



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

February 2018

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

**Next Meeting – Lynne Ingram talks about
"Managing Bees for Oil Seed Rape"
7:30pm Tuesday 20th February
at East Coker Village Hall**

Have your bees ever taken OSR honey? Then you will know that it sets very quickly in the comb and is therefore quite tricky to collect. And how do you prepare your bees for the crop? Do they get bad tempered on the OSR? Why bother taking your bees to the Rape? What is all the fuss about?

All these questions and more will be answered by Lynne. She has been keeping bees for over 30 years and currently runs about 30 colonies in five apiaries. She is a Master Beekeeper, a BBKA examiner and correspondence course tutor. Lynne is passionate about bees and loves being able to pass that passion on to other people.

So do not miss this opportunity to hear Lynne speaking and to find out what all the fuss is about for OSR!

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.

January Meeting:

Ken Basterfield came over from their nearby Blackberry Farm to pass on his tips and tricks that help him and his son, Dan, with their commercial beekeeping.

Between them they keep several hundred colonies and they have engineered their own solutions and techniques to make their beekeeping easier. Ken is a retired engineer and has taken this practical approach into his beekeeping. They keep their bees in Modified Commercial deep boxes. They use no queen excluders and solid floors. The honey is also collected in the same deep boxes so not only does the queen have full reign over the entire hive, so is no restrictions which reduces the tendency to swarm, and only one size of box is required.

A box full of honey can weigh up to 95lbs, so they have added an external horizontal bar to assist with lifting, which is a two man job. And they devised low stands and modified sack trucks to assist.

Their whole beekeeping practice is adapted around these practical hands-on adaptations. It is a wonderful practical beekeeping world! If only we had the courage to adapt in the same way! But they are both involved in the BBKA General Husbandry courses; so if you want more hints or enthusiasm sign up for one now!

A great practical look at beekeeping. **Nic**

December Christmas Social

Our December Christmas skittles and buffet was held in the Phelips Arms. This was a very sociable gettogether with a very generous buffet and a competitive game of skittles. The skittles was won by Andrew Cooke. Marvin Collins presented him with the Yeovil Beekeepers solid wooden carved skep.

A great night was had by all in spite of the low numbers.



Asian Hornet Meeting

We attended the Asian Hornet meeting on Saturday 20 January 2018 held in Devon. There are two papers attached, one from Martin Hocking, the beekeeper who found Asian hornet in Woolacombe in September 2017, and a paper explaining a lot about the Asian hornets found in the UK in 2016. We urge you to read these so that you can improve your knowledge of Asian hornet. The one thing that is certain is that there will be another siting in the UK in 2018 and the more knowledge we have the better prepared we can be to take the right actions if we are the ones who find it. There is lots of useful information on the BeeBase website about Asian hornet, as well as many other things. www.nationalbeeunit.com.

Not all black flying insects are Asian hornets but Asian hornets are very quick and agile, our honey bees are frightened of them and stop flying when there are Asian hornets in the area. Why not get a copy of the photos of Asian hornet from BeeBase or your copy of BBKA News, November 2016 and pin it inside the roof of one of your hives; it will remind you.

Sharon and Malcolm Blake (attachments: Asian Hornet paper, Asian hornets in my apiary)

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
SBKA Lecture Day	Saturday 17th February	Edgar Hall, Somerton	A full day of lectures. Get your tickets on-line through SBKA.
Divisional meeting	Tuesday 20th Feb	East Coker Village Hall	Lynne Ingram talks on preparing bees for OSR
SBKA AGM	12:00 to 17:00 Saturday 10th March	Wedmore Golf Club	County AGM preceded by a lunch and a talk by Dr Peter Kennedy on using radar to study the Asian Hornet
Divisional meeting	Tuesday 20th March	East Coker Village Hall	David Maslen talks on How to? (not in the book!)
Taunton Division Auction of Equipment	Sunday 25th March	Ruishton Village Hall TA3 5JD	Auction starts at 2pm
SBKA Special Lecture	Wednesday 25th April	Edgar Hall, Somerton TA11 6SB	Margaret Thomas NBD talks on Swarm Control for the Busy beekeeper
World Beekeeping Day	20th May	Worldwide	

Subscriptions for 2018 are Now Overdue

Subscriptions for 2018 are now overdue. The cost remains the same as last year, £32 for a full member, to include BDI cover for three colonies. This is £19 for BBKA, £5.50 for SBKA, £2 for BDI, £2 to the research fund and £3.50 for Yeovil Division. If you have more than three colonies you will need to add the following amount for BDI cover:

Total number of colonies up to 3	nil
up to 5	£2.00
up to 10	£5.25
up to 15	£7.75
up to 20	£9.50
up to 25	£11.10
up to 30	£13.60
up to 35	£16.10
up to 39	£18.10

The cost for Partner members is £23.50 and Associate members £6.

Any queries about this please phone Sharon Blake on 01460 242124

I will be at our February meeting and happy to collect subscriptions then. Note that the March meeting will be too late as I have to pay the subs to BBKA and BDI by 15 March. If you prefer, you can send your subscription to me by post before the end of February. Please make your cheque payable to "SBKA Yeovil Division" and send it to:

Mrs Sharon Blake, Stratton Court, Over Stratton, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5LQ.

The payment to BBKA and BDI has to be made on 15 March. So the February meeting is your last opportunity to give your subs to me. If you are not going to be at the February meeting can I ask you to post your subs to me please.

Sharon Blake Attachment: membership form

BBWear Discount Offer

BBWear are suppliers of quality clothing and equipment. They are offering a discount until the end of February for all fully paid up members.

More information is in the attached form. If you are interested in taking up this offer, please contact Sharon in the first instance.

BBWear website can be found here: <https://www.bbwear.co.uk/>

(Attachment: Association offer)

Chairman Carnegie

Hello Yeovil Beekeepers,

As most of you know I have to be away for some while so this is written two weeks in advance! I am so excited, because when I am back, I shall get back to teaching and into the apiary probably earlier than I think. My bees are flying and I'm very worried they are going to starve to death before there is any real pollen. You should all be thinking about fondant and the latest research says you should not feed ordinary fondant from the supermarket because it may contain eggs which are not good for bees. I have to say this is BBKA advice and they use the word apparently. I have used supermarket fondant for years with no ill effects.

In my teaching group there are 24 people which is a much larger number than before so we have had to move venue into Queen Camel into the Memorial Hall. I wish I could twiddle my nose and move this into Yeovil as they only charge £4 an hour. We are in the planning stage of making sure that all of them have mentors when they start to keep bees.

There is increasing pressure, as the years go by, to wonder why we do not have a Face Book page. Many other divisions do and people I have spoken to are mystified as to why we do not. However, last year one of the members, Claire Puckett, was primed to ask the beginner group if they fancied keeping in touch. By and large, only 50% were in favour of Face book and 50% on some other form of contact. In the end she has set up a Yahoo group page called Yeovil bees and I am a member of that group as well. Here we share news of what is going on amongst us. I'm going to target this beginner group also and see how they feel. Perhaps this should go on to the agenda the next time we have a committee meeting?

Other than that, there is not much news except I wish the Jet stream would go somewhere else and not annoy us quite so much. Currently it is 12° and I went down to the bees and it's lovely to see them flying. I just hope the Hazel doesn't make a mistake and come out so early that our bees don't get a chance to use it.

John Carnegie

Chairman

Best Wishes for a full Recovery for our Chairman

I am sure that most of you know that John has just undergone fairly major surgery and is now doing well on the recuperation path. I am sure that you will all join me to send your best wishes to him for a full recovery!

Our best wishes to you, John!

Wax Recycling into New Foundation

Do you have any rendered wax and would like it to be change into foundation? Malcolm Blake is attending the BBKA Spring Convention at Harper Adams University, Newport on 14 April 2018 and is willing to take your wax to the convention and return with new foundation ready for you to use as the beekeeping season gathers pace. The value obtained for old wax is far better this way than in exchanging it for other goods or for cash. Even better value is achieved if Malcolm takes more than 50lb of old wax to swap for foundation. The old wax must be clean and free from dross, dead bees, honey and general debris.

Many of our members have benefited from this service over the years; could it be you this year? Your wax and a completed wax-to-foundation order form (see attachment/enclosure) must be with Malcolm by Tuesday 10 April 2018. Any questions - contact Malcolm on 01460 242124 or email at sbeditor@yahoo.co.uk.

Malcolm Blake

Attachment: wax conv form

Latest Committee Meeting Summary

- Ilchester Pavilion will be scoped as a potential future venue for the YBKA Winter Meetings, and potentially for the future Beginners Course. Future Committee meetings will continue to be on a Tuesday evening as agreed.
- The Beginners course has had some tweaks (to dates, instructors and the venue) due to the recent news that our Chairman will spend some time in hospital. Relevant staff and individuals will be informed of updates by the Course stand-in which is Bill Paterson. The current course has circa 24 individuals !
- It is planned that the YBKA will show at the Yeovil Honey Show. A judge has been nominated and a separate sub-committee will organise the event.
- The 2018 Yearbook should be available for distribution, starting with the SBKA Lecture Day (17 Feb 18).
- The host of all future apiary meetings will decide alongside any guest speakers , the content of the talk. It is planned that a separate novices (from the Beginners course) could attend these meetings aside from the YBKA talk but would benefit from a more direct but separate introduction to the bees (at the same venue without disturbing the main talk at the host apiary).
- It was agreed that those requiring bees (such as from swarms) should make themselves be available to assist in any swarm collection. The points of contact on the existing SBKA website remains the first point of call and the swarm coordinator will organise. Obviously those wanting bees should have a suitable location and equipment to support the bees.
- The Division will obtain another virtual hive for the benefit of beginners and for various educational visits and shows alike.
- Next Committee meeting is 13 Mar 18 at the Airfield Tavern as usual.

Steve & Marie

Secretary

Lecture Day

Lecture Day is the annual County day of beekeeping talks. This year it is on Saturday 17th February and will be held in Somerton. Tickets are essential. They cost £5 including teas and coffee throughout the day, but bring your own lunch.

The full programme can be down-loaded from the SBKA web-site here:

<http://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/uploads/1/0/8/1/108127969/scan0001.jpg>

Tickets can now only be obtained on-line. So act quickly if you want to go!

A View on Chemicals in the Hive

Pete Winton, one of our new members presents this view on the use of the following chemicals:

Pyrethroids

This class of insecticides was developed in the 1960s and one of the main establishments involved was the Rothamsted Research site. These insecticides are based on a chemical found in chrysanthemums and is (unsurprisingly) called chrysanthemic acid, which is easily made both on an industrial scale and in the laboratory. Natural compounds containing chrysanthemic acid were found to have insecticidal properties and hence were of interest. By making many chemicals similar to chrysanthemic acid, one was found that was very effective against a range of insects, including mosquitoes. The leader of the group that discovered this compound was Michael Elliot and hence one of the first of these insecticides to be allowed to be marketed was called resmethrin - the resme bit is the initials for Rothamsted experimental station Michael Elliot. This class of compound was widely acknowledged as a breakthrough as it was able to replace DDT in the control of many insects.

As with everything, this type of insecticide was developed further and a "second generation" of pyrethroids soon became available. Two of these contain chemicals called cypermethrin and cyhalothrin - again easily made on the industrial scale. Both of these contain cyanide, and this is released in one of ways it degrades. This is obviously toxic hence both the insecticide and it's degradation products are bad news for bees.

Neonicotinoids

These became commercially available in the 1980's and are based on nicotine and can be thought of as affecting the nervous system in a similar way to the nicotine in tobacco. Their success led to a decline in the use of pyrethroids, but they are now suspected of having a wide range of undesirable side effects and, as you are well aware, under much scientific scrutiny. However there is also the added complication that insects are becoming resistant to them.

The problem going forward

As insects are becoming resistant to neonicotinoids and there is a moratorium on their use except in exceptional circumstances, the use of pyrethroids containing cyanide is back to - or exceeding - pre-neonicotinoid levels. There are also still a number of exemptions that allow neonicotinoids to be used. The good news is that neither pyrethroids nor neonicotinoids hang around long in the environment. I think this subject has a long way to go but all I hope is that scientists are given time to collect facts and the debate can be based on this.

Peter Winton

If you have any comments or discussion, please pass them to the newsletter editor or directly to Pete.

The Royal Bath * West Show - 30th May – 2nd June 2018

Once again it is the time to begin preparing for this Show, and again, helpers are needed to set up the stands and displays on Sunday 27th May, and stewards to help on the stands in the Marquee during the 4 days of the Show.

If you are interested in assisting in either setting up, or stewarding on Show days, or both, please contact Ken Tredgett on:- 01373 464736 or email: tredg@talktalk.net The rota for stewards is either a half day, morning from 9.00am to 1.30pm or afternoon from 1.00pm to 6.00pm or all day from 9.00am to 6.00pm.

Why not enjoy a good day out with half a day in the Bee & Honey Marquee and half the day visiting the Show with all it has to see and do. There is always a lot going on in the Marquee, and we always enjoy ourselves when "on duty". Plenty of tea and coffee available both during the set-up and the Show.

Krn Tredgett

SBKA AGM

The SBKA AGM will be held on Saturday 10th March. The meeting is preceded by a lunch which needs to be pre-booked. This is followed by a talk at 2:00 by Dr Peter Kennedy of Exeter University on using radar to study the Asian Hornet. The AGM will follow the talk. Full details of the meeting is on the SBKA web-site: <https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/members-news/sbka-2018-agm>

The meeting is at the Wedmore Golf Club, Lascot Hill, Wedmore, BS28 4QT.

2018 Honey Show

We are planning to stage another Grand Honey Show at the Yeovil Show again this year. Plans are underway and the Bernard Diaper has been invited to perform the honey judging. The date is 14th/15th July. Make sure you have this marked on your calendars.

So start getting your entries ready now! Don't wait until the last minute!

Two children charged with killing half a million bees

Two US school children, aged 12 & 13, have been accused of vandalising 50 hives and consequently, killing all the bees. A disaster for the bees as well as the beekeepers.

Read further here: <https://f7td5.app.goo.gl/R7MtCMdBd7C50Es13>

Delegate's Notes of the SBKA Council Meeting – 6 January 2018

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

Under the agenda item of the Executive Meeting Minutes, a number of topics were discussed:

- Direct posting of the yearbook was considered to be too expensive and the current system of distribution via Div Secs would continue. Div secs were urged to ensure that their members were given / sent their copy in a timely fashion.

- An article would be included in the Newsletter seeking members' views on the SBKA logo ie. whether it needed replacing, modernising or leaving it as it is.
- County Honey Show would continue being organised by Taunton Div until the end of the previously agreed 5-year term. Consideration would then be given to adding the show to the SBKA AGM, or some other arrangement.
- Div Secs were to be asked to remind their members to be vigilant this spring and to report sightings of Asian hornets.

Nominations and Propositions for the BBKA ADM. Our County Delegate to the BBKA ADM was given discretion on how to vote at the ADM bearing in mind the broad indications given him by the Council delegates and after listening to the debate at the ADM. It seemed to me that the Council delegates were of much the same mind as our Yeovil Committee concerning the propositions. It was accepted by all that the Somerset nominations of Anne Rowberry, for the BBKA Exec and Lynne Ingram, for the Examinations Board would be supported.

The Treasurer presented the accounts for last year for approval and they would now be presented at the SBKA AGM for approval.

Change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Permission would be sought at the SBKA AGM for Council to investigate this change to a CIO as it was apparent that there were advantages to making the change. The investigation would then be reported and the SBKA AGM 2019 would decide if the change would take place.

A considerable number of draft policies, as required by the Charity Commission, were presented by the Treasurer. Namely: Investment, Safeguarding, Risk Management, Volunteers, Complaints Handling and finally Bee Sting, Risk Assessment and First Aid. She requested that the drafts be distributed to the members for their information. She would welcome any comments direct and would be seeking adoption of them at the SBKA AGM.

At the SBKA AGM on 10 Mar 2018, the speaker would be the sponsored student from Exeter University about the Asian Hornet.

The nominations list for SBKA officers now has only one vacancy, that of vice chairman; any volunteers?

Lecture Day tickets are still available; have you bought yours yet?

Under AOB Wedmore and Cheddar Div was granted £431 towards the purchase of a projector and screen. As this was his last meeting as Secretary, Richard Bache was thanked for his contribution to SBKA in that role. Richard, subject to the AGM decision, will become our Education Officer.

Diary Dates. Lecture Day – 17 Feb 2018, SBKA AGM - 10 Mar 2018, Special Lecture – 25 Apr 2018.

Date of Future Council meetings. 12 May 2018 at Ash, 8 Sep 2018, 10 November 2018 and 5 Jan 2019.

Please request the minutes of this Council meeting from Malcolm for fuller details.

Malcolm Blake

Attachments: SBKA complaints, SBKA investments, SBKA assessment, SBKA Sting, first aid & risk, SBKA Conflict of interest, SBKA risk assessment, SBKA safeguarding policy, SBKA volunteer policy.

The Quiet Season

As our bees are very quiet at this time of year, it is the ideal time for the beekeeper to take advantage of this peaceful period before the spring build-up means that he has to spring into action again.

Many of our beekeepers are using this time to do some reading and improve their knowledge of the honey bees and beekeeping. This reading is supported by our Divisional Library and the BBKA exam system can also give an incentive and a study goal.

But all beekeepers do take advantage of this period of calm to prepare their equipment for the upcoming season. Bee suits repaired for unfortunate leaks, old brood boxes and supers are cleaned and prepared for the new year.

And not forgetting the smoker. These end up very black and clogged up, depending on what fuel has been used. A soak in warm water and a scrub is enough to shift most of this and finished off with a soak in washing soda to get rid of the propolis. I now have a lovely new-looking shiny smoker - and will be reluctant to fire it up the spring.....

Nic

Divisional officers

President	Nic Bard	01935 421623	Treasurer & membership secretary	Sharon Blake	01460 242124
Chairman	John Carnegie	01935 851234	Librarian	Jacqui Taylor	01963 220329
Vice-Chairman	Marvin Collins	01935 426153	Newsletter editor	Nic Bard Nic_bard@hotmail.com	07877 284545
Secretary	Steve & Marie Attrill	01935 475964	Mentor Liaison Officer	Vacant	
Divisional Web-Master	Toby Rutherford	tobyutherford@hotmail.com	County Delegates	Malcolm Blake Steve Attrill Andy Dobson	

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

2018

- 20th Feb '18 - Lynne Ingram at East Coker Village Hall
- 20st Mar '18 - David Maslen at East Coker Village Hall
- 21st April - Patrick Lehain leads apiary visit at John Carnegie's
- 19th May - Stuart Gould leads apiary visit at Marvin Collins' on swarming and swarm control.
- 16th June - Roger Patterson leads apiary visit at Andrew Cooke's
- 14th/15th July - The Yeovil Show and our Honey Show!
- 21st July - Ivor Davis leads apiary visit at Malcolm and Sharon's
- 18th August - Visit to Quantock Divisional Apiary
- 18th September - Richard Ball talks about Beekeeping in Malta
- 16th October - Jim Vivian-Griffiths talks about "Dancing Bees"
- 29th October - Joint meeting with SW Division
- 20th November - Divisional AGM
- 1st December - Division Christmas Social skittles evening

2019

- 15th January - Paddy Wallace from Quince Honey farm gives a talk
- 18th or 19th Feb - Lecture Day speaker
- 19th March - Pam Hunter gives a talk

April to August outside apiary meetings start at 2.30pm
Winter indoor meetings start at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated