



Next Event

Website : www.wnklba.co.uk

**Visit to
Thornes
Beekeeping
Supplies
and Factory**

Saturday. 19th March 11a.m.

Visit to Thornes Bee Supplies Factory

Beehive Business Park, Rand, Nr Wragby, Market Rasen, LN8 5NJ.

(about two miles west of Wragby - follow signs for Rand off the A158).



Call Stuart Grant on 01485 570040 if you would like to go. Stuart is organising car-shares so if you don't want to drive you may well be able to get a lift with another member. You are welcome to bring friends and family. We will aim to leave King's Lynn around 9 a.m.

"It's hard to explain but I have yet to show anyone round who is not either open mouthed or saying wow." Gill Smith of Thornes.

Gill Smith, manager of Thornes, who is arranging our tour, has offered an insight...

"Our factory will be running so we can show you the place working. On Saturday we don't have a full staff but a fair number. I'm not sure about the wax plant but I will try to get one or two of them in. However, the wood workshop should be finished and working at full capacity by then - except for a few new machines that we are making ourselves. The guys who make the smokers should be in. Also some of the engineers who make the extractors etc will be at work. The sewing girls are unlikely to be in but you can see where they work. We'd split you up into two groups so Paul and I can each do a more personal tour. The timber yard is pretty impressive and the dust extraction system is massive. I believe it's one of the biggest in the country. The sawdust is fed through into a Biomass boiler which heats the factory."



The sewing girls are unlikely to be in but you can see where they work. We'd split you up into two groups so Paul and I can each do a more personal tour. The timber yard is pretty impressive and the dust extraction system is massive. I believe it's one of the biggest in the country. The sawdust is fed through into a Biomass boiler which heats the factory."

Contact US



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We are a member of eBees, the electronic newsletter exchange for Beekeeping Associations

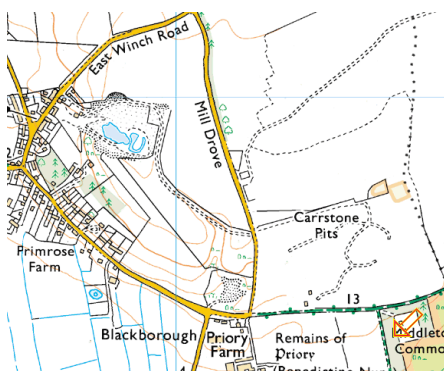


A date for
your
diary....

Hive Opening day at the Association Apiary



**Saturday. 2nd April 2.00pm "Hive Opening Day" at
Association Training Apiary, Priory Farm, Blackborough End
PE32 1SQ [Map](#)**



The apiary is off the A47, 5 miles from K.Lynn

From Kings Lynn, drive along the A47 to Middleton, then turn right to Blackborough End and through toward Wormegay. At Priory Farm, carry straight on down track and turn right at the woods

From Norwich/Swaffham, drive along the A47 through East Winch, then left into East Winch Road ("signed "Waste Disposal Tip") and left into Mill Drove. At the bottom turn sharp left into Priory Farm and then right at

woods.

Please remember to bring your bee suit if you have one. There are a few spare ones at the apiary if not.

This is a practical demonstration of things you should be looking for in your honeybee colony. It will also discuss the problems that may occur in spring and how to deal with them. A must for newer beekeepers !

Event contact : Brian Gemmell on 01945 880837

Notes from the AGM



This year's AGM, overseen by our President Don Cooper, now well past 50 years a beekeeper, saw one or two changes in the group who help make your association such a lively group of enthusiasts. Sara Kedge has many personal commitments that have taken over her time and has had to step down, as has Chris Snell our Treasurer. The received fulsome thanks at the meeting for their hard work and commitment. Secretarial duties have been passed to Kay Marshall, who's husband Alan also joined the committee, having represented us at the recent BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting at Stoneleigh. Treasurer's duties have been taken on by Pat Duhig, who acts as treasurer for several associations, in addition to his work as Swarm Coordinator. For Education, Terry will still present some courses, with Jill Tinsey, John Woodford and Judy Heal presenting others, and Kate Sayer taking on a coordination role. In addition, Debra McGowan has joined the committee. We'll publish some photos in future editions so that you can recognise everyone at meetings!

Several members took BBKA exams and we are happy to report a 100% success rate. Success in the BBKA Basic exam for Joe Callaghan, Terry and Mike Sealey, Ian Sherwood and Barry Thrower. Jill Tinsey passed the Microscopy exam to represent further success for the very active Icen Microscopy Group. Terry Gibson passed another Module and last, but not least, Don Cooper passed the Advance Husbandry Exam. Well done to you all. If you have not already taken the Basic, how about it this year?



Advertising



Bees for sale



Hive for sale



At the AGM we had a discussion about the responsible buying and selling of bees and equipment....

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Beekeepers Association carries the following advertisements for Beekeeping and related products. The Association makes no representation, expressed or implied, as to the suitability of any such products and accept no liability for any bees, combs or related products supplied as a result of any such advertisement.

Personal adverts are free, trade adverts are subject to a minimum charge of £15. The decision of the editor is final with respect to prominence, content and size of advertisement. All advertisers must ensure that any equipment which they sell is cleaned according to NBU standards and bees free of Notifiable disease. Sellers must retain appropriate records of all sales to ensure complete traceability to Bee inspectors' enquiries.

Hives and Bees for Sale

Long-time member Gordon Elsegood is cutting down a bit. He has for sale several full colonies of bees, both National and WBC. And also has several 6-frame nuc boxes for sale. He can be contacted on 01945 880791

36 Charlemont Drive, Manea, MARCH, PE15 0GA, 01354 688245

I am writing to let you know that I have some items for sale and would be obliged if you would let your members know. I would be glad to donate 5% of any sales I make to your beekeeping club. Should the club wish to make a group purchase, I would be happy to negotiate terms. Please ensure that your members mention your association when they contact me so that your group can benefit. These items are all new and I have several of each kind. Everything is made to British Standard plans.

Enquirers should telephone to see what I have available, and I am happy for visitors to come to look at the hives. They are all made from selected red deal and have had a coat of cedar-coloured Cuprinol.

National Nucleus hive (assembled) with five unwaxed frames—£45 or Commercial Nucleus hive (assembled) with five unwaxed frames—£50. I can also supply 14 x 12 Nucleus hives (assembled) with five unwaxed frames at £50.

National Hive (ready assembled) consisting of floor, brood body, 11 frames, excluder, super with a further 11 frames, crown board and roof - £140.

As above but with an extra super and set of frames - £175.

Commercial Hive (ready assembled) consisting of floor, brood body, unwaxed frames, crown board and roof - £150

As above but with two National Supers with unwaxed frames - £200.

Commercial Hives are relatively more expensive than nationals because of the extra work that goes into the specialised way of making the design.

I do sell some of the hives on eBay and have 100% positive feedback and many satisfied customers! We use UPS for delivery—one nucleus hive costs £8.50 at the moment, and two cost £10.50. We can get quotations for heavier items, and are very pleased with the service UPS provide—items are typically delivered within 1-2 working days of being collected from us.

Yours sincerely

Sarah and Roy Eastol



**A message
from regional
Bee Inspector,
and WNKLBA
member,
Keith Morgan**



As I sit here writing my second article, the bees are still stuck in their hives, in what is proving to be a long and cold winter, this brings me onto the subject of feeding or in the case of several beekeepers lack of feeding in the Autumn. All the hives I have been out to, that have been reported dead have starved due to the beekeepers feeding too little in the Autumn, when asked how much food they fed it was pints not gallons, perhaps it is a lesson for the teachers out there to emphasise in their training sessions the importance of feeding between 3 and 4 gallons of syrup in the Autumn and then to check and see if they feel they have sufficient stores to get them through a long winter

Small stocks can be helped by removing some of the outside combs and the bees placed up one end of the brood chamber, between some full combs of stores and a division board, and then a block of fondant placed on top covered in a sack, eke and crown board. This proves an ideal time to render those old combs down, and when the colony starts to expand, to replace them with some nice new foundation

I will continue emphasising the importance of feeding in these articles as I feel that a lot of the stress that leads to problems with disease is brought on by undue strain placed on the colony by the beekeeper

As we approach the spring the potential new beekeepers will be thinking of purchasing bees, please think with your heads, would you buy a car from a man up a dark alley without seeing it, well the same applies to bees, take someone with you or ask a bee inspector do we know of any areas where it is advisable not to purchase bees from, ask the person selling them have they been inspected in the last year or so, and is it okay to bring someone along with you, if they don't wish for someone to come along then say no, there are plenty of other beekeepers willing to sell nucs

If the new beekeepers wish to go down the road of collecting swarms then please house them on new combs and feed them

Beekeepers need to start thinking of the actions they intend to take in Varroa control for the coming season, don't wait till you start seeing the deformed wings and bees hatching covered in varroa, it is too late then, by downloading the varroa leaflets from beebase you can see the suggested methods that will work in best with your way of beekeeping, there is also a useful calculator on beebase to work out if you need to start treating your colonies or not

Those of you not signed up to beebase please do, there is a large amount of information that will help you improve your beekeeping, and by signing up will also help the inspectors to see if any of you, are in a at risk area

I wish you all a very successful beekeeping season and feel free to contact me if you need any advice or if you suspect you have a problem with your bees

Keith Morgan Regional Bee Inspector Eastern Counties

keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk 01485520838



**David
Bancalari,
Editor**

Hives and Bees for Sale

David Bancalari is cutting down a bit. He has for sale several full colonies of bees in National hives and will arrange delivery to your apiary. He can be contacted on 01603 755105



Top Tips
from our
President,
Don Cooper

DON'S TOP TIPS

Beekeepers can do a number of things which will enable the bees to have a more successful season and in doing so, will make life easier for their owners, and may well increase the honey yield.

- 1. Check the stores. If the hive is 'light', i.e. short of food, top up with fondant or candy in January or February. Liquid syrup can be given March onwards. More stocks die of starvation in this Spring period than any other.*
- 2. Clean the floor board. This job can usually be done in February or March.*
- 3. Remove mouse guards as soon as pollen is seen coming in, usually at the end of February or early March, depending on the weather.*
- 4. In early March, you can give a quick early inspection – do a 'visual' on the number of combs that have sealed stores – no need to remove any combs for this. Where possible gently lift one comb $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ way up from the centre of bees. If sealed worker brood is seen, all is well and close it up. Do not be tempted to do more than this.*
- 5. Any stocks that appear to have no brood or have other issues – drone-laying queen, very few bees etc., seek advice if needed, identify and rectify problems (uniting, etc.) as soon as weather and bee activity permits.*
- 6. On a warm day in late March or early April remove (if free of bees) any old, distorted or broken combs that were moved to the outsides of the brood box, wherever possible, and either close up with a dummy/division board or replace with drawn combs or frames fitted with foundation.*
- 7. Have cleaned queen excluders and supers ready by the middle of March (minimum two per hive, ideally three) with plans for any extras if demand is there – strong hives can readily fill 5 National supers, if condition are right and Oil Seed Rape is nearby – remember that just because a super is 'full', it doesn't mean it is ready to extract. Nectar has around 80% water content whereas ripe honey has a water content of around 16 to 21%, if extracted to soon it will quickly ferment.*

Don Cooper

HELEN DIXON "ALLBEES" Beekeeping Supplies

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Bees/honey for sale



Peter
Sunderland,
of Ieni
Microscopy
Study Group

- Full colonies (national) plus one super (solid floor/zinc excluder) £250;
- Over wintered nucs £125, six or seven frames whichever is available;
- Nucs made in 2011 with proven queens £23 per frame, i.e. a four frame nuc is £92.
- Queens, proven mated and marked, £25. A queen on a frame of eggs for difficult introductions (i.e. drone layers and others) is £35.
- Queen cells, when available, £5 from our breeding hives to make up nucs;
- 30 lb buckets of local honey £66, discount available for multiple buys.

PETER SUNDERLAND

01508 493398 email: ajudd_34@yahoo.co.uk



Brian
Gemmell

5 Comb Nucs of Bees for sale

With gentle, low swarming but prolific 2011 "Buckfast type" queens ideal for beginners in their first year. Supplied in reusable plywood travelling boxes from the 3rd week in May £160
To book call Brian Gemmell 01945 880837 or email greenbee@hotmail.com



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Large stocks of beekeeping equipment always in stock
Economy cedar hives in the flat or made up

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Apiguard £2 per tray, Thymol crystals, Fumidil B

6 frame nuclei and mated queens

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Bookings now being taken for 2011 beginners and queen rearing courses

Email or ring for details 01508 538 231

everttapplebee@hotmail.co.uk

www.applebeeorchard.co.uk

John Everett BBKA Master Beekeeper



Queen Rearing Course

Learn more
about bees....



This course, with Brian Gemmell is to give participants practical experience of each stage in queen rearing including handling bees and developing queens through to introduction into their new stock. Hopefully by the end of the course each participant will have reared their own queen for use in their own apiary.

Five weekly sessions

Week 1 Theory .Genetics, life cycles, equipment, overview.

Preparing a breeder hive .the queen mother .drone rearing colonies and obtaining eggs.

Week 2 Obtaining lava .Grafting .using cup kit.

Week 3 Caging queen cells .preparing mating systems .making up nucs.

Week 4 Stocking Nucs .Handling Queen cells .Virgins.

Week 5 Handling Mated queens .Marking & clipping .caging . introduction



This is a great opportunity to learn about queen rearing with a vastly experienced teacher and not to be missed. There are a limited number of places available. Clearly, participants will need to feel they have personally reached a general level of competence which allows them to get the most out of this intensive course.

Queen rearing is not difficult and it is not a mysterious "black art". Indeed raising queens is a particularly satisfying pursuit.

The methods of raising queens vary, but none are hard to master, many beekeepers are put off by grafting, but it is an easy learning curve and very much worth taking the trouble.

To book your place, please ring Brian Gemmell 01945 880 837



Delegates Meeting 15/1/2011 attended on your behalf by Alan Marshall

These notes are extracted from the full report presented by Alan at our AGM

- Education. Discussions took place about various aspects of education but the main topic was interactive DVD's. The project is ongoing but funding is not currently available and research is on hold due to illness etc of participating parties.
- Communication. Web Site. Questions were asked regarding costs involved with this project. The executive stated that this was the best price obtained and the meeting accepted the explanation about competitive tendering. The proposed schedule is final development Feb 2011 with transfer of information beginning of March 2011 with Alfa system test March 2011 and possible launch April 2011.
- Sustainable Income. Adopt-a-Behive scheme was discussed at length and it was the opinion of the executive that the current project had run its course and in order to move forward, alternative financial support should be sort, this has been done with a 3 year deal with Burts Bees who offer bee related cosmetics etc.
- Finance Committee. The accounts came under scrutiny in particular The Adopt-a-Behive scheme. Questions were asked from the floor regarding operational cost as £128,000 had been expended leaving £32,413 as income. It was reported that the breakdown was approx Management Charge £42,000, Fulfilment costs £33,000, Materials £13,000, Project design & execution for various occasions £40,000.
- It was stated that one years worth of membership subscriptions were held in reserve, should projection not reach forecasts.
- BBKA News. This was discussed as part of the finance report as it is proposed that the publication will be produced monthly in colour which incurred comments from the floor regarding increased costs. The executive stated that costs were now on par with two colour publications and costs should reduce following initial set up.
- Nominations for Executive Committee. David Aston, Douglas Brown, Roger Patterson & Michael Sheasby were elected for a 3 year term. There was discussion about comments made by Michael Young but as he was not present to answer the allegations, and as most of the delegates were un-aware of the problem, Michael was eventually elected for a one year term.
- Propositions. The first two propositions were associated with use of the BBKA logo as endorsement for the agrochemical industry. Much discussion took place regarding this endorsement and despite members being assured on several occasions that the BBKA no longer endorses the pesticide industry, discussions were repetitive and lengthy.
- Proposition 01/2011 That the capitation rate payable in respect of each registered member shall increase by £1.00 to £15.00 pa in respect of all members registered with the BBKA from October 1st 2011 onwards. The rates for partner members and country members shall increase pro rata. Passed. For 49 Against 6 Abstain 5
- Proposition 03/2011 Tabled by Twickenham, Thames Valley & Mole apiary club. That the BBKA cease any commercial relationships with agrochemical or associated companies relating to the use of BBKA logo including all endorsements of pesticides(for money or any other form of remuneration) as soon as contractually possible. An amendment was put forward by the executive to replace "including all" with "for the" this would enable income to be generated via the letting of show space etc. the amendment was carried For 50, Against 8, Abstain 2. Following this the proposition was accepted, For 56, Against 3, Abstain 1.
- Proposition 06/2011. Tabled by Cumbria Beekeepers Association. That the trustees consider setting up a committee to promote queens bred in the UK and report back at the next ADM. Passed. For 44, Against 14, Abstain 2.

With thanks to Alan Marshall



The huge 10 foot high WBC walk-through hive used to publicise BBKA activity



Eastern Associations Research Studentship (EARS)



*An article
written for
the Yearbook*

Individual NBKA members have been responsible for organising the largest donor to EARS. WNKLBA is the lead association in EARS. It's very appropriate that with all this local involvement we let you know about progress in the year book.

So what is it? A group of 21 beekeeping associations in East Anglia plus the Morley Agricultural Foundation at Wymondham getting together and funding bee research. It uses a method of funding called leveraged funding where each pound from a beekeeper generates a further £5 of funding from other sources.

The story starts about 3 years ago when members of local associations throughout East Anglia, including Don Cooper, then chair of NBKA and Brain Gemmell of WNKLBA met at an annual Bee Forum, heard a lecture on current research and asked 'How can we get involved directly?'

After a few weeks, pledges for £16,000 had been received and the associations agreed the first project. Lead researcher Dr Steve Martin at Sheffield University, Dr Giles Budge of the National Bee Unit and WNKLBA/NBKA member David Bancalari on behalf of the associations joined together and prepared a bid to BBSRC to top up funding to £100,000. This was the first ever bid by a group of beekeepers to act as an 'industry partner' in research and there were some long and detailed negotiations before the bid was successful.

Terry Gibson of WNKLBA sat on the interview panel to appoint our student and helped choose Ms Ricarda "Ricky" Kather an MSc graduate looking to do a PhD .

The current project looks at Varroa and honeybee interaction ... 1) Does Varroa adjust its chemistry to match each colony's smell? 2) If so, how does Varroa acquire the compounds ? 3) Is Varroa able to impair the bees' ability to detect it? 4) Do pathogens such as DWV impair the bees' ability to detect Varroa? Ricky writes "During my project, I will analyse the chemistry of Varroa mites from different bee colonies to see whether they each adapt to the chemical profile specific to that colony. Another part of the study will determine the origin of the mites' chemical compounds using radio-labelling. By labelling the bees' cuticular chemicals, I will be able to determine whether Varroa produces its own cuticular chemicals by acquiring these directly from the bees or whether it produces these compounds itself. Answering this question will tell us a lot about the mechanism with which the mite imitates the bees' chemistry. I will also conduct several behavioural experiments to test whether Varroa and DWV affect the bees' ability to detect strangers. During these trials, I will expose mite-infested/DWV-infected bees and mite-free/DWV-free bees to nestmates and bees from other colonies. I will test the bees' ability to distinguish nestmate from stranger and determine whether there is a difference between parasite-free and parasite-infested bees."

Ricky has made a splendid start – doing a full literature review to make sure her work is original and, amongst other things, getting an invite to go and speak in the USA about nestmate recognition at one of the premier research venues. At the labs in Sheffield she has colonies in a variety of states from which to collect bees such as Varroa-free colonies kept in field cages to prevent contamination to those where mites have been introduced.

The EARS team has also interacted with several other associations in order to explain how grants were obtained, including BBKA which now has its own CASE studentship at Keele and several others who have bids in the pipeline. Thank you to everyone in the federation who has given support – you have started a new style of partnership in honeybee research.



BEEKEEPING TERMS EXPLAINED

Thanks to Nottinghamshire BKA via e bees June 2010

BEESPACE Discovered in the mid. 1800's and brought to the attention of the world by Langstroth. This is the distance 9mm between combs that the bees prefer to live and work. Any less and the bees try to fill the gap with wax or propolis, any more and the bees build brace comb to use up the space. This simple realisation made the movable frame hive possible and created modern beekeeping.

BRACE COMB Comb built by the bees in any available spaces within the hive. Modern hives are designed to minimise brace comb, which tends to fix parts of the hive together making it difficult to manipulate.

BROOD BOX A deep box without top or bottom in which the frames hang in a movable frame hive. This is where the queen lays and some stores are kept.

CELL One hexagonal unit in a comb. The worker bees build these from wax almost perfectly in complete darkness. The design of a cell is the perfect compromise of minimum weight to maximum strength and is admired by engineers the world over. The queen lays an egg in each cell, which is later capped with wax to allow the larvae to turn into a bee. Other cells are used to store honey and pollen.

COLONY The name given to a collection of bees either in the wild or in a hive. A healthy colony can contain up to 60,000 bees at the height of the summer. A collection of bees all flying together is called a swarm.

COMB The place where bees are born and stores are kept made up of hexagonal wax cells. Supported by a frame in modern hives. Cut comb is honey sold in block of comb straight from the hive.

DRONE A fertile male bee. He does little work in the hive and is thrown out of the hive in the autumn by the female workers. The queen will mate in the air with several drones that then die afterwards.

EXTRACTOR A machine driven by hand or motor which spins the frames of comb and throws out the honey by centrifugal force. This allows the beekeeper to put the empty frame back in the hive to be re-filled by the bees saving them a lot of extra work.

FRAME An open rectangle usually of wood into which a sheet of foundation is nailed. The bees use the foundation as a template to build their comb across the hive. The discovery of bee space in the mid 1800's made modern beekeeping possible as removable frames with exactly the right distance apart enabled the beekeeper to examine and manipulate the colony.

HIVE The home of the honeybee provided by the beekeeper. There are many different types of hive some examples are called skeps, Nationals or WBC's. Modern hives consist of a brood box, supers, movable frames. a floor, a roof, a crown board and a queen excluder.

HONEY Produced by the bees in the hive by concentrating nectar over and over again. It is stored in 'cells' to enable the bees to survive through winter without hibernating. The art of the beekeeper is to encourage their bees to produce a surplus of honey to extract.

HONEYBEE Bees are insects and belong to the 'superfamily' Apoidea and the order Hymenoptera. Various sub families of bees exist. **MORE NEXT ISSUE**

