

USEFUL CONTACTS

Chairman : Neil Trood,
Tel. 01458 241368

Secretary: Mary Adams,
87 Greenway,
Bishops Lydeard,
Taunton TA4 3DA
Tel: 01823 432287
tauntonsecretary@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Treasurer : Jenny Gammon,
500 Cheddon Road,
Taunton. TA2 7QX
Tel: 01823 270465
tauntontreasurer@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Show Secretary: Neil Trood

Newsletter Editor :

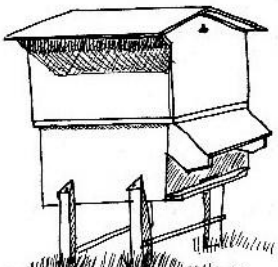
David Morris,
'Cranford',
Halse,
Taunton. TA4 3AB
Tel: 01823 432686

E-mail: dgmorris@ukonline.co.uk

TAUNTON BEE-KEEPERS E Mail FORUM

tauntonbeekeepers.org.uk/joinlist.html
Contact James Fidell 01984 623030

SBKA website at :
www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk



FUTURE MEETINGS

PRESIDENT'S AFTERNOON

Saturday 17th July
2.30pm Heatherton Park

DAVID CHARLES
Author of SBKA Centenary
Book
**T.W. Cowan's Beekeeping
Life**

Saturday 24th July
2.30pm Heatherton Park

Making up Feed
With David Pearce, Tim Trood
and Pat Hopkins

6th & 7th August
Taunton Flower Show
Help as stewards in the Bees
and Honey marquee will be
appreciated

Saturday 11th August
2.30pm Heatherton Park

**Inserting Varroa Trays,
clearing supers and feeding
as required**
Jenny Gammon & Miln Priscott

Saturday 14th August
2.30pm Heatherton Park

1st Varroa Treatment
Elizabeth Burgess & Dan
Basterfield

BEE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TAUNTON & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS

July 2010

Number 64 Vol 9

For the last month we have been subjected to a period of little rain and high temperatures. Fields that were cut for hay or silage are showing signs of scorching and the same is true with our lawns. Whilst it means we can cut back on the mowing, (apologies for the pun), it also means that despite the humid nights, the clover will have dried out long ago so cannot be exploited by our bees. On the positive side, the blackberry has flowered exceptionally well and our bees should be able to work the flowers to their advantage. The blackberry is one of the plants that we can regularly rely upon to give us some surplus.

It is that time of year again when we press you to consider entering the honey and bees section of the Taunton Flower Show. If every full member was able to enter just two classes, the entries would exceed 400, the show benches would buckle and we would be bigger than the Bath & West Show was this year. Preparations for the Flower Show incidentally, begin on the Saturday previous to the show 31st July. Help is needed to transport materials from the Apiary into Vivary Park and in the park itself. Work starts from 2.30pm onwards any help would be appreciated.

As part of the Continuation Course that begins in the autumn, it is anticipated there will be a session devoted to Anaphylaxis management. Debbie Glennie who is on our committee is qualified to undertake such a session and hopefully will be able to extend it in the future to include all those involved with the bees at the Apiary.

Some consideration has been given to the possibility of members using 'Beelines' to advertise items for sale. It was felt that the best way forward was for the member to pin an advert on the notice board at the apiary and for 'Beelines' to bring it to everybody's attention mentioning basic details only.

Hope to see you at the Show.

David Morris Editor

HIVE WATCH

They say every beekeeping season is different and that this is what makes our craft so interesting and challenging.

Spring appeared to be three weeks later than normal and anxiety was being expressed in some quarters over whether this delay in allowing the bees to get those vital spring pollens was going to have an adverse effect.

In the last issue of 'Beelines' I mentioned 'that bees on the Oil Seed Rape will quickly expand and strong colonies should be watched for congestion'. That was certainly the case here in Halse where there was OSR virtually surrounding the village. Between 20th May and 17th July, eight swarms were collected within a ¼ of a mile of my home. A couple could well have been from our hives despite my creating nucs over several colonies using an adapted Snelgrove Board.

Other areas have reported a similar abundance of swarms whilst in some places there has been none, at least none reported.

With the exception of one swarm, every swarm and nuc have a laying queen albeit after a longer than normal time period for mating in 50% of the cases. Why has there been these differences? Why have some members had laying queens one day and failure the next?

We seem to concentrate our attention on failing queens. The real culprit I suggest is failing drones, disabled by the developing varroa within the sealed drone cells. As I said at the beginning, **that is what makes our craft so interesting and challenging**.
Ed

NEW MEMBERS

We continue to welcome even more new members and hope they will enjoy attending some of our meetings in the year ahead

Bethany Palmer
Oakford, Tiverton

Samantha Davies
Curland, Taunton

Ken Tate
North Curry

Jean Lillywhite
Tonedale

Richard Morgan
Bridgwater

Roger Pow
Rockwell Green, Wellington

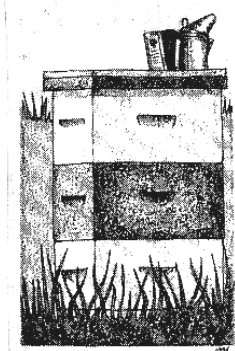
Miss J. Franklin
Barton's Causeway, Tiverton

Sally and Alistair Sewell
Taunton

Michael Canham
Bishopswood

Mr & Mrs C Champion
and their grandson
Christopher Moon
Bawdrip

That brings the number of new members to have joined us this year to 45.



EH Bellairs and son Frank collecting swarms in c 1882 [HBA]
With thanks to the VITA Gallery

Useful Advice from Jenny

Washing instructions and care of your Beekeeping veil as recommended by B J Sherriff:

- Detach hood and hand wash separately in warm soapy water.
- Rinse Thoroughly. Hang to dry.
- Do not Bleach / Tumble Dry or put in Washing Machine.
- Never pull mesh or place near Heat or Smoker.

Please note when washing any veil the above instructions should be followed unless you want to spend money having your veil repaired.

CONTROVERSIAL CORNER

SHOOK SWARMS

When we had EFB, we were told 'shook swarming' was the answer and would be the best way to rid the bees of this disease.

But I understand, this is not the case and the disease still comes back. I consider that the only answer is to destroy. First loss is the best loss.

Miln Priscott

I can endorse Miln's point. When we both started beekeeping, in the days before varroa, destruction was the sole course of action for EFB and AFB. Since automatic destruction of EFB ceased to be the order of the day, is it perhaps not surprising that the number of outbreaks have increased. Furthermore, Somerset had at one time over half a dozen Foul Brood Inspectors who ensured every colony was inspected at least every other year. It seems like stating the obvious. Ed.

HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR BBKA BASIC EXAM?

It is still possible to take it this year. Contact Simon Jones or David Morris for an entry form and copies of the syllabus.

TAYLORS BEE SUPPLIES

Following on from the old Taylors adverts that I have reproduced in **Beelines** recently, it was interesting to learn that the machinery they used for producing frames is still in operation. Apparently it was purchased by our own David Pearce who as members will know, has put his acquisition to good use.

Thanks for the information David and trust it will give you many more years service.
Ed

BILL ELMSALL

It is very sad to report that Bill passed away on the morning of Saturday 10th July. Bill was a real character and stalwart to beekeeping both in our Division and his home Division of Tiverton. At many shows, Bill would spend all day with his Observation Hive explaining to children and adults alike the wonders behind the glass. His interest were widespread. Who else in the beekeeping world could I have found myself discussing the geological structures of the cliffs at Aust on the River Severn?

He will be missed by all who knew him. Ed

A View from 'The Farrow'

I was recently handed a copy of the John Deere's farming magazine 'The Farrow' by Miln Priscott. In it was an article entitled 'Bee Seeks Farmer'. Amongst various references is the need to promote the idea that beekeepers and farmers depend upon one another and that more mutual understanding will help to ease the suffering of the farmer and raise the yields of the latter. The case is supported by pointing out that,

- *'The value of bees to world farming is about 150 billion euros, more than 75 times the value of the honey produced.'*

The article further sets out the case to encourage farmers to appreciate beekeepers and bees by declaring that crop yields can be increased by up to 30% when bees are used selectively for pollination. Re oil seed rape for example, pollination not only increases yields but also oil content at the same time.

In a corner of this well illustrated article are a list of facts that could prove useful when explaining the value of bees to the public.

- *153 billion euros is the value of pollination by honey bees*
- *2 billion euros is the value of annual honey production, corresponding to about 104 million tonnes.*
- *100 million is the experts estimate of the number of bee colonies worldwide.*
- *60,000 bees take care of one colony's queen.*
- *20,000 is the experts estimate of the number of bee species worldwide.*
- *26 subspecies of honeybee (Apis mellifica) are known; there are also a number of crossings, including the Buckfast bee and the Elgon bee.*
- *5 biggest honey producing countries (according to the WTO); China (298,000 tonnes), Turkey (82,000 tonnes), Argentina (80,000 tonnes, USA (79,000 tonnes) and Ukraine (71,000 tonnes).*

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS?

Please inform us at dgmorris@ukonline.co.uk

COUNTY / TAUNTON HONEY SHOW

The honey show will be held at Vivary Park 6 / 7th August 2010

If you wish to enter the show the schedule is in the middle of your year book.
If you have lost your year book please contact me for a copy of the schedule.

Entries need to be in at the latest on the 28th July

I am happy to take entries by email with payment when you stage.

If you have run out of honey what about the
Wax classes - candles , wax blocks, wax flowers
Frame from your hive suitable for extraction.
Honey-Bee Forage

Novice section: class 21 and also class 43 (both have a trophy)

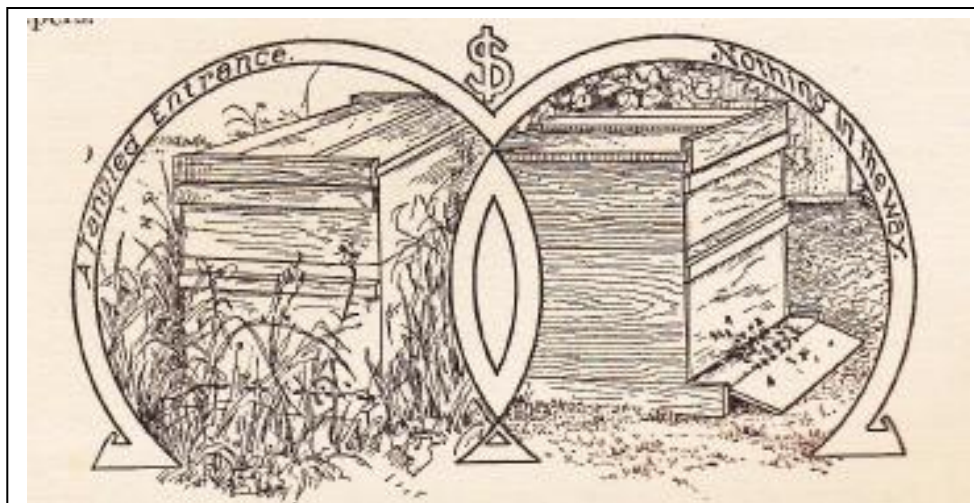
Jenny Gammon

Entries Secretary

sidnjen@vodafoneemail.co.uk



Crowds around the demo tent at last year's Flower Show



What it cost the beekeeper to let grass and weeds tangle up the
entrance

Managements of Out-Apiaries by G.M. Doolittle

Published by A.I. Root Co. 1913

YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WAGGLE DANCE

For the second year running, the Waggle Dance and Hog Roast proved to be an all-round success. The evening at the Neroche Village Hall on Saturday 26th July was perfect for the event. Besides the beekeepers there were many guests who came to support the event. Once again the new building fund was boosted with a three figure sum.

An event of this nature requires a lot of preparation and our thanks must be recorded not only to Louise, Simon and Andy but also to the many other members who added their support. Finally, we must not forget, the Dyer Cumming's Ceilidh Band who ensured the evening went with a swing !

Thanks to Andy Cole for his input into this report.



**National Honey Show – St Georges College, Weybridge,
Surrey**

28th to 30th October 2010