

north staffordshire beekeepers association April 2011 Newsletter

www.northstaffsbees.org.uk

next meeting
Thursday 7th April 2011
Bradwall Village Hall, Bradwall Road, Bradwall
Near Sandbach CW11 1RG
7.00 for 7.30

The Queen Marking Colour for 2011 is WHITE

“Chairman’s Chat” April 2011

Dear All,

Our meeting in March, with, I suspect, our largest audience yet at the Quaker meeting house, was another ‘gem’ from Tim. Dave Buckley from South Cheshire was the speaker, and his talk ‘Queen rearing in a honey production colony’ certainly inspired me and I hope you also. Dave Teasedale, our Newsletter editor, is going to write an article for either this next issue or the one after, reporting the detail of this talk which is described in Vince Cook’s book “Queen rearing”.

Our April meeting is to be held at Bradwall Village Hall, Bradwall near Sandbach, we are guests of South Cheshire for this meeting, to be held on Thursday 7th April 2011 at 7.30pm start. The speaker for this evening will be John Holme a commercial beekeeper from Warwickshire. I do not have the title of his talk at the time of writing these notes, but I do hope as many of you as possible will attend as possible, perhaps making up car loads to keep the expenses down. You can be assured of a good evening with South Cheshire.

The first of the “Course in a case” beginners meetings have now finished, and from reports I have received went extremely well. Thanks must go to all our members who helped put this on and not forgetting the course members for taking part. I hope the next stage is to get hands on bees and progress from there.

There has been further interest for another course, and currently if there are firm applicants to make it worthwhile then this will be held on the early part of April.

The sun is out this afternoon, the temperature is rising and I am sure the bees will be collecting pollen and nectar. Do watch the feed levels, a spring strength of syrup will do wonders, urging the queen to increase her laying. All the things that you have been talked about during this long Winter. Have a great season!

Dave Cheek (davidcheek@talktalk.net)

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 7th April 2011***

Joint meeting with South Cheshire Beekeepers Association at:

**Bradwall Village Hall,
Bradwall Road,
Bradwall,
Near Sandbach
CW11 1RG**

(Please note date and venue)

The guest speaker is John Holme from Warwickshire who was a very successful Bee Farmer and we look forward to hearing from him.

If you need accurate directions or a lift, contact David Teasdale on 01782 502495 to help arrange to get you there.



Friday 15th April to Sunday 17th April

BBKA Spring Beekeeping Convention
Royal show Ground
Stoneleigh
Warwickshire

Wednesday 4th May 2011

Brian Goodwin from Shropshire Beekeepers will be talking about a very appropriate subject for this time of the year – “Swarming and swarm control”

Everything you would like to know about swarms

For those members with access to the internet, have a look at the website from Tom Seeley at Cornell University features in the ten excellent clips all about bees swarming. It is well worth watching:

The website is: <http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/201012245>

Courtesy of Ebees- Stratford BKA

Beekeeping wants and spares

If you have any spare equipment or even bees that are superfluous to your requirements or you want something. Place a **free** advert in our NewsLetter

NSBKA Equipment Storage

This is important as the storage space at the Friends Meeting House is limited and we are still looking for somewhere (not too large) to securely store some of the Association equipment.

If you know of any suitable location or have some spare space, please have a word with Nick Mawby.

Association Apiary Site - We need you to keep your eyes open and help US!

Your Association would like to find some land upon which to locate a new members apiary preferably in the central area i.e. Hartshill/Newcastle.

If you see or know of any land which might "fit the bill" i.e. parking, security and easy access, would you contact David Cheek

Beekeeping Promotional Events

During the year, we are invited to, and try to attend some events to further the knowledge of beekeeping for the general public. These can consist of local horticultural shows or similar events associated with beekeeping and occasionally to talk at meetings e.g. The W.I etc.

Your Association has the equipment but in order to attend any events, we need people who are willing to talk to the general public. The work is not onerous or demanding and you do not need to be a beekeeping genius to discuss bees and beekeeping with the general public and even when difficult questions are asked, there is always someone else around to offer support.

If you are interested and able to offer your help, please have a word with Nick Mawby.

These events are good fun!

**BBKA
Stoneleigh Park,
Stoneleigh,
Warwickshire**



15th - 17th April 2011

"An event, not to be missed"

See BBKA News and NSBKA March NewsLetter or look at <http://www.britishbee.org.uk/> for details or for more information contact **David Teasdale**

Obituaries

We have to sadly report the deaths of:

Norman Walley who was an ex-member of our Association and our Association was represented at his funeral

David Cushman who was an eminent beekeeper of national status and was last seen in our area when he gave a talk at the joint meeting of North Staffs and South Cheshire last year.

NSBKA NewsLetter

Email or Paper Versions – which do YOU want/need?

Your Association is making every effort to minimise its costs whilst still trying to providing excellent services and benefits to you, its members.

Thanks to the work of Nick Mawby, we are able to easily print and distribute copies of your NewsLetter by Email or post but printed copies do have a cost attached to it. Therefore, If you currently receive a printed copy but do not actually need it, please let us know so that we can take the appropriate actions and save money.

The most important point is that we do hope that you actually read and enjoy your NewsLetter and please remember that any or all of the copy can be printed at home should you require a hard copy.

New BBKA Website and the Swarm Collectors List

The following information has been communicated to all Association Secretaries as part of a document about the new BBKA Website which is to be launched soon and whilst information about the new website is primarily applicable to those members who have access to the Internet, it does not preclude those members who do not have Internet access:

Swarms and “Swarm Catchers”

One major problem that has been identified by all Associations and the BBKA Office is that of the general public knowing what to do if they suspect they have a swarm in their “property”. The new website will include helpful information for members of the public to identify what they “have” i.e. honeybees rather than bumble bees, wasps etc and some advice as to what to do.

The existing website “swarm catchers” list will be totally replaced with a facility to enable visitors to the site to find someone who they can contact who can assist them in their specific geographic (postcode) area as a service to the community.

Fundamentally, as the persons being put forward on the BBKA website are effectively being recommended by the BBKA, therefore, only Association/BBKA members names will be included on the swarm catchers list and their names can only be included if their Association feels that they are suitable persons and appropriately qualified to undertake that task. Only persons identified by their Association as being suitable will be included on the website and those names and details will have to be verified and submitted to the BBKA by their Association. It is suggested that members are asked whether they wish to be listed as swarm collectors and that status will need to be confirmed in succeeding years.

To achieve this, we need to have all of the information about your members who are prepared to assist with swarms in your area included on the website. To ensure the privacy of member’s information, the only information that will be provided to the enquiring member of the general public will be the members name and their telephone contact details i.e. no addresses will be published and all information held is covered by the BBKA policy for information use.

The details that will be provided to the enquirer will be the contact names and telephone numbers of those Association authorised members who are located within a certain radius of the enquirer’s location (current thinking suggests 10 miles). As a secondary measure, we hope that each Association will provide us with the contact details for their Swarm Coordinators so that they can be included for all enquiries within the Association area. The system will be that the enquirer will be provided with two sets of information i.e. the local contacts and the coordinators contacts just in case the local initial contacts are not available.

Whilst the Website is primarily computer based, that does not preclude non computer members from having their names included on the swarm catchers list and those can be added via official contact with the BBKA office from the appropriate Association Officer/General Secretary.

If you would like to be included on the swarm collectors, please register your interest on our (NSBKA) website at <http://www.britishbee.org.uk/local/northstaffordshire/index.shtml> or for those members who do not have access to the internet, contact David Cheek or David Teasdale and they will take the appropriate action on your behalf. The list can be amended in the future but we would like to get the majority of those members who are willing and able to deal with swarms to be included on the list from the start of the new website.

There is also a need for us to have Swarm Co-ordinators who are available by phone most of the time to receive calls from the public and pass the information on to local beekeepers. Currently, David Teasdale undertakes that task but we do need other volunteers to increase the contacts. If you would like to be a swarm co-ordinator and, please tell Nick Mawby.

The initial list needs to be completed by mid April.

If you have any queries or questions on this subject, please contact David Cheek, David Teasdale or Nick Mawby

Space for bee hives available

I have been contacted by the Endon Cricket Club to enquire if any members would like to place their hives on their new nature area. The location is secure and could accommodate up to six colonies. If you are interested, please contact David Teasdale

**NewsLetter Editor: Dave Teasdale. 01782 502495 or 07971 013787
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