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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONWEYBRIDGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER: March 2016[**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

Here we are at the end of February. Hopefully all of your colonies have been flying on the warm days they have had. My own impression is that we need to do a stores check with absolute minimum disturbance as soon as possible, as there seems to be a distinct increase of activity indicators on mite drop floors (cappings removed from brood and stores frames, etc.) over the last week or so. If this is the case it could well indicate that they are starting to raise brood at a significant rate which would lead to a rapid depletion of winter stores. If you are a new beekeeper, remember that now and the next few weeks are the most dangerous time of year for our bees as far as the risk of starvation is concerned. If in doubt feed with fondant on the crown board.

If all the bees are flying, we can turn to our routine beekeeper’s optimism for the great year ahead of us; maybe this year it will indeed be the case!

**REMINDERS and New Items for the near future**

**Surrey Bee Day, Saturday 5th March**

There are still some places available for this event. Please see the attached flyer for details.

**New Item – Talk on ‘Honeybee diseases and control’, Monday March 7th, 7.30 pm**

This will be given by David Rudland (formerly our Seasonal Bee Inspector) as part of the Beginners’ theory course. As in all previous years we are encouraging all members to attend this part of the course in order to brush up their disease awareness. It will be at the new venue, Ashley Primary School in Walton on Thames. Directions for locating the school and the main hall are as follows: Ashley Primary School is in Ashley Road, Walton on Thames, KT12 1HX. Ashley Road is a one-way road where it goes past the school, which is on the left hand side of the road. The school has green metal railings along the front. Parking is available inside the school grounds; the entrance gate is towards the far end of the railings. On leaving your car, walk along the front of the school, following the signs to the Reception desk. The beginner beekeepers theory course is in the Assembly Hall inside the main school building to the left of the entrance.

  Best wishes,  Andrew Halstead

**Weybridge Winter Meeting – Talk on ‘Climate, weather and bees’, Tuesday March 29th, 7.30 pm**

The last in our current series will be a talk by Howard Lawes (Sue’s husband) who is a mathemetician by training and a meteorologist by profession. This does not mean that he ’does the weather forecast’, which is just a small but familiar part of meteorology; much of his time has been spent on oceanographic studies for offshore oil and renewable energy projects. He also plays alto sax in a jazz band – a fact that I’m sure you need to know… Howard gives talks to a wide variety of audiences, and has promised to slant this one towards bees and the effects of climate and weather on them. It promises to be a fascinating evening and one to which you may wish to bring family and friends as it’s not directly on beekeeping. We hope for a good audience, so do come to enjoy the presentation and catch up with fellow beekeepers in the break.

Thank you, Marion C.

**New item – Nosema Clinic, Monday April 4th**

See under **FUTURE EVENTS** below for details.

**New Item – Beekeeping Refresher Course for improvers, past students, BBKA Basic Assessment, etc.**

Wednesdays in April. See under **FUTURE EVENTS** page 4 for details.

**A talk, “Warm bees are happy bees”, by Simon Cavill, Monday March 21st, 7.30 pm at Jacob’s Well**

A shortened version of this talk was given at our winter meeting on March 5th (see report on p. 5). This will be the full version and will include a fish and chip or veggie burger supper. The cost will be £11.00.

Full details of this invitation from Guildford Division are shown on the attachment.

**Epsom Beekeepers: Sale of new beekeeping equipment, Saturday March 26th**

Please refer to the attached flyer for full details.

**Annual Reigate Beekeepers Auction of Bees and Beekeeping Equipment, Saturday April 16th, at the**

**Mickleham apiary and Village Hall**

Please refer to the attached flyer for full details.

**Courses at East Surrey Bees for 2016**

See details in February newsletter, page 3.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Nosema Clinic – Monday 4th April, 7.30 pm, Hersham Community Centre**

*Please note that this is not our usual venue; we are using another, which is definitely in need of refurbishing, but is fit for purpose. The Community Centre address is Burhill Road, Hersham KT12 4BJ. Burhill Road is the turning off Burwood Road beside St Peter’s Church. The building stands alone on the left, after a green (Back Green) and a plant nursery (Woodlark Nurseries) and just before allotments. There is parking outside the hall or opposite, at Piglets Play Centre.*

It has been decided to hold a clinic again this year because we feel it important to know if our bees are affected; it is said that a severe Nosema infection can be more damaging to a colony than Varroa and can be a significant cause of colony loss. Despite there being no specific treatment for Nosema, there are things we can do to minimise the effects, so do come and have yours tested.

You will be invited to help with the preparation of your samples, but all of the necessary equipment, instructions and microscopists will be there, so all you need is to bring a labelled sample of at least 30 dead bees from each of your colonies; tests done on fewer bees will not give an accurate picture of the whole colony. The bees can be collected beforehand and put in the freezer until needed. Suggestions on how to collect bees can be supplied on request.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Any questions? Please ask Anne Miller (wbks\_secretary@outlook.com) or me (Marion Cooper, 01932 242179, coopergm56@btinternet.com).

**Summer meetings**

The table and details below shows David Parker’s provisional programme for meetings this summer. As you will see, he has tried to give each meeting a particular purpose. It may not always be possible to demonstrate the processes he has indicated, but it is good to have a target to aim at.

My name is David Parker and I have taken over organising the summer meetings; below you will find the schedule for the 2016 summer. There is a slight change from previous years in that the aim, subject to the bees of course, is to have a clear main topic and secondary topic for each session. This way you can book your diaries now for the dates and also know what will be covered in each session. I am keen to hear from people on topics you would like covered in the 2017 summer; so please do email me at davidparker@polymathconsulting.com or catch me at one of the meetings. I hope you will find at least one or two of the topics below of interest and attend. Exact timings and locations of each meeting will be confirmed closer to the time in the newsletter as usual.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hosts** | **Date** | **Main Subject** | **Secondary Subject** |
| Michael Main | 30th April | Swarm Control | Shook Swarm, Bailey Comb Change, Oxalic Acid Vaporisation demo on Swarm |
| Peter Bowbrick | 15th May | Disease Inspection | TBC |
| Geoff & Marion Cooper | 11th June | Queen Rearing | Super Clearing Methods and types |
| Chris Burnett and Sue Lawes | 9th July | Top Bar Hive | Finding and marking a queen (or drone) |
| David Parker | 20th August | Make it Session | Guildford and Weybridge Divisions |
|   | 3rd September | End of Season Social | Location TBC |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Detailed 2016 Plan.** |
| **April** | Carry out a shook swarm. Take people through use of Snelgrove, Pagden and other swarm prevention methods as well. |
|  | Carry out oxalic acid vaporisation on the shook swarm colony and if a swarm there, do that as well. |
|  |  |
| **May** | Peter and potentially Rob and/or Geoff/Tim take us through hives, showing what they look for when doing a disease inspection. |
|  | TBC secondary topic |
| **June** | Take people through some queen rearing stuff, different methods, etc. Show the triangle / patch method as well as grafting and cell punching. |
|  | Show different clearer boards, circular, rhombus, Porter, almond spray, etc. |
| **July** | Show top bar hive and how it works. Then go through the different methods that can help you find a queen. Using drones show how to mark a queen properly without drowning her in paint. |
| **August** | Make it session, dummy boards, roofs, crown boards in association with Guildford (TBC) |
| **September** | End of season social, poss BBQ somewhere TBC. |

**Beekeeping Refresher Course / Preparation for the BBKA Basic Assessment - April**

In the responses to the questionnaire that Michael Main sent out last year, several members showed an interest in further training, and a refresher of the wide range of material covered in beginners’ courses is an excellent way to start, as there is so much involved in beekeeping these days. With this in mind, we have asked Tim Hutchinson if he would present for a wider audience the 5-session ‘Preparation for the Basic’ course that he runs for a few members each year. It is worth mentioning that those who have attended Tim’s past courses have thoroughly enjoyed them and all have gone on to pass their assessments, although taking this is not a requirement for attending. This would be an excellent course for those who have bees, but have not attended a beginners’ course, or a good ‘follow-on’ for any who have been on a very short course.

The course consists of four 2-hour theory sessions followed by a practical session at the new Teaching Apiary. The Division has hired a hall and Tim’s fee will be £30 per student for the 5 sessions. The dates for the theory sessions are April 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th; details of the practical session will be provided during the course.

The course will be run at Hersham Community Centre, Burhill Road, Hersham KT12 4BJ. For further details of the venue and full directions, see the note in italics under **Nosema Clinic** on page 2.

Do consider this offer carefully and sign up by contacting Tim at his lovely website address: olddrone58@gmail.com, or ask me for more details.

Thank you, Marion C.

**Surrey County Agricultural Show, Guildford, Monday May 30th 2016**

Would you like to be a steward, in the bee tent, at the Surrey Show?

By offering your help you will receive free entry to the show with a free lunch and tea and/or coffee during the day.  It is a great day when you can talk with other beekeepers and share ideas. You will have at least 2 hours free to go around the show as well as time for lunch in the Bee Tent.  The sample menu for lunch is set out on the attached form.  As usual we would like to hear from anyone who has children aged between 8 and 16 and who would also like to help on the candle rolling stand.  Many of our customers are children and they like dealing with people of their own age.

Attached is the form for volunteers to help as stewards. Please get your applications in to me by Friday 29th April.

It would be great if you could add the date of the Show to your calendar of upcoming events and try and get some entries to the show bench. **We would like to see as many entries into the show classes as possible**.  (Show schedule also attached).

There is the Vincent Challenge Cup for the division that has the most points from the show bench which Farnham has held for a few years.  It would be great if our division could give them a challenge this year. There is also the Golder Memorial Trophy awarded to the winner of the Novice Class.  So why not enter yourself or get a group of members together and prepare some entries to the show for the first time this year?  For every 5 entries a free ticket to the show is supplied and you have the whole day to go around the show.

 Michael Main,  Chief Steward

**National Honey Show 27th – 29th October 2016**

This year the Show is to be held at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey KT10 9AJ. I can imagine that this could well be its best venue ever. What lucky beekeepers we are in Weybridge and its environs!

For full details see attached newsletter.

**REPORTS**

**Report on Winter Meeting, Friday 5th February at St Peter’s Church Hall, Hersham**

What better way to brighten a gloomy winter’s evening than hearing 3 different talks on beekeeping from 3 very different beekeepers.

First off was “Warm Bees are Happy Bees – using Polystyrene hives.” Simon Cavill, a bee farmer, has used polystyrene hives since 2008. He went in detail through the pros and cons of these hives making a strong case for their advantages over our beloved wooden Nationals. One interesting observation was that warmer, better insulated hives may reduce varroa infestation. Tim Hutchinson was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent in some written observations to be read at the meeting; these endorsed Simon’s views and Tim intends that all his bees are housed in poly-hives by the end of 2016. Before we all ditch our Nationals and rush out to buy poly hives, Simon told us that using winter hive covers of Reticell (insulating material) would do a similar job to poly hives for over wintering our bees. Sighs of relief all round as we headed for the welcome tea and cakes provided by Chris Chisholm and her band of helpers.

In “Beekeeping Improves Lives”, Richard Emmett told us about how the Development Agency with which he is associated encourages villages in Ghana and Malawi to find their own ways of tackling malnutrition and poverty with a beekeeping programme. African bees are active through the year so a beekeeper can get 15-20kg of honey every 90 days out of a top bar hive which provides a living wage and has life-saving potential. Beekeepers barter honey for other essentials as well as using it for medicine and bees pollinate crops. Fascinating images of the beekeepers and their activities in these countries showed how they achieve a lot from basically very little – a humbling contrast to the wealth of supplies we have as beekeepers in the First World.

Last but not least, Sarah Keenan in “The Great Buzz. Byfleet Bees sitcom Episodes 1-5,” entertained us with the comedy and tragedy of everyday beekeeping. We heard about her son building a heavy, decorative hive for his exam, her honey labels with titles like “Well Done Girls” and “Go Girls!” and the antics of the family dog causing mayhem by scoffing her stored super frames. It was refreshing to hear of the smaller, but no less worthy pleasures of beekeeping – talking to bees, struggling to mark a Queen only to find the workers lick off the paint, propping up an ailing extractor with a family bible and the agonies of indecision over which Queen Cells to remove. We look forward to Byfleet Bees sitcom Episodes 6+.

Edwina Wardle

*Sarah’s talk was enhanced by a backdrop on the screen of a montage of beekeeping photographs, prepared by her son Frank. This is attached (beesupdate.jpg) for all to enjoy.*

**Central Association of Bee-Keepers Spring Meeting, Saturday 13th February, Lambeth**

As always with CABK, this was an excellent meeting, but I would like to comment on just one of the presentations. It was the first, given by Dr Richard Gill, lecturer in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Imperial College, London, and was the best of the many I’ve heard on neonicotinoids. It was well presented, informative and balanced. In one slide he showed sensational headlines from a number of newspapers, and in another titles of a number of scientific papers, after which he made the point that the media want to highlight dramatic problems, while the researchers want to demonstrate work they have done on very specific aspects of the topic, but neither give an overall picture. It came to me as never before what a complex tangle of inter-related issues there are that preclude simple answers. One example of this was a series of replicated experiments in which he had been involved; bumble bees were fed a sugar solution containing neonicotinoids, a pyrethroid insecticide or a combination of the two. In every case the bees were more severely affected by the combination, and Dr Gill made the telling point that we have no idea how our bees are reacting to the mix of environmental challenges and the various chemicals we give them as treatment for varroa, or as so-called feed supplements. He came across as being neither in favour of nor against neonicotinoids, but urged us not judge them too harshly in comparison with other substances, and not to be swayed in either direction by simplistic statements that we see or hear. As humans, we naturally seek a simple answer to a simple question, but here is another case where there is no such thing – at least not yet.

Marion C.

**ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**Beekeeper contract available**

Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX is looking to sub-contract a **part-time beekeeper** to look after our new research apiary. The beekeeper will advise on, help to set up, and maintain 10-15 colonies, housed in an outdoor apiary and in observation hives on our campus in Egham, Surrey. We are looking for an experienced, friendly and enthusiastic individual who is interested in actively contributing to honeybee research. The beekeeper will work together with the research team of Dr. Elli Leadbeater in the School of Biology. Apiary set-up will begin in April 2016. **The beekeeper will be sub-contracted to work flexible hours that equate to one day per week throughout the summer (April-October)**. All equipment will be provided by Royal Holloway. Our bees are not kept specifically for the purpose of honey production, but the beekeeper will be welcome to extract and keep any honey that is produced at the end of the season. However, please note that research is our sole priority and at times, research aims may conflict with maximizing honey crop. Rates and hours of work are negotiable depending on experience.

Closing date for applications is **15th March 2016**. For details of the application process, or if you would like to discuss the position further, please contact Dr. Elli Leadbeater (elli.leadbeater@rhul.ac.uk).

*Thanks to Malcolm Clarke of Guildford Division for passing this information to us.*

*I have more details for anyone who is interested in this post.*

*This is a marvellous opportunity for an enthusiastic beekeeper to work with research scientists. It seems to be ideal for a biology undergraduate, an A level biology student who is also a beekeeper, a ‘Gap Year’ student, or an experienced beekeeper who lives near Egham. – Ed.*

**A short report from a new user of oxalic acid sublimation for Varroa control**

Last month I mentioned that I had used oxalic sublimation treatment for the first time.

I plan to pursue this treatment method in the future, but intend to continue to monitor the results in order to try to get an understanding for the most effective times and frequencies of application. In case you have not seen it, there is a very informative and interesting article on application of sublimation on the University of Sussex website.

Here are a few more observations and some mite drop figures from some of my colonies.

1. no obvious distress is caused to the bees as has been seen with ApilifeVar and to a very much greater extent with Exomite
2. mites are knocked down very effectively
3. in some cases, one treatment appears to be sufficient, but in others it seems to be helpful to apply a second or even a third at intervals of about 1 – 2 weeks
4. very accurate counts have been possible at this time of year by counting on alternates days as the amount of debris on the tray is very low (a daily count is obviously even better)

I have kept records on 12 colonies and compiled the results on 4 of them which are shown below. The drop is obviously related to the size of the colonies but I have not been able to assess this because of unsuitable weather, but can say that they all appeared to be in good shape on entering winter and are all flying vigorously at the moment. The mite drops on the unlisted colonies are similar to those of hive 1. If anyone would like a copy of the ‘raw’ results, please give me a ring.

The strangest result is that following the 2nd oxalic acid treatment on Hive 17. Perhaps there was a sudden burst of new bees at that time?

Also of interest is that, on almost all colonies, the highest drop was on the second day after oxalic acid administration.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Mite drop per day** |  | **Date** | **Mite drop per day** |
| **Hive A** | **Hive D** |  |  | **Hive 17** | **Hive 1** |
| 29/1 | 2 | 1 | 28/1 | 5 | 1 |
| 29/1 | Oxalic acid (1) |  | 28/1 | Oxalic acid (1) |
| 30/1 | 47 | 11 | 29/1 | 25 | 9 |
| 31/1 | 73 | 46 | 1/2 | 29 | 0 |
| 1/2 | 55 | 24 | 5/2 | 27 | 1 |
| 6/2 | 12 | 4 | 9/2 | 10 | 0 |
| 10/2 | 4 | 3 | 9/2 | Oxalic acid (2) |  |
| 10/2 | Oxalic acid (2) | 10/2 | 60 | - |
| 11/2 | 12 | 2 |  | 11/2 | 88 | - |
| 12/2 | 19 | 10 | 12/2 | 63 | 1 |
| 13/2 | 23 | 4 | 14/2 | 48 | 1 |
| 23/2 | 6 | 2 | 18/2 | 13 | 0 |
|  | 19/2 | Oxalic acid (3) |  |
| 21/2 | 30 | - |
| 23/2 | 17 | 1 |
| 26/2 | 6 | 0 |

The daily drop figures are either the actual drop on the day indicated, or the average of several days ending with the date shown. The results above have been selected from the mass of figures collected to give an accurate picture, without the need to show every single reading.

There are two strongly held opposing views as to whether we should use oxalic acid crystals or Apibioxal. The first costs about 5p per treatment, and the second between 60p and 100p per treatment. Both products are available from Thorne’s. The reason for this huge difference in basically that Apibioxal is the only UK licenced, officially approved, oxalic acid-based treatment against varroa. As far as I am able to understand both are equally effective against varroa. Input on this topic would be welcome. The oxalic acid product must be vapourised using a special tool; these are available from many suppliers at a wide range of prices. They are all basically similar in design, using a glow plug from a diesel engine as the heater; a few have two glow plugs. Most people strongly advise the use of a face mask fitted with the correct filter, but others think this is being over cautious. Again: does anyone have any comment on this?

**Another set of sublimation mite drop results from one of our members**

Richard Hignett has also been using sublimation to treat a hive and has kindly sent in the following list of results. The pattern of his and my results are similar, although the actual numbers are significantly different.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SatSat | 09/01/201609/01/2016 | 0oxalic 1 |
| Sun | 10/01/2016 | 60 |
| Mon | 11/01/2016 | 32 |
| Tue | 12/01/2016 | 32 |
| Wed | 13/01/2016 | 32 |
| Thu | 14/01/2016 | 32 |
| Fri | 15/01/2016 | 32 |
| Sat | 16/01/2016 | 50 |
| Sun | 17/01/2016 | 25 |
| Mon | 18/01/2016 | 24 |
| Tue | 19/01/2016 | 24 |
| Wed | 20/01/2016 | 24 |
| Thu | 21/01/2016 | 24 |
| FriSatSat | 22/01/201623/01/201623/01/2016 | 2424oxalic 2 |
| Sun | 24/01/2016 | 80 |
| Mon | 25/01/2016 | 125 |
| Tue | 26/01/2016 | 125 |
| Wed | 27/01/2016 | 125 |
| Thu | 28/01/2016 | 125 |
| Fri | 29/01/2016 | 33 |
| Sat | 30/01/2016 | 47 |
| Sun | 31/01/2016 | 47 |
| Mon | 01/02/2016 | 8 |
| Tue | 02/02/2016 | 8 |
| Wed | 03/02/2016 | 8 |
| Thu | 04/02/2016 | 12 |
| Fri | 05/02/2016 | 12 |
| Sat | 06/02/2016 | 3 |
| Sun | 07/02/2016 | 3 |
| Mon | 08/02/2016 | 3 |
| Tue | 09/02/2016 | 3 |
| Wed | 10/02/2016 | 3 |
| Thu | 11/02/2016 | 3 |
| Fri | 12/02/2016 | 4 |
| Sat | 13/02/2016 | 4 |
| Sun | 14/02/2016 | 4 |
| Mon | 15/02/2016 | 4 |
| Tue | 16/02/2016 | 4 |
| Wed | 17/02/2016 | 4 |
| Thu | 18/02/2016 | 4 |
| Fri | 19/02/2016 | 4 |
| Sat | 20/02/2016 | 4 |
|  |  | 1248 |

*Thank you, Richard, for sharing this information.*

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**More beehives and bees stolen**

This time from Middlesbrough. It occured between Monday 25th January and Friday 29th January. Anyone who has seen them advertised for sale is asked to contact PC Tom Gill on the non-emergency 101 number, Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, or www.crimestoppers-uk.org It has been pointed out that although this incident is not local to us, we should be aware that this sort of thing is still occuring and has happened in the fairly recent past near our own area.

**Can you help the Isle of Man Bees?**

Were you aware that the bees on the Isle of Man are varroa and foulbrood free? We have been asked to spread the word about the danger to them as in the past week the Isle of Man’s Senior Bee inspector has announced that a colony of bees may have been brought in from outside the island. This could be a catastrophe for their bees and they are asking that anyone who might know of the colony to get in touch as swiftly as possible so that the situation can be contained. If anyone has any information that could help, these are the contact details of their bee inspector, Harry Owens: harryowens@manx.net and phone 01624801315.

Wendy and the Beecraft team

*For new beekeepers, we should point out that to maintain the varroa-free and foulbrood-free status of bees on the Isle of Man, it is illegal to move bees on to the island from elsewhere. If this has indeed occurred it would obviously be a tragedy for a number of obvious reasons. – Ed.*

**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.

**Bees and beekeeping equipment**

**FOR SALE:**

**A number of FULLY ESTABLISHED OVERWINTERED COLONIES with 2015 Queen in double brood box (22 National brood frames)** The colonies were treated for Varroa late summer/autumn 2015.

All queens are locally reared from our gentle breeding stock. Price of each colony: £160 (excluding hive)

These colonies are available in early spring as soon as the weather allows.

For more information, please contact me – details below.

**NUCS (available to pre-order now – *Special Offer*: *£10 discount for nuc orders received by 30th April***

**6 Frame Nucs** (National frames) with 2016 mated queen (marked white).

Supplied in 6 frame Poly Nuc. £140 + £20 nuc deposit which is refundable on return.

**5 Frame Nucs** (National frames) with 2016 mated queen (marked white).

Supplied in 5 frame Correx Travelling Box. Price: £145.  The nucs will have a mated 2016 Queen, locally reared from our gentle breeding stock, together with a combination of her brood in various stages and stores.

These nucs will be available from end May/June onwards depending on the weather.

Feel free to contact me, if you have any questions.

**CONTACT**

**Astrid Bowers-Veenman** (Hog’s Back Bees) Location: Ash Green (between Guildford and Farnham, just off the A31) Distance from Weybridge: 12 miles (as the crow flies)

**Tel.No.: 01252 330229 / Mobile: 07803 069798**

**Email:****astrid@coginternational.co.uk**

**Apiary clothing**

Bee Togs Apiary clothing.  Sale now on:

Go to the Bee Togs website at [www.BeeTogs.co.uk](http://www.beetogs.co.uk/) for some great deals on bee suit and bee jacket bundles, or call Martin on 07973 653575.

Martin Major

**WANTED**

**Hand/Car Vacuum Cleaner**

Has anyone an old, but still working hand/car vacuum cleaner lying around that I could have, like the old Black and Decker Dirt Devil?  The reason is, I want to try and make a ‘Suck a Bee’ for Nosema Bee Sampling.  I am in Woking, but can pick up or see you at a meeting.  Thanks.  PS: in case you want to make one yourself: <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/the-suck-a-bee/>

David Parker

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Saturday | 5th March | 9.30 am – 5.00 pm | Surrey Bee Day | Flyer |
| Saturday | 5th March | 9.30 am – 5.00 pm | Beekeeping for beginners, improvers and non-beekeepers. Pulborough | Nov. p. 3 |
| Monday | 7th March | 7.30 – 9.30 pm | Bee Diseases talk,Ashley Primary School, Walton | p. 1 |
| Saturday/Sunday | 12/13th March | 9.30 am – 4.30 pm each day | Pollen and nutrition. Epsom apiary | Jan p. 2 |
| Sunday | 20th March | 2.30 pm | Manuka honey talk, Botley, Hants | Feb. p. 3 |
| Monday | 21st March | 7.30 pm | Warm bees, talk by Simon Cavill, Guildford | p. 2 and flyer |
| Saturday | 26th March | 11am – 3 pm | Discount equipment sale, Epsom | Flyer |
| Tuesday | 29th March | 7.30 pm | Weybridge Winter Meeting. Climate, weather and bees, talk by Howard Lawes, Hersham | p. 1 |
| Monday  | 4th April | 7.30 – 9.30 pm | Nosema Clinic, Hersham | p. 2  |
| Wednesday | 6th April | 7.30 pm | First session Refresher / Basic Assessment course | p. 4 |
| Saturday | 16th April | Viewing 11 am, auction 12 noon | Reigate Auction, Mickleham | Flyer |
| Saturday | 30th April | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting, Michael Main, Weybridge. Swarms, oxalic acid | p. 3 |
| Sunday | 8th May | 10.00 am – 4.00 pm | Queen Rearing Workshop, East Surrey Bees | Feb. p. 3 |
| Sunday | 15th May | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting, Peter Bowbrick, Disease inspection | p. 3 |
| Saturday | 11th June | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting, Geoff Cooper,Queen rearing, super clearing | p. 3 |
| tbc | tbc June  | tbc | Disease Recognition and Treatment Day, East Surrey Bees | tbc |
| Saturday | 9th July | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting, Chris Burnett & Sue Lawes, Top-bar hive, queen marking | p. 3 |
| Saturday | 20th August | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting, David Parker,‘Make-it’ session | p. 3 |
| Saturday | 3rd September | tba | End-of-season social event | p. 3 |
| Thurs - Sat | 27-29 October | All day | National Honey Show, Esher | p. 4 and attachments |

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