

north staffordshire beekeepers association

(www.northstaffsbees.org.uk)

August 2010 NewsLetter

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday 1st September
The Friends Meeting House,
Newcastle**

“Chairman’s Chat” August 2010

Our Summer Social on the 10th July was a really lovely event, but I was disappointed with the support, especially from our newer members. Brian and Cherry had gone to great lengths to show their garden off, we had erected our Marquee, and Pat, helped by her family, had arranged a beautiful table of mouth watering food. About twenty-five of you had a great afternoon, but out of a membership of over a hundred, and considering the work put in by only a few of us to make the arrangements, the support was disappointing. We do have to consider this event for another year so I would ask any of you who did not attend if they would relay their thoughts to their nearest committee member or to me direct, so that we can decide the planning for future years.

One of the topics that came out during all the eating and drinking, was the problem being experienced by quite a few of us this year, of getting queens mated, also the brood box being filled up with honey and not leaving space for the queen to lay. Has anyone any thoughts about this that they can share with us?

You will see our marquee featured on the pictures. It can be borrowed by any member (FOC) providing that they will indemnify the Association against loss or damage. We currently have a problem insofar as we have now nowhere to safely store the marquee. Whilst the marquee looks (and is) large when it is erected, it actually only takes up approximately a space two feet square and seven feet high when it is in its storage bag so if you can help us, please give me a call.



There are no meetings planned for August, except for the Committee meeting on the 5th August to be held at Hartshill – Stoke on Trent (see your agendas for times and exact location). Wednesday 1st September at the Friends Meeting House is the joint meeting with South Cheshire, our speaker on this date is Gerry Collins from Doncaster, a major speaker on the national circuit. Please support this event and I hope to see you there.

Dave Cheek davidcheek@talktalk.net

Dates for your diary:

August – No meeting

Wednesday 1st September

The Friends Meeting House,
Newcastle

Joint meeting with our friends
from South Cheshire

Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start.

Guest Speaker
Gerry Collins from Doncaster

North Staffs Beekeepers
welcome Gerry back into our
midst after many years during
which he has achieved a
national reputation as a
beekeeper and an excellent
speaker on all aspects of
beekeeping.

His talk will be of interest and
value to all beekeepers.

**This will be a meeting that
you should not miss!**

**Wednesday 6th October
Our 58th Honey Show**

Open judging by Steve Guest of
South Cheshire BKA will give
newcomers to showing direct
comment on requirements of
the very exacting aspects of
preparation and presentation.

More information to follow

August Beekeeping Tasks & Tips

Colony Space

Colonies can still swarm so keep adding supers to ensure your bees have sufficient space

Frame Making

When making frames, never nail across the bottom bars through the wax. The open space at the bottom allows space for the wax to expand and contract therefore any nails across will result in distorted wax.

Varroa checking

Keep monitoring and take action if required

Meet the general public at the shows – Volunteers Needed!

Some people offer to attend the shows but more are needed if we are to ensure that everyone has a chance to have plenty of free time.

There is no charge for entry for participants and their passengers. Please have a think and give me a call as there is still time.

To remind you. The dates are:

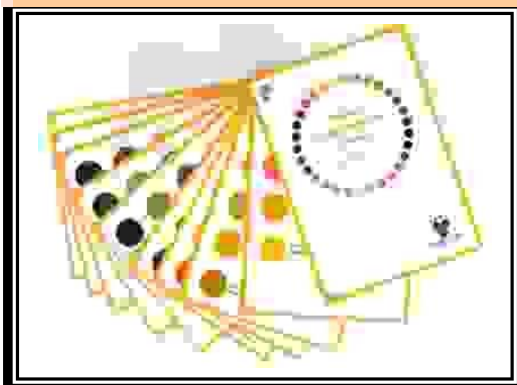
14th August (Saturday) – Manifold Valley Show – Ilam – Near Leek - not near Manchester – OOPS!

Thank you Charles

30th August (Bank Holiday Monday) – Rushton Spencer

Thanks DT

Pollen Identification



We are very fortunate that within our Association we have many knowledgeable beekeepers and one who has national status is William Kirk. Whilst William is generally a quiet spoken person who always hides his knowledge and talents and some would say almost “shy”, he has done much to open-up the world of beekeeping to many.

Amongst his many successes is his work on Pollen Identification and William has asked me to mention his latest publication and a “special offer” as follows:

William has a stock of his pollen identification cards that he can sell direct to members, thus saving the postage costs. He intends to bring them to NSBKA meetings.

Pollen Identification Cards £3.90 Kirk, W D J, 2010, IBRA, ISBN: 0-86098-263-7.

These are a month-by-month practical colour guide to the pollen loads collected by honey bees. Each laminated card depicts 10 plants with additional information on the reverse.

Member's Chat

Subject – The Summer “Social”

I wish to thank everyone who organised the really enjoyable afternoon on Saturday. I don't know why it is called a social because the word social implies something from bygone days when it was actually a great Summer Party and an excuse to enjoy ourselves.

The food, drink and the venue were magnificent and all credit is due to all those who provided and arranged those items and Brian and Cherry who made their home available. We didn't know what to expect but we had a good time and for a short while gave us a good break and took us away from our normal weekend tasks.

Those who were unable to attend missed a jolly good afternoon and we hope that the event will be held again and we will certainly be there.

Thank you to one and all. (Emailed to Ed - Members name withheld by request)

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