



Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association June/July 2016 Newsletter



Worker bees capping honey, something I have not seen much of this year!

BBKA Bees and Equipment Insurance Proposal

As you already know one of the services included in your membership as a full or family member of the MBBKA, through our association with the BBKA, is Third Party Public Liability and Product Liability insurance. The BBKA has received a proposal from their Insurance Broker concerning the possibility of an additional insurance policy for members to cover their own Bees and Equipment. The main elements of the plan include:

- All-risks cover on hives, bees, and beekeeping equipment through a Lloyds Underwriter and currently, the one named exclusion would be for colony loss through bee disease
- Such cover would be for up to 5 hives (each colony covered up to £1,000 per colony). Stock - i.e. jars, candle wicks covered up to £250
- The cost of this additional service is estimated to be between £5 and £10 per member per annum
- For those members with more than 5 hives and up to 20 hives costs an additional £10 plus insurance tax, 21 to 40 hives an additional £15 plus insurance tax
- Association apiaries - additional cover will also be available for Association hives and equipment

The BBKA are looking for feedback from the area Associations on what the likely take up of this additional policy would be.

There are a couple of points that have to be made clear; the additional insurance cost would be in addition to the MBBKA Association annual fee and secondly neither the BBKA or MBBKA would receive any financial benefit from any member taking up the insurance policy.

At this stage this is only a proposal, there would be a lot work to turn it into a reality. If you have any views on the applicability, the price point, the cover or whether if offered you would take up such insurance please email me at:

chairman@mbbka.org.uk

July Association Meeting

This week on Wednesday 20th July we will be holding our monthly meeting at the Association Apiary. The topic for the meeting will be uniting colonies. In addition we will be marking and clipping the mated queens resulting from the activities we completed at our June meeting. The meeting will start at 19:00, hope to see you there.

Bucks County Show

The Bucks County Show will be held this year on 1st September. The Bucks County Beekeepers Association will be running a stand with each area Association providing support. If you would like to help out on the day please contact chairman@mbbka.org.uk, all helpers will gain free admission to the event.

Last School Visit 2016

The 10th and last school visit of this season will be Bearbrook Combined School on 19th July. Thanks go to Vanessa for all your efforts in organising and delivering, along with your Helpers, an excellent programme which has been well received.

Programme of Events

20th July 2016

Association Meeting

Uniting Colonies

7:00pm

Association Apiary

6th August 2016

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society Show

Organiser: [Jonathan Matthews](#)

1:30pm

Peters Lane, Monks Risborough

1st September 2016

Bucks County Show

10:00am

Weedon Park

21st September 2016

Association Meeting

Bees in the City

7:00pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

25th September 2016

Bucks County BKA Honey Show

Organiser [Andrew Beer](#)

9:00am

Buckingham Garden Centre

Uniting Colonies—3 methods

The basic principles of uniting colonies are:

- Allow the colonies to mix slowly
- Disorientate the colonies
- Confuse the colony scents

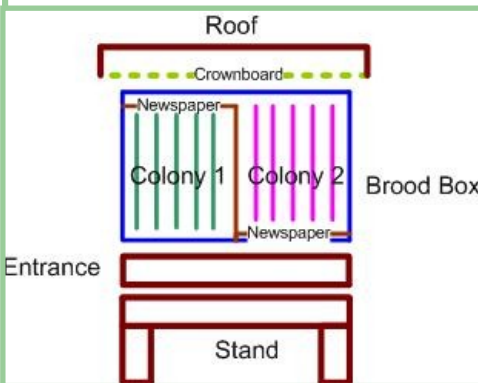
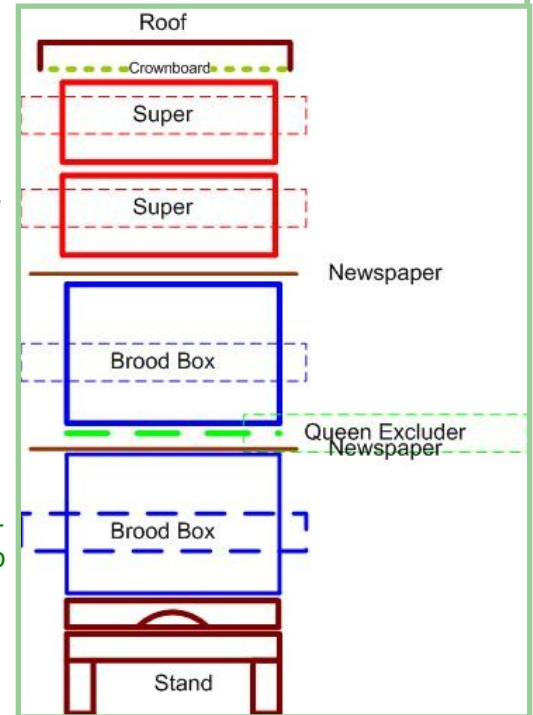
The first method is the classic method using a Newspaper barrier.

As with all the uniting methods, the colonies to be united should be moved to within a metre of each other with the entrances pointing in the same direction.

Before starting, carry out a full disease inspection on both colonies, ensure one colony is queenless and there are no queen cells. It is best to prepare during the day by placing two sheets of newspaper over the bottom brood box and under the queen excluder, this means zero disturbance of the bottom colony during the uniting. After the bees have stopped flying for the day quietly remove any supers from the hive which is to become the bottom brood box. Spray the newspaper (placed on brood box earlier) with water and pierce the paper with the sharp end of a hive tool.

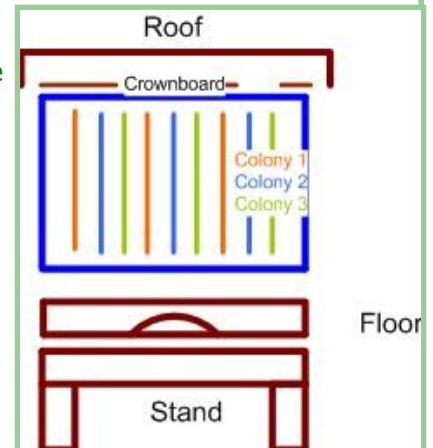
Gently lift the second hive from its floor and place over the bottom brood box. If there were supers on the bottom hive the top box must be covered with newspaper as per above and the supers placed on top.

Leave for at least 3 days, you will know it has worked when there are fine bits of paper under the hive and being pulled out of the entrance by the bees.



The second method employs just one brood box and is ideal for uniting two nuclei. Place frames from the queenright nucleus warm way in the brood box and create an envelope with newspaper enclosing the frames and bees to the front of the hive. Then place the queenless colony in the bee free space to the rear of the hive. Spray the paper and pierce the paper as described above.

This uniting method is best completed in the evening.



The third method can be used when uniting three small colonies such as mating colonies at the end of the season. The principle here is to cause confusion which means the bees are unlikely to fight. Intersperse the frames and shake icing sugar on both sides of the frames before placing in the brood box. Again this should be carried out in the evening.

Date for your Diary

The Bucks County BKA Honey Show will be held on 25th September at the Buckingham Garden Centre. This year the Honey Show is being organised by North Bucks Beekeepers. As well the Honey Show there will be Bee-keeping related activities as well as speakers. Full details can be found [here](#).

The BBC Country File Live Show at Blenheim Palace

The BBKA has been invited by the RHS and BBC Country File Live Team to have a stand at their show at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock OX20 1PY from Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th August. The BBKA are looking for helpers to attend the event, full details can be found [here](#).

Secondhand Equipment and Colonies for Sale

Several people have been in contact with equipment and colonies for sale. The equipment includes complete hives, supers with sections and an observation hive. There are also a couple of nuclei for sale. A full list of all items for sale can be found [here](#).