



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

October 2017

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

www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Next Meeting – Divisional AGM

7:30pm Tuesday 17th October

at East Coker Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM and Matters Arising
3. Reports from: Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman
4. Election of Auditor and Officers
5. Nomination of members for Honorary Membership
6. Any Other Business

As always, the AGM is the opportunity for the members of the division to have their say in the running of their Beekeeping group. Please come along and have your say. Let us know what we are doing right and what can be improved or what we are missing. This is your forum!

If you have any particular item you would like to include in the agenda, you must inform the secretary at least 14days before the meeting, by 4th October.

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.

September Indoor Meeting: Anne Rowberry talked about the Demaree system for Swarm Control

For the first indoor meeting of the year Anne's talk on the use of the Demaree set the bar high. The turnout was a little on the light side, but for those of us who managed to attend it was an excellent evening.

It was fascinating to discover how many benefits it has as it allows you to prevent swarming.

To a relatively inexperienced beekeeper like myself the benefits of using this method of swarm control make it a must for me to have a go at.

It allows you to prevent swarming and operate the colony without interruption to the brood and honey flow.

Anne also described that by using the Demaree to split the colony twice in a season 2nd /3rd week in April and then again in July this greatly helps in the exponential growth of the varroa mite, because the varroa mite needs a continuous cycle of brood production. If the queen is removed and placed on new foundation with no mites and the new queen takes 23+ days to develop, mate and start laying, this interrupts the mites cycle during the honey bee brood rearing period. They can then be treated in winter with oxalic acid giving a 98% knock down rate.

Anne also went on to talk about Demaree for queen rearing and how commercial beekeeper use this method for banking mated queens for up to two months and in some cases up to five months, sounds a bit barbaric to me, but that's just my opinion.

If you are as enthusiastic about beekeeping as myself get yourselves along to our indoor meetings this winter, it's a good opportunity for even the most experienced of us to learn something new, have a cup of tea and get to know the other members in our division.

Bill Paterson

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 Patterson to arrange to borrow the extractor. Also available from Bill is a honey settling tank. He can be contacted on 07789 693 203.

We also have 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!

Make Sure Your Bees are Well Fed!

The NBU have already sent us a warning that some bees were low on stores in August but that warning still applies. The weather this year must have confused the bees and some are still laying plenty of brood and as a consequence, consuming all the stores they have as well as the extra you have probably just given them!

So make sure that you regularly check their weight over the next few months to make sure that they are not nearing starvation. If they do get low, then give them some fondant on the top bars to keep them going until the spring flower provide forage for them.

Joint Meeting in October

Our joint meeting with the SW Division on 30th October at Over Stratton is a talk by Marin Anastasov 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
Somerset County Lunch	Saturday 15th October	Long Sutton Golf Club	Social lunch. Contact Suzy on 01458 250 095
Divisional AGM	Tuesday 17th October	East Coker Village Hall	Review of the year's proceedings and your chance to join in.
National Honey Show	26th to 28th October	Sandown Park KT10 9RT	Weekend of Honey Show, trade stands, talks and workshops
Marin Anastasov	Monday 30th October	Over Stratton Village Hall	Joint meeting with SW Division
Division Christmas Meeting	Saturday 2nd December	The Phelps Arms, Montacute	A xmas buffet, skittles and natter.
West Dorset & East Devon BKA joint meeting	Thursday 11th January 2018	Whitchurch Canonicorum Village Hall	Roger Patterson talks about "Dead Bees don's Buzz"
SBKA Lecture Day	Saturday 17th February 2018	Edgar Hall, Somerton	A full day of lectures

Chairman Carnegie

Hello everybody and I hope this newsletter finds you all well. There's been dreadful news about the impending invasion of the Asian hornets. As I type this, Oh no! I shout and leap to my feet with the SWAT in hand to kill yet another hornet which has come down my chimney and into my kitchen. Last night I attached a flaming brand to some chimney rods and set fire to the nest at the top. As I sit here in my kitchen early in the morning there are yet more buzzing around my kitchen. These aren't Asian hornets but European. There have been several hundred in my kitchen and it's lucky I'm not afraid of them but I mustn't be too cavalier as I believe they can give you a nasty sting. I have pressed a few rear ends and I'm beginning to wonder whether the couple of hundred may be the end of the season queens as I can't find the sting. It is essential that I get rid of them because I have been advised if I light the range there is a possibility the paper nest could catch fire, drop down and set fire to the beam above the range.

When I get back to England I'm due for a blood test and ECG to see why I am getting breathless while I am digging up the Fosse Septic in France as it needs emptying. I would so love to keep bees here because the wildflowers are to die for and of course the chestnut trees which are now dropping their seeds would give one a fantastic crop.

I'm sorry to miss the Demmaree talk as I've tried in the past and made a few mistakes, but it must be easier than one thinks and is ideal for the people in restricted areas.

John Carnegie

Chairman

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

New SBKA Web-site

The SBKA web-site has been re-designed and brought up-to-date with some new material and better links to the original material. It also includes dedicated areas for Divisions which they can update themselves and an active calendar showing all the local events.

Please try it out here: <http://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Neil Cook, one of our Yeovil beekeepers, took on the updating task and, I am sure you will agree, has made the new web-site user-friendly and very slick.

The Yeovil Division area has its own area which will be maintained by Toby Rutherford. If you have any queries or any information that you feel needs to be included, please get in touch with him on tobyutherford@hotmail.com.

Take a look in the Yeovil area to find:

- Our calendar of events
- Details of the beginners course
- List of the divisional equipment

- List of the books held in our divisional library
- Newsletters, past and current
- Divisional membership application form

So have a good explore of the site and if you have any comments, either praise or suggestions for improvement, please contact Toby as above.

Beginners Course

Yeovil Division are running another beginners course in the early spring next year. It is organised by John and he will be running the majority of the lessons, but aided by some of the other committee members.

Full details are in the attached course document and on the web-site, but here is a list of the course contents. Please pass the form on to anyone you think may be interested. The course is filling up well already!

- Week 1. Introduction- General, What is a Honey bee, Importance of beekeeping, Local and National support.
- Week 2. The Colony- Queen, workers and drones. Division of labour within the hive. Individual lifecycles.
- Week 3. The Hive- The bees' nest. Hive components. Supers. Practical frame making.
- Week 4. History - Origins of Honeybees. Honey hunting. Skeps. Langstroth. W.B.C., Smith, National, Nucleus and other odd hives.
- Week 5. Beekeeping Year- Preparation for winter. Spring management. Inspections. Summer build up. Harvesting.
- Week 6. Queens . In depth understanding. Queen rearing. Mating of. Marking and Clipping.
- Week 7. Swarms . Reasons for and types of. Swarm control, Swarm prevention, Swarm collection.
- Week 8. Pests and Diseases. Pests, brood diseases, adult diseases, varroa. Statutory requirements.
- Week 9. Bees, Plants and hive products- pollination, nectar and honey. Local forage crops, wax, propolis and pollen. Selling honey.
- Week 10. Getting Started- Association Membership of Full and the implications. Sources of kit for beekeeping. Setting up and apiary. What happens next.

The course application form is attached to this email or can be viewed here: <http://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/beginners-courses.html>

Lecture Day

Lecture Day is the annual County day of beekeeping talks. Next year it is on Saturday 17th February and will be held in Somerton. Tickets are essential. They are free and are obtained from our secretary. Teas and coffee throughout the day can be purchased for £5 but bring your own lunch.

The full programme can be dwn-loaded from the SBKA web-site here: <http://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/uploads/1/0/8/1/108127969/scan0001.jpg>

Please contact Andy or Lorraine to book your free ticket.

East Devon & West Dorset BKA Joint Meeting

These two beekeeping groups have an annual joint meeting just as we do with the SW Division. I am sure you would all be welcome to attend.

Their next joint meeting is on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7:30. It is held at the Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall. This is a small village near Bridport. The meetings are always very popular so you are recommended to get there early. The post code is DT6 6RF.

The subject of the meeting is "Dead Bees don't Buzz", a talk by Roger Patterson

Delegate's Notes of the SBKA Council Meeting – 9 Sep 2017

I attended this meeting as your delegate. Anne Pike (SBKA Chairman) chaired the meeting.

Under **Matters Arising** I thanked the Council for awarding our Division the funds to purchase the demonstration net and PA system.

BBKA ADM 2018. The nominations of Lynne Ingram (Taunton) and Anne Rowberry were supported.

SBKA Officers. There are currently openings for volunteers willing to fill the roles of Secretary (from Mar 2018), Education Officer and Executive Representative. If any member of the Division is willing to take up one of these roles contact Richard Bache, SBKA Secretary.

SBKA Website. The new site is up and running thanks to Neil Cook (SBKA Webmaster). Have a look and see what you think (www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk).

Bath and West Show. The volunteers that helped to set up and man this year's show were thanked and the Council agreed to increase its financial support for the show to £150.

Diary Dates. Lecture Day – 17 Feb 2018, Special Lecture – 25 Apr 2018.

County Honey Show. The SBKA Executive will be looking into ways of improving support for this show.

SBKA Subscriptions. These will remain at £5.50 for 2018.

The **South West Counties Joint Consultative Committee** (SWCJCC) has been renamed to the South West Counties Beekeepers Forum (SWCBF).

Any Other Business. The older SBKA Minute Books are to be lodged with the Somerset Record Office.

Date of Future Council meetings. 11 Nov 2017, 6 Jan 2018, 12 May 2018 and 8 Sep 2018.

Please refer to the minutes of this Council meeting for fuller details.

Malcolm Blake

Asian Hornets

You should all have seen the NBU announcement that the Asian Hornet has been confirmed near Woolacombe. The discovery this late in the season does not bode well for eliminating all the Autumn queens.

Woolacombe may not be the only site for the hornet invasion so we must all be on the look-out for the hornet and utilise hornet traps to find any of the Asian variety.

The NBU web-site gives a full description of the hornet and instructions on how to build and bait hornet traps. You can find it here:

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=208>

And hot off the press, this is the latest statement from the NBU:

I'm just writing to confirm that we have discovered a nest in Woolacombe. The destruction will happen either tonight or tomorrow. The nest will be removed and sent for analysis at the Fera lab. There are likely to be a couple of TV reports on the outbreak: BBC Spotlight tonight and the One Show tomorrow or Monday.

We will issue a press release once we have had the opportunity to do further surveillance in the area after the nest's destruction.

Please do continue to raise awareness of the hornet amongst your members and encourage them remain vigilant and to report potential sightings through the app or the non-native species alert email address.

Yeovil Beekeepers Polo Shirts

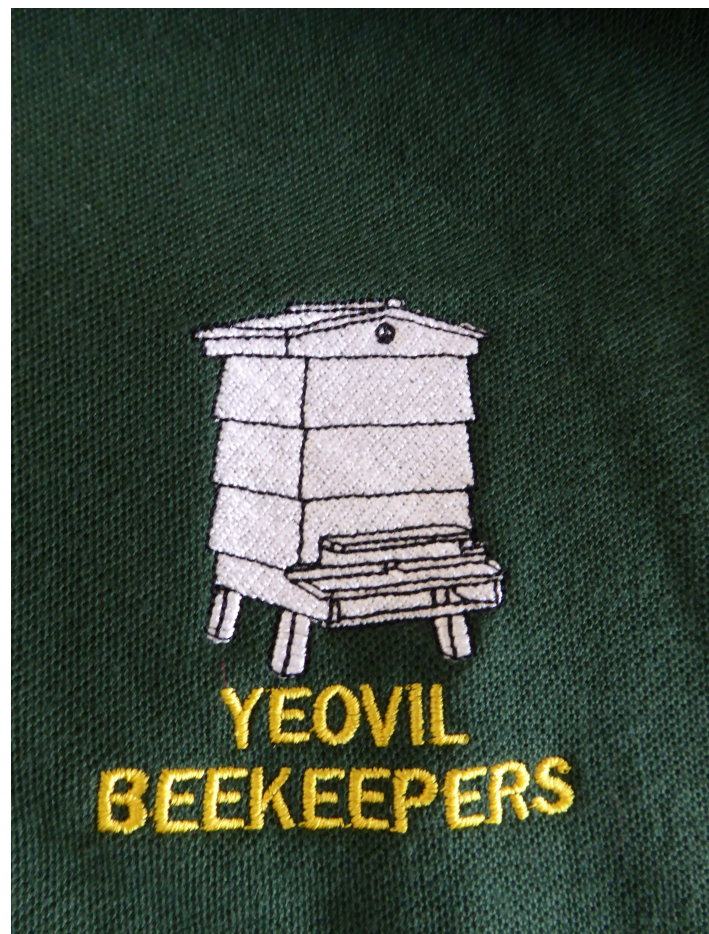
We have some green poloshirts with the Yeovil Beekeepers logo. They are good quality with a stitched logo captured in the photo here.

If you would like one for £15, just get in touch with Billl Paterson on:

0778 969 3203

or by email on:

patterson_32@sky.com



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	
Divisional Web-Master	Toby Rutherford	tobyutherford@hotmail.com			

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

Please contact any officer with your beekeeping or organisation comments and suggestions.

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

Yeovil 2017/18 Programme

2017

- 17th Oct '17** – AGM at East Coker Village Hall
- 30th Oct '17** – Marin Anastasov at the Joint Meeting with SW at Over Stratton Village Hall
- 2nd Dec '17** – Skittles social evening, The Phelps Arms, Montacute (TBC)

2018

- 16th Jan '18** – Ken Basterfield (TBC) at East Coker Village Hall
- 20th Feb '18** – Lynne Ingram 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