baker (South London primary school principal, who will talk on 'Preparing Future Beekeepers'), plus further speaker/s to be confirmed.

£20 per person (£15 Dorset BKA members) including ploughman's lunch and refreshments. Tickets and details: Doug Whyte at: douglas.whyte53@gmail.com or 53, Sandford Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4DQ or on 01929 550760.

Please complete the form below with your ticket requirements and details, and **enclose a stamped addressed envelope** and cheque(s) made payable to DBKA.

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The Dorset Beekeeping Convention 2014

Please send me ____ ticket(s) for the Dorset BKA Convention on Sunday October 26th 2014 @ **£20** each (**£15** for Dorset BKA members).

Name:	BBKA membership N°:	Association:	Ticket Price (£):

TOTAL	£
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Please include a **stamped addressed envelope** and your cheque(s) made payable to DBKA and send to: **Doug Whyte, 53, Sandford Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4DQ**

Name:	
Contact Tel. N°:	

Many Thanks