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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION WEYBRIDGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER: May 2018[**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

There is some good news regarding neonicotinoids on page 7. While I am sure that beekeepers will rejoice for the bees, it seems to me that this insecticide may be getting too much attention from many beekeepers, as well as from the press and pressure groups, compared with the many other chemicals currently in use. For example, should the ‘Powers That Be’ and the pressure groups investigate whether we should continue to grow the vast amount of oilseed rape which requires to be treated many times a year with a host of different products? It may well be that such a study would reveal that there are plenty of alternative crops of equal importance and profit that could be grown in place of oilseed rape. Or is this another of my rebellious ideas?

**Potential Beekeeping Centre in Pleasant Place, Hersham: Update 15**

This month has been a bit of a rollercoaster ride. The result of possible legal complications regarding the access track to the site in Pleasant Place has meant that the Council need more time to investigate matters. We are not likely to get final clearance for a few months until their position and that of the relevant land owners are clarified, legal rights agreed and thus our rights as potential lease tenants confirmed. In reality this means that the EGM is likely to be in September when everyone is back from holidays. The extra time, whilst annoying, will allow us to obtain more refined quotations and start defining the costs to a far greater degree.

*Grants*

The good news is that Heathrow Communities for Tomorrow, on which we had got through to the second phase of selection, have agreed for us to postpone our submission to their second round of submissions later in the year. Also the Postcode Lottery whilst not able to postpone, have implied there is a good chance, nothing ever guaranteed, that should we re-apply in their second round of funding this year we would again get through to the second phase. These two grants are worth up to £45k. In the meantime we are raising money through Waitrose at Hersham and also have applied for the SC Johnson fund.  Other grant applications will be put on hold as, in the main, the funding bodies like to see clear planning permission sorted.

*Swarm Collectors*

Attached to this newsletter is a form that swarm collectors can use to raise funds if individuals wish to make a donation, alternatively they can be asked if they wish to donate.

The form offers a number of ways members of the public can make donations:

1.     Direct to the Weybridge Beekeepers bank account, details on the website

2.     Go to the donations page of the website.

3.     By handing cash or cheque made out to "Weybridge Division - Surrey Beekeepers Assn." to the swarm collector.  Please ask them to sign the Gift Aid section so we can claim the Gift Aid refund.

*Recognition of Sponsors*

As you will note at the bottom of this newsletter we are now starting to recognize sponsors/supporters, currently Elmbridge Borough Council with their grants and Waitrose.  You will also see very shortly a new page on the website recognizing the sponsors/supporters.  Many grant bodies see it as important that their efforts/contributions are recognized and if/when the Teaching Centre is created there will also be a recognition board displayed.

David Parker

**EFB (European Foul Brood) confirmed in the Weybridge / Guildford area**

The disease was found near Horsell in bees belonging to a beekeeper who is not a member of any association, but checking on this outbreak will involve visits by the Bee Inspector to some of our members who have hives in the area. You will already have been notified by the inspector if this applies to you.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND **ANY** MEETING OF BEEKEEPERS, PLEASE TAKE GREAT CARE WITH HYGIENE TO AVOID THE SPREAD OF THIS NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Only attend if you:

 • have washed your bee suit

 • have cleaned your boots

 • have washed your gloves in soda or are prepared to use disposable ones (supplied)

This instruction will be applicable until the diseased bees and their equipment have been dealt with and the area is officially declared free of EFB.

**Michael Main, our swarm co-ordinator** has asked me to stress the importance of great care on collecting

swarms to prevent the potential spreading of EFB to other colonies. Isolation apiaries are important in these cases and checking after 4 weeks for disease before moving colonies.

**GDPR – changes to Data Protection**

An e-mail was sent to all the Weybridge Beekeepers e-addresses on Friday, April the 20th from Peter Webb, the Membership Secretary with regard to GDPR; this had two attachments.  It is a requirement of the GDPR legislation that people opt-in to receive communication from any association that they are members of. If you do not respond, WBK will not be able to contact you.  This includes BBKA News, BDI Insurance and Beecraft and the monthly Newsletter.

If you have responded, thank you.  If not please do so as a matter of urgency.  If you do not recall receiving the e-mail, please check your junk mail, or spam folders, or e-mail Peter for a further copy; peterwebb@btinternet.com

**REPORTS**

**Nosema Clinic at Hersham Village Society Hall, 10th April**

Not all surprises in beekeeping are bad ones. This meeting was a case in point. Some of you may have had an attitude along the lines of ,‘What’s the point of this clinic? We know all our colonies have Nosema and that our only remedy\* (Fumidil B) has been taken away due to intractable legislation. What a surprise, therefore, to find so many colonies with no detectable Nosema spores and several others with low counts. About 20 members attended this meeting. See below for the complete set of results. Some members have not yet tested their colonies for Nosema. When these figures are received, they will be listed in the next newsletter.

\*Although this is the case as far as an effective chemical control is concerned, we should all consider doing preferably a shook swarm, or at least a Bailey comb change to control Nosema in our colonies if they need it.

Table of results from the clinic:

**Number of sample results:**

nil low medium high

12 4 3 2

 Geoff and Marion Cooper

**First Summer Meeting, 14th April**

Well it was a lovely bright and sunny day when we descended on Paul and Helen’s Apiary. There were about 10 of us in all to take part in this interesting afternoon.

We were looking at how to do a Bailey Comb change and a Shook Swarm.

The bees were very active, and David Parker, Paul and Helen were able to demonstrate these techniques, together with splitting a hive.

Reasons for doing a shook swarm or Bailey comb change could be swarm prevention, varroa control, replacing old frames and comb. It was so good to actually see this being done in the practical way, to supplement what we have learnt in the beginners’ course and of course, books, etc.

The afternoon seemed to fly past, so we didn't have the time to make the hornet trap with our 'pop' bottles. David promised that this would be an activity for another afternoon.

Top Tips from the meeting:

Paul and Helen paint their Queen excluders in bold colour (blue) so it is easy to spot during the manoeuvres. Nothing worse that seeing it on the ground when it should be part of the new set up....

Also Paul and Helen had a 'Bite Relief' £5.79 available in the Mosquito section in Boots, which proved to be a very useful addition to the Beekeepers first aid kit....

Refreshments were available and we all enjoyed a very informative afternoon. Always good to meet new faces and have a general discussion about our bees, and a chance for us newbies to pick the brains of the more experienced members....

Paul and Helen have a delightful set up in New Haw/Addlestone, and always make everyone feel very welcome. A big thank you to them....

Debbie Morriss

*Thank you, Debbie, for this report; it’s always nice to have a new contributor to the newsletter.*

**EVENTS IN MAY**

PLEASE REFER TO THE **EFB** PARAGRAPH AT THE TOP OF PAGE 2 IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

**Special Extra Summer Meeting, Saturday 5th May: Removing a colony from a tree trunk, and a working party in the Teaching Apiary at Foxhills Road, Chertsey KT16 0ES (for details of entry to the site, see the end of this section).**

Details about the tree trunk bees were on pp. 2-3 of the April newsletter, but to recap it was originally planned to do this in an isolation apiary, however, it will now be done at the Foxhills Road site (above), but some distance from the Teaching Apiary bees as the site is so large. Once sorted, the bees will be taken back to the apiary where the trunk has been for the last 6 weeks, about half a mile from the Teaching Apiary. Part of the session will also consider diseases that might be encountered with swarms and how to treat them.

We have increased the interest and usefulness of the day by combining the tree exercise with another exciting project – cleaning frames and boxes that belong to the Division’s Apiary. We do not have an Apiary Manager at the moment and there is work to be done, so help would be very much appreciated. We shall ask the Beginners to stay on after their Session in the morning, if they can, and would welcome any other members to come and join us. Arran Taylor, who arranged for us to use the site for teaching and generously supplied some colonies for the course, will be bringing equipment for cleaning the frames, but we ask that anyone attending should bring their own tools as well – and old clothes for this job.

Please also bring a picnic lunch for yourself, a flask of hot water if possible, and something to share for tea after the tree exercise. Tea, coffee, milk, etc. will be available.

The site is very convenient for our activities, but it is approached by a single-lane track through farmland – no passing places – so we are asking that people go first to the car park of the sports field / children’s play area on the left of Foxhills Road, about half a mile from the Ottershaw roundabout, where there are two ‘landmarks’ – a Steak House restaurant (used to be a Harvester) and a car sales garage. From the roundabout take the Chobham Road, then almost immediately fork right into Foxhills Road. Car sharing to the site can be arranged in the car park, to minimise traffic on the track. The entrance is through a locked metal gate a few hundred yards further along Foxhills Road on the right. If you arrive after the ‘convoy’ has gone, you can enter by operating the number pad on the outside of the gate, pressing 2525, then ENTER (bottom left). The gate will close automatically. The code will be changed after the meeting. You will have reached the end of the ¾-mile track when you see parked ambulances. Turn left to the sheds, where there is plenty of parking space.

The timetable will be as follows:

10-12               Beginners’ Practical Session

12-12.30          Beginners who are not staying, leave the site

12.15-12.30     Volunteers for the cleaning project arrive at the car park in Foxhills Road

12.30-2.00       Equipment cleaning then anyone who needs to leave, leaves

2.15-2.30         Members attending for the tree trunk exercise arrive, using the keypad entry, again please car share if possible

2.30 onwards  Tree cutting and tea

It should work! See you there.

**Special Summer Training Course, 10th May – Raising queen cells using the Punch-Cell method**

See April newsletter. Full details will be sent to attendees.

There are still a few places left, so please let me know if you wish to take one of these.

David Parker

**Summer Meeting at Painshill Park Apiary, Cobham, Saturday 19th May, 2.30 pm**

This is where Geoff and Marion Cooper keep some of their bees and they, with David Parker, will be demonstrating and explaining various methods of swarm control and how to find the queen.

PLEASE REFER TO THE **EFB** PARAGRAPH AT THE TOP OF PAGE 2 IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

***Please note two very important things:***

***1. Check emails before coming to be sure that this meeting is going ahead; the final decision will be made a few days before, and the meeting may be cancelled if there is any spread of the EFB or a really bad weather forecast.***

***2. Access to the Apiary is NOT via the main Visitors’ Entrance to Painshill Park or the Guest Entrance near the Sainsbury’s roundabout that we have used before; there is a better way – read on…***

Access Details:

For this meeting only, the way to the Apiary is from the Painshill roundabout where the A245 (Byfleet to Cobham road) crosses the A3. At this roundabout proceed as if to go down the slip road to Guildford on the A3. Just before the slip road there is a gated entrance and a black sign board with the wording Pains Hill Private Residences; there are black iron gates between two white lodge houses. Approach the gates slowly and they will open. The Apiary is in the first field on the right, after going over one speed bump in the drive. We have permission from Painshill Park to use this entrance and to park in the field, in a clearing to the left, inside the gate. From there it is a very short walk along the boundary fence to the hives, where you will see Geoff’s car (silver estate) parked.

***Important note*:** Our relationship with the Painshill residents over many years has been very good indeed. **However** there has been one resident over that time who has always been what could most kindly be described as ‘obstructive’. I want to assure you all that should he or his wife challenge any of us, whatever he says, we have full permission and right to have our meeting and park our cars in the field; this has all been agreed with the Painshill estate manager. Hopefully you will not have the embarrassment of having to meet the ‘obstructive’ resident, but should this happen I would strongly advise you not to be drawn into any debate, but refer him to Marion or myself. Please do not feel that any shadow is cast by this on our activities; Painshill management and the other residents are very well aware of this resident, and he does not have their support for his views.

Following the meeting we will be having a picnic tea in the field near the parked cars.  Tea, coffee and milk will be provided.  Please bring your own mugs, something to share for the picnic, a flask of hot water if possible and a seat if you wish to be comfortable. Ring Geoff / Marion if you have any questions (01932 242179).

**Surrey County Show, Monday May 28th, Help still needed**

Details in April newsletter. Contact Michael Main (Chief Steward) michaelfmain@hotmail.com.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Weybridge Summer Meetings**

PLEASE REFER TO THE **EFB** PARAGRAPH AT THE TOP OF PAGE 2 IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE MEETINGS.

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|  | **Hosts** | **Date** | **Main Subject** | **Secondary Subject** |
|  | Arran Taylor, Edwina Wardle, David Parker | 5th May,2.30 pm | Extracting Bees from a Tree Trunk and disease aspects to consider when collecting swarms | Cleaning Teaching Apiary equipment |
|  | Paul and Helen Bunclark | 10th May,6.30 pm | Roger Patterson Training course on Queen Rearing using Cell Punching PLACES STILL AVAILABLE |  |
|  | Geoff, Marion and David Parker | 19th May,2.30 pm | Swarm Control - a variety of methods:  Demaree, Pagden, Queen in Nuc, etc. | Finding and Marking a queen |
|  | Arran Taylor | 9th June, 2.30 pm | Queen Harvesting, Mini Nuc mating test | Different Mating nucs, Apidea, Kieler, Abelo, v. full sized nuc. |
|  | Chris Burnett | July 21st,2.30 pm | Top bar hives – how they work. Seen in action.  | How to make up Sections, tricks e.g. waxing wood, etc.  Problems using them |
|  |  TBA | Aug |  | How to prepare cut comb |
|  |  TBA | Sept | End of Season Social | 20 min Lecture/Presentation  |

**SBKA Summer BBQ, Saturday 14th July 2018, 5.30pm ‘til dusk and beyond**

Reigate Division has generously offered to host this event at the fabulous Henfold Copse Apiary (if you haven't visited before, this is the opportunity). For full details see the attachment (Summer BBQ).

**Bees & Honey Show at the South of England Show, Ardingly, 7-9th June**

The full details of this event were given in the March Newsletter, page 4.

**The Royal Three Counties Show, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW**

A flyer detailing this was attached to the March Newsletter. It is to be held on 15th - 17th June

**Events at East Surrey Bees: David and Celia Rudland have sent these invitations**

Queen Rearing Day Sunday 20th May 2018

Experience a variety of queen rearing methods; for those with some beekeeping experience. An expanded version of the queen rearing delivered at the Spring Convention.

Disease Day Saturday 30th June

A practical day including demonstrating how to look for disease in a colony and tackling varroa, chalk brood and nosema. We have a licence to handle live frames of notifiable disease and will be looking at these to develop recognition skills.

Both days start at 10am and finish around 4pm and include a ploughmans lunch.

For details see http://www.eastsurreybees.co.uk/ or phone: Office 01883 622788 Mobile 07798 915480

**ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**Fundraising with Waitrose**

For those who are unfamiliar with the Waitrose Community Matters scheme, this is how it works.  Inside each Waitrose store near the front are three clear perspex boxes where shoppers can ''vote'' for one of three charities/good causes; the charities change every month.  When you purchase goods from a Waitrose store, you will be given a green plastic token.  If the checkout person does not give you one, ask for it.  If you use the self checkout tills, there should be a container of tokens nearby where you can help yourself.  You then place the token in the box of your choice.  At the end of the donation period, Waitrose count up the tokens in each box and divide £1000 in proportion to the number of tokens cast by shoppers. On previous occasions when Weybridge Beekeepers has been one of the beneficiaries of this scheme we have received about £300, so it is a useful addition to our funds.

The Weybridge and Hersham stores have already included beekeeping as one of their charities this year. Repeat requests can be made annually. Why not try your local store?

Andrew Halstead

**Thinking about doing BBKA Modules but not sure what’s involved or how to start?**

**Want to learn more about your bees and how to keep them?**

I’ve had several people asking about doing modules or further study on beekeeping subjects. I’d like to hear from **anybody** interested so I can put something together for you and our association.

If written exams aren’t your thing you don’t have to do them, you can study just for the pleasure of learning more about your bees and the skills of beekeeping.

**Email me :- email. wardle\_1@ntlworld.com** if you’d like to know more about what’s involved in doing BBKA modules and examsor there are particular aspects of beekeeping you’d like to study as part of a study group.

If there are subjects/areas of beekeeping you’d like to know more about at club meetings through talks or presentations, please let me know. This can include a variety of topics such as beekeeping history, botany, using a microscope, preparing and exhibiting honey and cooking with honey to name just a few.

**Remember, this is your association and I can only provide things of interest if you tell me what interests you.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

 Edwina Wardle

 Education Co-ordinator

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**Three important reports regarding the ban of neonicotinoids in Europe**

*(1) Today is a momentous day for our bees.*

In the last few minutes (27th April) the European Union has voted to ban bee-harming neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) on all crops grown outdoors. Friends of the Earth supporters across Europe played a massive part in making it happen.

In the past neonics were banned on a handful of crops. Now, if a crop is grown outdoors, neonics are totally off-limits. Our bees will be able to fly more freely through our countryside without the risk of these harmful chemicals.

Following huge pressure from thousands of you, UK Environment Secretary Michael Gove played his part and voted for the ban. So an extra well done if you signed our petition. Let’s celebrate and share this huge success for our bees.

For full report see attachment.

 From *Friends of the Earth*

*Thanks to Peter Webb for passing on this encouraging information.*

*(2) Member states have voted in favour of an almost complete ban on the use of neonicotinoid insecticides across the EU.*

Click the link below for more information

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-43910536](https://bee-craft.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9e5d75f82e5fb22f2f36ef838&id=3d5197b536&e=0d45edb2fc)

or view on [our Facebook page](https://bee-craft.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9e5d75f82e5fb22f2f36ef838&id=39119db923&e=0d45edb2fc) The *Bee Craft* team

(3) *Another short report of this was in the edition of the i newspaper dated 28th April 2018.*

**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 secondhand 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 for sale**

**A number of ESTABLISHED OVERWINTERED COLONIES with 2017 Queen (National Standard brood frames)**The colonies were treated with Apivar for Varroa in late summer/autumn 2017. They have a gentle temperament and are good foragers. All queens are locally reared from our gentle breeding stock. Price of each colony: £180 (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 – see** Special Offer **below)  (We do not overwinter nucs)**

**- 6 Frame Nucs** (National standard frames) with 2018 mated queen (marked red).   Supplied in 6 frame Poly Nuc. £150 + £35 nuc deposit which is refundable on return.

 **- 5 Frame Nucs** (National standard frames) with 2018 mated queen (marked red).   Supplied in 5 frame Correx Travelling Box. Price: £155.

The nucs will have a mated 2018 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 mid June onwards depending on the weather.

**Special Offer**: We offer a £5 discount for nuc orders received by 30th April.

**Contact: Astrid Bowers-Veenman** **(Hog's Back Bees and Bee Products)**

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**

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Saturday | May 5th | Various times | Summer Meeting. Cleaning frames and taking bees from a tree trunk. | p. 3-4 |
| Saturday | May 5th | 10 am - 3 pm | Weybridge Market | April p. 4 |
| Thursday  | May10th | Evening | Roger Patterson at Paul Bunclark’s. Cell Punching. | p. 4 |
| Saturday | May 19th | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting at Painshill Park. Geoff, Marion & David Parker | p. 4 |
| Monday | May 28th | All day | Surrey County Show | p. 5 and March p. 4 |
| Saturday | June 9th | 2.30 pm  | Summer Meeting. Arran Taylor | March p. 4.Details later |
| Wednesday - Friday | June 7th-9th | See Attachment(March)  | South of England Show |  p. 4. March and attachment |
| Thursday-Saturday | June 15th - 17th  | See Attachment (March) | Royal Three Counties Show Malvern, | March p. 5 and attachment |
| Saturday | July 14th | 5.30 pm | SBKA Summer BBQHenfield Copse | p. 5 and attachment |
| Saturday | July 21st | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting. Chris Burnett. Top bar hives | Details later |
| Sunday | July 29th | 10 am - 3 pm | Weybridge Market, Prudential Ride |  April p. 4 |
| Saturday | December 1st | 11 am - 7 pm | Weybridge Christmas Market | April p. 4 |
| Thursday-Saturday | October 25th – 27th | All day | National Honey Show, Sandown Park, Esher |  |
| CONTACT DETAILS |
| ChairmanAndrew Halstead - 01483 489581email: ahalstead44@btinternet.com | SecretaryJane Hunter - 01932 857427email: weybridgebees.sec@gmail.com |
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| Membership SecretaryPeter Webb - 01932 355598email: peterwebb@btinternet.com | Rowtown Apiary ManagerRob Chisholm - 01483 715779email: robinchisholm102@btinternet.com |
| Beginners’ Beekeeping Course TutorAndrew Halstead - 01483 489581email: ahalstead44@btinternet.com |  Beekeepers Beginners’ Course - AdminSue Lawes - 01932 843209email: slawes@hotmail.co.uk |
| SwarmsMichael Main - 01932 849080 email: michaelfmain@hotmail.com  |  Education CoordinatorEdwina Wardle - 01932 702887 email: Wardle\_1@ntlworld.com |
| **Regional Bee Inspector**Sandra Gray - 07775 119430Email: sandra.gray@apha.gsi.gov.uk  | Seasonal Bee InspectorHilary Hayward - 07900 167409email: Hilary.Hayward@apha.gsi.gov.uk |
| LOCAL BEE ADVISORS |
| Rob Chisholm - 01483 715779 | Geoff Cooper - 01932 242179 |
| Paul Hildersley – 07827 916186 |  |

**Sponsors and Supporters of our proposed Beekeeping Centre**



