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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONWEYBRIDGE DIVISIONNEWSLETTER: July 2015 [**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

Apart from preparation of the bees for winter, tidying up of the apiary, equipment etc., by the time you receive the next (August) newsletter the intense side of the beekeeping year will be over for another six months or so. Meanwhile we have been waiting on a daily basis for the arrival of the summer honey flow, and we may soon be in the throes of a panic supply to the colonies of what the bees need in the way of supers for honey storage, etc. My feeling is that although not as dramatic as sometimes, the flow has started; there seems to be a significant increase of nectar and unsealed honey in the hives, and the behaviour of the bees seems to indicate that they are more settled and very busy. Maybe the flow explosion will be gentle this season, but we need to be aware of what is going on every day to make sure they don’t catch us out. The bees seem to me to be slow to seal their honey this year, just when we need to extract it and put the boxes back on the hives for more; inconsiderate. What do you think about this?

Best wishes to you all for your honey harvest.

**REMINDERS**

**Apiary Meeting, Saturday 18th July, 2.30 pm**

Jonathan Hall has invited us to the apiary at Crockford Bridge Farm, New Haw Road, Addlestone KT15 2BU, where he has a number of colonies and nucs. Previous visits to Jonathan’s meetings have always been of great interest, so do try and attend. Meet in the grass field car park slightly to the left of the Wyevale car park; Jonathan will introduce the meeting there before we walk to the bees. Numbers are not an issue at this site, so just turn up if you are free. Tea arrangments are as outlined by Sue in last month’s newsletter, i.e. bring contributions to share for a picnic tea, a mug and, if possible, a flask of hot water. Tea, coffee, etc. will be provided. Additionally, there is an ice cream parlour on site.

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­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**REPORTS**

*Report of Apiary Meeting*

On 20th June, Stephen Ward hosted a meeting at his garden in Cobham that was attended by 18 members. Stephen has two hives, both of which were very strong and good natured. The hives were each on a brood and a half with three supers. The bees were gathering a good crop of honey and both hives needed another super. Stephen opened up one hive while Michael Main was delegated to look through the other hive. Stephen’s hive was relatively uneventful, with no signs of swarm preparations or other problems.

The other hive had been making queen cells for several weeks but Steve had been unable to put swarm management procedures in place because he had had no success in finding the queen.\* Surely with all those eyes looking on, the queen would be found this time? More queen cells were found and eggs were seen in the brood cells, so there had to be a queen there somewhere. Despite searching all the brood combs twice, the unmarked queen remained unseen. The difficulty with this hive was that it was an extremely strong colony with the brood frames thickly coated with bees, which were helping to conceal the queen. Having failed to find the queen, Michael cut out the developing queen cells to try and prevent imminent swarming. Some of the sealed queen cells were taken away by David Parker, who wanted to replace some poor queens of his own. When the hive was reassembled, an extra queen excluder was placed between the two brood boxes. This will confine the queen to one of the brood boxes, so at the next inspection only the box with eggs needs to be searched for the elusive queen.

Andrew Halstead

\* *For the benefit of new beekeepers, failure to find the queen is not a good reason for not taking steps to prevent a swarm; there are other possible methods. This colony needed such steps as both the brood boxes and the supers were overcrowded and I was surprised that it had not already swarmed. –Ed.*

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Garden / Apiary meetings**

*1. Saturday 18th July 2.30 pm*

Jonathan Hall’s apiary meeting. See REMINDERS on page 1. for details.

*2. Sunday 9th August, 2.30 pm*

This will be in the Teaching Apiary, which is still at Burhill School in Hersham, but will be moved to the new site at St George’s Junior School later in August. The intention is to cover varroa treatment and other winter preparations. Full details will be published next month.

*3. September (date tba)*

David Parker has invited us to his house to make hive parts, using his equipment. Details will be published later.

**Workshops at University of Sussex**

The Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects, University of Sussex has 2 workshops coming up:

[Planting for flower visiting insects](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events?id=30435), Saturday 25 July.

[Integrated varroa management workshop](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events?id=30434), Friday 7 August.

For details and booking details go to <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events>

Anne Miller

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**8 down, 28 to go - Latest news on David Parker’s anaphylaxis treatment**

It is when the Doctor says to you, “Congratulations, that is 8 injections done”, you realise that whilst that is great, there are still 28 more to go, that is 28 months, roughly. It really is a mindset you have to get into of just plodding on through the three-year course. Of course it is also about planning, as you need to have the injections a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 weeks apart with the ideal being 4 weeks. This means you need to plan ahead re holidays and adjusting schedules, but as you can also not have the injection if you have a bad cold, etc. it is always better to bring forward dates so you do two, three weeks apart rather than risk being ill on the fifth week. If that happens you have to step down on the dosage again before going back up – adding to the overall duration of course treatment.

As I go about beekeeping this year, though, I am being a bit more careful, and given that it was stings to my head that gave the problems, especially careful about keeping it covered close to apiaries. The good news, though, is that the course does seem to have worked. I have had a few stings through gloves and two one day though the cloth at the base of the glove, and no real effect. In fact after two hours you could not tell I had been stung.

David Parker

**Beekeeping photos**

BeeCraft have a new online article to be published each week containing the best beekeeping photos from around the web.

If you would like to see them visit: <http://www.bee-craft.com/our-best-beekeeping-photos/>

Anne Miller

**Swarm collection in India**

Swarm collectors, do watch this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crS3z8Kzkdc>

*Thank you to Bernard Newnham for this contributing this fascinating video.*

**News from New Zealand**

I know beekeepers are interested in what happens elsewhere and many will have friends and relatives in NZ.

<http://www.nzbees.net/forum/index/>

Peter Webb

*The following two items and others of interest can be found in the June issue of the BeeAware Newsletter, which is published by Plant Health, Australia. Contributed by Bruce Murchie, one of our members who is from Australia and is now living there.*

**Nosema warning to beekeepers**

A five-year research project in Australia has shown that *Nosema apis* can be sexually transmitted from infected drones to queens. Following these new findings beekeepers are being urged to monitor their hives closely after mating flights.

**Free *Nature* supplement on bees**

The eminent science journal *Nature* has published a major supplement on bees, providing free full access for on-line readers. This edition contains a range of interesting journal articles on honey bee health, behaviour, biology and pollination.

*Marion is a frequent reader of the journal, Nature, but is not registered for the on-line version; she is going to try and find a way of seeing this supplement, and will share the contents if this is feasible. Does anyone else have access to this?*

**Sniffer Bees**

New beekeepers may not know that ‘sniffer bees’ are used by police and other security organisations for the detection of illegal drugs and explosives, etc. Richard Hignett has kindly sent us the following website that gives information on this topic.

<http://gizmodo.com/police-are-trying-to-use-honeybees-to-detect-illegal-dr-1712400761>

**Bee Highway in Oslo**

My thanks to several members who have sent details about this project, which is being supported by municipal bodies, commercial and industrial organisations, and residents of Oslo. The idea is to provide a supply of bee plants grown in all sorts of places along a continuous route across the city. Details can easily be found by searching under the heading of this entry.

**Winnie-the-Pooh and the Missing Bees**

This is the title of a new ‘must read’ book, which David Parker has drawn to our attention. See below for details:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/wildlife/11695756/New-Winnie-the-Pooh-story-In-which-Pooh-encourages-children-to-save-the-bees.html>

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**FOR SALE**

Neither the Newsletter Editor nor Surrey Beekeepers Association take any responsibility for the accuracy of any of the following entries, or for the condition of any of the items advertised. If considering purchasing bees or second hand equipment, the prospective purchaser should take great care to ensure that the bees are not diseased, and that all equipment is sterilised before use. Inexperienced purchasers should take a knowledgeable beekeeper with them.

**Hive frames**

I have 30 new, deep self-spacing (Hoffmann-type) National frames already made up without the foundation. I am just looking to get back what I paid for them which is £14.00 for all 30 or 47p each. I got them in the last Thorne’s sale.

Micki Minto, mickiminto@yahoo.com 07548 506530

**Bees for sale**

We will shortly have available **1 and 2 brood box colonies** **with 2015 mated Queen** (on Standard National frames - hives not included, frames to be transferred into Buyer's own hive) as soon as we have evidence the new queens have been mated and are laying well.

1 brood box - 11 frames - £165

2 brood boxes - 22 frames - £195

We only sell bees with a nice temperament and a good laying queen.

The colonies were treated for Varroa late summer/autumn 2014. All queens are locally reared.

**AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER NOW:**

**6 Frame Nucs** (National frames) with 2015 mated queen (reared locally). Supplied in 6 frame Poly Nuc.

£140 + £20 nuc deposit which is refundable on return

**5 Frame Nucs** (National frames) with 2015 mated queen (reared locally). Supplied in 5 frame Correx Travelling Box.

Price: £145

The nuc frames will have a mated 2015 Queen with a combination of her brood in various stages and stores. These nucs will be available from some time in June onwards.

**Contact: Astrid Bowers-Veenman** (Yankari Bees)

Location: Ash Green (between Guildford and Farnham, just off the A31)

Distance from Weybridge: 12 miles (as the crow flies)

[**Tel.No**](http://Tel.No/)**.: 01252 330229**

**Mobile: 07803 069798**

**Email:** [**astrid@coginternational.co.uk**](mailto:astrid@coginternational.co.uk)

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**WANTED**

**Site for hives**

A site for keeping bees in or near Old Woking.

Please contact Ross or Alice Alexander, who have just completed our current Beginners’ Course and want to get started: rossalexander@hotmail.co.uk, aliceinbrighton@hotmail.com.

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| **Dates for your diary** | | | | |
| Saturday | July 18th | 2.30 pm | Garden Meeting  Jonathan Hall  Crockford Bridge Farm Addlestone | p. 1 |
| Saturday | 25th July |  | Workshop  University of Sussex | p. 2 |
| Friday | 7th August |  | Workshop  University of Sussex | p. 2 |
| Sunday | 9th August | 2.30 pm | Teaching Apiary Meeting  Burhill School, Hersham | p. 2 |
|  | September |  | Making Hive Equipment | p. 2  Details later |

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