HONEYCRAFT

September 2015

Sally Leslie Skep making at Shaftesbury Show

Dorset County Beekeepers Association
We have come to the end of another beekeeping season. It has really been a very mixed year.

To begin with our association did quite well out of the oil seed rape but it was not a bumper harvest. Then we had weeks and weeks of no rain which meant that there was very little nectar for our bees to collect. Without the moisture in the ground the plants went into flower and produced pollen but very little nectar. The flowering period was also curtailed. When we came to extract what little honey there was it was not well capped because there was so little moisture in the honey and a quantity of it was solid with the remains of the oilseed rape. Our association apiary produced about 70lbs of honey from 9 hives which is a very poor average.

The other problem has been associated with queens. Although we have raised queens they have not thrived and one of our members said he had one colony that had three queens supersede each other. Queens are either suffering from hive infections; varroa treatments; poor mating conditions or something that has made their longevity reduced.

Perhaps the two problems are related; poor queens do not produce enough brood and bees to forage well and bring in honey. The other alternative maybe that bees affected by lack of good forage do not feed queens well so that they succumb to diseases easily.

The only bit of silver lining to this cloud of events is that as a result of so many queen problems there is relatively little varroa in the hives. Only my strong hives tend to have any varroa worth treating.

If you have had similar experiences please let me know and I shall print your stories in the next Honeycraft. If you have any theories as to why queens are not lasting as long as they used to tell us what you think. Honeycraft hopefully is a two way process and members of DBKA can use it to inform us of your ideas as much as being on the receiving end of mine.

Lesley Gasson
Editor’s Note

We have come to the time of the year when practical beekeeping takes a bit of a break and we indulge in shows and conventions so this edition is full of what lies in store until we wake up again in spring.

As you can see from the page opposite South Devon has its Convention the day before ours so for those keen to keep up with South Western Counties beekeeping knowledge can try to attend both of these events. Those in West Dorset will probably find this easier than those in East Dorset. There is a form for you to fill in to attend the Dorset Convention so please make use of it. Ian Homer and his team usually do a good job in finding interesting speakers and the venue is pleasant.

The National Honey Show has grown over the years to become more like a convention rather than just a show with much more than rows of honey jars to look at.

As usual we have reports from some of the local associations with pictures of what they have been up to. Dorchester and Weymouth managed quite a different set of apiary visits. If you have found an apiary visit or event interesting or unusual please let us know about it.

There are two sets of courses to go to brush up your knowledge of bees. Liz Rescorla is running one on pests and Diseases in Stratton Village Hall and Terry Payne is running one on Bee Anatomy and Physiology in the Shillingstone Church Centre over 10 sessions. They will help you prepare for the modules but are of interest in themselves.

The BBKA is concerned about the financial cycle of the budget and how this is arranged. I have included their article on this. The DBKA council will discuss this on 9th September. Liz Rescorla is our delegate on this working party so we should be kept well informed.

Finally there is an article on feeding bees which hopefully will be of use to beginners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairwoman’s Chatter</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorchester and Weymouth BKA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3 course</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 5 course</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feeding Bees</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorset Convention</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>National Honey Show</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBKA annual cycle working party</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Blandford and Sturminster BKA</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Dorset BKA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Dorset BKA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Devon Beekeepers Convention 2015

Saturday 17 October 2015
at
The Ariel Centre
Ashburton Road, Totnes TQ9 5JX
on the King Edward VI College campus in Totnes.

Speakers: Dr Rowena Jenkins
Gareth John
Simon Croson
Derek Mitchell

Tickets: Adults £15 (after 30 September £20)
bookable in advance from:
http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html

All enquiries and payments by cheque (made out to Totnes & Kingsbridge Beekeepers) to:
Mrs Lilah Killock, Secretary,
Totnes & Kingsbridge Beekeepers, Fosbery, Bridgetown, Totnes TQ9 5BA
email: tkbasecretary@btinternet.com telephone: 01803 866028

Under-18s and Full-time Students Free

Ploughman’s Lunch - £5 per person (must be booked in advance)
or Lunch is available on-site.
Winter Study Groups 2015 – 2016

BBKA Module 3 – Honeybee Diseases, Pests and Poisoning

Lesley Gasson has asked me to put together and lead a group for anyone interested in this BBKA Module, whether or not they wish to take the BBKA exam.

If Module 1 is the ‘how to keep them’ module, Module 3 is the one on ‘how to keep them healthy’. It includes basic adult honeybee biology, notifiable pests and diseases, other adult and brood diseases and conditions including viruses and nosema, detection and monitoring of varroa and the treatment and control of varroosis, pests such as wasps and wax moth, and exposure to toxic chemicals.

This is not a ‘taught’ course, but an opportunity to go through the units of the syllabus in a systematic way as part of a group, discussing the units and looking at both theory and practice.

The syllabus is available on the BBKA website. The units will be arranged in 6 groups, with the final 2 sessions for review, questions, and a brief look at BBKA exam structure and technique for anyone interested in taking the exam next year, either in March or November.

Venue: Stratton Village Hall from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Dates: 16 and 30 November, 14 December, 11 and 25 January, 8 and 22 February, 7 March

Cost: To cover the hall, travel and any other costs we are charging £45 for the 8 sessions, payable by cheque to Dorset County Beekeepers Association, or cash on the first night please.

Contact: Liz Rescorla on 01305 889916 or email at winkyozz@tiscali.co.uk

European Foul Brood in larvae
BBKA Examination Module 5 Honey Bee Biology

A study course for Module 5 has been arranged over 10 lessons with a view to preparing students for the BBKA examination in March 2016

However there is, of course, no obligation upon anyone to take the exam and you might simply wish to study for its own sake.

**Place** The course will take place at the Shillingstone Church Centre.

**Time** 7.00 to 9.00pm on the following Thursday evenings;-
- October 8th and 22nd
- November 12th and 19th
- December 10th
- January 14th and 21st
- February 11th and 18th
- March 2nd

**The cost** of the course will be £60.00 and cheques, payable to BSBKA, should be sent to Robert Camping please at;-
Yew Tree Cottage, Higher Row, Holt, Wimborne, BH21 7EB.

**How to enrol** I should be grateful if you would also let me know by email if you wish to join the course please. Terry Payne twpayne@btinternet.com

The course will use as its reference base 'Beekeeping Study Notes' by J D & B D Yates (Orange book) together with Celia Davis' The Honey Bee Inside Out'

Other books are also recommended by the BBKA and a list can be downloaded from their website. An understanding of our Bee's biology will be very useful to any beekeeper whether or not it is intended to take the examination - either now or later and I hope that many of you will wish to take part.

Terry Payne
WBC & National Hives
made from Cedar
Includes:
1 Apex Roof (Flat available)
2 Super box
1 Brood box (14x12 available)
1 OM Floor (WBC with feet)
3 Lifts and porch (WBC only)
1 Crown Board
Bee escapes, mesh & inspection tray, entrance blocks all included!

Call: 01896 850755 or visit
www.caddon-hives.co.uk

www.beebasic.co.uk
All the protection you need, and more

Call us for friendly advice, a free brochure, or visit our website

5 Hillcrest Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1AJ
E-mail: sales@beebasic.co.uk
Free Delivery on UK orders
Prices subject to VAT

020 8866 3864
9am to 5pm except Sundays
Dorset County BKA Convention 2015

Sunday 18th October 2015
Stratton Village Hall, Dorchester, DT2 9WG

Once again this year we have a balanced range of practical topics to suit everyone, from three outstanding speakers. The venue is to be the conveniently located Stratton Village Hall, just four miles North of Dorchester. A full day programme, including a ploughman’s lunch and refreshments, is just £20 per person (£15 for Dorset County BKA members before 26th September 2015).

THE PROGRAMME

0930  Registration
0955  Welcome to Dorset
1000 – 1100  **Small Hive Beetle, a major or minor problem for UK beekeepers?**  
Professor Stephen Martin
1100 - 1130  Coffee and Biscuits
1130 - 1230  **Barrier Techniques as an aid to Good Husbandry**  
Jo Schup
1230 - 1330  Lunch
1330 – 1430  **Is the Asian Hornet going to be a problem in the UK?**  
Professor Stephen Martin
1430 – 1530  **Changing Combs**  
Jo Schup & Ian Homer
1530 – 1545  Afternoon tea
1545 – 1615  Question Time and Prize raffle
1615  Close of Convention

Our speakers are well known throughout beekeeping world:
**Professor Stephen Martin** is Chair in Animal Ecology at The University of Salford. He is an international authority on honeybee pests and diseases, and his work on the varroa mite and viral transmission has influenced policy at the European Parliament. He has first-hand experience with Small Hive Beetle in South Africa & Hawaii, and hornets in Japan.

**Jo Schup** has recently been appointed Regional Bee Inspector for the Western Region having worked as a Seasonal Bee Inspector over a number of years. She is a Master Beekeeper and winner of the Wax Chandlers Prize for the best candidate in 2011, the year she became an MB. Apart from keeping bees, Jo also runs a smallholding in Shropshire.
Ian Homer will be familiar to many of us. He has held most posts at local association level and is currently serving for a second period as a BBKA Trustee. He joined the National Bee Unit in 1999, initially working as a Seasonal Bee his career with the NBU and then as Regional Bee Inspector for Southern England. He finished his career with the NBU as an as Regional Bee Inspector for Southern England and retired in 2012.

In addition to the programme there will be a raffle and Northern Books will have a stand. Payment arrangements will be cash or cheque only. If you wish to pre-order a particular book/books please contact Ruth Homer at: beekeepers@hotmail.com - before September 27th, and she will be pleased to help you.

**Tickets and details:** Doug Whyte at: douglas.whyte53@gmail.com or 53, Sandford Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4DQ or on 01929 550760.

Please include a **stamped addressed envelope** and your cheque(s) made payable to DBKA and send to: **Doug Whyte, 53, Sandford Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4DQ**

Many Thanks

**Beginners’ Course in January and February**

A the beginning of this year I ran a series of 6 sessions in Weymouth for people interested in learning beekeeping hoping that they would attend practical beekeeping meetings with their local association after the end of the course. I had a class of about 10 people who came from Dorchester and Weymouth BKA and a few from West Dorset BKA.

I am happy to arrange this again and hope to do so in January and February 2016 in Dorchester. It works well if at the end of the course they meet the members of their relevant associations so they know who to look out for and where to go when the course is over.

To date I have about 5 people interested in attending this course. To make my travelling worthwhile and the hire of a hall financially viable I need a minimum of 6 people. If you know of anyone interested in join a course over 6 week from the middle of January please let me know or give them my details which are on the back of Honeycraft.

Lesley Gasson
The Dorset Beekeeping Convention 2015

Please send me _____ ticket(s) for the Dorset BKA Convention on Sunday October 18th 2015 @ £20 each (£15 for Dorset BKA members before 26th September 2015).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>BBKA membership no</th>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Ticket Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name........................................................................................................

Address ........................................................................................................

Contact phone Number......................................................................................

Your Application form and contact to apply for tickets, if you have not already done so.
Somerset Specialists ABeeC

For all your beekeeping requirements.

Agents for MAISEMORE APIARIES

EVERYTHING FOR THE NATIONAL HIVE FROM STOCK.

- Starter Kits - Complete hives - Floors - Brood chambers - Frames - Foundation - Queen excluders - Supers - Crown boards - Roofs.
- All the above supplied either “flat” or assembled, in deal or cedar.
- Bee-suits (One piece & separate) - Gloves - Smokers - Hive tools - Etc.
- Knives - Extractors - Honey buckets.
- Honey jars - Labels - Cut comb containers - Etc.
- Collect from our stock or ask about our delivery service.

Somerset Specialists ABeeC, The Rose Cottage, Dinnnington, Hinton St. George, Somerset, TA17 8SX.
Tel: 01460 52959
Fax: 01460 53129
Email: giles@abeec.co.uk
Website: www.abeec.co.uk
Introducing the BBKA Annual Cycle Working Party

As you are aware, the Special Delegates Meeting in June did not support the proposition that the Annual Delegate Meeting (ADM) should be moved to June each year to allow a better correlation between the ADM and the Financial Year. It would appear that the Delegates were not convinced that a sound case for the meetings to be held in June had been made, and/or that all other alternatives had been fully examined. In last month’s BBKA News, a call was made for volunteers for a working party to examine the options. Nine volunteers put themselves forward and have held their first meeting. The working party do not consider themselves to be subject matter experts, a think tank or anything similar – their role is simply to draw opinions from all corners of the BBKA, and to produce recommendations which will lead to a deciding vote by Associations.

The first meeting of the working party established a ‘strawman’ set of options to provide a framework for a consultation process, and these options will be sent to all AAMs and other stakeholders on 24th August 2015 requesting a response by 27th September 2015. The responses should express the advantages and disadvantages of each option from their viewpoint. The consultation will also ask the stakeholders for any favoured options that the working party has not listed. The working party will also be seeking to have a one to one communication either face to face or by phone with everyone else whose work would be affected by the change – the BBKA Office, various committees etc.

It is expected that the AAMs will consult within their own committees and with their ADM delegate. Where they have branches or divisions no doubt they will consult with them while compiling their response.

The working party will analyse all the responses. It is hoped that there will be a maximum of four that will rise to the surface as being most cost effective and least disruptive. These will provide the basis of the working party recommendations to the Executive Committee. That report, which will also detail the options that seem less suitable for adoption, will be made public, and that is planned to happen well before the ADM in January 2016.

The ideal solution will be an ADM held sufficiently before the start of the next financial year to allow the policies adopted by the ADM to drive the coming financial year, both in activities and budgeting. The second driver would be for the ADM to have as much Year to Date (YTD) financial information available to it as possible, to inform their decision making. There may well be other drivers that come to light from the consultations.

As further background, The EC believes that a mechanism is required whereby the setting of policy and agreement of the budget is a shared activity. You may find it helpful to know that once AAMs elect Trustees, it is those Trustees that are legally accountable for the financial results that are reflected in the accounts. Delegates Meetings can comment, make policy and take action based on the facts shown in the accounts, but the concept of “accepting” the accounts has no legal significance – you can disapprove of reality, but can’t reject it! Similarly, although the constitution lays a responsibility for approving the incoming budget on the AAMs via ADM Delegates, this is a legal anomaly in that (other than as part of our constitution) budget responsibility really resides with the trustees as part of their direct responsibility under charity legislation. Given the EC belief regarding policy and budgeting becoming a shared activity, the consultation might have wider implications than simply shifting dates.

An email address for the working party will be on the BBKA website before the consultation starts.

The BBKA Annual Cycle Working Party
12th August 2015
www.thebeeshop.co.uk

Quality Beekeeper Clothing  
At Affordable Prices

Full Suits, Smocks & Veils
White, Coloured & Camouflage
Sizes - Infant to XXXL

Full beekeeper suit for under £50
and free postage from
Wells, Somerset

Email:
michael.duckett@virgin.net

---

NORTHERN BEE BOOKS
publishers of

The Quality Quarterly with Quarterly Quality
For the widest range of beekeeping
literature register for our newsletter and
see the catalogue at

northernbeebooks.co.uk

Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd,
Hebden Bridge HX7 5JS

Tel: 01422 882751
email: jerry@northernbeebooks.co.uk

---

Beckys Beezzz Ltd

FOR ALL YOUR BEEKEEPING NEEDS...

At Beckys Bees we sell top quality mated queens and nucs as well as stocking a wide range of beekeeping products from cedar hives and varroa treatments to smokers and fuel and bee feed.

All our nucs comply to the standards set by Defra and NBU.
Manufacturers of Corex boxes that take both national & commercial frames, ventilated for optimum air flow when transporting bees. Light, strong and secure.

Stockists of Top quality ceder hives • Polystyrene & Ply Nuc Boxes • Frames & Foundation • Rauchboy Smokers & Smoker Fuel
Varroa Treatments & Medicines • Vita Gold & Vita Green • Ambrosia Fondant & Syrup • Pollen Substitute • Disposable & Leather Gloves • Bee Suits & Gaunlets • Feeders • Extractors • Jars and lots lots more...

Distributors of Aulumgaard Ambrosia Beefeed & Enolapi Candipolline Gold,
Competitive quotes for pallets orders.
Visit our online shop for our full range at www.beckysbeesontlineshop.co.uk
Discounts given where I can. Please email me at beckysbeezzs@gmail.com
or Contact us on 01264 351104 • 07973 423628

---

Members of

BEE FARMERS ASSOCIATION
We at East Dorset have had a very busy summer, the apiary meetings have been very well attended and the swarm collectors kept on their toes. The weather was kind to us at the barbeque where we all enjoyed the food and company. We have also attended a couple of local fun days where a lot of interest in the plight of bees and beekeeping was shown by the public. One of our swarm collectors had a very interesting experience when he was called to a swarm which had taken up residence in a sofa and were very comfortable thank you. He managed to extract the swarm and take the bees to a good home. Another swarm was in a trunk of a tree which was being felled, they now reside, still in the tree trunk, on his allotment where he has put a see through cap on the log so he can keep an eye on them! We never know what we will find when swarm collecting!

We hope our members are busy getting their entries ready for our Honey Show on 5th September as we would like a lot of entries please.

Best wishes to Dorset County Honey Show which is also on 5th September.

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 5th September Honey Show, Sturts Farm
Saturday 19th September Annual Walk – details will be sent out later.
Thursday 15th September Skittles evening
Friday 23rd October A.G.M.
Swarms this year were a problem for many of us – after collecting and hiving successfully finding that there was no queen there – I had at least 4 like that and others in the Association said the same. I just wonder if it was the perpetual winds we had around the months of May/June/July and the queens could not find their way back to the hive. Some of us too have reported a few drone laying queens maybe for the same reason and new queens that have taken a long time to start to lay.

I had one swarm I was called out to, it appeared massive in this very high tree – I was unable to get to it even with a ladder (I needed a cherry picker!), so I put a bait hive just below it with some lure but they still would not come down – they were there for several weeks in the winds and the rain, they had established themselves there with comb – they are just dwindling away now which is such a shame.

I believe the honey crop is not a good as last year for many but no doubt there are a few that had their bees in the right place at the right time. The varroa levels are lower this year due to breaks in the queens not laying and disappearing - so I wonder if everyone will treat this year plus reading several articles to leave the bees to their own devices! Treatments must be done very soon if one is going to treat.

We have had the usual Apiary meetings which members have attended, but we always wish more would came along and help, plus learning a little too. One meeting we had at a member’s apiary which proved a great success and attracted several of the newer members.

Melplash Show was held on the 27th August more details to be in next HC article. A big thank you to everyone who helped before and on the day to make it such a success.

Our Beginners Course next February /March 2016 to be held in Bridport - targeting folk who live in West Dorset Area. We have had a lot of interest already. Details on our Website www.westdorsetbees.org.uk

Carole Brown
01308 456210
Secretary WDBKA
Email - secretary@westdorsetbees.org.uk
Carole Brown’s swarm in a tree with comb attached to a branch

Looking Ahead for West Dorset 2015

All very welcome to come along to any of our talks & apiary meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 5th September</td>
<td>Apiary Meeting</td>
<td>Netherbury DT6 5LY</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 3rd October</td>
<td>Apiary Clean up</td>
<td>Netherbury</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 6th October</td>
<td>Taster for Beginners Course 2016</td>
<td>Christian Fellowship Hall</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridport DT6 3QD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 15th October</td>
<td>Nigel Semmence talk on Bee Pests</td>
<td>St. John’s Ambulance Hall</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rex Lane DT6 3JJ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dorchester and Weymouth County Honey Show at the Dorchester Show on 5th and 6th September
THORNES OF STOCKBRIDGE

Sale Day

Saturday 26th September 10.00am to 1.00pm

Our normal bargains will be on offer including;
Frame Packs, Hive Parts,
Clothing and Accessories.

Pre-orders now being taken for collection on the day.
To pre-order call 01673 858555 or visit www.thorne.co.uk

E H THORNE (Beehives) LTD
BEEHIVE BUSINESS PARK, RAND, NR. WRAGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE, LN8 5NJ
Tel. 01673 858555 sales@thorne.co.uk www.thorne.co.uk
like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/E.H.Thorne or follow us on Twitter @ThorneBeehives
Are your bees healthy?

Bee-Bay provides organic products for the good health and protection of your bees.

BeeVital
Hive Clean
Organic product for bee health which invigorates bees and cleanses them from parasites.

Nozevit
Produced from all natural substances according to a decades old recipe.

Optima
Containing whole plant polyphenols, long known for their intestinal cleansing properties.

BeeVital
Chalkbrood
Helps to fight the Chalkbrood mycosis and keep your bee brood healthy.

BeeStrong
Helps keep your colonies strong. Best solution to protect against disease and pesticides.

Also stockists of Apilife Var, beekeeper's clothing and accessories.

Westacott Road, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX32 8AW  Tel: 01271 336210 / 07706 969622
Email: emie@bee-bay.net  Order online at www.Bee-Bay.net
We have now come to the end of our programme of visits and apiary visits, the last one being at Doug Whyte’s apiary at Kingston Mauward on Sunday 9th August. Unfortunately we did have a cancellation on the visit to the Bee Happy Plants Nursery near Chard but the rest of the visits have been very successful and Doug’s was they only one we had to reschedule because of the weather so I guess we have been lucky.

I would like to thank Dennis Clemens, Jerry Hallett and Doug Whyte for kindly hosting our apiary visits this year. Although it is very interesting for beekeepers to visit other apiaries, I think we tend to forget that it can be quite intrusive particularly as the visits are usually at a demanding time for the colonies and the beekeeper.

Our visit to Robert Fields’ Honey Processing Plant at the beginning of June was very interesting. It is hidden away rather so it was not easy to find but once there it is definitely worth going to. We had a guided tour of the Plant with Robert and his partner explaining their processes from bringing in the supers to bottling the honey and dealing with the wax. Robert also allowed us to ask him endless questions at the end and I know we could have probably stayed there much longer but we took pity on him after about half an hour.

In the last edition of Honeycraft I mentioned that we were busy with swarms. That continued well into July. We have had some complaints from members of the public about aggressive bees and unfortunately there was some negative publicity about bees swarming in the media which didn’t help.

Our fortnightly beginners meetings in Martinstown have now come to an end. We have had a reliable number attending although this tailed off slightly towards the end of July/beginning of August probably as we couldn’t always open the hives because of inclement weather. I would like to thank Liz Rescorla for letting us use her apiary site for these meetings. Again, this has been quite intrusive for her and the colonies, particularly as the meetings have been in the evening when it is not always the best time to open hives. We hope to continue these meetings next year but we will be looking for another site as Liz is unable to continue hosting the meetings at her apiary.

As I write we are looking forward to the Dorchester Show. Although the honey yield has not been as good as last year, we are still hoping for a good number of entries.

We will be holding another **Introduction to Beekeeping** Evening on Thursday 17th September at the Colliton Club. We did this last year after the Show to pick up on any queries taken at the Show. The next event after that will be our **AGM on Wednesday 28 October at The Colliton Club at 7.30pm.**

One of our members has got two microscopes for sale. For further details please contact him on 07580 510021.

Sally Leslie
Secretary
Members of Dorset and Weymouth BKA examining hives at Kingston Mauward College apiary where Doug Whyte runs courses for beginners.

The Shaftesbury and Gillingham Honey Show

Once again Denis Clemens won the Baylis shield for the most points in the show. Denis is an experienced beekeeper and honey show entrant. When he puts his mind to enter a show there is often an entry in every class in which he does very well.

The honey show is part of the Horticulture and Handicrafts marquee which is a large space to fill. Honey takes up a small part of the area. There were not many entries this year and many were by people who are not members of any association. This may be due to a number of causes.

- This has not been a good year for honey production
- The honey show is not well promoted by the show society
- More people would show their honey if they could sell their honey on or near the honey show stand.

As the prize money is quite generous the show society loses money when there are not many entries in a class which may be one reason that they do not promote it and hope that in time it will wither away.

One of the attractions of the Honey Show was a demonstration of skep making by Sally Leslie. Sally can be seen on the cover of this edition of Honeycraft by the Honey show stand with some of her skeps.

Lesley Gasson
Feeding Bees

Now is the time to feed your bees if you have not already done so. There are all sorts of different feeders and a number of different types of feed. Bees need about 40lbs of stores for the winter so you need to work out how much is already stored and how much more will be needed. Do not forget there will be a bit of late forage such as ivy but do not bank on it; the weather may turn bad.

Types of feeders
Many people prefer rapid feeders because you can see how much feed the bees have taken down and they can be refilled without removing them from the hive. They also have a cover so stray bees and wasps cannot get into the syrup from an open roof or opening in the crown board. The problem with rapid feeders is that if you pour in the syrup too fast you may drown the bees that are in contact with the feed.

Contact feeders are feeders with a fine copper wire mesh over a hole in the top of the feeder. They require a bit of skill when put on the top of a crown board as they tend to spill through the wire mesh before a vacuum is created. You need to take a bucket with you to the hive and tip the excess syrup into the bucket so that it does not go all over the hive and attract wasps and robbers before putting it on the hive.

Frame feeders fit inside the hive and can be useful for a small colony. They need a strip of wood inside them for the bees to stand on while they collect the syrup. Because they do not take much syrup they need to be replenished fairly often and the problem of drowning bees is again to be considered.

Different types of feed.
At this time of year bees should be given heavy syrup as they are going to store it for the winter and do not want to have to evaporate too much water off it before it can be stored. As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop the effort of evaporation becomes more difficult so the sooner they are fed the better.

Many people use a ready-made feed such as ambrosia because it is easy to handle, does not ferment or become mouldy, and is almost odourless so does not attract wasps like sugar does. It is easy for the bees to use as it contains inverted sugar. Its main draw back is that it is more expensive than sugar.

Heavy syrup using sugar is made up of about 2lbs of sugar to 1 pint of water or 2 kg of sugar to 1 litre of water. Warm the water before adding the sugar as this helps it to dissolve and stir well. Feed it to the bees when cool. You can make up several gallons and then fill all your feeders at once.

For some people find that feeding fondant is easier than feeding syrup and again you can buy bakers’ fondant or ambrosia fondant. Bakers fondant tends to go rock hard if it is not well covered from drying out. When you add water to it; it can turn into a slimy mess so keep it malleable. Ambrosia fondant comes in 1kg bags that you make a slit in and put on the crown board.

The most expensive feed is fondant mixed with pollen which is useful for giving your bees a boost but not really necessary. It is probably best fed in spring if your bees are short of food as the pollen will help feed the new larvae.

Lesley Gasson
Feeders

- Rapid feeder with lid
- Large rapid feeder to cover crown board
- Contact feeder
- Frame feeder taking 4 pints
- Pollen and fondant mixture
The National Honey Show 2015

The National Honey Show is held at St. George’s College in Weybridge, Surrey over 3 days from Thursday 29th October to Saturday 31st October during the Autumn Half Term. In many ways it is similar to the BBKA Convention at Harper Adams University. It is organised with the main attraction the Honey show but there are so many other things taking place that you can easily spend two days there and come back well equipped for the next beekeeping season.

The first day is used for judging the exhibits, workshops and lectures the second for more lectures workshops and public viewing and the third for much of the same. There are some repeat workshops and some repeat lectures so if you miss the one you wanted to go to or it clashed with an event you had booked into you can still hear the lecture at another time.

The Show has everything for every sort of beekeeper. There are talks by international speakers; I heard Tom Sealy speak there and was enthralled. This time there are Deborah Delaney from Oregon State University and Juliana Rangel from Texas A&M University. Besides the international speakers there are a large number of well known British beekeepers such as Andy Willis, Margaret Thomas, Roger Patterson, Pam Hunter and many more who each will speak several times during the Show. Some of the talks given by local beekeepers are on the modular BBKA exams, being a show judge and practical skills such as microscopy or cosmetic making.

The Honey Show itself is inspiring and entertaining. There are rows upon rows of honey of every description, wax, candles, inventions, cakes, sweets, photographs, essays, meads, collections of honey products. The essays and photographs are often unexpected and funny. The sweets are beautifully presented and the inventions often complex and original.

Besides the Show and the lectures there is also an enormous hall full of all the businesses connected with beekeeping supplies, Thornes, Mann Lake, Maisemore Apiaries, Exeter Bee Supplies and so on. You can take you car into the college and pick up anything you buy at the entrance to the hall.

Finally if you need anymore persuading that it is worth a visit; the journey from Dorset takes about two hours more or less depending on where in the county you live. The College is near the M25 and there is plenty of parking. There is a canteen which produces hot and cold food and a cafe in the commercial Hall. It is a chance to meet old friends and find out how things are going on in the beekeeping world. I find it easier to get to, less formal and more entertaining than the convention.

Lesley Gasson
Congratulations to two of our hard working and wonderful members; Terry Payne and Geoff Buckland have both passed their Advanced Husbandry Exams and are now Master Beekeepers. Terry as you know is the DBKA Examinations Officer and the BSBKA Education Officer and Geoff is the DBKA vice Chairman and the BSBKA Chairman. We are fortunate to have them both in our association to teach and promote beekeeping.

This year we ran two courses for new beekeepers. The first year course had 15 members all of whom stayed the course and mostly had acquired bees by the end of the year. They were taught in groups of 5; each group had a tutor and a colony to monitor and learn about. Terry produced sheets on different topics each week and there was a discussion before going to the apiary about the topic on the sheet and the work they were likely to do when they reached the apiary. The construction of the course and the small groups meant every one had a chance to learn hands on beekeeping as well as learning the theory from the discussions and sheets.

The second year group managed more hives and had to deal with more difficult beekeeping problems, such as drone laying queens, moving bees on to clean comb, uniting colonies and starting queen raising. At the end of the course 5 people took the Basic Exam and all have done well.

The Oak Fair over two days of the Bank Holiday weekend at King Stag is our show case opportunity for people in the area to see our pavilion. It is also a chance to sell our association honey. We have three tents with candle rolling, honey sales, honey products, observation hive, display of beekeeping equipment and skep making. We do not make much money from the event because we have to pay for the stand but it gives people a chance to see who we are and to sign up for our courses if they interested in joining us. The weather is always important for the crowds. The Oak Fair can be very muddy and damp if it rains.

For the autumn we have a number of talks and courses.

Nigel Semmence is coming to talk about the arrangements for seasonal and regional bee inspectors in the future on Thursday 10th September. All are welcome to join us in the Portman Hall in Shillingstone at 7.30pm. The Portman Hall is on the A357 about half a mile from the start of the village. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Mervyn Bown is running a series of 4 microscopy afternoons in October and November which allows us to hone up our microscopy skills and recognise diseases. Mervyn’s courses are always over subscribed so I am sorry to tell you that there are no spaces left but if you want to go on a waiting list in case some one drops out you are welcome

Terry Payne is running a ten week course on Bee Anatomy and Physiology based on the Module 5 Exam starting in October. Anyone is welcome to join the course costs £60 for the ten sessions (see details on page 7)

Finally our AGM is on 13th November in the Shillingstone Church Centre when we will have a meal after the AGM

Lesley Gasson
MAISEMORE APIARIES LTD
MANUFACTURERS & SUPPLIERS OF ALL BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

- Frames
- Hives & Hive Parts
- Extraction
- Clothing
- Smokers
- Medicines
- Fumigation
- Books
- Beeswax Foundation
- Glass Jars & Containers
- Marking
- Queen Rearing
- Honey For Sale
- Gift Vouchers £5 £10 £20
- Hive Tools & Hardware
- Labels
- Bees on Comb & Queens
- Feeders
- Bee Feed
- Parts & Accessories

OLD ROAD, MAISEMORE, GLOUCESTER, GL2 8HT
TEL: 01452 700289 FAX: 01452 700196
sales@baes-online.co.uk www.baes-online.co.uk www.woodenbriquettes.co.uk
# Dorset Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/6 Sept</td>
<td>Dorch &amp; Wey.</td>
<td>Dorset Honey Show.</td>
<td>Richard Norman</td>
<td>Show Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Sept</td>
<td>Bland &amp; Stur.</td>
<td>Talk by Nigel Semmence at 7.30pm.</td>
<td>L. Gasson.</td>
<td>Portman Hall Shillingstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Sept</td>
<td>Dorch &amp; Wey</td>
<td>Introduction to Beekeeping at 7.30pm</td>
<td>S. Leslie</td>
<td>Colliton Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Sept</td>
<td>Shafts &amp; Gill</td>
<td>Apiary visit at Peter Stratton apiary 2.30pm</td>
<td>A Kneller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Sept</td>
<td>East Dorset</td>
<td>Annual Walk</td>
<td>J. Wellman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Oct</td>
<td>West Dorset</td>
<td>Apiary meeting .</td>
<td>C. Brown</td>
<td>Netherbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Oct</td>
<td>West Dorset</td>
<td>Taster for beginners 7.30pm</td>
<td>C. Brown</td>
<td>Christian F. Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Oct</td>
<td>Bland &amp; Stur</td>
<td>Terry Payne Mod 5 7.00-9.00</td>
<td>T. Payne</td>
<td>Shill Church Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Oct</td>
<td>West Dorset</td>
<td>Nigel Semmence talk 7.30</td>
<td>C. Brown</td>
<td>St. John Amb. Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Oct</td>
<td>Bland &amp; Stur</td>
<td>Microscopy course by M. Bown 2.00pm</td>
<td>T. Payne</td>
<td>Shill Church Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18th Oct</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dorset BKA</strong></td>
<td><strong>Convention 9.30-16.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Doug Whyte</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stratton V. Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd Oct</td>
<td>East Dorset</td>
<td>AGM 7.30pm</td>
<td>J. Wellman</td>
<td>Broadstone Comm Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th Oct</td>
<td>Blan &amp; Stur.</td>
<td>Microscopy 2.00-4-00</td>
<td>T. Payne</td>
<td>Shill Church Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th Oct</td>
<td>Dorch &amp; Wey</td>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>S. Leslie</td>
<td>Colliton Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-31 Oct</td>
<td>Nat Honey Show</td>
<td>National Honey Show</td>
<td>L. Gasson</td>
<td>St. George’s Coll Weybridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Nov</td>
<td>Bland &amp; Stur.</td>
<td>AGM and supper</td>
<td>L. Gasson</td>
<td>Shill Church Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Nov</td>
<td>Blan &amp; Stur.</td>
<td>Microscopy 2.00-4.00pm</td>
<td>T. Payne</td>
<td>Shill Church Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Nov</td>
<td>DBKA</td>
<td>Module 3 course E. Rescorla 7.30pm</td>
<td>E. Rescorla</td>
<td>Stratton V. Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Nov</td>
<td>Bland &amp; Stur.</td>
<td>Microscopy 2.00-4.00</td>
<td>T. Payne</td>
<td>Shill Church Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER EDITION OF HONEYCRAFT FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER**
OFFICERS & SECRETARIES

President     Mr. R. Norman

Chairman     Mrs. L. Gasson The White House Candys Lane Shillingstone DT11 0SF  01258 861690 lmgasson@btinternet.com

Secretary     Mrs. E. Rescorla 5 Cowleaze Martinstown Dorchester DT2 9TD 01305 889916 winkyozz@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer     Mr. Robert Camping Yew Tree Cottage, Higher Row, Holt, Wimborne BH21 7EB 01202 849338 yewcot@gmail.com

Blandford & Sturminster     Mr. Simon Baird Chapel House, The Hollow, Child Okeford DT11 8EX 01258 860477 snbjock@yahoo.com

Dorchester & Weymouth     Mrs. Sally Leslie 86 Chiswell, Portland, Dorset DT5 1AP 01305 823043 sally@salles01.plus.com

East Dorset     Mrs J Wellman  32 Compton Crescent, West Moors, BH22 0BZ  01202 873292  jenny.wellman@tiscali.co.uk

Shaftesbury & Gillingham     Martin Davidson, Sunnylands Farm, Front St. East Stour 01747 838978  martindsgbka@btinternet.com

Sherborne     Mr Richard Baker, Fairmead, Manston Road, Sherborne DT94JB 01935 812741 sherbornebee@hotmail.co.uk

West Dorset     Mrs C A Brown 11 North Hill Way Bridport. DT6 4JX Tel 01308-456210  secretary@westdorsetbees.org.uk

Examination     Mr. Terry Payne Brookman’s Farm Bungalow, Dunns Lane, Iwerne Minster Blandford  DT11 8NG 01747 811251  twpayne@btopenworld.com

Secretary

Education Officer     Mrs. L Gasson The White House Candys Lane Shillingstone

Honeycraft editor     Mrs L Gasson The White House, Candy’s Lane, Shillingstone DT11 0SF  01258 861690 lmgasson@btinternet.com

Web Master     Nikki Rich rich.furzehill@yahoo.co.uk  web site www.dorsetBKA.com

Seasonal Bee Inspector     Mr K Pope  kevin.pope@fera.gsi.gov.uk 07775 119466

Regional Bee Inspector     nigel.semmence@fera.gsi.gov.uk 01264 338694