

North Somerset Beekeepers



June 2019

Welcome to the latest edition of our branch newsletter. As usual your feedback and contributions are very welcome. Please send items to the editor by 25th of the month.

Branch talks and educational events – Rob Williams, Programme Manager

Keep your eyes on the events programme for up to date information. It can be found on our website here: <http://northsomersetbeekeepers.org/activities/>

Talk on Queenlessness by Ivor Davis

It has been agreed that this session would be better as an outdoor, practical event at the apiary. So, the date and time has been changed to Sunday 16th June, at 10:00-12:00.

Everyone interested in this session should meet at the Brockley Apiary.

President's BBQ – Garry Packer

I will be hosting the President's BBQ again this year, at my home in Weston Super Mare. It will take place on Saturday 29th June 14:00-18:00. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to book the Red Arrows this year!

Rolls and salad will be provided but you will need to bring something to cook on the BBQ and your own drinks.

If you would like to come along, please email me with numbers at: garrypacker@uwclub.net

Essential items purchasing scheme – John Banks

The list of items that members can purchase at reduced prices has now been posted to our website. We get cheaper prices through bulk purchase and the final price isn't confirmed until all orders have been placed. This year you can purchase varroa treatment, honey jars, bee nutrition and frames.

For full details and to place your order please visit our website. A deadline will be issued in due course.

Branded garments

Garments that are branded with our logo can now be purchased from Monmark at reduced prices in a range of colours and sizes. Please visit the company website for full details of each garment, complete the attached table with your requirements and email it to northsomersetbeekeepers@gmail.com by **30th June**.

North Somerset beekeeping taster sessions

In the past Stephen Brain has held taster sessions in the summer for people interested in beekeeping. They are just one day sessions with a mix of theory and practical. Many of those attending have gone on to attend our winter beginners' course and become beekeepers.

This year Stephen won't be holding any taster sessions but we may hold one later this summer but would need support from one or two members.

If you are interested in being involved please email northsomersetbeekeepers@gmail.com.

Apiary update – Eric Sortwell

Well another fantastic turnout on Sunday. What do you call twenty-three beekeepers in one place on a Sunday morning? COMMITTED or CRAZY the bees thought we were both which took them by surprise.

Again, another busy morning two new hives on the Apiary this week with 6 new beekeepers having hives on site. All looking good; it's nice to have your own bees.

If anyone still wants bees they are still available from club members. You can be guaranteed quality bees and you know where they come from: all local.

We had eighteen hives to inspect this week. The most significant observation was the number that were low on stores, so we have started feeding.

All colonies were progressing well. Two of the club hives are bringing in a lot of honey; two have three supers and one going to need a fourth next week depending on the weather.

A special thanks to Sue this week for bringing in some very tasty cakes. Without a doubt a very interesting, enjoyable, informative morning.

Looking forward to doing it all again next week, Sunday 16th. Ivor Davis will be giving his talk on managing queenlessness. I am sure will be very interesting and something we all need to better understand.

Looking forward to seeing you next Sunday. The apiary is open at 9.30am for tea, coffee or cold drinks and, who knows, someone might make some cakes. The session starts at 10.00am until noon. See you there 🍯🍯🍯

Wider educational events

Honeybee health day Saturday 3rd August 2019

Gloucestershire Beekeepers Association (GBKA) is hosting a Honeybee Health day with the support of our Regional and Seasonal Bee Inspectors on behalf of APHA. This is an opportunity to improve knowledge of honeybee disease and their management for all levels of beekeepers.

Location

Rural Innovation Centre, Harnhill, near Cirencester
Gloucestershire, GL7 5PU

To subscribe to the event, please click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/honey-bee-health-day-tickets-59022147833>

Please bring clean bee suit, clean footwear and non-leather gloves. Tea, coffee and light lunch will be provided.

Event fee: £8.00 per person (non-refundable)

For more information contact: Marin Anastasov, NDB - manastassov@aol.com

Asian Hornet Action Team

We have been asked by Anne Rowberry to identify a few local beekeepers who would be willing and interested in being a local first point of contact for members of the public to assist in identifying an Asian Hornet or give advice if they have seen one. Basically they need a photo and if credible send it to: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk and guide them to the BBKA Asian Hornet section or <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/>

If you are interested, please email your contact details to northsomersetbeekeeper@gmail.com by 17th June.

Monitoring Asian Hornet Traps

As you know we have been encouraging as many members as possible to set up AH monitoring traps, away from their apiaries, and to monitor them daily. We are all keen to preserve native species that may be trapped in the traps and some traps may need to be modified to ensure insects are not drowned.

Avon Beekeepers have supplied each branch with a gallon of attractant for trap monitoring (Trappit), which is being kept at the apiary. Members can collect a supply for use in monitoring traps by bringing a labelled jar to the apiary on a Sunday morning.

North Somerset Agricultural Show – Sandra Slater



This year the show was held on 6th May. The weather was cool and we were able to move some of our stand outside the marquees which gave us a much bigger area to spread out.

The candle rolling and badge making stands were an even bigger hit than usual with the children, many of whom already wore 'I've seen the queen stickers' from their time at the observation hive.

This year we displayed fully assembled deep national and WBC hives, and a skep, which became the focal point for discussion. Honey sales were very buoyant, with almost all stores sold.



The honey show was judged by David Capon as usual and Jane Boss came away a very worthy winner of the Hans Wilson Perpetual Honey Cup and cash prize. Very well done, Jane.

There was a lot of interest in beekeeping and bees in general this year and we were able to hand out many course leaflets to interested parties. Hopefully the beginners' course will be a sell out next year!

None of the success of the show would have been possible without the help and support of many of the club members who gave up their time to man the stalls and help with setting up and taking down the stands. I hope that you all had as much fun as I did and that you will all be back next year for more.

I would like to particularly thank Lynne Ellis who looked after us all on the day by providing a constant stream of refreshment in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits. She and Richard had parked their camper van behind our marquees and it made the day a lot easier having somewhere we could go for a quiet sit down and a cuppa. I would also like to thank Hans Wilson who sponsored our stand again this year as well as providing the prize for the honey show.

Particular thanks also to Michelle Stagg who was with me all day working her socks off, and Fran Frappell and David Capon for their sterling work on the honey show.

Wax reclamation – Jenny Wakenshaw

You may recall that we have set up system to collect unwanted frames/wax from members which will be reclaimed for use by our apiary.

If you have any wax/frames you wish to dispose of, you can drop them off, securely bagged, at one of the following drop-off points.

- Branch apiary (Sundays)
- Annabel's home in Backwell – email to arrange: busybee6@virginmedia.com
- Or Jenny will collect – call 07816 547 886

Working with schools

North Somerset beekeepers work with local schools to raise awareness of the importance of insect pollinators, especially bees, information about honeybees and beekeeping and support the school's science curriculum.



We support the North Somerset Countryside day, which is aimed at primary school children and this year will be held on 10th July.

Paddy Brading is also looking for volunteers to visit schools. If you're interested, please email: p_brading@hotmail.com

Visit to Blackbury Farm – Rob Williams



We had a really useful and interesting visit to Blackbury Honey Farm on June 8th. Ken Basterfield gave us a fantastic tour of the facilities, demonstrating tools and telling us about his honey production methods. Maureen showed us round the bee-friendly gardens. Lovely Devon countryside with sun beating off the showers. A day to remember.

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BBKA booklets available

Don't forget we have a few BBKA booklets in the special issue series available for sale at a reduced price. The booklets were originally published in *BBKA News* and are extremely informative. These can be ordered by emailing northsomersetbeekeepers.@gmail.com

Booklets will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Titles and costs are:

- Feeding honeybees £3.19
- In the apiary month-by month guide £3.19
- Honeybee anatomy £3.19
- General husbandry £8.19
- Advanced husbandry £8.19