



EXETER BRANCH DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting on Sunday 22 May 2011

Introduction

Three parallel activities were scheduled for Sunday's meeting:

- Honey extraction,
- Hive inspection, and
- Icing Sugar dusting.

Honey extraction of two supers was led by Sandra Lee in the 'tea hut'.

Hive inspections were led in three groups by John Eustace, Andy Mack and Clive Bennetts respectively.

Summary

25 attendees enjoyed a very good afternoon in which just about everybody gained 'hands on' experience of their chosen activity, rounded up with tea and some excellent cakes! Long sessions working in the hives created two new nuclei, found and marked the queen in colony 12, identified no eggs or larvae but capped brood in colony 9, and performed an icing sugar dusting on colony 1 (Steve Williams). Big vote of thanks due to Sandra Lee, Clive Bennetts, John Eustace, and Andy Mack for leading each of the groups plus of course Sandra Lee, Joy Eustace and others for lovely cakes!

However there were more stinging incidents again this weekend accompanied by bees 'following' victims across to the tea hut. The most significant, and perhaps as a result of the 'following' behaviour, was that a young boy in the house neighbouring the tea hut was also stung. His parents seemed relatively relaxed about it and tried to defuse the incident with their son. We left a jar of honey on their doorstep on Monday. We will need to adapt our procedures, and review our colonies, to reduce the likelihood of these events if we are not to irritate our neighbours.

Year Book 2011

14 people signed that they had taken a 2011 year book. Names as follows: John Vincent, Julian Davey, Steve Barnes, Colin Hoskins, Paul Champion, Jack Major, Margaret Myers, Ray Abbott, Shirley Cowell, Clive Bennetts, Andrew Kyle, Robin Pearson and Melvyn Boote.

Colonies

1. (Steve Williams) Dusted with icing sugar only.
2. Lightly populated but larvae and sealed brood seen.
7. Top super full and partially capped, second super half full.
9. No eggs or larvae seen, 10 frames of capped brood and eight supersedure queen cells.
12. Frame with single uncapped queen cell moved to nucleus with supporting frames.
13. Queen found and marked, new nucleus formed from young brood and supporting frames only.

Regards, Basil Strickland