

north staffordshire beekeepers association September/October 2011 Newsletter

www.northstaffsbees.org.uk

To The Members

next meeting

Wednesday 5th October

The Friends Meeting House Miller Street,
Newcastle-u-Lyme ST5 1JD

7.00 for 7.30

NSBKA Annual Honey Show

The Queen Marking Colour for 2011 is WHITE



**Your NSBKA
membership is due
for renewal.
See pages 4 & 5**

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 5th October - Our 59th Honey Show

- Open judging by Gerry Collins from Doncaster
– we need you to enter your products

Wednesday 2nd November

- Graham Royal – Bee anatomy

Wednesday 7th December – Christmas Social

- David Emery – (North Staffordshire Wildlife Trust)
Staffordshire Butterflies

“Chairman’s Chat” - October 2011

Dear Member,

The Friends Meeting House was packed at our September meeting, when we welcomed visitors from South Cheshire Beekeepers, to hear Tony Jefferson, from Whitby Beekeepers, talk on the work of his colleague John Dews, and the extension of this work on the breeding of Varroa tolerant bees. John sadly passed away in May this year and towards the end of his life, John was greatly assisted by the Macmillan Charity in his final days so we decided to support Whitby beekeepers’ raffle for the charity in place of our usual raffle, and I am delighted to tell you we raised £380 on the evening. A great effort and many thanks for your support. The room was packed; easily our biggest audience to date, and Tony certainly gave us plenty to think about in our conventional treatment of the Varroa mite. He also generously presented us with a booklet that he was responsible for publishing, of all the lectures and papers that John Dews had written since the early nineties. When we have finished an audit of our library, then this will be available for any of you to borrow. All I ask is that you return this book promptly so that everyone gets the chance to read it.

Now for October 5th! You now need to look at the schedule for our in-house honey show, and for those of you that have produced honey, get your jars out, make sure they are spotlessly clean and filled so that there is no gap after the lid has been put in place. If you are not sure which class to enter it in, don’t worry we will be on hand to guide you on the night. It is great fun, and as the judging will be open you will be able to learn your mistakes on the night, without being identified as the jars will just carry a number and not a name. It is also very good education for those of you that are producing honey for sale. If you have not produced honey this year, then have a go at the cake recipe, the photograph section, or make a cake of wax (now there’s a challenge!)

If you are going to have a go, then I know that Margaret Teasdale would appreciate it if you would let her know, it will help her in her preparations for the evening. (Tel. 01782 502495 or email: teasdale.margaret@btinternet.com) In any case just come and make this a memorable evening.

Dave Cheek (davidcheek@talktalk.net) 01630 647584

Association News: Happy Birthday Bill!



Our President William (Bill) Woodward has celebrated his 95th birthday this month.

So can I, on your behalf wish Bill all the best and publicly thank him for

all of his hard work and active involvement in our Association which he still undertakes upon our behalf.

Thank-you Bill and we hope that you did have a very happy birthday and will enjoy many more.

DC

A "sunny" June Apiary Meeting at Longsdon!

Around twenty folk turned out on a typical June morn, dull, a slight breeze but it was mild. We were all looking forward to our guest speaker Terry Ashley.

Terry has been a Bee inspector for 19 years and obviously got a wealth of experience, he had recognised a few of the older beekeepers at the meeting but was pleased to see some who have yet to acquire their first bees. Aware that the crowd was made of a varied ability he was happy to take us through each step of his approach to doing a hive inspection.

Dried rotten wood and pine cones were his first recommendation ignited with his blow torch, it was a shame to see his just polished smoker get "sooted" but he assured us this fuel would see him able to inspect a whole apiary. At the hive he slightly smoked the entrance, left a minute and then went to take the supers off, he lifted the supers an inch and then smoked into the gap. This was to send the bees either up into the super or down into the brood allowing him to work the bees better. The supers were not inspected, just judged for bees and stores as they were taken off. He did comment that old sacking used to be the favoured smoker fuel but since the changes in manufacture and the inclusion of pesticides in the material, that was not a good idea.



The "Biggings" of a Bee Keeper

"HELP"

Help me if you can I'm feeling down (dowwnn).

Help me get my feet on the ground.

There have been swarms to right of me

Swarms to the left of me swarm swarm swarm

As I turn around they go

Homeward bound home where there friends sit waiting

Home where the queen lies silently waiting

Someone please help meeeee

A Beekeeper Begins

Please forgive the poetic license

Dave Grooms

Continued:

However, he suggested that soaking sacks in water for a few days and then drying them before use (obviously) makes the material safe and usable.

Starting with a frame at the edge he went through the colony checking the bees behaviour, good brood pattern and that there were no disease amongst the combs. He was not concerned if the queen was seen but did check for eggs. Having forgotten my glasses there was no way for me to confirm his sighting but others also had trouble seeing the eggs. Terry

explained that this was a common problem for new beekeepers and with some time and help newbees would get better at spotting eggs.



Cells with eggs

After looking through two hives and as the June weather was turning wet and we all went over to see what the brood looks like from a queen that has not mated right. Two of the newly created nucs have become drone layers. The lumpy, uneven capping is something we all should look out for from our new queens!

After a big thanks from us all the mornings meeting was ended. Terry had been very impressed with our apiary and was insistent he would forward to us details of a grant scheme which he felt we could benefit from. Again, big thanks to Terry Ashley.

Dave Magnier

NSBKA – Membership Renewal

The new NSBKA financial years starts next month and consequently, your membership is due for renewal on the 1st October.

To make that task as easy and painless as possible. For those members who have access to the Internet, payment renewal can be done via the Paypal facility on the northstaffsbees website.

For those members who either do not have access to the Internet or do not wish to use Paypal, a copy of the renewal document can be printed from our website or this NewsLetter or for those members who receive a printed copy of the NewsLetter, a printed copy is included. The completed renewal form plus your cheque then needs to be sent to your Treasurer Ray Day whose details are included on the form.

Every effort is made by your Committee to minimise the Association costs and maximise the benefits and enjoyment to you, the members. The implementation of Giftaid has helped your Associations finances **and agreeing to Giftaid, genuinely costs you nothing** insofar as your Association are able to claim back from the Government, the tax paid on the amount paid for your membership.

As we beekeepers try to be socially aware of the environment and to minimise the costs of the Association to the members, we also try to reduce the number of trees that we use for the NewsLetter. Therefore, unless you request otherwise, all communications from your Association will be via Email but if you do want a printed copy, just tell Ray!

What ever option you chose to receive your communications/Newsletters from your Association, the important thing that we would request is that you allow some time to actually read them. Computers and the Internet, Email etc are wonderful facilities but they are only as good as you allow them to be because as everything is shown on a screen, it is all too easy to "scroll" or skip through documents and miss something important.

If you have any questions about your membership, just contact Ray Day but what ever way your chose to renew your membership, Ray is looking forward to receiving your renewal because it does make the financial life of your Association less complicated if members renew ASAP.

Thank you

NewsLetter Reporter required

I am regularly asking in this magazine for all members to submit articles or ideas for articles to make it more interesting and useful for you.

I ask that because people have different ideas and if everyone is looking for articles or ideas for possible publication, that does make life easier because it generally is impossible to do it all by ones-self.

I would also like to ensure that we have reports from the meetings so members are reminded of what was said or for those unable to attend, what they missed so that they can have some flavour of the event and what was said.

If we all believe in good communications, which your Association does, then having one person doing all of the work is unacceptable because we do not have any resilience.

Therefore, I would like to enlist another member or members to work together on the NewsLetter to help to take it forward.

If this is of interest to you and you are willing to help, please give me a call.

Thank you

David T

**NewsLetter Editor: Dave Teasdale. 01782 502495 or 07971 013787
or Email teasdale.david@btinternet.com**

Your annual subscription to the Association is due by 1st October. It will help the association's officers if you could pay as soon as possible, or let us know if you do not wish to renew

1. **Full** membership gives membership of the BBKA, with 3rd party insurance, which covers beekeeping activities, including sale of hive products (full details on the website or from treasurer)
2. **Country** membership is for those without bees, so does NOT provide insurance cover, but gives membership of the BBKA with monthly copies of BBKA news
3. **Partner** membership is for those residing at the same address as a full member who need insurance cover to handle bees independently, giving BBKA membership and insurance, but not BBKA news.
4. Affiliated membership has been replaced by Country membership; anyone can attend our meetings without any requirement to be a member.
5. **B.D.I cover** is included in the full and partner membership fees, and covers your first three hives, but all other hives have to be covered at an extra charge (see below). This only gives cover for compulsory destruction of your colonies if diagnosed with foulbrood.
6. Third party liability insurance will lapse if your subscription is not received by the end of October.

Surname: First name of Full Member:

Partner's Name (only if applying for Full & Partner membership)

Address:

..... Post code:

Email: BBKA No:

Telephone: Landline: Mobile:.....

Please note that all communications will be sent by email unless otherwise requested. If you require postal copies, please inform the treasurer.

To be kept informed of NSBKA meetings, apiary visits and events, include your email address and phone number.

Type of membership required (please tick one)

- Full (includes BBKA membership, BBKA News & insurance) - **£27.00**
- Country (BBKA membership & BBKA News, but **NO** insurance)- **£14.00**
- Full & Partner (BBKA membership & insurance for both members) - **£40.50**

Tick one box ONLY if you need extra BDI cover

(your subscription includes the first 3 hives; Full & Partner members are covered for 3 hives each)

- Up to 5 colonies (includes the basic 3 hives) add £2.00
- Up to 15 colonies (includes the basic 3 hives) add £7.75
- Up to 20 colonies (includes the basic 3 hives) add £9.50
- Up to 25 colonies (includes the basic 3 hives) add £11.10
- Up to 30 colonies (includes the basic 3 hives) add £13.60
- Up to 35 colonies (includes the basic 3 hives) add £16.10
- Up to 39 colonies (includes the basic 3 hives) add £18.10

Total remittance of membership and extra B.D.I (if applicable) enclosed = £ _____

Pay online or make your cheque payable to N.S.B.K.A and send it to:

NSBKA Treasurer Ray Day, 10 Acreswood Road, Burslem, Stoke On Trent, ST6 7DZ

If you require a receipt, please enclose a S.A.E. - Tel no: 01782 867352 email: bigagino@hotmail.com

**Make the
taxman
pay!**

If you are a UK taxpayer, and want us to reclaim the tax you have paid on your subscriptions (which are considered as donations) please tick the relevant box for the years you wish us to reclaim:

- For this and future donations
- For this donation only

It cost you nothing and gives your Association additional funds

