



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

September 2017

Welcome to the newsletter of the Yeovil & District Division, Somerset Beekeepers' Association. See also our website: www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

**Next Meeting – September Indoor Meeting:
Anne Rowberry
Talks about "The Demaree and more...."
7:30pm Tuesday 19th September
at East Coker Village Hall**

The Demaree is a method of swarm control (something we all have to implement one way or another each year!) This talk is a brief look at the history and development of the Demaree system and how it has added to the resources available to Beekeepers.

This manipulation appeared to go out of fashion but the value of it is becoming more apparent. Anne will suggest how it can be modified and adapted to serve many purposes and solve some equipment issues.

Anne Rowberry gained an MEd at Bristol and Diploma in Counselling at Reading and then moved from teaching to work for a charity. It was then I got my first hive and with Ted Hooper's book in one hand investigated the boxes. I joined a club and increased my knowledge working through the BBKA modules, microscopy and husbandry exams to gain the Master Beekeeper qualification.

I now have around 20 hives, enjoy teaching beekeeping to pupils at a local school and I also chair Avon BKA and Frome BKA. What I love about bees is that they do not read the books and keep us on our toes.

Directions

To find the East Coker Village Hall from Yeovil:

From the West Coker Road, turn down Sandhurst Road by the Post Office/store (on the left after the PO if coming from the Quicksilver roundabout or on the right just before the PO if coming from the Bunford Hollow Roundabout). At East Coker (about 1.2 miles) turn left at the T junction. After about 400yds, turn right onto Halves Lane. The Village Hall is about 200ft on the right.

For SATNAV use post code: BA22 9JJ.

August Apiary Meeting with Simon Jones at Sarah Theo-Jones' Apiary

The last apiary meeting was a lovely event with several beekeepers who we haven't seen for a while attending as well as us older folk. Sarah won't mind me saying naughty things about her set up as we have all been there at some time rather in our lives.

Simon Jones came and gave an introductory talk about treatment for Varroa which was very interesting and he was very keen to stress that we must treat our bees before they go into winter because it is the overwintering bees that need to be strong to emerge in spring to fly that 500 km before they die and the new generation takes over. The stronger they are the better. He is a very able speaker and really you should not miss him should you have wind of him talking again.

After this we went to look through the bees. The first colony were some supers at the far end of the apiary into which a swarm had moved earlier in the season. When Simon had a look inside he discovered the supers were upside down and were on wide spacing. How many of us have gone into our apiary and found a swarm has moved into vacant boxes? Lots of us. I was interested because I wondered how they would cope with all the slant of the comb being opposite to what it should be. They seem to be fine but whether they altered all the combs wasn't clear. They would not have moved in there if it wasn't to their liking.

Then we were regaled with a story about a colony being robbed by big wasps before our wasps have even got going which was a mystery. In essence poor Sarah had to put one hive on top of another and all the supers which made a rather big one. That took some going through and we eventually put in clearer boards and sorted the Queen into the bottom box.

After this we went in for tea which was sumptuous. Thank you Sarah.

John Carnegie

Divisional Honey Extractor to Borrow

The Yeovil Division has a radial Honey extractor which is available for free loan to any full member of the Yeovil Division. So when you have your crop removed for extracting just contact Bill ??? to arrange to borrow the extractor.

Also available is a honey settling tank as well as a heated uncapping tray. Just contact Nic Bard to arrange a free loan.

And when you have finished extracting, remember to put some honey aside for next year's Honey Show!

Advance Notice of October Joint Meeting

Our joint meeting with the SW Division on 30th October at Over Stratton is a talk by Marin Anastavos on the subject "The Mind of the Honey Bee". The talk is based on fairly recent research that shows that honey bees and bumblebees have shown capabilities exceeding our expectations, such as emotions, numerosity, false memories, categorisation and abstract concept. These capabilities are mostly typical for humans and very few other animals. The talk covers how these cognitive functions were discovered and what is their practical relevance to beekeeping.

Marin has a BSc in Animal Science, an MSc in Organic Farming and recently gained the National Diploma in Beekeeping. He has kept bees for over 20 years and currently manages 25 colonies in Gloucestershire. Marin is a Master Beekeeper, chairman of Gloucestershire Beekeepers Association and serves on the BBKA Examinations Board. He is an assessor for the Basic, General Husbandry and Advanced Husbandry certificates and is part of the team responsible for the development and implementation of the new BBKA Certificate in honey bee breeding. Marin also co-ordinates the General Husbandry and Advanced Husbandry training for 2017 and 2018 as part of the BBKA Education and Husbandry committee.



Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Divisional Committee Meeting	Wednesday 13th September	The Airport Tavern	Regular monthly committee meeting. All are welcome
Anne Rowberry talk	Tuesday 19th September	East Coker Village Hall	
Divisional AGM	Tuesday 17th October	East Coker Village Hall	Review of the year's proceedings and your chance to join in.
Marin Anastavos	Monday 30th October	Over Stratton Village Hall	Joint meeting with SW Division
Division Christmas Meeting	Saturday 2nd December	The Phelips Arms, Montacute	A xmas buffet, skittles and natter.

Chairman Carnegie

44 large concrete slabs are sitting in the driveway opposite my house. They make perfect bases for beehives. They are free. Contact me if you want one or all!

I have been to 2 other beekeeping shows. At one I managed to slip over and break my ribs which has been very annoying. What was very pleasing was that the Yeovil show was so much better than the ones I have been to. So again well done to all of you who helped. I have scanned the Internet for the Sherborne show and fully intend to go there next year so save some honey for that show! One of things that struck me about the two shows I went to was how dark they were under canvas. It seems that our tent is so much lighter. If we venture into Dorset then we will not go as Yeovil beekeepers, but as Bees and Honey only. I am planning to put a shed in my apiary and have my observation hives up and running in time for the end of May. I'm interested in the planning of how you stop them swarming, be overcrowded and suchlike. EBay tells me it is possible.

Planning for the divisional apiary is moving forwards with the formation of the Tiger team. We have yet to meet but slowly, slowly, catchy monkey. More on this later, next year probably.

It does seem that the months are flying by and all of you should be in the process of making sure your bees have enough to survive the winter and doing your varroa treatment. I look wistfully in my overcrowded garage at the large sheets of insulation which I intend to make into nice warm sleeves. Somewhere I've got a Hoover and intend to make a hoovering device as one saw in the magazine. It will make collecting swarms so much easier.

Plans to stick pins in the map where our beekeepers are is in the planning stage. The goal is to have close together beekeepers mentor other beekeepers.

John Carnegie

Chairman

Source of Sugar

If you have not yet purchased the top-up for your bees, I have two options for you:

Granulated Sugar: Marvin and Steve have sampled the sugar prices and found that Farmfoods in Yeovil (BA21 4HA) is the cheapest source at £1 for 2kg. And Andy tells me that Morrisons' price is 88p for 2kg. If you have a better source, please let me know! Don't forget, autumn feed that is going to be stored by the bees should be mixed 2lbs to the pint.

Apinvert: A ready-mixed high fructose syrup for feeding bees similar to Ambrosia. The high fructose content makes it slow to crystallise in the comb and easy for the bees to take down. Eddie Howe is a supplier and has 16kg (11litres) boxes (like wine boxes). Carefully open the spout and pour! Price is £23 ea for 1-4 boxes, £22 ea for 5+ boxes. Contact Eddie on 01458 272 114.

Study for Exam modules

I am going to be doing module 2, "Honeybee products and forage". I will be joining Joe King at Somerton with a group of other people so that we can ginger each other up. I only do it because it is good for my brain and I enjoy studying in a group.

So if you fancy joining our enthusiastic group learning about beekeeping, do contact me and I will forward details on to you

John Carnegie

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Do Birds like Raspberries?

Of course they do; they will take any fruit on offer. Or will they?

I thought that they would strip by raspberries bare if I did not net them. But removing and replacing the netting became such a fag that I thought I would wait until the birds started to eat them and then protect them with the netting.

But the birds have left them completely alone and I am picking a pound a day so there are plenty on offer!

So do the gardeners amongst you know that they don't like them?

Or is it the proximity of the beehives (see picture)? The raspberries are in the flight path from my home colonies so do these put them off?

Any suggestions appreciated!



Lavender Forage

What a strange year this has been! A lovely hot middle summer and then a cool and wet end. It means that our honey crop is not as strong and also, once removed, has left the majority of our colonies really light with next to no so in dire need of some food. Provided by some uncapped comb and lots of sugar syrup. (See other article about source of sugar or Apinvert).

And our lavenders seem to have lasted a long time this year. Only now are they going over but still attracting some bees.



Divisional officers

President	Fred Horne	01935 421623	Treasurer & membership secretary	Sharon Blake	01460 242124
Chairman	John Carnegie	01935 851234	Librarian	Tasha Stevens	07814 742653
Vice-Chairman	Marvin Collins	01935 426153	Newsletter editor	Nic Bard Nic_bard@hotmail.com	07877 284545
Secretary	Andy & Lorraine Dobson	07825 912274	Mentor Liaison Officer	Jacqui Taylor	
Swarm Coordinators	John Carnegie Tasha Stevens	01935 851234 07814 742653	County Delegates	Malcolm Blake John Carnegie	

The Yeovil division secretary email address is : yeovilbee@gmail.com.

Please contact any officer with your comments or suggestions.

Please send any suggestions, articles or comments or ideas to share with our other members directly to the editor at nic_bard@hotmail.com.

Yeovil 2017 Programme

2017

- 13th Sept 17** Committee meeting at Airfield Tavern
- 19th Sept '17** – Anne Rowberry at East Coker Village Hall
- 17th Oct '17** – AGM at East Coker Village Hall
- 30th Oct '17** – Marin Anastavos at the Joint Meeting with SW at Over Stratton Village Hall
- 2nd Dec '17** – Skittles social evening, The Phelips Arms, Montacute (TBC)

2018

- 16th Jan '18** – Ken Basterfield (TBC) at East Coker Village Hall
- 18th or 19th Feb '18** – Lecture at East Coker Village Hall
- 20st Mar '18** – David Maslen at East Coker Village Hall

April to August outside apiary meetings start at 2.30pm

Winter indoor meetings start at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated