



WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946



website:
www.wdbka.org.uk
or scan the above code

Bee-news-ed

W&DBKA Newsletter

2020 July Issue

(To make contact please e-mail workinghambeekeepers@gmail.com)

The committee feels that as the grip of coronavirus restrictions have eased we are able to open up our apiary inspections to more members and can plan our annual honey extraction from the association's hives. Please see the updates below.

Committee Meetings

These were cancelled after the last full committee meeting on 03 March because of the coronavirus pandemic. Smaller, regular 'Zoom' meetings have been taking place since early June.

Opening up Weekly Apiary Inspections to More Members

These have been able to take place thanks to the sterling work of a hard-working few leading the inspections: Garth, Nigel, Russell and John with the support of Apiary Manager, Tony, and a number of members.

Up to now numbers have been kept deliberately low, keeping in line with Covid 19 precautions. The committee is now able to give all our members the opportunity to attend / help with the rest of this season's weekly inspection sessions. The limited number of current regulars would gratefully appreciate the added support or attendance of anyone seeking to learn more.

Interested members should get in touch with Apiary Manager, Tony Lack, using the contact form on the website. Here is a link to the contact form:

<https://wdbka.org.uk/contact-us/>

Annual Apiary Honey Extraction Day: Saturday 08 August 2020

We are once again looking for members to come along and, as in previous years, give a hand with the annual Apiary honey extraction.

All volunteers are asked to contact Tony Lack, who will put together a schedule, which ensures we will have a safe number on site and can practice social distancing. The plan is to have two sessions. We want to accommodate everyone who offers to help - BUT only if social distancing allows. As in the earlier item please contact Tony by using the website contact form:

<https://wdbka.org.uk/contact-us/>

In line with current restrictions, volunteers will please bring their own refreshments or mug, a bee suit, paper towels (or a towel for their personal use) and a pinafore or similar.

Here are the guidelines we will be following, (thanks to John for these):

1. The number of supers to be extracted over all hives is 20. (Subject to final count.)
2. The time to extract from a super is 15 minutes. This covers de-capping, loading extractor, removing frames.



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3. The colonies will have rhombus escapes fitted at least 2 days prior to the extraction day.
4. The supers will be removed one hive at a time for extraction. Crown boards complete with rhombus escapes will be left on the hive pending return of the wet supers. The wet supers will be returned to their hive once extracted from, removing the crown board/rhombus escape, and then the next hive and supers will be dealt with in a similar manner.
5. On the basis of 20 supers at 15 mins per super the total extraction period will be in the region of 5 hours.
6. Allowing a period to clean up at the end of the total extraction exercise the day should be completed by around 4pm. This would be in line with previous years.
7. With social distancing now being 1m apart, we could proceed with extraction employing the services of:
 - 2 persons in the extractor room. 1 de-capping and 1 loading/unloading the extractor. Also drawing off honey from the extractor to buckets.
 - 2 persons removing supers, loading the extractor room, and returning supers to individual hives.
 - 1 person in the training room cleaning equipment as needed.
8. On the basis of the above we would need 2 shifts min. 5 persons per shift.
9. The club will make use of both a heat gun and de-capping knife to assist in the extraction process so any new member assisting on the day will learn from both methods.
10. Wet supers will be removed from hives the following week (cleaned Jan 21).
11. Honey will be jarred at a future date to suit needs of local shows etc.

The AGM and other Winter Meetings

Coronavirus restrictions mean that we are not able to organise the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM), the annual honey show, the Christmas social or guest speakers to make up the usual winter programme of events.

We are exploring how the lockdown affects the issue of an Annual General Meeting, if we cannot meet in person. Once we know what is possible within the constitution we will let you know.

Association Honey Sales

Social distancing restrictions mean that the Wokingham Winter Carnival, where we sell most of our honey, is not going to take place this year. However, Apiary Manager Tony, currently without his own honey, has been doing a terrific job and has managed to sell over a hundred jars of the Association's honey during the lockdown.

...And Finally...

We will be contacting the Two Poplars to discover if they will once again be allowing bookings of their conservatory now that restrictions have eased. They may not of course as space for restaurant bookings is at a premium with social distancing restrictions in place.