



YEOVIL BEE NEWS

July 2019

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
At Toffer Beattie's Apiary
2:30pm Saturday 13th July
Stuart Gould demonstrates
"Problem Solving"

We are invited to Toffer Beattie's apiary for a "Problem Solving" inspection of his bees. Like most of our beekeepers, including Stuart, our demonstrator, he has experienced a lot of swarming this year and ends up running out of equipment. So how do you deal with them? And what other problems do they present? (Apart from queen mating, laying workers and loss of swarms....) And more importantly, how do you come up with different ways of dealing with them. As we know, each year is different, so matter how long you have kept bees, each year will be a different challenge.

Stuart is a very experienced beekeeper and is very active in the Somerton and County organisations and is currently the SBKA vice-chairman. He has also had an "interesting" year with his bees having had a topsy turvey year with a multitude of different problems to solve. He will bring a wealth of problem solving ideas to the meeting and some solutions for all!

As always, beginners, novices and just interested friends are all welcome. Make sure you have clean protective garments and boots. We do have some veils for guests to borrow.

Any problems on the day, please contact Toby on 07956 178552

Directions to the apiary are on the following page:

Directions to Toffer Beatie's Apiary

The apiary is in front of The Chantry, East Coker, in a paddock on the east side of the Yeovil Road. If you are approaching from Yeovil you will pass Tellis Coss (on your left) soon after entering the village. Carry on. You will then pass the entrance to North Coker Manor on the right. The apiary is in the paddock with a very large beech tree on the opposite side of the road. The Chantry is the next house on the left, with its gable end to the road - it has a coat of arms engraved on that gable end. Please don't try to park in front of the Chantry - there isn't enough room. You can park on the west side of the main road further down from the Chantry (but not on the east side which is a footpath and shouldn't be blocked). Better still, carry on to the North Coker junction, turn left, and park on the road in front of the primary school. You'll have a short walk up the Yeovil Road.

If you put the post code BA22 9HS in a satnav, you will probably be taken to North Coker Manor. We are the other side of the main road.

Here is a link to google maps showing the location.

<https://goo.gl/maps/3yCHmaxtRnNckkzh7>

June Cider Brandy Visit

On a rather gloomy day, we visited the Somerset Cider Brandy Company in Kingsbury Episcopi. We received a warm (alcoholic) welcome which dispelled the outside gloom. Julian Temperley related the story of their apple orchards, how they have expanded from the original small scale, using only standard trees and no chemicals resulting in a wide range of organic cider apples. Different varieties have different qualities and each type of cider will have a different mixture of varieties to give them their unique characteristics.

Each of these ciders will then be distilled to produce the brandies. Their stills, Josephine and Fifi, are all traditional old stills which can still produce excellent spirits. These spirits are then matured in specially selected oak barrels for a period of time. This is a slow process and can be ready in 3 years but tastes better if matured for up to 20 years. This storage of course requires a lot of storage space and barrels.

We were shown round the bonded stores used for storage, sampling the different varieties and maturities along the way.

After the distillery tour, we were shown round the amazing orchards by Matilda Temperley. We roamed through the orchards while Matilda pointed out the



different varieties, seeing the trees at different ages and stages with sheep grazing below them (with some making an escape...!)

We finished with the opportunity to purchase some of the warming nectar and a round of thanks that we had a better day than bees!

Nic

Swarms

Last year there were very few swarms and we were not able to supply all our beginners with a starter bundle. This year is definitely a swarming year with swarming starting at the beginning of April and still appearing in July. All our beginners needs should have been satisfied this year!

I will not be updating the swarm lists again this year, but please give me feedback about what worked or didn't work and any improvements we can make for next year.

Nic

Coming soon ...

Event	When	Where	Details
Apiary meeting	Saturday 13th July	Toffer Beattie's Apiary	Stuart Gould demonstrates
Yeovil Committee Meeting	Tuesday 16th July	Airfield Tavern	Regular committee meeting
County Honey Show	2nd & 3rd August	Vivary Park, Taunton	All members are invited to enter their produce
Apiary meeting	Saturday 17th August	Marvin Collin's Apiary	Simon Jones demonstrating
Central Division Honey Show	Sunday 18th August	Mid Somerset Showground, Shepton Mallet	Mid Somerset Show: there are open classes for you to exhibit your produce
Indoor Meeting	Tuesday 17th September	Ilchester Pavilion	Andy Willis talks about "The Bee's Eye View of Beekeeping"

Chairman's Message

"Strange things are happening with Queens" and those were the words from Roger Patterson and that has certainly has been the case this year with me. I have a hive which has lots and lots of bees and no eggs and so no Queen so you put frame with eggs in. And then the bees make no effort to pull out Queen Cells. But we take the rough with the smooth in life anyway and it makes things interesting. But it is devastating for those of you with a very small number of hives as your options are limited.

Is it me or am I mad? I step out of my door and the Lime tree is in full flower and the noise coming from it is absolutely unbelievable in this fine June /July weather and I can see all the honeybees having a fine time. But should the blackberries be in flower also at this time of year. I seem to think they used to flower later. But as I walk my dogs around the fields the flowers are plastered with honeybees and I have always wanted the red tinted honey from blackberries.

**John Carnegie,
Chairman**

Mentor Liaison

Hello from your new Mentor Liaison Officer!

Having taken up the role in mid-May, I'd like to thank all the novice beekeepers who have contacted me so far for their patience during the process of identifying suitable local mentors. I'd also like to thank the mentors who have generously and cheerfully volunteered their time to help their fellow beekeepers, whether via telephone and/or making apiary visits. I will be contacting all the novices and mentors who have been involved during September to see how things have gone from both perspectives. I have received a number of comments which I will be taking forward to the next Committee meeting so that we can collectively refine how the mentoring process works.

As well as being new to the Committee, I am also myself a very new beekeeper! It has been interesting to hear of all the different types of hives that novices are using, and mine is a Warre hive that I made myself. The Warre system uses top bars and so is monitored and managed a bit differently from the more commonly used frame hives. My particular interest is in keeping bees from a conservation perspective, with honey as a (not guaranteed) bonus should a surplus occur. I received my first bees in mid-May in the form of a very large swarm, kindly collected by one of the Divisional swarm collectors, who helped me run it into my hive. One monitoring technique I've been trying is using an endoscopic camera to take photographs and videos of the bees in action inside the hive. What I wasn't expecting from beekeeping is what an amazing and deeply fascinating experience it has been so far, which must explain why people get addicted!

Claire



Swarm running into my Warre hive

Asian Hornets

On 3 July 2019, the first UK sighting of an Asian hornet of the year was confirmed in New Milton, Hampshire. It was spotted by a member of the public and reported via the Asian Hornet Watch App. This was the first confirmed sighting since October 2018.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-uk-sightings-in-2018?utm_source=6d813b76-8e9a-4e9f-a096-0aab6ccb1392&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Another Hornet

This one was found on the floor in my garage. Not an invasive species, but ENORMOUSE!

Last year the garage was the haunt of thousands (I do not exaggerate) of wasps. This year an unfortunate early fatality.

The scale in the photo is in cms , **not** inches (thank goodness!)



Delegate's Notes of the SBKA Council Meeting – 11 May 2019

I attended this meeting as your delegate. Stewart Gould (SBKA Vice Chairman) chaired the meeting.

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

- The policy for direct mailing from County to all members was agreed.
- There is still the need for someone to take-over the post of SBKA Treasurer in 2020; any volunteers?
- It was agreed to provide the ability to make donations to SBKA via the website.
- The EFB compensation policy, that was approved at the January 2019 council meeting, is now available on the website.

Although £2,500 had been spent on Asia Hornet Action Team work it was agreed that a further £5,000 would be allocated in case it is needed.

Our Division is hosting the SBKA AGM in 2020. The event will take place at Frogmary Green Farm, South Petherton on 28 March 2020. The speaker will be Lynfa Davies, a Master Beekeeper, from West Wales.

Andy Dobson and Sharon Blake were thanked for their help with the raffle at this year's Lecture Day and Special Lecture. Lecture Day 2020 will be on 15 February 2020. Please include this in your diary!

For further information concerning this meeting (and previous meetings) please refer to the SBKA website.

Date of Future Council meetings. 14 Sep 19, 9 Nov 19 and 4 Jan 20.

Malcolm Blake

Divisional Logo Polo Shirts

As introduced last year, we have organised some high quality green polo shirts with the WBC logo.

This is stylishly modelled by yours truly and the stitched logo is shown in detail.

These shirts are very reasonably priced at only £16. You need to select your size and get in touch with Billl Patterson on 07789693203 or by email on : patterson_32@sky.com.



Honey Extractor

Yeovil Beekeepers Members may borrow the Division's Honey Extractor, settling tank or Heated uncapping tray free of charge. To borrow the 9-frame radial extractor or the settling tank, please contact Bill Patterson on 07789 693 203 or patterson_32@sky.com in good time to arrange a loan. It comes with comprehensive instructions as well as advice!

The heated uncapping tray can similarly be borrowed from Nic Bard on 07877 284545 (or just reply to this email). The uncapping tray can be used for melting down honey which is set in the comb.

Nassenheider Evaporators

Would you like some Nassenheider Evaporators or some Smith Frames.

For those unfamiliar with the evaporators, they are a very useful Varroa Mite exterminator. They use Formic Acid to kill all the mites in the colony, including in the sealed brood. The technique is to fix the evaporator into a brood frame. Then fill the chamber with formic acid and place in the centre of the brood nest. The advantage of this evaporator is that it can very effectively be used when there is sealed brood and only takes about 7 days. The only tricky part is handling the formic acid and the risk of damaging the queen.

Margaret O'Neill has inherited several of these and some Smith Frames that used to hold them.

If you are interested, please contact Margaret on : 01935 471 890.

More information on using the evaporators is on the Dave Cushman web-site:

<http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/nassenheider.html>

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	Neil Cook	07747 012545	Newsletter editor	Nic Bard	07877 284545
Secretary	Steve & Marie Attrill	01935 475964	Mentor Liaison Officer	Claire Puckett	07887 856680
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 2019/20 Programme

2019

- 13th July** - **Apiary Meeting at Toffer Beattie's Apiary; Stuart Gould demonstrating**
- 17 August** - **Apiary Meeting at Marvin Collin's Apiary; Simon Jones demonstrating**
- 17th September** - **Andy Willis talks about "The Bee's Eye View of Beekeeping"**
- 15th October** - **Michael Keith Lucas gives a talk**
- 29th October** - **Joint meeting with SW division at Over Stratton - Andrew Durham talks about "The French Experience" with the Asian Hornet**
- 19th November** - **Divisional AGM and Honey Show**
- 3rd December** - **Christmas social evening**

April to August outside apiary meetings start at 2.30pm

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

Unless otherwise stated, all indoor meetings next season will be in the Ilchester Pavilion.

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