



Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association March 2015 Newsletter



Click on the Image of the sting to download a labelled image

Do you have a Log Burning Stove?



Over the weekend, Mothering Sunday to be precise, we cleared several large trees on the southern periphery of the Association Apiary. This has left us with a pile of logs, mainly Ash. If you have a use for such logs please feel free to contact Andrew Smith the Apiary Manager at apiary@mbbka.org.uk.

It was a cold morning no bees were flying at 8am so blocking the entrances, strapping up the hives and moving them to the parking area was a painless task. John Applegarth, a qualified tree surgeon and a previous member was responsible for felling the trees. The artistry in ensuring trees over 50ft fell in the right place was a wonder to watch. By 2pm we had cleared away all the logs and brush, the hives were back on their stands and the apiary looked spacious.

Hopefully we will reap the benefit in the summer when we are able to examine the colonies in the evening away from the shadows of the trees. Thank you to everyone who helped and especially to Andrew for organising the day.

Membership Renewal

There are several members who have yet to renew their MBBKA membership. If you intend to renew please do so as soon as possible. The renewal form can be found [here](#). If you do not wish to renew please let John Dadswell know at membership@mbbka.org.uk.

John will be submitting our membership to the BBKA next week and if a person has not renewed by that date the BBKA will remove them from their membership which will mean no insurance cover and no BBKA News. To reinstate a lapsed member with the BBKA takes time and a degree of unwelcome administration.

Apiary Sites

We have been offered a couple of possible Apiary sites. If you are looking for an apiary site please let me know and will pass on details. chairman@mbbka.org.uk

Programme of Events

18th March 2015

Biology and the management of swarms by Andrew Gibbs

7:30pm Church of the Good Shepherd

28th March 2015

Practical Beekeeping Course Classroom Session

9:30am Butlers Cross Village Hall

12th April 2015

Apiary Opening and BBQ

From 11:00am Association Apiary

15th April 2015

Beekeeper Question Time and Second Hand Equipment Sale

7:30pm Church of the Good Shepherd

17th—19th April 2015

BBKA Spring Convention

Harper Adams University

25th April 2015

Woodworking Day

10:00am till 1:00pm

Ellesborough Road, Wendover

If you have an article you would like to write or a comment on the newsletter, please contact chairman@mbbka.org.uk

Swarm Collector Information

Thank you to all the members who have indicated on their membership renewals that they are willing to collect swarms this season. In order to help [Brian Bush](#) the Swarm Officer when responding to public requests could you please complete and return the information in the form attached to this newsletter. If you are a new beekeeper and interested in receiving a swarm, please register your interest with Brian. Please bear in mind caution should be applied when taking a swarm as your first colony.

Articles in the BBKA News

Margaret Thomas has been writing a series of articles in the BBKA News this year which are excellent guides for practical beekeeping and in particular for those beekeepers looking to study for the BBKA General Husbandry Assessment.

For those considering carrying out a Bailey Comb change this Spring the February article on "A Method of Changing Comb for a Colony Suffering from Nosema" would be a good approach. It differs from the method included in the March 2014 MBBKA Newsletter in that it employs an entrance above the old brood box. The use of a second entrance is said to be the "true" Bailey method.

Although it requires additional equipment, this method ensures minimal contact between the bees and the colony's old frames in the original brood box and hence reducing the opportunity for the spread of disease.

There is a school of thought that we should assume all honeybee colonies have a degree of Nosema, so adopting the second entrance approach could be seen as prudent beekeeping. An updated version of the diagram from last year given below, this assumes a healthy colony strong enough to draw comb. Remember not to isolate the queen until at least some larvae are present in the top brood box as bees are less likely to abandon brood.

Winter Meeting 18th March

Andrew Gibb will be talking about the Biology and Management of Swarms, he will be looking at reasons why a colony may swarm and discuss taking and hiving a swarm as well as covering topics such as; colony cohesion and impact of queen substance, impact on colony honey production from swarming and various methods of swarm control.

BBKA Module Exams

Good luck to all our members taking BBKA exams this weekend, there are 8 candidates sitting a total of 11 Modules.

Beekeepers Question Time and Second Hand Equipment Sale

Our final winter meeting of the year on 15th April will be Beekeepers Question Time where members can ask a panel of experienced Beekeepers any beekeeping related question. Attached to this Newsletter is a question form, in order for us to be able to organise the evening to the benefit of all who attend it is good for us to try and structure the order of the questions. Please hand in your questions as you arrive.

We will also be holding a Second Hand Equipment Sale during the evening, if you have any clean old equipment that you no longer employ, please bring it along there maybe someone attending willing to purchase it.

Hives, Frames and Foundation

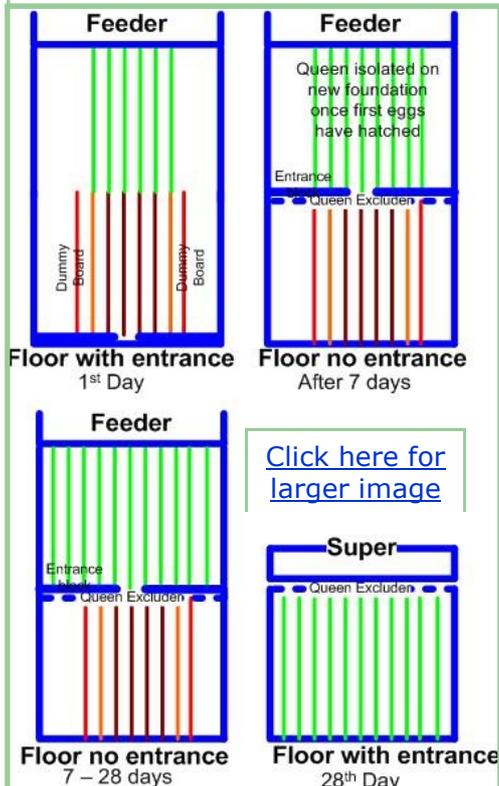
We have a stock of discounted Frames and Foundation available for sale. The foundation is Thorne's premium quality and the frames Thorne's 2nd quality. We also have some Caddon National and Deep National hives at cost price. For further information please contact chairman@mbbka.org.uk

Seconds Frames

14 x 12	£10.50 per 10
DN4	£7.50 per 10
SN1	£6.75 per 10

Foundation

14 x 12 Brood wired	£12.50 per 10 sheets
National Brood wired	£8.75 per 10 sheets
National Super wired	£5.50 per 10 sheets
National Super unwired	£3.40 per 10 sheets



Step by Step

Step 1: Go through colony and remove all comb without brood and replace with dummy boards. Place new brood box above existing box with matching number of frames of fresh foundation or clean drawn comb. Place feeder with 1:1 syrup above crown board.

Step 2: After about 7 days when queen laying in top box and some eggs hatched isolate queen on new foundation with Queen Excluder between brood boxes and new entrance above the Queen Excluder. Close bottom entrance.

Step 3: Add frames of fresh foundation as necessary to the top brood box and continue to feed.

Step 4: Once all brood has emerged in old brood box remove it and cleanse. Entrance now at bottom.

Swarm Collectors Information Form

Name	
Post Code	
Telephone Number	
Mobile Number	
Email address	
How far will you travel to collect swarm?	
Will you collect swarms on behalf new beekeepers?	
Availability: i.e. all day every day, evenings and weekends only, certain days of the week etc.	
Non availability: i.e. holidays, weekends away, Sunday afternoons	
Do you have suitable equipment or need to borrow some?	
How many swarms can you house?	
Any other relevant information	

Question Slip

Name:	
Question:	
Background to question:	