



# WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946



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*Bee-news-ed*

W&DBKA Newsletter

2019 Issue 5, June

(To contact the editor please e-mail [wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com) )

## *The Committee...*

The committee met on Tuesday 04 June. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 02 July.

## *Two Poplars' Spring and Summer Meetings*

These informal meetings will continue every second and last Wednesday of the month, until the end of September. Usual time: 7.30pm, at the usual venue: the Two Poplars public house, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

The Wednesday 29 May meeting was well attended with small groups of members spilling out of the conservatory to carry out their conversations. We were pleased to be joined by half a dozen non-members who came to meet us and talk beekeeping. It was not surprising that queen cells and swarms featured in a lot of the conversations!

## *Winter Bowls Club Meetings*

We have asked the Bowls Club to host our second-Wednesday-of-the-month winter meeting again. These will start in October with our AGM. We have asked for an extra date, April 2020, for which we will invite a guest speaker, along with guest speakers as usual in January, February and March.

## *Apiary Bee-news-ed*

If you plan to help with the honey extraction this year the date for your diary is 03 August. It is not too soon to email and let us know.

**Day change to scheduled inspection.** The inspection that was scheduled for Sunday 14 July will now take place on Saturday 13 July. Nigel Perkins has kindly stepped up to lead this session, which did not have a lead beekeeper.

We still require a lead beekeeper on Sunday 01 September. Can you help to lead this session? Or at least step forward to boost the number inspecting? Contact us if you can help.

The 01 June inspection was cancelled because the Seasonal Bee Inspector was inspecting our colonies in connection with an outbreak of European Foul Brood (EFB) disease. Being conscious that we need five queen right hives for the Basic Assessments on 30 June (see below) Garth Matthews carried out an inspection the following day (02 June).

On the following inspection on 09 June the temperature was 18°C and there were sunny spells. At the inspection four colonies were found to have eggs, larva and sealed brood, but the queen was not seen in two of the colonies. One of these colonies is being fed to encourage the bees to build comb on the foundation, but they are not yet doing so.

The other three colonies did not have evidence of laying queens. One is being fed, as their stores are low. The next inspection session will be looking for evidence of



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a laying queen in these colonies. One may need a frame of eggs from another hive for them to pull a queen cell.

## *Apiary Portakabin Refurbishment*

The new floor will be laid in the Portakabin 'meeting room' during week beginning Monday 10 June and the Committee will be using the room for their next meeting.

## *Learning and Development*

The Basic Assessment revision day on Saturday 18 May was well attended. We now have two assessors for the five candidates taking the Basic Assessment on Sunday 30 June: Sean Stephenson and Jenny Morgan. They will split the day but the actual timings have yet to be announced.

Sean was our guest speaker in February and Jenny is from Reading Beekeepers' Association.

## *BEE HEALTH DAY*

No apologies for again reminding you about the Bee Health day later this month. The day is relevant to us all, considering the threat posed by the Asian Hornet and the recent discovery of EFB in the area. Bee Disease Insurance Ltd (BDI) is sponsoring the event. Reading Beekeepers are organising the day; for further information contact [educationrbka@gmail.com](mailto:educationrbka@gmail.com)

It is on 22nd June 2019, 9.30am-4.30pm at Earley St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley Reading RG6 1EY. Parking on site is limited so consider coming with other members.

Regional and Seasonal Bee Inspectors from the National Bee Unit (NBU) of Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will come to Reading to share their knowledge on bee health. There will be talks and demonstrations including:

- Adult Bee Diseases,
- Brood Diseases, Diseased Comb,
- Asian Hornet update,
- Pests, and
- Apiary Hygiene.

**Bring your lunch** as there is no catering but coffee and tea will be available.

## *Our New Website*

Work is progressing slowly but surely on our new website. It is nearly complete and we hope to announce its 'launch' in the next newsletter. It will include online membership application / renewal forms. We have not moved to online payments through the website as we are looking to use the new BBKA eR2 database for this, sometime in the future.

## *...And Finally...*

Adrian Waring, co-author of the Haynes Bee Manual, died on 08 May this year. Bee Craft described the book as: 'an essential book for all beekeepers' bookshelves.' Use the link below to see a brief obituary for Adrian who was also a member of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA).

<https://mailchi.mp/ec2da3607947/adrian-waring?e=598055df90>