



WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946



website:
www.wdbka.org.uk
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Bee-news-ed

W&DBKA Newsletter

2019 Issue 8, September

(To contact the editor please e-mail wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com)

The Committee...

The committee met on Tuesday 03 September. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 01 October.

Committee's Elected Posts - 14 days Notice Required

The positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Learning & Development Officer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 09 October. Persons wishing to stand for these offices must notify the Secretary in writing (ie email) by Wednesday 25 September - 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.

Two Poplars' Meeting - change for next year

The committee has decided to change next year's pub meetings to every second and FOURTH Wednesday of the month. This is a change from the traditional every 2nd and LAST Wednesday of the month, which has caused problems the last couple of years when there are five Wednesdays in the month. This year the pub booked 'our area' out to another group on the last (5th) Wednesday of July! A couple of members also turned up the week before for the pub meet. We will of course remind you of this change before the Two Pops meetings season starts next year - especially as there are five Wednesdays in April 2020.

Bee-news From the Association Apiary

The last inspection summary report can be found on the website

<https://wdbka.org.uk/category/hive-reports/>

As you will see in the latest hive report we currently have eight colonies BUT some are quite weak and may not survive the winter. Consequently we do not know if we are likely to have any colonies for sale in the Spring.

AGM & Your Membership Renewals

Don't forget, memberships renewal fees are due to be paid after the membership fee has been ratified at the AGM on Wednesday 09 October. Please do not send any renewal payments before the AGM. A number of members missed renewing in October last year - so put the date in your diary. The AGM agenda and officer reports will be sent out to members at least 14 days before the AGM.

Beekeeper in Hospital After 4 Bee Stings

Your first thought on reading that headline was probably that some poor member has developed an allergy to bee stings. This was not the case. On a Monday afternoon, while inspecting his bees, our member got stung four times on the wrist in a gap between glove and sleeve.

By the following day his wrist and arm were itchy, red and starting to "look like Popeye's". At the doctor's that afternoon he was told he had an infection, which was going up the vein to his armpit. He was sent straight to Frimley Park Hospital where he spent 24 hours on an intravenous antibiotic drip. When discharged from hospital he was given more antibiotics to take orally - at four times normal dosage.



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It was not an allergy but a bacterial infection in the deep layers of skin. It would have been very serious if it had not been treated quickly. The condition is called cellulitis and can happen via a break in the skin to small to notice. For pictures and details see the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cellulitis/>

The antibiotics did the job and the beekeeper has taken steps to prevent the sleeve to wrist gap occurring again. His message: if you get the symptoms, DO NOT ignore them!

Treating Stored Comb for Wax Moth

Some of you treating stored comb with sulphur strips to prevent wax moth infestation may wonder why you are supposed to treat every four weeks. It is because the sulphur fumigation kills moths and larva but not the eggs, so a repeat treatment will kill off any larva hatched since the last treatment. Acetic acid on the other hand does kill off eggs but repeat treatment after three weeks is still recommended by suppliers. An alternative is a biological larvicide called B401, which is claimed to prevent infestation till the following season, but must be applied before infestation... the choice is yours.

Dates for You Diary

Guest speakers have been confirmed for our second Wednesday of the month winter meeting dates. They are:

- Sue Stovell (Red Cross) who will do a half hour First Aid talk at the AGM,
- Margaret Murdin (current President of the BBKA) will talk about Honey and Honey Processing on 08 January,
- Margaret Ginman, General Secretary of the Bee Farmers' Association, on honeybee farming on 12 February,
- Dr Gary Brierley will talk on Medicinal Apitherapy on 11 March, and
- Kirsty Stainton (from the NBU research section) talking on her latest varroa research on 08 April.

New Swarm Attractant??

Members have noticed that Wokingham Beekeepers cloth badges sown on a bee suit act like a bee magnet. Bees have been seen to congregate on the badge and stay there for the duration of an inspection. Perhaps if a couple of badges were put in an empty hive, they would attract a swarm. Don't tell Garth though - he may bump up the price!

...And Finally...

Member Ken Smith, who would have been 88 on 1st September sadly passed away at the end of August. He and his daughter Karen had been keeping bees together for just over 8 years. For a very short time they were members of the Reading Association but switched to Wokingham, who they found more friendly, and they have been members ever since. He thoroughly enjoyed the meetings, particularly chatting with others of his generation. We shall all miss his cheerful smile at our meetings.

Postscript

Another Asian Hornet siting confirmed on 02 September, see BBKA website <https://www.bbka.org.uk/news/second-asian-hornet-found-in-staffordshire>