

BEEMASTER

**Nottinghamshire
Beekeepers' Association**
Founded 30th April 1884
Registered Charity No. 508171

January 2019 No. 357

<http://www.nottsbees.org.uk>

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The Editor would like to thank the following members for their contributions:

Karen Burrow Stuart Ching Griff Dixon Chris Hutter Karen Gladman Linda Jordan Alison Knox Anne & Rob Mason Glenis Swift

Other BKAs through the Bee Editors Exchange scheme

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DIARY DATES

Monday 7 January **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG65 6NZ**

7.30 pm **Diary of a Wildlife Photographer: Jack Perks**

Monday 21 January **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham NG23 6HB** 8pm

Friday 25 January Copy date for **February** newsletter

Saturday 2 February **NBKA AGM, Village Hall, Lowdham NG14 7BD**

Monday 4 February **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG5 6NZ**

7.30pm **The Orchard Year: Adrian Baggaley**

Monday 18 February **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham NG23 6HB** 8pm

www.nbkaeducation.weebly.com

From the editor

January is here and a brand new year lies ahead- I wonder what's in store for us and our bees this time. I wish you all good health for yourselves and your bees and a good season with no nasty surprises: may your bees be docile, your queens prolific and your hives be always filled with bees, brood and honey. I was sorry to miss Celia Davis' talk on the challenges of beekeeping, had an engagement I couldn't wriggle out of. Reading Karen's notes I can see that Celia's observations on how we manage our bees reflect what I have been feeling for some time. It is 9 years since my family presented me with a Thorne's starter kit to mark my bus-pass birthday and in that time I have probably made every mistake it is possible to make, had a go at most procedures and techniques, avidly watched and listened to my elders and betters, devoured beekeeping books old and new, read other BKA's newsletters in my capacity as editor of Beemaster, been to Convention and Beetradox, attended lectures and workshops- and have become more and more dismayed at the commodification of the honey bee in the constantly increasing drive to produce more and more honey. This was brought home to me quite early on when an eminent speaker began his lecture with the words "A queen honey bee is a unit of production, nothing more" and my heart sank- was this all that beekeeping was about? The honey, not the bee? I choose the bee and bee-centred beekeeping. Unlike the BBKA I am concerned that managed honey bee colonies may out-compete other local pollinators and so have reduced the number of colonies I run by half and now have 10: the Wildlife Trust managed SSSI woodland behind my apiary and the surrounding good arable farm land and village orchards now have to sustain the apiaries of five more beekeepers within the forage radius of my bees- 50+ colonies. That the odds are stacked against our bees by habitat loss, climate change, the over-use of chemicals in the environment, disease and imported pests is well known and accepted but we may be less willing to accept Celia's assertion that we beekeepers are the bees' worst enemy- perhaps it's time we did. In this issue: it's AGM time, please come; if you haven't yet renewed your membership you'll find the required information and form right here; we visit the Bees Abroad 2019 fundraising target project in Zambia; our anaphylactic beekeeper Glenis reports on a thankfully reaction-free beekeeping year; we are warned of insectageddon; given some helpful explanations of widely used honey advertising terms; and helped to a cheery and healthy new year by Linda's recipes; there's balm for winter hands, too. In Beelines you can read extracts from the National Bee Unit's North East Region annual report from Dhonn Atkinson, our Regional Bee Inspector, interesting reading. Don't forget your regular beekeeping magazines, Beecraft and BBKA News where there's plenty to inform and entertain you, though you may need a calming cuppa after you've read the article The Neonicotinoid Era in the latter which debunks the arguments consistently made by BBKA and some leading beekeepers that neonics are not harmful to honey bees. Kettle on?

Notes from Norwell: Hon Sec Report - January 2019

Griff Dixon

Firstly – I did submit a December Notes from Norwell on the 27th November but it somehow got jammed up in the Editor's pc Spam file!!

Only 13 weeks until the Oil Seed Rape is out so get things ready!!

It's also the prime time for varroa treatment with brood allegedly being at the lowest ebb – although with the current warm weather all my bees have been flying out as of yesterday with only one requiring a bit of a feed top up. I am wondering whether to add some pollen substitute to start getting things fired up again. Some had broken cluster while other were still keeping shape but had moved across the top. I checked my Apivar treatment with only one showing any sort of Varroa drop (The first I had ever seen in 4 years!)

I assume all last years empties and frames have been cleared out ready for new wax when required.

The Asian Hornet is more likely to start appearing in 2019 with the NBKA looking to be prepared with the formation of a hit squad to deal with any sightings.

I underestimated the Christmas demand for Honey this year with my clients running out quite quickly – I just about had sufficient jars to keep them going but will need to increase my jar stocks for next year.

Year four has seen an increase in demand for my sales so I hope to triple sales in 2019 whilst I double the amount of colonies.

An apology to Council members for my late minutes of the previous meeting and also the late agenda plus the change of venue which some council members were not too familiar with. I will try to improve on my first year as Hon Sec and be a bit more timely with the paperwork.

I have booked next years Council meeting dates as follows and made sure they are not on the second Thursdays (Alec). David Chambers requested I get these booked and Council Members informed within a few weeks of the last meeting – so job done!

Thursday 21st March 2019

Thursday 20th June 2019

Thursday 19th September 2019

Thursday 19th December 2019

These will be held in Phippen Cottage Room PCL7 at 7:30pm at Brackenhurst College.

Happy New Year Everyone.

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION**
133rd Annual General Meeting
LOWDHAM Village Hall NG14 7BD
2nd February 2019, 2.15 pm

Please put this date in your shiny new diaries! This is your opportunity to meet the people who work hard on your behalf behind the scenes, a chance to ask questions and put your point of view. There is also tea and coffee and a feast of home-baked goodies, a raffle and an interesting, entertaining and informative talk, film and discussion. See you there?

The agenda and 2018 AGM minutes will be sent out to all members very soon.

This month in your apiary: January

Penny Forsyth

January is another quiet month in the apiary: our bees should still be in their winter cluster, feeding on their stores and using their strong thoracic muscles to generate the heat necessary for their winter survival. When there is no brood to rear the temperature at the centre of the cluster will be about 20C, with the outer shell being not below 8C- any lower and the outermost bees will fall off and die. It is vital that the bees have enough accessible stores to consume, especially as the queen may already have started laying, and this requires the bees to raise the nest temperature to 34.5C or very close if the brood is to survive. This demand for food is why many beekeepers say that spring feeding is done in the autumn. By now we should have got used to hefting our hives to estimate the weight of the stores inside and will know if we need to feed our bees. It is too cold to feed sugar syrup as the bees will not break the cluster and come up to a feeder, therefore we must feed fondant or candy either directly on the top bars or over the feeder hole if the cluster is centrally situated within the hive. Whether you use bakers' fondant or a product specifically formulated for bees, put the cake or slice into a plastic bag or container with a couple of access slits on the underside so that the bees can eat it without the risk of it drying out or, conversely, melting and running down onto the cluster. Use an eke or empty super to give enough space and cover loosely with insulating material. You may like to feed a pollen supplement or substitute at the same time to give your bees an extra boost. If you haven't already done so, there is still time to treat your colonies for varroa with the newly approved treatments, Api-bioxal or Oxuvar. If using the trickle method, ideally work with a partner to cut down the time each hive is open and use a warmed solution: if using a vaporiser, be sure to follow the instructions to the letter and observe safety precautions. You can locate the cluster easily if you check the floor insert for signs of uncapping of stores.

Jobs for January

- ~ regularly check hives for damage by animals, woodpeckers or weather and check roofs for signs of leaks- take a dry roof with you just in case
- ~ check that entrances are not blocked by snow or dead bees
- ~ keep on hefting to estimate the weight of stores left in the hive: feed with fondant or candy if necessary
- ~ if you intend to treat colonies with oxalic acid, do it early in the month or you risk damage to brood if the queen starts laying
- ~ keep on cleaning and repairing equipment and make up some frames & supers ready for the spring
- ~ keep on reading and learning

Happy new year!

Nottingham Region meeting report 3 December 2018

Karen Burrow

Celia Davis - The Challenges of Beekeeping

This was a very well attended meeting.

Celia started by saying how beekeeping used to be much simpler, but changed in 1990 onwards, becoming much more complex.

Issues and challenges:

- impact of weather/climate
- crops success
- swarming behaviour
- queen mating (needs 17C, fine and light wind)
- disease incidence

Environment

- more intensive agriculture
- less available and less variety of forage
- impact of pesticides - eg neonicotinoids and fungicides
(talk to local farmers and take care what you use yourself)

Maintain laying queens

- poor mating - 'quality of drones'
- early supersedure
- becoming drone layers
- diseases - especially viruses (inc passed thru eggs/sperm)

Colony health - diseases and threats

- 'old fashioned' - eg chalk brood, Nosema
- notifiable - eg foul brood
- varroa - (viruses assoc with varroa - deformed wing virus, slow paralysis virus)
- viruses
- new ones - eg Nosema ceranae, Small Hive Beetle, Tropilaelaps (and Asian Hornet)

Winter bees - need to be healthy, and well nourished to be able to kick start colony in spring

Role of the beekeeper

- 'Bees' worst enemy'
- we... handle too much
- move about too much
- take their food
- add chemicals

The raffle for Bees Abroad raised £88 for Zambian Women's Project

Reminder that Bob is expecting to stand down as Treasurer in 2 years. Anyone who interested in taking over could possibly shadow Bob.

Further reminder from Bob to anyone doing the Beekeepers Course: if you are not a member then you don't get members rates!

Season's greetings!



The Beeston and Chilwell Bee Club enjoyed a Christmas breakfast at the Canalside Heritage Centre, Beeston Lock on Thursday 6th December. We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you a very Happy Beekeeping New Year!

Newark Region

Penny Forsyth

Newark group enjoyed a festive get-together at their regular watering hole, the Ferry Inn, North Muskham, where the usual wide range of topics was discussed, seasonal greetings exchanged and glasses raised to a good and productive beekeeping season in 2019.

Membership renewal for 2019

Karen Gladman, Membership Secretary

Once again the year draws to a close and I hope that all members and their bees have had a happy and productive year. Now is the time I must remind you that unless you are a life member or have joined late in the year, memberships will expire on 31st December.

Please fill in a membership form for 2019 and return it to me by post or e-mail. I know this is an unwelcome chore, but it is important that I have up-to-date information regarding your permissions preferences, your BDI requirements and you signatures for the BDI etc.

Now is a good time to think about your plans for next year and the number of colonies you expect to have at the peak of the season. Bee Disease Insurance is optional but, please note that for the purposes of BDI scheme, nucs and splits are considered colonies in their own right and if you have more colonies than you have insured, especially if you intend to collect swarms, your BDI will not be valid. If you wish to take out extra BDI, you can tag this payment onto your membership fee if paying by bank transfer or make a separate payment if you already pay by standing order. Many of you have taken out standing orders and the payments will be made automatically. For this many thanks, as this arrangement does help considerably with the administration. If you have not taken out standing order, I urge you to do so if you can, payable annually on 2nd January. Otherwise fees can be paid by cheque, sent to the Membership secretary or by Bank transfer.

The membership fees and BDI premiums are listed below and on the membership form on p15

Subscription Rates 2019

Full Membership..... £25.00
Associate Membership £ 12.50
Family Membership £ 6.25
Junior Membership £ 8.50

Bee Disease Insurance Premiums (Nucs and Splits are regarded as colonies in their own right.)

Up to 3 Colonies free with membership
Up to 5 Colonies £ 2.00
Up to 10 Colonies £ 5.25
Up to 15 Colonies £ 7.75
Up to 20 Colonies £ 9.50
Up to 25 Colonies £ 11.10
Up to 30 Colonies £ 13.60
Up to 35 Colonies £ 16.10
Up to 39 Colonies £ 18.10

Paying your subscription by Standing order

Chris Hutter, Treasurer

All new members are now being asked to firstly, fill in the membership form and send it and the first-year subscription cheque. Then set up a Standing Order for ongoing subscriptions. Existing members are being asked to use the details below to set up a Standing Order. If you **do not** set up a Standing Order, then you have to fill out the membership form again and send a cheque to the Membership Sec **by the end of each year.**

HSBC, Beeston Branch. Sort Code: 40-10-06
For the credit of Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association Account No.: 21122258
Date of first payment: 3rd January and thereafter **annually**

Quoting reference: This tells the Treasurer, on our Bank Statement, who has made the payment. There must be **full Initials and Surname** (maximum 10 characters/spaces)

The sum of: this includes the basic subscriptions of **£25.00** and, if applicable,

	Family Membership	£ 6.25
and/or	Associate Member	£12.50
and/or	Junior Member	£ 8.50

Once you have set up your Standing Order email me at chris.hutter@hotmail.co.uk and Karen Gladman at kabee21@gmail.com to tell us, so that we can put you on the 'paid-up' list.

Any problems, please ring me 0115 9830038

Introducing our 2019 AGM speaker

I appreciate that it is going to be hard for anyone to follow in the footsteps of some of the fantastic Speakers we have enjoyed in recent times. . . but . . . I have another “class act” booked for you. Having personally seen the exhibition “Swarm” at Skelton Grange Environment Centre in Leeds last year, I was impressed and inspired by how Laney Birkhead had brought her project to fruition and in so doing touch the minds and hearts of so many in the community, regarding the welfare and the value of the bee in our lives and our environment. I am delighted to let you know that Laney will be joining us as our speaker at the NBKA AGM ~ please **SAVE THE DATE!**



AGM 2nd Feb 2019 – TALK, FILM & DISCUSSION

SWARM: A Creation of Many Hands by Laney Birkhead

Artist **Laney Birkhead** explains the concepts behind her ground breaking “Swarm” project, and how a passionate combination of beekeeping and printmaking have brought her to realise how important the little creatures that run our world are, and how we all must take responsibility for their wellbeing. How becoming a beekeeper changed her art practise and artistic career, and how persuasive bees can be helping people take environmental action.

Swarm is an **ongoing eco project**, now in its sixth year, which through creative endeavour, raises awareness about bee decline, and highlights the importance of pollinators in our environment. It comprises of an enormous interactive Art installation of 50,000 bees, hand printed on calico by hundreds of people, measuring 7 x 23 metres creating a 3D walk inside ‘Hive’. This is complemented by other beautiful bee inspired artworks from a collective of artists, who have created thought provoking responses to critical issues around bees.

A documentary made by photographer and film-maker Paul Harris about Laney creating Swarm will also be screened.

There will also be a **display of cards and artworks** from the Swarm Collective, which will be for sale. If you would like to join the hundreds of people who have already taken part in the project, you can choose to make a written promise on how you are helping to reduce bee decline and add it to the ‘Pledge Quilt’, which is an ongoing artwork and shown at each Swarm exhibition.

A request to cup winners

2017 Cup/Trophy winners, please ensure that you return your prizes to me at the January 2019 Nottingham Region meeting in Arnold as I will need to get them re engraved to present to the 2018 winners at our forthcoming AGM. If you are unable to attend the meeting to do this, please contact me directly 07768 153526 to make other arrangements~ Thank you!

Alison Knox, Show Secretary



These photos show Roy Dyché, the first Bees Abroad Volunteer Project Manager for the Monze Project in Zambia, on the last visit he made to the project. Unfortunately Roy died in December but Stuart Andrews is looking forward to taking the project forwards in 2019. In the first photo Roy is posing with one of the members of the Chona Women's Beekeeping Cooperative. In the second the Kabwenbala Women's Beekeeping Cooperative is listening to Roy's explanation of how a smoker is used.

Bees Abroad chose the Monze Project as the 2018 Christmas Appeal with funds raised going towards the £5000 target to fulfill all aspects of this 3 year project and I am pleased to report that our Christmas raffle at the last NBKA Nottingham meeting raised £89.00, thank you for your support!

After raising more than £5500 for the Cameroon Project since 2014 by selling knitted items, seeds or plants; opening our garden; giving talks about bees and beekeeping among other things, Rob and I are looking forward to making the Monze Project the focus of our fundraising in 2019.

Diary of an anaphylactic beekeeper

Glenis Swift

2018 was set to be a quiet year. Early on in the season only a couple of stings, no significant reaction. I had downsized to two colonies and was enjoying the freedom of how easily two hives could be managed as opposed to four or more. I took the opportunity to do an inventory and was surprised how much equipment I had accumulated.

Honey production was good for the number of colonies. It looked like this could be my most successful season so far.

Towards the end of the season I got a request to manage Ian's hives, as he had been hospitalised. 8 COLONIES! I did wonder why he had asked me of all people, as one sting and I would be off.

So, away I went, armed with 8 varroa treatments and instructions where to get the keys from. After about an hour I had managed to locate and treat 7 colonies. (I thought that perhaps Ian had miscounted) Nice calm bees, very friendly allotment holders and of course, Ron, ever patient and long suffering, never lets me near bees on my own.

For the rest of the summer, throughout autumn, and into winter I continued to look after the bees. Not a single sting, so far!. On the strength of my success with my adopted colonies, an overgrown patch of land, much nearer to home, has been taken over by local beekeepers in the Hucknall area. The challenge for 2019 is to bring this swathe of scrub land to life, initially installing 3 hives and adding more as the season progresses.

I hope you have all had a merry Christmas and I wish you good health and prolific beekeeping for 2019

Insectageddon

As beekeepers our interest, not unnaturally, tends to be mainly focused on honey bees and, as we are all very well aware, honey bee numbers have been declining steadily for some time. So, it is believed, are most other insects. Unfortunately, unlike birds and mammals, there is very little data available to give comparisons between current and past insect populations. Whilst some species, such as bees and butterflies, have consistently topped the public's insect popularity charts, most insects are actively disliked by the public and largely go unstudied. Yet insects are vital to our world! Edward Wilson, a famous Harvard biologist wrote: "if humans were to disappear the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago but if insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos." Why? Because insects and other arthropods, in addition to pollination, play a vital role in the recycling of animal carcasses and rotting vegetation and are an important part of the food chain for birds, mammals, fish and reptiles. What few studies have been carried out consistently show a severe, year on year decline in all insect populations. Whilst there is no single causal factor, climate change, extensive use of pesticides and changing farming practices have been identified as major factors. As holistic beekeepers, we can play a role in helping the insect population to recover by helping to recover and restore as much natural habitat as possible and by encouraging others to abandon, or at least reduce, their use of pesticides and herbicides.

Is your honey raw, pure or organic?

Many honey adverts describe their honey using the words "raw", "pure" or "organic", but what do these terms mean and do they comply with all the relevant legislation? Unfortunately, there do not appear to be any precise definitions of what each term means and interpretation of the legislation seems to be left to local Food Inspectors. However, the following explanations might be helpful.

Pure honey seems to mean any honey that does not contain any additives but may have been pasteurised and finely filtered.

Raw honey is simply honey that has not been pasteurised, finely filtered to remove any pollen, heated significantly above 35°C or processed in any way. It is just pure honey as extracted from the comb. Most honey sold in supermarkets is pasteurised, which involves heating the honey to about 63° C. This helps improve its shelf life, but also kills the beneficial yeast and enzymes found in raw honey. The temperature of a beehive is about 35°C, and many 'raw' honeys are heated slightly to about 38°C, but this is not enough to kill the beneficial enzymes in the honey.

Organic honey

To be classed as organic, honey must be produced through organically acceptable processes. These include:

- Siting apiaries on certified organic land that must not be treated with weed killers etc. The beekeeper must keep a map showing the location of all his/her apiaries.
- Hives and frames must be made of natural, untreated timber.
- Hives must not be painted, but may be treated with linseed oil.
- Hives must have been organically managed for at least 12 months during which time the wax must be changed to organic wax.
- Not more than 10% of the hives in an apiary can be replaced/increased using non-organic queens or swarms, provided that organic wax from organic hives is used. In this case the 12 month conversion period does not apply.
- Foundation and comb must be of organic wax, except when an apiary is first converted and organic wax is unavailable.
- For a radius of 4 miles around the apiary, nectar and pollen sources must be "essentially" either organic or wild/uncultivated. This area must not be subject to significant sources of pollution such as from motorways, urban centres, dumps, incinerators, etc.

- Any feeding must be organic honey or organic sugar and this may only take place between the last honey harvest and 15 days before the first nectar flow.
- Homeopathic and herbal treatments and natural acids such as lactic, formic and oxalic and thymol may be used without restriction.
- If other medications, especially those requiring veterinary prescription, are used, the wax must be replaced and there must be a withdrawal period of one year.
- Drone culling is permitted even though it disturbs natural colony activity.
- Artificial insemination as part of queen rearing is allowed but wing clipping is prohibited.
- There are no requirements about honey extraction and bottling beyond the normal measures to ensure separation and product integrity

Lune Valley Community Beekeepers via ebees

Recipe of the month

Linda Jordan

Honey Hot Toddy

This drink is suitable for a Winter party

1 Bottle dry wine	a small piece of mace
1 Lemon	80ml (4 tbs) brandy
3 Cloves	150g (6 oz) honey
1 stick cinnamon	

Warm the wine, lemon rind, lemon juice and spices but do not boil. Remove from the heat, stir in the honey and leave with the lid tightly on for about an hour.

Strain the liquid and reheat to drinking temperature. Add the brandy and serve.

Also for the new Year.....

Honey Health Drink

125g (4oz) soft fresh fruit (bananas, strawberries, melon raspberries etc

40ml (2 tbs) honey

500 ml (1 pint) milk

125 ml (4oz) pot of yogurt (fruit or plain)

Cinnamon or nutmeg

Roughly chop the fruit if necessary, place the fruit, honey, milk and yogurt in a blender and mix until smooth. Pour into tall glasses and garnish with ground cinnamon or nutmeg.

A recipe from the past

Honey Balls – for a tickling throat

Put into a small basin a knob of butter and blend it with a dessertspoon of granulated honey. Make into very small balls. Let one dissolve in the mouth when a cough is troublesome. (Most helpful with children)

Hand Cream

Susie Weston, Ipswich & East Sussex BKA

During the winter I had a go at making hand cream, as gardening in the cold, wet weather was leaving my fingers cracked and sore. I found this recipe on the internet, and tweaked slightly, but it is really easy to make, and lasts a long time, as you only need to use a tiny bit each day:

60ml coconut oil
60ml almond oil*
60ml olive oil
100g beeswax (cleaned)
20g shea butter
1 1/2 tablespoons of honey
Optional: essential oils

The method is really easy : put all ingredients except honey and essential oils into a jug and put in the microwave until the beeswax has melted (or you can do in a bain-marie). Stir well, and then add the honey and your choice of oils (some people scent it with something like lavender oil, but I prefer the original smell of honey and wax). I added some vitamin E. Keep stirring until it starts to cool and thicken, and then put into a jar or small tins. If you jar it while hot, the honey may separate from the oils.

My fingers are a lot better now, and I wouldn't be without this hand cream. I reckon if you put it into small (50ml) tins it would make a lovely present and be enough to last a long time.

*Note : I am sure you can use any light oil here, such as jojoba (obviously pronounced with a Billy Connolly accent!)

via ebees

BeeLines: notices, news and views

Extracts from the North East Region Annual Report of the National Bee Unit

The 2018 Beekeeping season got off to a poor start with the early spring weather being more like mid-winter, the "Beast from the East" took its toll on winter weakened colonies and the return of the beast or "Mini Beast from the East" as it became known, had a severe impact and losses were high. Colonies that survived the winter were below par in many areas and took time to build up, this, coupled with the short OSR window meant that many beekeepers in OSR areas did not achieve the crop they expected. The cold start to April was soon replaced with exceptionally warm weather brought about by high pressure over the near continent drawing in warm air from the south east with some areas experiencing temperatures in the high 20's. Once the weather improved inspections of the regions apiaries got underway and we returned to business as usual, as best we could with only 3 inspectors and myself to cover the region.

Disease round up

North East team inspected 436 Apiaries containing 2,106 colonies during the season, diagnosing 29 cases of EFB and 1 case of AFB. All figures are down on last year which were, 633 apiaries inspected, 37 cases of EFB and 5 cases of AFB.

157 exotic pest inspections (EPS) were carried out around areas considered to be high risk for Small hive beetle, *Tropilaelaps* and now Asian Hornets (EPS 236, 2017).

Varroa

Early callouts & inspections where losses occurred were nearly all down to Varroa. Probably due to poor treatments & monitoring and the effects of the late cold snap, basically, any weak colonies failed to survive, reducing the number of “Varroa reservoirs” available to re-infest surviving stocks. The knock on effect being that Varroa numbers were significantly reduced and fewer mites were seen in the colonies that survived leading to fewer observations of PMS (persistent mite syndrome).

This year again there have been additions to the Varroa treatments available in the UK. The list of those registered and approved for use by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is available on their web site: <http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Default.aspx> together with the Summary of Product Characteristics giving full details of use. For the full list select ‘Bees’ on the drop down list of species in the product search link. Oxybee Powder and Solution by DANY Bienenwohl is the most recent addition to become available in the UK, the active ingredient being oxalic acid dihydrate, an oxalic acid based treatment applied by the ‘trickle’ method. As well as the tried and tested thymol varroa treatments such as Apiguard, Api-life Var and Thymovar, oxalic acid treatment is popular not only by dribbling but increasingly by vaporisation. Many associations have invested in applicators and associated PPE to allow members to use oxalic acid sublimation at little cost for this effective treatment.

NBU advice for strong, vigorous colonies is to monitor and control varroa appropriately using biotechnical methods and authorised products as directed. Varroa treatments should be targeted before colonies start to produce their ‘winter’ bees but monitoring of Varroa levels during the season will help determine whether an earlier treatment is required. Viral damage, which is associated with varroa as they are such good vectors for viruses, will seriously reduce the longevity of the adult bees and so impact on the foraging capability of colonies with a high Varroa infestation level in the summer period. Treated too late in the season, so that the winter bees are affected by viruses or purely weakened by the mites feeding on them, is frequently the cause of colony mortality in the late winter and early spring. My Inspectors and I regularly see treatments misused and therefore ineffective, the most common of these is not sealing up varroa floors when using Thymol based treatments, this allows the vapour to simply fall through the floor (Thymol vapours are heavier than air) and the required vapour build up in the hive is not achieved.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS!

Honey Production

In many parts of the region as the summer moved on, a distinct lack of moisture and baking heat took its toll. The summer sun did nothing for the nectar producing plants and in many areas the “flow” was minimal and alerts from the NBU were circulated advising beekeepers to check the level of stores in hives and feed if necessary. Localised rain showers and moisture from the sea kept some areas productive. Reports from around the region suggest that this season’s honey production has been variable with comments from the “worst I’ve seen in 20 yrs” to “best summer I’ve ever had”, overall it would appear that production was down as the grumbles outweighed the positives.

It is now clear that 2018 has been one of the hottest summers on record for the UK, however, the margin between the mean temperatures at the top of the league tables ([records dating back to 1910](#)) is so small it is impossible to say if 2018 will be an outright winner. It is very close to the record-breaking summers of 2006 (15.78C), 2003 (15.77C), and 1976 (15.77C) all of which are within 0.01C of each other (Met Office stats). On a positive note, reports from some of our Queen breeders in the region have shown the prolonged warm weather benefitted them with queens having the opportunity to get out and get mated properly, reducing the number of new queens going drone layer

Asian Hornet in the North

During the NBU spring technical training week a photograph of a Yellow legged Asian Hornet (*Vespa Velutina Nigrothorax*) was received at Sand Hutton, it had been found in the Bury area of Lancashire (just over the border!) by a non-beekeeper who had been made aware of the hornet situation through the media. The photograph was of very good quality and left no doubt as to what the insect was.

Unfortunately the home owner had taken it outside for better lighting and as the insect warmed in the sun it flew away. Hornet traps were deployed around the area and regular visits by Northern team led by Graham Royle then ensued. Tracings suggested the insect may have been brought into the area in produce which was believed to have originated from Lincolnshire. NE inspectors were deployed into Lincolnshire to assist Eastern region, once again reducing our presence on home turf. After extensive monitoring in both Lincs and Lancs nothing more was found. A report of an Asian Hornet was followed up in the Leeds area after information was received from a person who was considered to be a "Credible Witness" contacted the NBU. Traps were deployed and monitored on a regular basis for six weeks. Nothing was found and the monitoring was wound down, beekeepers in the area were asked to be vigilant and report anything out of the ordinary. The Hull Hornet, this caused alarm and inspectors were drawn in from surrounding regions to assist in the surveillance. After 2 weeks of surveillance and following up other suspect sightings in the area, which turned out to be native hornets, the operation was scaled down to bi-weekly trap monitoring. This carried on until mid-October when policy colleagues gave the instruction to collect in the traps and wrap up the situation. During the summer we received numerous calls about Asian Hornets being sighted in the region. These turned out to be European Hornets (Vespa Crabro) which appear to have extended their range and have now been found as far North as North Allerton. This could be a result of the hot summer or global warming, we'll see next year.

Dhonn Atkinson

Regional Bee Inspector, North East.

Dhonn.atkinson@apha.gov.uk

07775119437

NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team

At our October meeting, Newark region set up an AHAT (Asian Hornet Action Team) to monitor and report Asian Hornet incursion into our region and to coordinate with the National Bee unit and the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS). Pete Bull (Worksop) is our Coordinator; I am the contact person for the Retford area and Andrew Barber is the Newark area contact. We now need volunteers to act as contact persons for Nottingham and the south of the Region before we formally register our AHAT with the National Bee Unit. There is excellent information and a set of guidelines on the AHAT website <https://ahat.org.uk>: please contact me at pennyforsyth16@mail.com if you wish to join the contacts register.

Volunteer Stewards required for the 2019 Spring Convention

Detailed planning for the Spring Convention continues...can you volunteer your time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday 12, 13 or 14 April at the 2019 Spring Convention as a steward? You would have three days' free entry to the Convention. You would also have some free time each day depending on your rota and you'll be recompensed to the value of a lunch voucher and £20 each day. Tasks could include activities like stewarding parking, reception, trade show or lecture buildings. If you are interested please contact conventionstewards@gmail.com by 15 February.

And finally..... a sweet reminder of the season to come from Stuart Ching's archive

A Guid New Year

When daisies fill the grass like snow and blossoms white the trees,
Its to the beemaster I go to buy a skep of bees.
I do not pay in copper money or silver, new or old,
Nay! That my hives may have good luck I cross his hand with gold!

And now my bees, they hurry forth till eve the dusk doth bring
And east and west and south and north they go a-foraging.
The pollen and the honey good they gather in four-fold
And all I gave the beemaster they pay me back in GOLD!

Scottish BKA magazine, September 1943

Let's hope not.....



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2019 (Membership Expiry date 31-12-2019)

Return to Membership Secretary: Mrs Karen Gladman 2 Piper Lane, Carburton, Worksop, Notts, S80 3BU.
E-mail kgbee21@gmail.com Tel 01909 480581

Member Details: Title.....Name
Address
Postcode Email.....
Tel. Mobile

Type of Membership: FULL (£ 25.00) NBKA Membership, BBKA Membership. £
JUNIOR (£ 8.50) " , " £
ASSOCIATE (£ 12.50) NBKA Membership only £.....
FAMILY (£6.25) NBKA Membership, no Beemaster. £.....
DONATION / BDI / OTHER £.....
TOTAL PAYABLE £.....
PAYMENT METHOD / ID

Permissions :- From time to time the regional bee inspector may request the contact details of NBKA members in order to monitor the health of managed colonies in the area.
I agree / do not agree to allow my contact details to be passed to the regional bee inspector.

Swarm Collection List : I wish / do not wish registered on the BBKA list of swarm collectors.
Signature Date
Please note that to be a swarm collector you must have at least 2 years' beekeeping experience and be a member of the BBKA.

Additional Bee Disease Insurance (optional) :
Cover required : **1-3 Colonies free** **4-5 Colonies £2.00** **6-10 Colonies £5.25**
(please circle)
11-15 Colonies £7.75 **16-20 Colonies £9.50** **21-25 Colonies.... £11.10**
26-30 Colonies £13.60 **31-35 Colonies £16.10** **36-39 Colonies £18.10**
Name
Postcode BBKA No
Signed Date

Gift Aid Declaration: I would like the Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association to claim the tax on all membership subscriptions and donations I make until further notice. I understand that I must pay UK tax equal to any amount claimed. I wish the Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association to treat these monies as gift donations.
If you have previously filled in a Gift Aid Declaration, you do not need to do so again.
Print Full Name Date Address
Signature

Affirmations I understand that my name and contact details will be held by the officers of the NBKA for the purposes of the administration of my membership and that my payment details will be held by the membership secretary and the treasurer for the same purpose. If I am a Full Member, my contact details will be passed to the BBKA for registration purposes.
signed date

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The Editor retains the right to amend submitted articles or to reject articles which appear, in her opinion, to be unsuitable. Items which do appear may not reflect the opinions of the Council of the NBKA.

EXTRACTORS

Members may borrow the NBKA extractors - 4-frame, hand driven kept at Brackenhurst and hired from Maurice Jordan. An electric one (with settling tank) is held by Glenis Swift 0115 9538617. The EasyBee extractor which is useful for extracting frames that hold honey that has granulated is held by Frank Chambers in Calverton (0115 965 2128).

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Short adverts may be paid for in First and Second Class postage stamps which should be sent directly to the Editor. Cheques should be made out to NBKA and sent to the Treasurer.

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