

COMMITTEE CHANGES

David Bancalari has resigned from your Management Committee and so we have lost a very valuable resource in the communications field. David has done tremendous work for your Association over the past years and we thank him most sincerely for all of this and wish him well in the future.

Joining the Committee is **Sally Brown** recently returned from living in France. Sally has very kindly taken over the task of **Membership Secretary** and you will be hearing from her in the near future when your 2012 membership subscriptions become due. She will also be helping with the distribution of our Newsletters from time to time. Contact details will be on the web-site soon.

Debra McGowan has agreed to take on the job of '**Buddy Coordinator**' No, this is not what some of you might immediately think!! We are hoping to start a more formal system of Bee Buddies, where members who have some experience and the desire to impart this are paired with new beekeepers to provide support and advice. The details of this have yet to be worked out, but anyone who would like to become a Bee Buddy is asked to contact Debra on 01553 773467

Barry Thrower will be taking over the primary responsibility for the Apiary at Blackborough End from **Brian Gemmel**. Brian has done sterling work in the setting up and the maintenance of the Association Apiary over these last years and we thank him for all that he has done. He will still be around to lend his professional support to those who help with the running of the Apiary and the related training work.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In early November we had a 'work day' at the Blackborough End Apiary. I have to say an enormous 'thank you' to the nearly 20 people who came and gave a couple of hours of their valuable weekend time to help us sort out and clean up the hives and much of the spare equipment which the Association has. The participants ranged from the 8 year old Ben to the rather more elderly members but all got stuck in to some very messy jobs with great enthusiasm! The weather was rather 'iffy' but the rain held off and a lot got done. We will probably hold another one in the early Spring to get lots of frames made up and supers put together.

At a recent committee meeting, we took a decision to upgrade some of the Apiary equipment so that we can provide a first class training service to members at all levels. This resulted in a number of us demonstrating our sharp elbows at the recent Thorne sale and we now have a lot of items which need to be assembled before the productive part of the beekeeping year comes round.

The Federation Year Book is currently in course of production by our good friends in the Norfolk BKA. Once members have sent in their new application or renewal information and payment, the Year Book together with next year's programme of events and BDI Certificates will be sent out to all registrants.

BEE INSPECTORS UPDATE

Following is the Autumn Report from Keith Morgan. If you have any queries please contact Keith directly



National Bee Unit Eastern Region Associations. Autumn Update

Autumn 2011.

Inspection Work:

The following Inspections have been carried out in Eastern Region for the Beekeeping Season 2011

Activity	2010	2011
Apiaries Inspected	1653	1596
Colonies Inspected	7658	7883
Beekeepers Visited	1059	988

Current known Beekeepers within Region: 4441- (673 New Beekeepers have been identified in Eastern Region since spring 2011 361 self registered]

Further surveys of Beekeepers will take place this autumn to continue the updating of regional records, which was commenced in 2005 and is now on-going each winter.

Foulbrood:

Disease	Colonies 2010	Colonies 2011
European Foulbrood	96	152
American Foulbrood	6	3

Incidences of European Foulbrood for the 2011 season are up again on the 2010 season and have been found in apiaries away from our usual problem spots.

We have also this year had to deal with nucleus suppliers, nationally, that it has transpired have on occasion supplied stocks which on inspection have been found with Foul Brood. This has involved the tracing of some 800 beekeepers / 1000 Nucleus Colonies across all Regions - work which will continue next Season. The real worry is that these colonies go to beginners, then, in some cases are lost in the winter, becoming a source of disease in areas previously not at risk

On this note I will ask all beginners who lose any colonies this winter to seal them up and if they suspect disease or have bought the bees from a nuc supplier and not sourced them locally to contact myself or in season your local bee inspector

2011 County Totals for Notifiable Disease:

County	EFB Colonies	EFB Apiaries	AFB Colonies	AFB Apiaries

Norfolk	76	29	0	0
Suffolk	35	15	0	0
Herts	0	0	0	0
Cambs	1	1	0	0
Essex	12	6	0	0
Beds	0	0	0	0
Lincs	28	13	0	0
Leics		1	3	1
Rutland	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	152	65	3	1

2011 EFB 'League Table'

Norfolk - 76 Cases

Hampshire 56 cases

Kent 55 cases

Devon 46 cases

West Sussex 43

Exotic Pest Surveillance:

Eastern Region has a higher risk status than most with its concentration of Ports and Military Bases, linked to other risks such as Imported Wax Refiners and Wholesale Fruit Merchants.

No Exotic Pests have been found and further surveillance work and liaison with Risk Premises will continue next season.

Samples of floor debris were also collected from various Apiaries around the Region for analysis at the National Bee Unit for Exotic Pests - all were negative.

Exotic Pest Surveillance	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011
Eastern Region Apiaries Visited	110	164	161

Import Inspections:

Import Inspections of full colonies and also Queens from within the EU have been carried out this year. These constitute either full colony inspections, or inspection of Import Health Certificates which accompany the bees. Within Eastern Region this constituted 11 Import Inspections of which most have been completed, with some paper checks being completed at the moment. It was on one of these import inspections we found EFB in a nuc supplier

Random Apiary Survey:

RAS inspections in the region from 1st June 2009 to present time are 739 apiaries and 4480 apiaries country wide. Some results from Year One are already shown on Beebase and for Year 2 will start coming in this autumn and will also be available to be accessed on Bee Base.

Colony Losses:

Regionally greater emphasis has been placed upon recording cases of loss since 2005 - which is one of the reasons why the numbers are seen to rise in some Counties.

During the first three months of the year most reported losses were visited and inspected within this region, with dead colonies being inspected, and samples being taken from some.

One overriding theme was losses due to Varroa as a result of incorrect timing of treatments or use of products to which varroa are resistant with the related virus build-ups, and also the incidence of *Nosema Ceranae*.

The combination of varroa related viruses and *Nosema Ceranae* is still not fully understood - what is apparent from site visits we have made is that it is certainly a silent killer and again brings home the need for more regular control of varroa rather than the one hit per year approach, and also the need to examine stocks (or a representative sample of them) for *Nosema*. Current guidance is to only treat for *Nosema* if it is known to be present, rather than blanket treatment with Fumigillin products.

I would ask all beekeepers and bee farmers to please report any losses of any colony even if the cause is known to me on the telephone number or e-mail address shown below, only by building up this sort of baseline data can we have the information to hand for future questions which may be asked about the losses of our colonies. Please remember that the information you provide is confidential

Telephone Contacts for Inspector:

Eastern Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan:

01485 520838 - keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Mobile: 07919 004215