HONEYCRAFT

April 2021

Dorset County Beekeepers Association

Editor's note

Our bees may have had a quiet period until the warmer weather arrived recently, but people have filled their time in various ways, as you will read. The level of frustration felt by many of those responsible for organising training comes through in the branch notes and in the BBKA Spring Convention information; but all are finding inventive ways of educating both new and existing beekeepers while staying within the government's Covid-19 regulations.

Others have been to meetings, often by sitting at home in front of a screen. While this saves on time and gets the business done, we all miss out on the human interaction and chat that are a valuable part of face-to-face meetings. You will find reports of the county AGM, the South-West Beekeepers Forum and a fascinating talk given to the East Devon Beekeepers.

Pests and diseases also feature in this issue with our Chairwoman and Mark White addressing different aspects of keeping the Asian hornet menace at bay, while Kevin Pope, our Seasonal Bee Inspector, considers colony losses and varroa, as well as other aspects of beekeeping that we should be thinking about at this time of year.

Although it is not the swarm season, Gordon Grant reports on the challenges of re-housing two colonies that had taken up residence in "the wrong place". Meanwhile, Stephen Potts, when not arranging Zoom meetings for all and sundry, wonders whether Shakespeare kept bees.

Although the neonicotinoids threat may be in abeyance this year, the agricultural industry may well press for licence to introduce them again at some future time. Growing autumn-planted oilseed rape in some parts of Dorset is a current challenge that farmers face. I am therefore taking the liberty of including a letter that I wrote to Simon Hoare MP, the North Dorset MP, about neonicotinoids and his reply thereto.

Overall, I hope that, as well as recording the activities of the past few months, there is enough variety in this issue to interest all readers.

Tim Villiers

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Chairwoman's chatter

*****

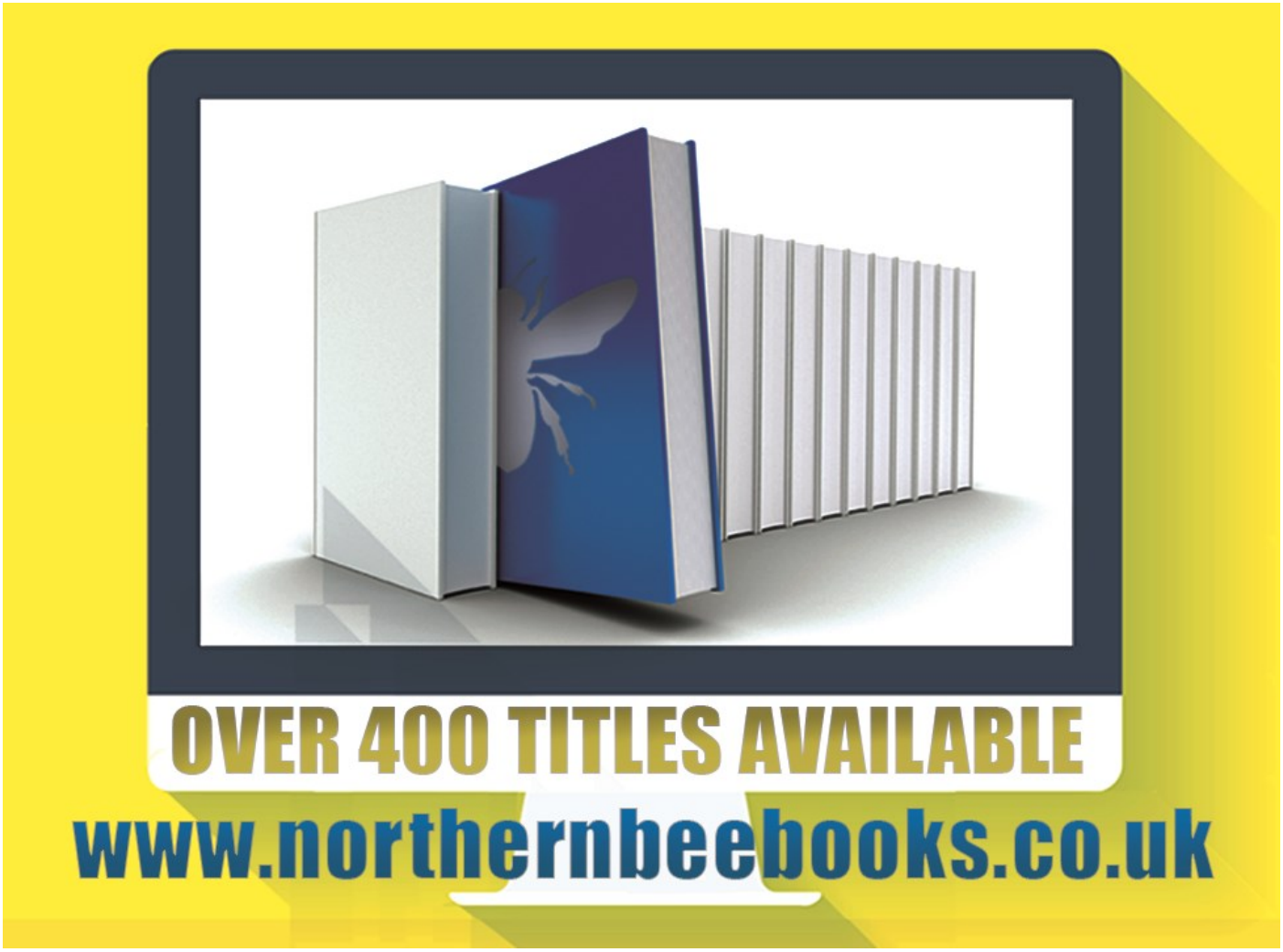
Yet another Asian hornet thought

This is probably old hat to some but I would like you to put yourself in the shoes of the public and of the BBKA/ NBU. If you are a member of the public and you found a strange insect that looked rather like a wasp but could not be sure what it was, you might be prepared to find out. If you looked on the Asian hornet/BBKA web site :

(https://www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-action-team-map) you would find a website with a map of the country covered in little pins that tell you where the nearest person to you is who could help you; rather like the swarm map. If you look at the AH map you will see the difference between Dorset, Somerset and Hampshire/New Forest. There are dozens of pins for Hampshire, especially along the coast, as there are for Somerset. Dorset is very low on pins anywhere.

We have not had many ferries coming and going anywhere recently so the chances at finding an AH are diminished at the moment. But once the weather warms up and people go to Jersey or later to France the chances of an AH hitching a lift across the Channel will increase. In the interests of our bees please the take BBKA test and join the little pins *on* the map to show there is someone in the Dorset area who can tell a member of the public what they have found and inform the NBU at once.

Lesley Gasson



From the Hon Secretary's desk

This year the Dorset BKA AGM was conducted on Zoom; many of us are now more familiar with this type of meeting than we may have been a year ago. It has some advantages in terms of less cost and no travel; meetings can take less time, although this AGM may have set a new record in that regard, as all business was completed in just 20 minutes. Thanks are due to our webmaster, Stephen Potts, who set up and hosted the meeting and to Ben Benjamin, Membership Secretary, who worked with Stephen to send out the invitations and documents on the eR2 system.

Unfortunately my internet connection was so unstable on this occasion that I was out of the meeting almost as much as I was in it, and I am very grateful to Ben and Stephen who kept track of what was going on and helped me check the minutes afterwards. Thanks also to Trevor Ford, Vice-Chair, who advised Chair Lesley Gasson on the election procedures during one of my many absences.

In 2017 Simon Cavill, BBKA Trustee noted on the BBKA forum that many county associations struggle to find a purpose in a world where the internet enables direct communication between individuals and their [local] associations. The BBKA is increasingly communicating directly with individuals and local associations on a wider range of issues, including examination and assessment arrangements.

Many county associations have difficulties finding volunteers, and eventually the [local] associations may question the point of the county level association. Without a clear and agreed purpose and struggling to attract committee members, some county associations may end up doing little more than collecting the capitation for a group of local associations.

Local associations may then apply to join the BBKA directly, but the BBKA and many county associations are opposed to the idea of fragmentation and "splinter groups" which could result in an increasing number of Area Association Members of the BBKA (AAMs). Following the 2021 ADM and the approval of a proposition in respect of guidelines on admission of new AAMs, assessment of an application by the liaison BBKA Trustee will start from the premise that all avenues should be explored to allow the group to join, or remain with, an existing AAM.

It looks therefore as if the current county and branch/divisional model will be with us for some time to come, so some thought could perhaps be given to how to maintain and improve the Dorset county association. What does it offer, and could offer in future, that is or could be additional or complementary to the activities of the branch associations?

Whether the county association operates on a purely instrumental basis or as an organisation with more intrinsic value, volunteers are needed who are prepared to take active roles at county level and, hopefully, help keep the association up to date and contribute to its development in a changing environment.

If those volunteers do not come forward Dorset BKA may survive, but it will not thrive. At the 2022 AGM Lesley Gasson and I will be stepping down as Chair and Secretary respectively. The county association will need volunteers then, not only for those roles but perhaps also for others.

Liz Rescorla

DORSET BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Unadopted Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 21 March 2021
held as a virtual meeting on Zoom

Recorded attendees: 47

AGM Chair: Lesley Gasson; Secretary: Liz Rescorla

Apologies: there were 28 recorded apologies

Minutes of the AGM on 8 March 2020: approved as a true record. Proposed by Stephen Potts, seconded by Carole Brown. Approved unanimously

Matters arising: none

Council reports: all previously circulated. No comments

Adoption of audited accounts: previously circulated. The Treasurer noted that the county expenditure on Zoom was proving good value for money. The accounts were adopted; proposed by Trevor Ford; seconded by Terry Payne. Approved unanimously

County capitation fee: The council proposed a fee of £2.00 which will be reviewed at the January 2022 Council meeting. The Treasurer advised the meeting that county income is still on the high side and the overall balance is very high; the reduction from £3.00 to £2.00 is proposed as a means of achieving a more acceptable balance. Proposed by Ben Benjamin, seconded by Chris Williams. Approved unanimously

Election of Officers and others:

Position	***Current Officer***	***Elected Officer***	***Proposer***	***Seconder***
President	R Norman	R Norman	Nem con	
Vice Presidents	Ken Bishop* Mervyn Bown* Chris Slade		Nem con	
Chairman	L Gasson	L Gasson	Nem con	
Vice Chair	T Ford	T Ford	Nem con	
Secretary	L Rescorla	L Rescorla	Nem con	
Treasurer	R Camping	James Nalty	Terry Payne	Tim Villiers
Education Officer	G Buckland	G Buckland	Nem con	

Examinations Secretary	T Payne	T Payne	Nem con	
Membership Secretary	R Benjamin	R Benjamin	Nem con	
Honeycraft Editor	T Villiers	T Villiers	Nem con	
Website Manager	S Potts	S Potts	Nem Con	
County AHAT Coordinator	M White	M White	Nem Con	
Accounts Examiner	M Clarke	M Clarke	Approved	
BBKA Delegate	2021 ADM L Gasson	To be nominated at Sept 2021 Council mtg		
SWBKF Representative	R Benjamin, S Potts, L Rescorla	R Benjamin, S Potts, L Rescorla	Nem Con	
BeeCraft Trustees	G Buckland, R Camping, L Rescorla	G Buckland, R Camping, L Rescorla	Nem con	
National Honey Show Delegate	L Gasson	L Gasson	Nem Con	

◊ Ken Bishop and Mervyn Bown are Dorset BKA Past Presidents

Confirmation of uncontested re-elections and election of Treasurer proposed by Hilary Green, seconded by Deborah Childs. Approved unanimously

The meeting welcomed James Nalty as Treasurer; Robert Camping confirmed that he will process the March 2021 capitation while the new Treasurer settles in

Chair Lesley Gasson thanked Robert Camping for his work as Treasurer

Robert Camping is currently a BeeCraft Trustee; this will be discussed at the Council meeting in May 2021

Any Other Business

Tim Villiers, HoneyCraft Editor, reminded the meeting that the deadline for the next edition of the newsletter is 31 March 2021

Hambro Cup: the Hambro Cup, awarded to the branch achieving the greatest increase in membership in the previous year, was awarded to East Dorset BKA; East Dorset retain the Cup for another year

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm

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To celebrate the BBKA Spring Convention we are having a sale - the sale will run from 10th April - 19th April
second quoality frames, hive parts and other equipment will be available

The Inspector reports

Hi everyone,

I hope you have all had a good winter and your bees have all come through the winter unscathed.

Unfortunately, I have had quite a few phone calls from beekeepers who have lost all or most of their bees. We routinely have an extensive debrief and most of the time it seems that varroa is the most likely culprit; It ranges from people who have just stopped treating their bees through to those who have just got the treatment wrong. I have also spoken to a few commercial "nuc" suppliers who all said the demand this year is really high; the feedback from their customers is that a lot of hives have died out this winter.

In February, I listened to a talk by Professor Steven Martin put on by the Somerset BKA in which he said: "to develop a resistant bee you need to put a lot of work in to your bees, lots of monitoring and some treatments, starting with 1 treatment a year then one every two years and so on. The treatment needs to be one that is not aimed at 95% efficacy but one that leaves more varroa in the hive so the bees learn to deal with them. Then you have to do a lot of monitoring to know exactly where the hive is; does it have no resistance or is it one with a high resistance? Finally…. breed from the latter!"

He was also talking about the uncapping and resealing of brood cells which was very interesting, and how that affects the varroa numbers. If you can find anything online about it, I think it is certainly worth visiting.

Finally a short note about foulbrood. To think we only came back to work on Monday 29th and yet I have already received notification of several cases of EFB - not in Dorset thankfully.

We know it is here, we just don't know where it is yet, so please if you see anything suspicious; give me a ring, we can discuss it, look at photos and then decide if I need to come out and inspect your colonies. Basically, anything that does not look normal and really healthy needs to be looked at a bit more closely.

Do not forget the "Pope" mantra of checking larvae are:

- pearly white,
- C-shaped
- segmented.

If you have not got all three then ask yourself "what is wrong"?

Let's hope for a bumper honey crop, no disease and very little swarming…… oh and while we are wishing: do you think we can get away with no stings?

Happy new season everyone……

Kevin Pope

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Neonicotinoids

Editor's Note. The temporary authorization for the use of neonics on sugar beet in 2021 has now been withdrawn. But following the announcement earlier this year (see the January issue of HoneyCraft) that the government had granted emergency authorization for the limited use of neonicotinoid seed treatment for sugar beet, I wrote to Simon Hoare MP, the Member of Parliament for North Dorset, as follows:

> "I am writing as a constituent, a beekeeper and Chairman of the North Dorset Beekeepers Association to express huge disappointment at the government's decision to grant an emergency derogation to allow sugar beet producers to use seeds treated with the bee-toxic neonicotinoid thiamethoxam.
>
> Thiamethoxam was banned for all outdoor uses by the EU in 2018 because of the risk it poses to bees and other vital pollinator species. The UK Government supported the ban with then DEFRA Secretary of State, Michael Gove, saying that: "Unless the scientific evidence changes, the government will maintain these increased restrictions post-Brexit". The UK Government's decision to support the neonics ban was based on advice from its own advisory body on pesticides which stated that "scientific evidence now suggests the environmental risks posed by neonicotinoids – particularly to our bees and pollinators – are greater than previously understood, supporting the case for further restrictions." What has changed?
>
> We know that the intended derogation of neo-nicotinoid use is for a limited period and is to be used on sugar beet seed, a plant which is harvested before it flowers, and therefore doesn't attract bees, but systemic neonicotinoids, thiomethoxam in this case, are not selective, and are poisonous to all insects, airborne and in the soil, and threatening all kinds of bees and all other pollinators in particular.
>
> Despite being systemic, 95 per cent of neonicotinoid seed treatment ends up in the soil, disrupting soil life or getting dispersed in dust to nearby crops. The ruling on their use dictates that oilseed rape may not be planted in the same soil for a protracted period of time, so acknowledging the concerns over the half- life of these neuro-toxins. The plan agreed by DEFRA also proposes that plants (weeds?) between the rows of sugar beet and in the immediate surrounds be killed off with herbicides, to prevent them flowering and thus attracting insects, to protect such pollinators from neonicotinoid poisoning! At the same time the government is also encouraging farmers to make their land more ecologically friendly, by enlarging headlands and improving hedgerows. Herbicides have detrimental effects on insects and mammals by reducing available food sources for many species. This new policy seems certain to encourage ecological desserts, with some sugar beet in the middle! This seems to be the logic of the mad house!
>
> If that were not enough, as these chemicals remain active for prolonged periods, they will, inevitably, run off the land and into our waterways, increasing the amount of pollution in already badly tainted streams and rivers. Apart from being toxic to all insects, and harmful to most other animals, they are also hazardous to humans. Intelligent regulation must accept that there is no safe level for a neuro-toxin or endocrine disrupter, only degrees of risk and levels of benefit. One third of food is dependent on insect pollination and in the UK insects pollinate 70 types of crop from apples to zucchini.
>
> While to our knowledge sugar beet is not grown in Dorset, oilseed rape seed which is grown all over the country was dressed in this way and many farmers would wish to see it re-introduced. We are greatly concerned that the sugar beet application may be used as a precedent.
>
> The derogation must be repealed and a better way found – the countryside cannot absorb chemicals ad infinitum"

Mr Hoare replied:

> "Thank you for contacting me about the use of neonicotinoids. As a keen gardener and supporter of our wildlife, I am fully aware of how important this issue is.
>
> The Government continues to support the restrictions on neonicotinoids to protect pollinators, and emergency authorisations for pesticides are only granted in exceptional circumstances where diseases or pests cannot

Simon Hoare MP's reply continues

be controlled by any other reasonable means. These emergency authorisations can provide short term availability of a product if the applicant can demonstrate that this addresses a danger which cannot be contained by any other reasonable means, that the use will be limited and controlled and that the necessary protection of people and of the environment can be achieved.

Emergency authorisations are also used by countries across Europe. I know that 10 EU countries including Belgium, Denmark and Spain have granted emergency authorisations for neonicotinoid seed treatments since 2018. Under EU legislation, Member States may grant emergency authorisations in exceptional circumstances. I can assure you that the UK's approach to the use of emergency authorisations has not changed as a result of the UK's exit from the EU.

The application for the use of Syngenta's Cruiser SB on the 2021 sugar beet crop is for England only and the duration of authorisation is strictly limited to the period required to allow supply of the product. Furthermore, sugar beet is a non-flowering crop that is only grown in the East of England.

This exceptional use of Syngenta's Cruiser SB will be strictly controlled and conditions of the authorisation include reduced application rate as well as a prohibition on any flowering crop being planted in the same field where the product has been used within 22 months of sugar beet and a prohibition on oilseed rape being planted within 32 months of sugar beet.

Protecting pollinators remains a priority for the Government. The National Pollinator Strategy, published in 2014, is a ten year plan which sets out how the Government, conservation groups, farmers, beekeepers and researchers can work together to improve the status of the approximately 1,500 pollinating insect species in England.

The decision is temporary, geographically and crop specific and does pose a risk to our native bees. I am assured that this specific application does not mean a return to the widespread use of harmful pesticides.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue"

The final word goes to the author of a comment on the Dorset BKA website:

"**Not this year**.

It seems that the government has had second thoughts. The permission to use neonicotinoids on sugar beet this year has been withdrawn. The official reason is that the recent cold snap has affected the aphids. The number of aphids has fallen below a critical level and as a result the government has decided that neonicotinoids are not to be used this year. It is good to see that government policy is being "driven by the data not the dates."

However it is possible that next year the aphid population may not be affected by the cold and government decisions may not be driven by honey bee data. We must, for the sake of the bees and all the other pollinators under threat, make certain that permission to use neonicotinoids is not granted in spring 2022".

South West Beekeepers Forum - 2 February 2021

MEETING NOTES (meeting conducted on Zoom)

After welcoming those attending and noting apologies for absence, Chairman Tony Lindsell delivered a tribute to David Charles of Somerset BKA, who died on 31 December 2020. David was warmly remembered for himself, as well as for his contributions to beekeeping in many ways over many years.

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020: approved

Matters arising: in respect of Wiltshire BKA's query as to whether associations would be able to check how their delegates had voted at the ADM, BBKA Chair Ann Rowberry confirmed that votes cast are not made public

Treasurer's report (previously circulated):

i. following request for 2021 subscriptions and receipt of 6 payments to date the current balance is £340.46; more subscription payments are pending
ii. SWBKF was involved in funding two significant activities in 2020: Somerset BKA AHAT Training Day (£800) and Dr Peter Kennedy's Asian hornet research at Exeter University (£1,826)
iii. After discussion it was decided to forego the financial incentive offered to move banks (Government sponsored initiative to widen competition) and remain with NatWest. This decision was taken in the interest of stability, having only recently opened the new SWBKF account, and there being a narrow selection of banks not of our choosing – Co-op or Metro.
iv. Roland Benjamin (Treasurer) agreed to put into effect Mandate Variations to remove Peter Darley (Outgoing SWBKF Chair) and add Tony Lindsell (Incoming Chair) as signatories to the SWBKA account

Review of BBKA ADM January 2021: there was general agreement that there was room for improvement, particularly in respect of perceived delays in calling attendees to speak when they had indicated that they wished to do so. However the ADM had been conducted successfully on Zoom, with all business completed, and although the format has some disadvantages it also offers some advantages. Ann Rowberry asked that any suggestions for improvement be sent to the BBKA EC.

Derogation in respect of neonicotinoids: Liz Rescorla, Dorset BKA gave a brief review of the situation from the 2018 EU ban to the emergency authorisation of the use of neonicotinoids in respect of sugar beet growing in 2021. Hampshire BKA tabled an urgency proposition at the 2021 ADM directing the BBKA to condemn the emergency authorisation and call on the UK government to withdraw it, and this proposition was approved overwhelmingly. BBKA President Margaret Wilson had written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the BBKA has written to Associations setting out ways in which they and their members can support the proposition. Lyndsay Bryning, West Cornwall BKA noted that if the UK could not produce its own sugar beet, sourcing alternatives may have damaging unintended consequences; Viv Thorne, Devon BKA felt that research is needed into alternatives to the emergency authorisation and how harmful they may be.

Regional beekeeper education provision: Richard Bache, Somerset BKA reported that during the lockdowns due to Covid-19, Somerset has moved its BBKA module study groups on-line and has found Zoom to be a perfect platform, particularly for widely dispersed groups. Somerset BKA has been using five Master Beekeepers as facilitators for groups studying two modules on two days each week, with each facilitator working with four-six students. It hopes to be able to offer more facilitators,

Cont. on p 12

ideally with the Master Beekeeper qualification but also perhaps those who have achieved credit or distinction in several modules.

Somerset BKA would be prepared to help develop an expanded programme of module study groups across the region; SWBKF Secretary Kathy Lovegrove offered to act as a coordinator.

Next steps:

i. regional survey for current active beekeepers with appropriate qualifications who would be interested in being involved as facilitators, followed by
ii. a meeting on Zoom to work out a model and explore options

Beekeeper registration: Mark Hoult, Cornwall BKA identified some potential benefits of beekeeper registration as:

- assisting in the tracking/tracing of disease
- enabling the NBU to notify all beekeepers of starvation risk, disease, Asian hornet incursion
- assisting authorities to identify beekeepers in cases of complaints of bees causing nuisance
- enabling beekeepers to better assess how many bees are in their area
- helping to facilitate contacts for advice/support
- conferring authority to travel during lockdown(s) to ensure bee welfare

Problems associated with compulsory registration were agreed as enforcement and possible cost; it was agreed that this subject is one for further consideration.

Honey adulteration: Lynne Ingram, Somerset BKA delivered a presentation on honey adulteration; this presentation had been given at Devon BKA AGM on 12 December 2020 and was reported in the January 2021 issue of HoneyCraft. Points arising in the discussion following the presentation at SWBKF included:

- in the past, some beekeeping associations (eg Cornwall) have used a County BKA "quality" label but stopped using them because some beekeepers using the labels did not produce honey of an acceptable standard; it is extremely difficult to monitor and maintain scrutiny of a product as variable as locally produced honey in order to authorise the proper use of such a label
- Bob Maurer, Chair, National Honey Show stated that the NHS is very aware of the issue of adulterated honey and some consideration has been given to including a class for beekeepers who would like their honey tested, which would be done before the Show
- beekeepers should promote their honey as a quality product, perhaps through local associations or county wide campaigns

Date of next meeting: August/September 2021; date to be confirmed. There was discussion after the close, as people were leaving Zoom, regarding a date; 07-09-2021 was suggested and Kathy Lovegrove offered to circulate it to the membership as a proposed date

Liz Rescorla

Dorset BKA representative at SWBKF 5 February 2021

Asian hornet action teams report

In Jersey, the first queen of the year was sighted slightly earlier than other years and already the team has swung into action there for another year. I have spoken to the teams on both Guernsey and Jersey about the forthcoming season. Jersey has had some strong winds from the east which brought the odd queen from the Normandy coastline. As we go into another beekeeping season, I am already spending most of my time in the workshop preparing hives. But we also need to prepare monitoring traps for the Asian hornets possible arrival. In both April and May we are asking members to take part in our observation weeks. Starting on the 12th April we are asking you to make sure your monitoring traps or stations are out. We want you to watch them for an hour each day after 12 noon to see what flies into or around your stations. If anything is seen that looks like an AH, please report this back to the relevant AHAT. We will also be running another observation week from the 10th May. At this time of year, the hornets are looking for a sweet bait; beer /cider mixed with jam is good.

The Dorset AHAT leaders are :

Myself — Dorset Coordinator and East Dorset

Peter Crabb – West Dorset

Stephen Potts – Dorchester & Weymouth

Kerry Redman – North Dorset

Tony Thorp – Sherborne

In 2020 we were lucky; the lockdown and lack of international travel meant that the movement of hornets from the continent was restricted. It will be interesting to see if the confirmed reports will be higher 2021 than the number received in 2020 when over 10,000 reports were made to the NBU. The NBU are looking to move away from the use of emails with reports of sightings and instead use the AH app that can be used on all smart phones. This means that a report is instant and won't go amiss. If you do not have it on your phone already please get it from the appropriate app store.

Have a good start to the season. *Mark White*

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Members of BEE FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Dorchester & Weymouth BKA

It certainly seems a more hopeful situation now generally than when I sent in the last report for Honeycraft. This year it seems we might actually be able to start planning some sort of beekeeping activity with members.

We have got a Beginners Group together and had two Zoom sessions with them. Unfortunately, we lost our Training Apiary at Stinsford at the end of 2019 so we have had to rethink how to run the Beginners Course. We will be holding classroom theory sessions as soon as we can meet up and in the meantime, some of our experienced members have offered to run practical sessions in their own apiaries. Hopefully that can begin this month.

Historically, D&W haven't had an easy time providing for beginners. In the 1980s there was a period when Dorset County BKA had an apiary at Kingston Maurward in the walled garden and summer schools used to be held there. Unfortunately, that came to a halt in 1991. In the 90s Weymouth BKA used to have practical beginners sessions run by a well-known beekeeper of the time, Roy Page. His hives were at Radipole but unfortunately the site was prone to flooding. Then there was gap of some years until one of our members started up again in 2003 using a beginner's hives in a field near Charminster. This was a small group of two-three beginners at first but continued to grow to about eight to ten. Luckily an offer was then made by a member to share her site in Martinstown.

The above picture was one of the first beginners sessions we did there. Nothing was structured, just a couple of experienced members turning up to hold an evening session once a week during the season for any beginners that wanted to attend. They started to become popular and we sometimes had 10 to 15 attending.

We used the apiary at Martinstown for a few years and occasionally used the village hall for a few sessions when we couldn't look at the bees because of the weather. It has to be one of the smallest village halls ever but we still managed to do a honey extraction demonstration there at one point.

We then became more organised and started running separate theory sessions. The first one was held in The Prayer House in Weymouth (I don't know if it is still there but it was behind what was the gasworks alongside the harbour). That was run for us by Lesley Gasson who was the County Education Officer at the time.

She ran another one for us the following year, by which time we had moved to rather more salubrious surroundings at the Colliton Club in Dorchester. She was instrumental in helping us get a structured beginners cCourse together and give us confidence to start one ourselves, which we did the following year. This was led by Liz Rescorla who has been a valued mainstay in our theory sessions ever since.

Move on a year and we are using an apiary at Stinsford, which was the last one we had. That worked well as we also used a classroom belonging to Kingston Maurward which adjoined the site so we could have an hour's theory followed by a practical session straightaway. As you can see from the photo below the numbers had increased. We were now having anything up to eighteen beginners at a time.

So, once again we are on the move regarding training apiaries. Looking at the positive side, our beginners now have a choice of apiaries to visit or can opt to stay at the same one. Also, it will probably be beneficial breaking up into smaller groups in this current climate of Covid.

We have set up a WhatsApp group between the trainers and beginners to manage the practical sessions and already the beginners are chatting and discussing between themselves. Hopefully, they will be able to meet as one large group when we start the theory sessions.

Breaking news at the moment...it has just been announced that there will **not** be a Dorset County Show this year. However, they have said there may be some smaller events and possibly we could join in with one of them. So D&W may get the chance to have some kind of a presence somewhere this year.

It may also be possible to arrange some apiary visits again and I show a picture of one we had in June 2018. The pictures below are of a meeting we held in August 2016 where we tried to drum bees out of a barrel. It was only partially successful so we gave up and went for an apiary cream tea instead. (I have got a 2 minute video clip of our attempts if anyone is interested).

So,

Sally

Here's looking forward to a warm spring when we can start to look at our bees properly.

Sally Leslie

East Dorset BKA

February and March are the time for our new beekeeper training. The course follows the syllabus of the Basic Assessment. This year our 33 excited beginners took the "indoor" course of sixt wo -hour sessions on Zoom with the expert tuition of Mark White. Mark's sessions were an inspired mix of wonderful videos and other audio visual delights, PowerPoint presentations and Mark's own tutorials. Such was the success with Zoom, we are seriously considering it as a standard from next year. Each trainee can learn in the comfort of their own home, there is no need for computer, audio and visual equipment set-ups in advance of each session and, of course, no fee for a venue. The "33" now await the confirmation of Boris's roadmap out of lockdown when, after 17th May, we hope we can get them into our apiary to undertake their practical course.

With EDBKA each beginner receives an experienced bee buddy for the year and a swarm of bees if they want one. However, this year for the first time, with Robin Oliver at the helm at our apiary, we are "funnelling" swarms via him for quarantining, varroa treatment and the introduction of a Danish queen as an alternative to a basic swarm. This will be at a very reasonable cost to our new members .

Robin has already instigated significant changes to our apiary in West Moors. He has already re-queened most hives but left some feisty bees deliberately for beginners to compare different temperaments of bee colonies and the significance of a docile queen to the enjoyment of their new hobby. Queen rearing will be a big feature this season.

EDBKA was delighted to receive the Hambro Cup recently for best increase in membership in the county. We view this award and the growth in the association it represents as an excellent barometer to a thriving and exciting group. We were also delighted to be awarded a generous initial grant but also a long term sponsorship for our work from Financial Advisers Strategic Solutions in Poole.

Ivor Kemp

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North Dorset BKA

(www.northdorsetbeekeepers.org.uk)

We held our AGM on zoom on 26th March. Not many attended but the meeting gave us a chance to see some of our beekeeper friends whom we have not seen for some time. Tim Villiers has retired as our chairman and taken up the arduous task of fundraising. We have very ambitious plans for our new apiary which we hope will not only be an asset for NDBKA but also for Dorset as a whole. This as you can imagine means raising a large sum of money. Hopefully the current interest in green issues and pollinators in particular will help us. Geoff Buckland is our new chairman and responsible for the new building so we hope we have a winning combination.

As for our training programme we have had to arrange for our new intake of new beekeepers to come in staggered turns to the apiary until lockdown is eased a bit. The whole change in our usual method of Introduction Day and courses has been quite an upheaval. Our colonies have survived the winter but as usual some have done better than others. Mouldy comb is a bad winter bee killer.

We are not sure about the arrangements for the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show yet. The show society is thinking of having the show over two days rather than one and limiting the tickets to a certain number which can only be booked online in advance. Hearteningly, we are being asked to set up a meaningful bee area, but will need to resource all the tentage and so on ourselves as the society is very short of cash! We will be working to see what we can provide, given that there will be Covid-related limits on the layout and staffing.

We also hope to have a presence at the three Food and Craft fairs that they plan to run on the showground over the summer. Not only will this enable us to sell honey and other hive products but also allows us to connect with public to talk about pollination and sustainability, as well as beekeeping.

Lesley Gasson

Sherborne BKA

Welcome to spring for us beekeepers. Lovely weather just at the moment, good for bee inspections.

Our apiary manager has checked our bees and all colonies have come through the winter OK.

We have started our Introduction to Beekeeping Course and are three-quarters of the way through. We have 10 students who are all very keen, so hopefully we can get them to the apiary before too long, government guidelines permitting.

Some members have reported losses over the winter, mostly due to starvation after the poor July/August period last year. Here's hoping for better weather this year.

Judy Easdale

West Dorset BKA

This time last year we were hopeful that our members and students would be coming along to see our new bee cabins but that sadly has still not happened, owing to Covid-19. We are ever the optimistic bunch that it will happen this year, especially for our poor students who missed out in 2020. The enthusiasm for keeping bees is very much on the increase here in West Dorset; we have had 50 prospective new students enquire about our Beginners' Course.

Four of us have been attending the teaching apiary in pairs over the winter period. All the colonies appear to be all right at present and varroa drops are very low, which is great. The bees' stores were plentiful, with a little help with fondant on a few, until the second week in March, when it was noticeable that all except one colony needed a feed of fondant. The weather has not been on our side yet for looking into the colonies, so we hope that can be done very early in April. Fingers crossed that the Covid is under control and the new easing of lockdown will continue. We then can allow the students to come along in May and June to finish the practical part of their course, which will include a session with Kevin Pope SBI on diseases and what to look for in the hive.

We as an Association are trying to encourage our members, new and old hands, to raise queens from their best native stock, as we all know local bees are best. Don't be afraid of culling a queen if she is not up to standard or she is producing nasty, aggressive bees. If any of you have watched the BIBBA webinars and many others, even Tom Seeley is saying the same: local bees are best. As an Association we would like to thank all the BIBBA and Somerset BKA organisers for arranging all their fantastic webinars. We do hope lots of you have listened to several of them; they have been especially helpful to beginners. If you have missed the BIBBA ones, most of them have been recorded so you can still see them.

We are hoping the Melplash Show will go ahead on 26th August, but sadly we heard recently that the Dorchester Show has been cancelled already and that is usually the first weekend in September. So the future on shows this year does not look great.

Carole Brown

Stop Press

It has just been announced that this year's Melplash Show has been cancelled.

MAISEMORE APIARIES

Readers may wish to note that owing to
the cancellation of this year's beekeeping exhibitions,
Maismore will be offering items for sale on their website
from 13 March onwards

MAISEMORE APIARIES LTD

Manufacturers & Suppliers of Beekeeping Equipment!

Buy your Quality Extracting Equipment from us! At great prices!

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Pollinator landscaping—a roadside story

This was a talk arranged by East Devon BKA on 4 March 2021, given by Leonardo Gubert, Senior Ecologist at Highways England, Southwest Operations

Leonardo has been working as a professional ecologist for over 20 years; before that he had a spell in beekeeping, landscaping and research. He started working with Highways England as an ecologist in 2003 with the main task of implementing the newly released Highways Agency Biodiversity Action Plan, helping with environmental assessments and management of the natural habitats that line the motorways and trunk roads. Highways England manages the strategic road network in England, comprising motorways and some A-roads. Local roads are managed by the relevant local authority.

His role as Senior Ecologist in the South West Operations Division is extremely varied. It ranges from identifying projects such as new biodiversity improvement schemes, protected species licensing, providing ecological advice in the design and delivery of highway schemes, coming up with pragmatic solutions for the day to day operation of the network, carrying out ecological surveys and monitoring.

Road verges are increasingly being seen as important areas of conservation, offering:

- avenues of diversity through areas of monoculture
- connection between wider landscapes and ecosystems
- overwintering cover for plants and animals, often, the best quality habitat in the area
- a relatively undisturbed environment – no dog walkers or mountain bikes
- high aesthetic value – for some road users the verges may be the only green space they regularly see

In the UK, the total area of road verge natural habitat, or “soft estate”, is considerable, occupying around 178,000 ha in England and Wales. In England, the area of soft estate managed by Highways England along motorways and trunk roads covers an area of approximately 30,000 ha that includes a wide range of species and habitats.

On the A30 and A38 west of Exeter, over 284 km of trunk road length, there is 450 ha of grassland and heathland habitat and over 330 grassland and heathland plant species have been recorded in that habitat.

The importance of the soft estate has been recognised for decades. Management includes the use of a range of surveys, including desktop, drive-by, habitat and botanical surveys, and surveys to record the condition of the soft estate.

An environmental information system is used to record the data. The aim is to manage the habitat to avoid disease, degradation of the habitat to scrub, crowding out by invasive species, and risk to the carriageways and users.

Management actions can be planned using the data and may include cutting and raking, controlling the growth of some species such as buddleia and sea buckthorn, removing self-seeders, and crowning or thinning trees.

Considerations in planning the work include ease of access, traffic management, gradient, noise, and timing – seasonal, as well as night/day.

Soft estate is vulnerable and subject to a number of threats, including

- fire – vehicles, wildfires, arson
- litter and fly tipping – a major problem
- ragwort – many verges were built with topsoil from farmland, which offers ideal conditions for growth. One plant can produce thousands of seeds, which remain in the soil for years and germinate easily, with a success rate of around 70%
- spillages such as oil, diesel and other substances from road traffic incidents
- invasive species such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* – the young shoots are apparently delicious, like a sweet rhubarb -- and Montbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*

Below is an extract from *On the verge? Preferential use of road facing hedgerow margins by bumblebees in agro-ecosystems* by Mick E Hanley & Joshua P Wilkins, School of Biological Sciences, Plymouth University [Dec 2014 Journal of Insect Conservation]

> *"We compared bumblebee abundance along 30 hedgerows in SW England, bordered either side by roads and arable fields (cultivated with wheat, barley, oilseed rape, or beans). Total bumblebee abundance along roadsides was over twice that observed on adjacent crop-facing margins, irrespective of crop type and this general pattern was apparent for three of the five most common bumblebee species, including generalist and specialist foragers. Both the total number of flowering plant species and the floral abundance of three of the five most visited plants was also higher on roadsides [....] the fact that the roadsides were demonstrably better habitats for pollinators and their food plants than field-facing margins underscores the widespread suggestion that roadside verges should be utilised more as a conservation tool to promote pollinator biodiversity."*

In 2018 Highways England started a wild flower scheme on the A38 when seeds from over 20 variety of flowers, including cornflowers, oxeye daisies, yellow rattle and poppies were sown over five hectares of roadside verge between Ashburton and Ivybridge, adding to the 10 hectares that had recently been created along the A38 and A30 in Devon and Cornwall. This was the third wild flower scheme that Highways England had delivered in the South West. More wild flower areas and a number of schemes are being designed for verges on the M5 and M4.

A simple method of grassland creation has been adapted to roadsides. It uses the "whole crop" method, harvesting the seed material from existing local species-rich roadside verges and introducing them at pre-prepared sites where invasive scrub and self-seeding trees had taken over.

Leonardo was optimistic about the future, stating that with increasing knowledge and interest in the potential of using soft estate as part of the national pollinator strategy, he feels that things are going in the right direction.

According to the Dorset Council website, Dorset has over 4,970 miles of rural verges, and is undertaking conservation verge trials; the project "aims to improve the biodiversity in [the] verges and reduce the need for seasonal cutting".

Anyone interested in reading more about the management of soft estate by Highways England can find further information at:

https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Leonardo-Gubert-Roadside-biodiversity-and-conservation-in-the-southwest-of-England.pdf

Plantlife, a wild plant conservation charity, has produced a publication called The Good Verge Guide giving information on the value and potential of roadside verges at:

https://www.plantlife.org.uk/application/files/7916/1191/6240/Road_verge_guide_2021_WEB.pdf

Buglife, the Invertebrate Conservation Trust has produced a report on road verges and their potential for pollinators:

https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/10/Roberts-Phillips-Managing-road-verges-for-pollinators-report-040119.pdf

Liz Rescorla

PS. Leo's talk was recorded and may be found at :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRncXV4FG5E Pollinator Landscaping: A Roadside Story

Winterborne St Martin Parish Council and Dorset Council wildflower verges

The Parish Council is working with Dorset Council Countryside Rangers team to increase the amount of native perennial wildflowers in rural verges. The flowers in the proposed seed mix will provide food for many pollinating insects and butterflies.

The verges will continue to be maintained by Dorset Council Countryside Rangers who will also cut and collect the seed from the wild flowers in order to further sow more seed in other areas.

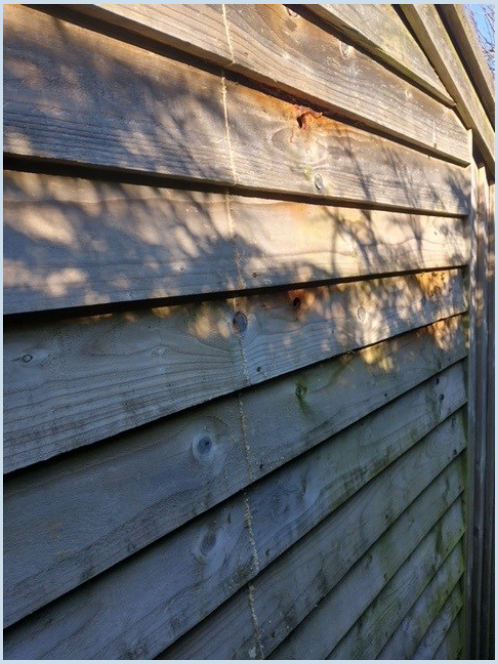
Initially this will involve scraping the top layer of grass and soil from the verge to sow the seeds. Once the flowers have grown and flowered the overwintering of the plants will provide a green base on the verge and they will be ready to flower again for years to come.

The wildflower mix will include: agrimony, betony, bird's foot trefoil, black knapweed, black medic, greater knapweed, ox-eye daisy, rock rose, self-heal and small scabious.

A tale of two cut-outs

In late February and March I had a couple of interesting projects rescuing bees from buildings.

The first of these was in a shed/workshop in Shillingstone. The new owners of the property were having the building turned into a work from home garden office which involved stripping off all the exterior wood cladding, insulating the structure, and then recladding it in a composite material. The start of the work was imminent so the job needed to be done fairly quickly. The weather was on our side and it was an unusually warm day when we removed the bees. The wooden cladding was cut with a circular saw and a section prised off to expose the nest.



As luck would have it the distance between the uprights was exactly the same width as a BS national frame. This made cutting out the brood to hang in empty frames very easy. Once all the combs had been removed and put into a new hive the remaining bees were vacuumed up using a home-made bee vac and added to the hive. This was left on the roof until the evening to allow any remaining or flying bees to return to the hive, then closed up and moved to their new home. In this case that of one of our members who had lost his hive to wasps last year. The bees have now settled down and are doing very well.

The second one was one that I had been made aware of at the end of last year by Ron Briggs, one of our new beekeepers. His next door neighbour was having building work done on the house and had a nest in the porch which needed to be removed. At the time it was way too late in the season so I'd suggested we wait till spring as the bees would be inactive and less of a nuisance over winter, plus we needed warmer temperatures to give the colony the best chance of survival. Once again the weather was on our side; we were forecast a mini-heatwave with temperatures touching 20C and so decided to tackle it then.

The porch is a wooden Georgian-style portico with a lead covered gable roof and the only way into it seemed to be through the top.

We removed the lead sheet and plywood sheeting to expose the nest. Whilst the distance from the front of the porch to the wall of the house was probably just over a foot, the bees had built the comb diagonally across the structure resulting in huge sheets of comb. These were systematically cut out with a knife and then cut up further so they could be hung in frames. As in a managed hive the stores are found in the outer combs with the brood being in the combs toward the centre of the nest. Ron managed to spot the queen who was subsequently picked up and put straight into the new hive. We added stores, the brood, as well as some very clean empty comb and filled the rest of the hive with foundation. Ron is a dab hand at woodwork and had built his own hive from wood recovered from a solid mahogany wardrobe! It's beautifully made but has one drawback.... its weight!!! We had to lift this onto the top of the porch to allow the flying bees to return. I now see why cedar is the hive material of choice..... All the bees were inside by evening at which point it was closed up and moved to a location more than three miles away. At some point in the future it will be moved back.

All in all two successful extractions. It’s good to see the public awareness of the benefits that bees bring, and consider pest controllers as the last option, preferring instead to save the bees.

Gordon Grant

Did Shakespeare keep bees?

A simple enough question -- “Did Shakespeare keep bees?”

Well, he was a busy man what with all the writing that he got up to! Did he have time to look after bees as well? For an answer to this the best place to look is in his writings.

In Henry V the Archbishop of Canterbury advises the King that:

Obedience; for so work the honey-bees,
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.
They have a king and officers of sorts,
Where some, like magistrates, correct at home,
Others like merchants, venture trade abroad,
Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,
Make boot upon the summer’s velvet buds,
Which pillage they with merry march bring home
To the tent-royal of their emperor;
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys
The singing masons building roofs of gold,
The civil citizens kneading up the honey,
The poor mechanic porters crowding in
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate,
The sad-eyed justice, with his surly hum,
Delivering o’er to executors pale
The lazy yawning drone.

Anyone who has kept bees will recognise several activities of the hive in this description – that is apart from the fact his bees have a king. However this is perfectly understandable since it was not till the 18th century that the sex of the head bee was known. However at the time when Shakespeare was writing England had a queen —- Elizabeth I. In this speech one can understand that when the head of the hive is not known then assuming the monarch is a king will the more impress Henry V to whom he is speaking.

What is more, we are shown in *Henry VI Part II* that the leader of the hive, be it king or queen is the head of the society.

The commons, like an angry hive of bees

That want their leader, scatter up and down

And care not who they sting in his revenge.

Drones get a bad press in the writings of Shakespeare when in *Henry VI Part II* Suffolk says,

Drones suck not eagles' blood but rob beehives.

Indeed it gets worse for the drones in Pericles, Prince of Tyre, one of the fishermen says,

We would purge the land of these drones, that rob the bee of her honey.

Shakespeare shows confusion between drones and workers when through the King in Henry IV Part II he says,

Our thighs with wax, our mouths with honey pack'd,
We bring it to the hive, and, like the bees,
Are murd'red for our pains.

But what more can we deduce from the writings of Shakespeare?

In *Henry VI* Talbot shows that Shakespeare knew about the use of a smoker – or at least smoke:

A witch by fear, not force, like Hannibal,
Drives back our troops and conquers as she lists.
So bees with smoke and doves with noisome stench
Are from their hives and houses driven away.

In Troilus and Cressida he appreciates that a bee that has stung is no more:

Full merrily the humble-bee doth sing
Till he hath lost his honey and his sting;
And being once subdu'd in armed trail,
Sweet honey and sweet notes together fail.

But surely the most cheerful of quotations from Shakespeare regarding the bees is the beautiful description of the warm summer days when in the *The Tempest* Ariel reminds us:

Where the bee sucks, there suck I:
In a cowslip's bell I lie;
There I couch when owls do cry.
On the bat's back I do fly
After summer merrily.
Merrily, merrily shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

Stephen Potts

The BBKA Spring Convention, 15th–18th April: A 'virtual' armchair event

Advance Registration opens this week

Just around the corner…The 43rd BBKA Spring Convention, opens on the evening of Thursday 15th and continues through to Sunday 18th April. With over twenty practical and scientific presentations, attendees will find a mix of speakers and topics every bit as broad, interesting and relevant as usual, whatever their experience of bees and beekeeping.

Prof. Keith Delaplane will give the George Knights Memorial Lecture, '*How honey bees use genetics to solve their problems and what we can learn from it*', on Saturday 17th April.

Social events planned include 'Locked Down' with Bill Turnbull on Friday evening and the Jimmy Doherty Interviews, plus the Bees-A-Buzzing quiz final, on Saturday. The full programme can now be downloaded from the Spring Convention pages of www.bbka.org.uk.

Registration is needed to take part, but free-to-view content includes a keynote address by Dr David Aston, 7.30pm, Thursday 15th April, plus the Beacon School presentations on Sunday at 15.30 and free access to the Market Place, for your favourite beekeeping equipment suppliers and other exhibitors.

Paid registration is needed to watch all live content (presentations, Q&A etc) and to view content later, on demand. 'Tickets' for the entire three days are £10 in advance (until 15th April), or £12.00 on-the-day. Complimentary registration is available for BBKA Junior and School members. Further Information at www.bbka.org.uk/Pages/Category/about-spring-convention and register soon at www.springconvention.bbka.org.uk. Please use the SAME e-mail address for access thereafter.

Newsletter editors interested in joining a 'Get Together' at 15.45, on Sunday 18th April, require paid Convention registration. They also need to contact:

bristolbeekeepersnews@gmail.com by noon on 17th April to sign-up for the session.

A great event to look forward to, which this year comes to you! Best viewed on a full-sized screen, but available on phones and tablets too……

Full information can be found at:

: https://www.bbka.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=775dfaf5-c7b0-40e9-ad18-a24b914d0055

Joyce Nisbet,

BBKA Trustee and Spring Convention Committee Chair

Thursday 15 April

19.30-19.35 *WELCOME with Jimmy Doherty* Sponsors

19.35-20.30 1 Tipping-points and Perceptions – Keynote address David Aston III

Friday 16 April

10.15-10.30 *WELCOME TO FRIDAY*

10.30-11.15 2S The evolution of natural varroa tolerance Stephen Martin VI

11.30-12.15 3P European Foulbrood Colin Pavey II

12.20-13.00 Live Q&A with Stephen Martin and Colin Pavey

13.00-13.30 *LUNCH with 'Beekeeping - Put Your Back Into It – Safely!' Wendy Joelson*

13.30-14.25 4P From Comb to Candle with Live Q&A Shirley Bond VII

14.30-15.15 5S Developing markers for breeding bees Stephen Pernal

15.30-16.15 6S What is left of the Welsh Dark Bee? Dylan Elen

16.15-16.45 Live Q&A with Stephen Pernal and Dylan Elen

18.00-19.00 Locked Down with Bill Turnbull

Saturday 17 April - Channel 1

09.15-09.30 *WELCOME TO SATURDAY*

09.30-10.15 7S Pollination syndromes – a bee for every blossom Rinke Vinkenoog IV

10.30-11.15 8 Ins and outs of pollination Celia Davis

11.30-12.15 9S Melissopalynology - grassing bees up.... Matthew Pound III

12.20-13.00 Live Q&A with Rinke Vinkenoog; Celia Davis; Matthew Pound

13.00-13.30 *LUNCH with our Sponsors*

13.30-14.25 10P Spring cleaning the honey bee way with Live Q&A Lynfa Davies

14.30 15.15 11S How honey bees use genetics to solve their problems Keith Delaplane I

15.30-16.15 12P Management of mini mating nucs Marin Anastasov

16.15-16.45 Live Q&A with Keith Delaplane and Marin Anastasov

18.00-19.00 The Jimmy Doherty Interviews plus Quiz – Bees-A-Buzzing Final

Saturday 17 April - Channel 2

09.15-09.30 *WELCOME TO SATURDAY*

09.30-10.15 13P Taking the BBKA Basic Assessment Sean Stephenson

10.30-11.15 14P BBKA Exam Technique and Module 1 Margaret Murdin

11.15-12.00 Live Q&A with Sean Stephenson and Margaret Murdin

13.00-13.30 *LUNCH with our Sponsors*

14.30-15.25 15P Assemble the perfect home for your bees with Live Q&A Oliver St.John

15.30-16.25 16P Tales from the Honey Isles with Live Q&A Chris Park

Sunday 18 April

09.15-09.30 *WELCOME TO SUNDAY*

09.30-10.30 17P Swarm Control the natural way with Live Q&A Jane Medwell

10.45-11.30 18S Asian Hornets: A brief overview and new insights Peter Kennedy III

11.45-12.30 19P Know your enemy: Facing the Asian Hornet threat Lynne Ingram

12.35-13.00 Live Q&A with Peter Kennedy and Lynne Ingram

13.00-13.30 *LUNCH with Lesley and Jerry*

13.30-14.25 20P Making kitchen cosmetics with Live Q&A Sara Robb V

14.30-15.30 21S Research needed for better beekeeping development & Live Q&A Nicola Bradbear III

15.30-15.45 Beacon School Presentation and Close

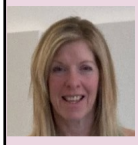
S suggests content is more Scientific; P suggests content is more Practical. Sponsors - see list for details

More Social…

In addition to the excellent presentations from leading speakers the More Social programme gives an opportunity to learn more about current issues in and around beekeeping, to meet key influencers and test your own knowledge and understanding. Here's the programme to look at; all that's bees and beekeeping from a different angle.

Put Your Back Into It – Safely!

Friday Lunch 13.00-13.30



The most physical aspect of beekeeping is lifting equipment whether it's boxes of bees or containers full of honey. Pilates expert Wendy Joelson gives tips on how to keep yourself and your back safe.

Locked Down with Bill Turnbull

Friday Evening 18.00-19.15

Six beekeeping personalities are locked down in a place of their choosing. Bill Turnbull, beekeeping TV and Radio presenter finds out what makes his guests tick and talks about issues which particularly concern them. He asks what essential kit they need in lock down and rounds off by letting them choose a piece of music to have with them. Featuring Celia Davis, Willy Robson, Sara Robb, Nicola Bradbear, Keith Delaplane and Martha Kearney and some quirky choices of music!

Sponsors' Videos

Saturday Lunch 13.00-13.30

Learn more about the organisations that have supported the 2021 BBKA Spring Convention.

The Jimmy Doherty Interviews

Saturday Evening 18.00-18.30

BBKA Patron Jimmy Doherty chats with beekeeper Simon Irvin; mead expert Suzie Hutchinson of Northumberland Honey and bee cosmetics expert Alison Derrick of Bee Inspired.

Bees-A-Buzzing Quiz Final

Saturday Evening 18.30-19.00

Julian Routh presents the final of this quiz on more than just beekeeping and announces the winning team.

Lunch with Lesley and Jerry

Sunday Lunch 13.00-13.30

A light hearted ramble with Lesley Jacques and legendary beekeeping publisher Jeremy Burbidge of Northern Bee Books, to whet your appetite this lunchtime.

Who's Who in the Dorset County Beekeepers' Association

President Richard Norman

Vice Presidents: Ken Bishop, Mervyn Bown, Chris Slade

Chair	Lesley Gasson,	lmgasson@btinternet.com	01258 861690
Vice-chair	Trevor Ford	trevorlanners@gmail.com	
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