

north staffordshire beekeepers association

(www.northstaffsbees.org.uk)

February 2010 NewsLetter

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 3rd February
The Friends Meeting House
Miller Street, Newcastle-u-Lyme
ST5 1JD

Chairman's Chat

My apologies to those of you who were inconvenienced by the cancellation of the January meeting. I am certain that you will appreciate that the weather and road conditions would have made it both difficult and dangerous for members to attempt to get to the meeting.

Hopefully the weather will continue to warm up in time for our next meeting on the 3rd February 2010. At that meeting we intend to have a combination of the two meetings and trust that it will provide interest for both beginners, as well as those of you with more experience.

I have recently received enquiries from new members who want to obtain a supply of nucleus or full colony's of bees. I would be pleased to hear from you if anyone has any suggestions as to possible sources, would let me know. Obviously this would be for the new season.

See you at the next meeting!

Dave Cheek davidcheek@talktalk.net,

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 3rd February

"A beekeeping miscellany"

Presented by Nick Mawby and friends

Nick will lead this meeting into a more scientific and practical approach. Experienced beekeepers will contribute a handful of short topics in 'A Beekeeping Miscellany'.

Wed. March 3rd -

Peter Sutcliffe (South Cheshire Beekeepers)

Which hive for me?

Pete Sutcliffe will explain the pros and cons of hives types based on his experience and writings about various hive types.

Thursday April 1st * (Please note date and venue)**

**Bradwall Village Hall, Bradwall Road, Bradwall,
Nr Sandbach CW11 1RG Start Time 7.30 pm**

Dave Cushman (BIBBA) - Problems with queens.

"Glorious Beekeeping Weather?"

Thanks to Gill Woodroffe for providing this photograph to remind us of the "fun weather" we have had recently.

Even though the children enjoy it, not many adults do and our bees certainly don't.

On a more serious note, remember to clear the snow from the hive fronts to maintain the ventilation within the hive.

You might see the odd kamikaze bee venturing out during sunny patches, generally they follow

the lead of the beekeeper and keep inside and keep warm!



AN INTRODUCTION TO BEES AND BEEKEEPING

A two-day course Saturdays 22nd May and 5th June 2010 (10.00am - 5.00pm)

School of Life Sciences, Huxley Building, Keele University - Tutors: William Kirk and Dave Buckley

Course fee: £47.00 (no concessions). The fee covers the cost of the course and tea/coffee at morning and afternoon break times on each of the two days. Lunches are not included but light refreshments may be purchased from the campus store or Union Square.

Prior enrolment by Friday 9th April 2010 is essential. Please note that the course is subject to minimum and maximum numbers.

Hopefully, leaflets will be available at the next meeting or for more information either call Keele University or download the details from: <http://www.britishbee.org.uk/local/northstaffordshire/bm~doc/lsc-1c068-2.pdf>

Applications together with the fee should be returned to: Centre for Continuing and Professional Education, Keele University, Keele, Staffs. ST5 5BG. Telephone: 01782 733436.

SORRY – THIS COURSE IS NOW FULL

Notes from the pen of our General Secretary

Hi folks,

Well here we are in the New Year. I hope the festivities went to plan and your New Year got off to a good start.

I continue to have a high volume of enquiries from potential new beekeepers that are a pleasure to answer. I see so much of my own enthusiasm in them from this time last year, only now I can speak with the experience of my own highs and lows with my bees. There were a number of enquirers who were disappointed at the cancellation of the January meeting, showing the interest in sessions for beginners continues to grow. I understand that elements of that meeting are going to be accommodated within future meetings and have been passing on that information along with encouraging them to look out for the Keele course. Now the details have been released, I will be very surprised if it isn't fully booked quickly.

As we go through our first winter together, I am anxious for the health of my charges, but I can only trust that I have done the best I can and hope that the bee's will to survive compensates for my inexperience! My dear OH has made me some Nuc boxes for my Christmas present and while idly reminiscing about my first swarm I noticed our suits hanging forlorn and covered in dust. It came to mind that I really should get them washed and ready for the new season as it will soon be upon us. That led me onto a million other things like reading through the spring sections of my books and notes, checking equipment and making a shopping list, making up frames, rounding up my tools, collecting material for the smoker, etc. I am going to try to find a quiet moment and reflect on what went well and what I could have done better last year and write it down to try to build a road map for the way ahead and to clarify what I want to achieve.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Gill W

Stoneleigh Spring Beekeeping Convention Royal Show Ground Warwickshire

Friday 16th – Sunday 18th April 2010

You will have read in your December copy of the BBKA News the advance information about the UK's premier beekeeping event organised by the BBKA and how to obtain tickets.

This event is suitable for **all** beekeepers and it includes a number of excellent lectures and a variety of practical workshops in the various halls covering many interesting, useful and relevant beekeeping subjects. These are given or led by eminent, experienced and knowledgeable beekeepers from the UK and abroad.

Alongside the lectures, talks and demonstrations in the main hall takes place the biggest beekeeping supermarket in the UK. Every main beekeeping supplier and organisation will be represented and you can purchase all of your beekeeping requirements and even things that you did not know you wanted and it is all available under one roof. Usually, the items are attractively and very competitive priced which means that you save money and don't have to pay for postage.

There is a great deal to do and it is worthwhile going for two days if you can manage it and some of the lectures and workshops are repeated on the members day so you don't have to rush or miss ones that you would like to attend.

The full programme details will be published shortly and more details will be published in your NewsLetter as soon as it is available but now is the time to make a note in your diary, book your tickets and make plans to attend this event.

You will need your BBKA membership number (from your card) when you book tickets to obtain tickets at the discounted member's price.

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