



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

August 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 – Apiary Meeting
A tour of the Quantock Division Apiary
2:30pm Saturday 18th August
at The Quantock's Apiary nr Bridgwater

Quantocks is one of the most recent Divisions but one of the strongest. They have a dedicated apiary and are a very active group. We are invited to their apiary where they will discuss how the apiary was formed, developed and funded.

We will have a tour of the apiary with two activities:

- Queen finding / care and marking. Using drones to practice with so that all have a chance to have a go.
- Seasonal treatment and monitoring of Varroa.
- And maybe more

And of course, tea and biscuits. Please bring your own *clean* bee suits and join in.

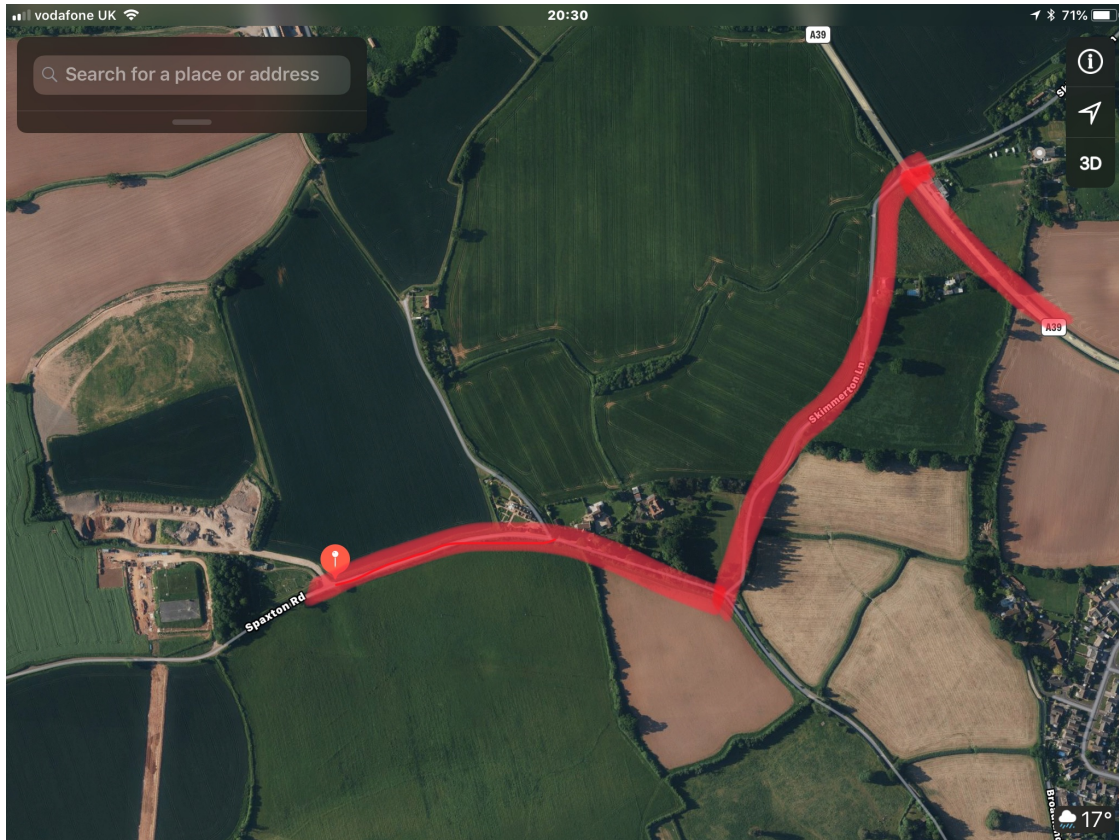
Directions

Take A39 out of Bridgwater towards Cannington on Quantock Rd. At the old petrol station (on the right), turn left down Skimmerton Lane. At the end turn right.. The Quantocks Apiary is down on the right.

There is no post code there but TA5 2NU is close by.

A google satellite map is on the next page to assist.

Map for the Quantocks Apiary



August Meeting: Ivor Davis at Nic Bard's Apiary

A very well attended (circa 20) members old and new attended Nic's Apiary in a lovely coppice in the grounds of Forde Abbey. The Guest speaker, Ivor Davis spoke wisely on his experiences and offered good advice regarding a multitude of subjects including; extracting techniques, removing the bees from the supers, Varroa control and general bee husbandry, to name but a few. New friends and fellow beekeepers (some in waiting) were introduced and one thing very apparent was that no matter what our experience (and number of bees under ones belt) we never stop learning. Nic did manage to get a quick sales-pitch regarding Ivor Davis's book which he wrote a few years ago, which is thoroughly recommended, by the way.

After some further words of wisdom, Marvin (our Vice Chairman) reminded us that no bee has ever read any book. It quickly became apparent and was a point made by Ivor that, we must all 'read the bees' and 'experiment with whatever works'. A key lesson point was that the bees have been looking after themselves for 20 odd million years without our 'assistance'. Ivor's delivery was methodical and deliberate and his 'hands-on' experience of working around 25 colonies (now reduced to 8 allowing him more time to actually enjoy his bees) was highly apparent.

The afternoon started grey and ended up hot and humid (a continuation of the current seasonal British Summer), fortuitously the bees remained perfectly calm and indifferent to the inspections and manipulations of their Supers; apart from one or two that took a great deal of interest and dislike to Neil who was assisting in the manipulations. Some of these Supers were extremely satisfactory (note some envy here) and it looks like Nic will have a very good Honey crop this year.

Ivor demonstrated and explained the use of the various 'one-way devices' (Porter and alike) and explained how they worked and other really useful tips associated with manipulating the hive. One colony's brood was inspected, which allowed everyone to view and comment on the bees; useful for the 'newbees' in attendance and another reminder that you simply cannot do better than 'hands-on' experience. Nic manipulated, saving Ivor from further backache, and all in all it was a useful reminder that 2 people help to remove a lot of the burden, especially relating to moving rather full supers. Hernias aside, it was concluded that a maximum of moving two (full) supers remain the limit for most able-bodied individuals.

The day concluded with more question/answers and a delightful spread of homemade cake, cordial and other refreshments (care of Jane, thank you !)

Of special note was that Ivor didn't charge the Division for his time and services this day; instead requesting that his fee be paid to a respectable bee charity –Thank You.

Steve Attrill



Nic's note: This is one of the very effective David Pearce Clearer boards. Placed on that afternoon and supers were clear of all but a handful of bees the next morning. (Note also the cheeky wasp investigating my hand...they are a real pest already this year.)

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Apiary Meeting	Saturday 18th August	Quantock Division Apiary	A visit to the Quantock Beekeepers Apiary
Melplash Show	Thursday 24th August	West Bay	The show hosts the West Devon Beekeepers Honey Show
BIBBA Conference	6th -9th September	Cirencester	Lectures for beginners, general beekeeping and advanced.
Divisional Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 18th September	Ilchester Pavilion	Richard Ball talks about Beekeeping in Malta
Somerton Honey Show	Saturday September 22nd	Long Sutton Village Hall	The Somerton Honey Show: 1pm to 5pm
Divisional Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 16th October	Ilchester Pavilion	Jim Vivian-Griffiths talks about Dancing Bees

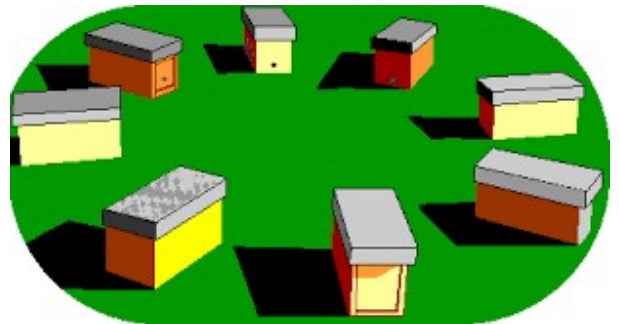
From Your Chairman

It has been a lovely year for beekeeping although rather hot inside a bee suit but I hope you had as fantastic a honey crop as I have had. In addition to this the bee hoover came into its own this year and is definitely something that has become very very useful. Thank you Derek for your innovative skills and the shelves came out well too and saved a lot of driving so thank you there again.

Yeovil Show came and went very quickly indeed and the footfall was much less than last year because of the hot weather and indeed candle rolling became quite a sticky business after a while but it made a change from having to have your wax on top of a hot water bottle as in previous years. I came second in the overall points but next year I shall come first! I do urge all of you to give it a go as it is jolly good fun but in my case proper planning preventing a pathetic performance did not come to fruition as it should have done. Ah well there's always next year!

I have a new apiary in North Barrow which is in the middle of another orchard and if the weather is good it would be a lovely place for a bee meeting in the future as there is abundant parking in the field as there is in Chilton Cantelo.

I had such dreams at the beginning of the year of Queen rearing as I did in the olden days along the lines of Vince Cook when one splits a huge colony up into 12 little nuclei all with their own Queen cells. I have made the double frame of beautiful little starter cells all made out of beeswax and glued on with beeswax too. I have a rather a dislike to plastic when I'm queen rearing. I even built the hive to do the Queen rearing and cleared enough space to make this come true but life can have an irritating way of consuming too much of one's time so this did not come to fruition. Ah well there's always next year!



I continue to strive to become better all the time and spend a lot of time wandering through Cushman's website which is a fount of all knowledge and is kept up to speed by Roger Patterson. If you want to know anything without having to buy a book then there's the place to go.

I am also looking forward to going to Toby Hawkey next year with all my rubbish hives with the rubbish frames and one by one we are going to put them on top of his shed roof and see if I have as much success as he had. To collect two swarms one after the other in this sort of box seems to prove the theory that bees do fly down magnetic lines when they are swarming. Time will tell and then again that's something to look forward to next year!

Happy Beekeeping!

John Carnegie, Chairman

Somerton Honey Show

Somerton hold their annual Honey Show on Saturday 22nd September. It is an afternoon event only and have additional attractions of craft stalls, artisan food as well as tea and drink stalls. It should be a nice afternoon visit,

And, of course, you could enter some of your produce as well. They have several open classes for honey, beeswax, cakes and photos. It is easy to enter and I have attached the schedule and entry for to your email.

Yeovil Honey Show Results:

After a successful warm and dry Honey Show, there will be a Show Special newsletter with some highlights. But here are the are the results of the show itself:

CLASS	DESCRIPTION	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
1	Light clear honey	Bill Paterson	---	John Carnegie
2	Medium clear honey	John Carnegie	Bill Paterson	Nic Bard
3	Dark clear honey	---	John Carnegie	Bill Paterson
4	Chunk honey	Nic Bard	---	Bill Paterson
5	Set honey	---	---	---
6	Soft set honey	Phil Hocking	John Carnegie	Bill Paterson
7	Honey for sale	John Carnegie	---	Bill Paterson
8	Novices clear honey	Phil Hocking	---	---
9	Novices set honey	Phil Hocking	---	---
10	Frame of honey for extraction	John Carnegie	Nic Bard	Bill Paterson
11	Cut comb	Nic Bard	---	---
12	Cake of beeswax	Nic Bard	John Carnegie	Bill Paterson
13	8 molded wax pieces	Nic Bard	Neil Cook	---
14	Mead	Bill Paterson	John Carnegie	Nic Bard
15	Honey Fruit Cake	Nic Bard	Bill Paterson	Jo Dawson
16	Honey crunch biscuits	Nic Bard	Jo Dawson	Bill Paterson
17	Bee photograph	Nic Bard	Neil Cook	---
18	Beeswax candles	Bill Paterson	John Carnegie	---
19	Children's folded card	Sophia, Lillia, & Elisia	Lillia	Sonny & Lilia / Aston & Sophia

Winner of the Yeovil Cup for most points gained: Nic Bard

Winner of the Yeovil Shield for second highest points gained: John Carnegie

Winner of the Novices Cup: Phil Hocking

Winner of the wax cup: Nic Bard

Photos of the winners and their trophies will be in the additional Honey Show Special.

Honey Extractor

Yeovil Beekeepers may borrow the Division's Honey Extractor, settling tank or Heated uncapping tray free of charge. To borrow the extractor or settling tank, please contact Bill Paterson on 07789 6930203 or patterson_32@sky.com in good time to arrange a loan.

The heated uncapping tray can be borrowed from Nic Bard on 07877 284545 (or just reply to this email).

BIBBA Conference

The BIBBA (Bee Improvement & Bee Breeders Association) Conference is on September 6th to 9th at Cirencester (not too far away!). They have a very comprehensive lecture programme so well worth a visit. They have sent us the following:

"Improve Your Bees and Beekeeping"

- Three simultaneous lectures, with seminars and workshops.
- Over 50 presentations from more than 30 presenters, many having over 30 years beekeeping experience, some well over 50, so they are telling participants what the bees have told them, not something straight out of books.
- Scientific and practical topics.

The three lecture streams are themed as follows:-

1. "Bee Improvement". Queen rearing, bee breeding, genetics, queen mating, mininucs and their management, overwintering queens, etc.
2. "General beekeeping". Management techniques, overwintering nucs, comb honey, marketing, bee communication, treatment free beekeeping, etc.
3. "Beginner and beyond". Forage and feeding, wintering, swarming, bee space, nutrition, mystery of mating, colony cycle, simple management techniques, colony health, etc.

If you are fairly new to beekeeping stream 3 is just for you.

Check the programme <https://bibba.com/event/bibba-conference-2018/>, tell your local beekeeping friends and why not fill a car for an enjoyable break where you can mix with beekeepers from other areas?

Booking is open, with early bird discounts. Don't miss it.

Asian Hornet Information

There is plenty of information out there about the Asian Hornet. Just click on the SBKA web-site link:

<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/>

The most recent suggestion is to just keep your eyes peeled in late August and September when the Hornet is at its busiest around honey bee colonies. Just stay for 5 or 10 minutes and see what is happening. Can you see any Hornets hawking the bees?

You will also notice that the home page of the SBKA site has links to all the latest BBKA and NBU news as well as a twitter feed. An excellent place to keep yourself up-to-date with all the latest beekeeping news! Access the link and try it now!

Honey Bees Trained to detect Cancer from Patients Breath

According to a Portuguese scientist Susana Soares, bees can be trained to sniff out cancer. And what's more, the bees can be taught in just 10 minutes.

Susana invented a two-chambered glass dome that uses bees to sniff out cancer.

"The glass objects have two enclosures: a smaller chamber that serves as the diagnostic space and a bigger chamber where previously trained bees are kept for the short period of time necessary for them to detect general health," she explains on her website.

"People exhale into the smaller chamber, and the bees rush into it if they detect on the breath the odor that they were trained to target."

Find out more by watching the video: https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/11/26/honey-bees-detect-cancer_n_4341927.html?guccounter=1

Honey Fruit Cake Recipe

The cake that Jane had baked for the Forde Abbey meeting was delicious. Barely a crumb was left!

The recipe for the cake is the same as for the Honey Show. So I have repeated it here. Bake one for your tea and savour the flavour! It will be practice for next year's show!

INGREDIENTS:

200g/7oz self-raising flour
 175g/6oz honey,
 110g/4oz butter
 175g/6oz sultanas
 2 medium eggs
 110g/4oz glacé cherries (halved).

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F /gas mark 4. Cream butter and honey together. Beat eggs well and add them alternately with sifted flour then fold in sultanas and cherries. A little milk may be added if necessary. Bake in a buttered circular tin, 7inch/18cm in diameter for approximately 1½ hours. Timing is for conventional ovens and is a guide only - Fan ovens may vary.

Divisional officers

President	Nic Bard	01460 221698	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	Neil Cook	neil.cook@noware.co.uk	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.

Full details of our calendar, meetings, news and past newsletters are in the SBKA web-site and can be reached here:

<https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/yeovil.html>

Yeovil 2017/18 Programme

2018

- 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
All indoor meetings next season will be in the Ilchester Pavilion

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