



Newsletter September 2022

Committee members:

Tina Harley (President), Lionel Horler (Chair), Ken Jeanes (Vice Chair),
Richard Harris (Treasurer), Anne Collyer (Secretary), Jane Jeanes (SBKA Delegate),
Tony Johnstone (Programme Secretary), Jeremy Lee (Apiary Manager), Guy Clothier, Adam Morka,
Dennis White and John Wood

Welcome to our September Newsletter. This year has gone so quickly but I hope that you have all had a good summer and your bees are behaving themselves. We are looking forward to our Honey Show in October and please see details enclosed. As ever, volunteers are required so please let Tony know if you can help in anyway.

After three years of excellent service our treasurer, Richard Harris, has decided to hang up his calculator and retire after the AGM in November. He has worked tirelessly for the division but now we need to find a replacement. If you would like to consider joining the committee and taking on this role, please see details later in the newsletter and if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

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Lionel's September Bee Notes

For further information please contact Lionel: email lhorler934@talktalk.net

August is usually the month for the main honey harvest, although I have already taken some in early July as we had completely run out at home. This month we extracted more than we have ever had, I think it must be the continual sunshine from daylight to dusk. There has to be at least one good thing to be had from this climate change. Not only is the honey more plentiful but it seems clearer and thicker, not crystallising but as if this nectar is more concentrated. My honey refractometer measured it at 16% water.



We have now extracted the honey from the Hook Valley apiary, again a good crop especially as we had taken several splits from the original hives. Our problem came as quite a few frames had oil seed rape nectar which had crystallised and would not spin out but instead the wax broke out of the frames and went on to block the outlet of the spinner.

I have to report that the day was set up as an instruction day for this year's beginners but we only attracted two helpers. The day was kindly hosted again by Rachel Case who puts up with us and the mess we make as well as working hard with the extracting. Thank you, Rachel. I will have to reconsider if it is worth putting these things on if they are not needed.

Every month I find something new with the bees, I will relate this month's saga.

In July I collected a very nice swarm from a neighbour's garden and hived it easily. They seemed to be happy going in and out so I left them two weeks before looking inside. I found lots of bees but no larvae so I thought the Queen must have been damaged in transit. I decided the best thing was to combine these bees with a small colony next to them using the newspaper method. When I had finished, I lifted the floor to take it away and saw beneath the queen and brood in a lot of wild comb so I put it all back together again and put the wild comb into a super above the brood chamber which was full of bees and stores. I hope they will sort themselves out.

2022 Events programme

Hello everybody

Thank you to everybody who has hosted and supported this year events and I hope you have found them interesting and informative. I am starting to think about next year now and would appreciate any comments and suggestions on what to include.

2022 Honey show-

Friday 21st October- 17.00hrs to 20.00hrs Saturday 22nd October- 8.00hrs to 16.00hrs

We are rapidly approaching, what is, our year's premier event. Attached is a spreadsheet detailing where we need help and volunteers on these days, even just for a few hours.

Theresa Hallett has kindly agreed to manage the Coffee Shop/Cake Stall and will need a team of members from whom she can organise a rota throughout the day. Last year you kindly donated a whole range of cakes so please will you do so again this year. The monies raised from this effort go a long way to covering the day's costs.

Please let me know when and how you can help.

Sunday 11th September Yarlinton Fair, Yarlinton House, BA9 8DY 9.30am set up until 4.30pm

This a popular event in the grounds of a lovely house where again, we will be taking our gazebo along to promote beekeeping and to sell our honey. Please let me know if you wish to sell honey. **Volunteers needed please**, half or all day, beginners welcome. We can only attend these events with members help it takes 4 people to set up and to pack up. Please contact me on my email below.

Tuesday 13th September 7.30 pm At The Market House Castle Cary

A Talk And Demonstration by Suzy Perkins- National Honey Judge

All you need to know on how to handle, store and sell your honey and how to prepare and present honey for Honey Shows and what the judge will look for. So, lots of entries in our Honey Show please!!

Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd October Our Annual Honey Show

At The Market House Castle Cary Please see above

Our Division's AGM Thursday 17th November @ 7.00pm At The Market House Castle Cary

Agenda and last year's minutes will be published in due course

Followed By- A short talk by Geoff Blay

For further Information and to Volunteer Please Contact Tony Johnstone tmj67@hotmail.co.uk, 7973341557

Southeast Division Honey Show 2022 Helpers List

Overall Show Steward **Tony Johnstone** tmj67@hotmail.co.uk **07973341557**

Task	Lead Person	Helper(s)	Notes
<u>Friday 21st October</u>			
Set Up	Volunteers Please		17.00hrs to 20.00hrs
Registration	Carol Seymour	Simone Ash Barnard	
<u>Saturday 22nd October</u>			
Judges	Honey Judge	Suzy Perkins	From 08.00hrs
	Children's Classes	Tina Harley	
	Cakes & Preserves	Chrissie Stone & Bridgit Cleeves	
Judges Runner	Pat Coleman		
Results Compilation	Carol Seymour	Pat Coleman	
Coffee Bar/Cake Stall	Theresa Hallett	Volunteers For Rota Please	09.00 to 15.00hrs
Honey Sales	Ken Jeans	Volunteers Please	
Skep Making	Guy Clothier		
Beekeeping And Membership Information	Lionel Horler		
Stewards	Volunteers Please	10.00hrs to 12.30hrs	To answer Questions And
		12.30hrs to End	Protect Exhibits
Clear Up	Everybody		From 15.00hrs

Situations Vacant:

Honorary Treasurer for SESBKA

The role of the SESBKA Hon Treasurer is to manage the Division's income and expenditure in order to help ensure the Association's continued viability, providing advice and recommendations to the Chairman and committee.

All aspects of the Division's finances are computerised, but maintained in as simple a way as possible; thus, moderate computer literacy only is required.

If you would like to know more then please contact Anne Collyer (Divisional Secretary)

News from the Apiary

Jeremy Lee, Apiary Manager

Well, I am sure you are all a bit fed up with the current wasp situation. I have never experienced anything like it and have been stung by wasps more times just today (3 in total) than all my years of beekeeping. My colonies are under siege! Although strong enough to keep them out, it must be pretty wearing to stand guard and repel them all day.



Luckily, the apiary doesn't have such a problem and all the wasps seem to be in the hut and not around the hives - probably aided by an open packet of fondant they discovered a few weeks ago. Every colony is doing well and we (well Lionel did the hard work) managed to extract seven supers of honey from them, leaving a full super of honey on each. Considering we had a 'standing start' and made splits from four of the colonies, it shows what a great summer they have had and just how much forage there is around there. Unlike my colonies at home who after the OSR has finished flowering, like a boy band, seem to want to split up all the time.

The two late splits that didn't manage to re-queen first time have now caught up. One is in a poly nuc for the winter and the other has just been transferred into Brian's peppermint green honey machine!! With the help of James Butt, Brian has erected a modified National using thermal blocks. Painted peppermint green, Brian has 'high' hopes and expects that will be visible from the A303 when it's 10 supers tall next August.

P.S. Dougal has taken up Hedgehog hunting at home rather than beekeeping. We are lucky to have two that have made our garden their home (discovered by his nibs) and are putting up well with being cajoled and barked at when they come to feed at night.

Chocolate and Honey Biscuit Cake

(No oven required!)

100gm Margarine
2 tbsp honey
225gm digestive biscuits, crushed
2 tbsp cocoa powder
50gm caster sugar



50gm mini marshmallows (optional)

Melt the margarine with the honey in a saucepan. Mix together the biscuit crumbs, sugar, cocoa powder and mini marshmallows. Mix the dry ingredients into the melted margarine and honey. Put into a greased 22.5cm (9inch) round or square tin. Smooth the mixture so that it is level and leave to set.



at Yarlington House (BA9 8DY)
by kind invitation of Count and Countess Charles de Salis

Sunday 11th September

10.30am to 4pm, adults £5, children free

search Facebook for **Yarlington Village Somerset**
[www.facebook.com/Yarlington-Village-Somerset-100278615532856]
or ring either Jane (01963 440660) or Hilary (01963 440999)

In aid of Yarlington Village Hall



all included in the cost of entrance:

- the beautiful gardens of Yarlington House
- Heavy Horses
- circus skills workshop
- cart rides
- art workshop
- craft demonstrations
- the Dog Show 1.30-3pm
- the Yarlington Mile 2.30pm
- hawk flying display 3pm
- live music throughout with the John Limes Blues Trio

plus:

- local produce, all day refreshments, lunches, bar tent
- raffle
- and a huge range of stalls providing Christmas present opportunities galore

cash preferred, cards accepted - dogs on leads please