

Harlow Bees-letter - December 2015

Upcoming Meetings

3rd December - "Xmas quiz and party"

7th January 2016 - "Harlow AGM"



Secretary Notices

Last month we had Doug Brown come and tell us why the BBKA was worth the money. People went home with something to think about.

Next month we will be having the AGM, one of the main tasks of the AGM is people taking on committee roles. Our division is successful because of the efforts of those people who contribute their time and efforts to make it work. The range of roles can be found in the document being delivered with this newsletter. One role which is up for grabs is the mailing secretary which Zena Wilkins has been delivering. Zena has been doing this role excellently for a number of years and we thank her for doing the task so well.

If you would like to stand for any of the roles please advise me (Nick Holmes) or Pauline Tidmas any time before the AGM on the 7th of January.

2016 Membership subscription

Revised information was received this month with regards to next the 2016 Subscription rates, which unfortunately followed the issue of our divisions forms.

Please note the reduction of £0.30 for the Registered+Partner Category and the correct allocation of monies, to BBKA EBKA & the Division, from the collection of subscriptions as shown on the Subscription Rates and Entitlements form).

Please find attached the rates, renewal letter and subscription form.

Membership runs 1st January until 31st December 2016 - as such please ensure payment and passing the form to Pauline before the end of the year..

This month, unfortunately, Roy has had some technical issues and as such we don't have his wise words to learn from.

Killing Varroa : Oxalic Acid by sublimation

At the EBKA conference Professor Francis Ratnieks of Sussex University discussed at length the use of Oxalic acid by heating it in powdered form until it turns to a gas (sublimation means it goes from solid to gas without becoming liquid first) in the hive. This gas then recrystallises on the varroa mites and kills them without hurting the bees (as his experiments show that dribbling oxalic does). Large samples of hives were used and repeated experiments have shown 97% of the



This month elsewhere

Scientists say they have found the "missing link" in the debate over the risk of pesticides to bees. French researchers say neonicotinoid pesticides harm individual honeybees, but whole colonies are able to recover in the wild. This accounts for discrepancies between lab and field studies, they report in Royal Society journal Proceedings B.

New Zealand's primary producers have a new weapon in their fight against European wasps, thanks to a new bait. Insect ecologist Richard Toft's bait is unattractive to bees and can reduce wasp activity by 95 per cent, according to New Zealand's Department of Conservation.

Parliament are going to discuss an online petition on their website. The suggestion is banning neonicotinoids in the UK (paraphrased). Its going to be on 7th December and you can watch it live on parliamentlive.tv.

Researchers from Nottingham Trent University, in the United Kingdom, have now developed and tested a new prototype device that can remotely monitor hive

varroa were killed by using 2.25g of oxalic acid per hive.

Locally, I have tried a number of varroa treatments, but have never had a varroa drop like I had earlier this year by sublimating oxalic acid - hundreds of varroa per hive, even after already having used thymol based api life var in the prior autumn . As shown in the picture above, the process involves a car battery which is used to heat a metal lance (shown right) holding the oxalic acid crystals, which is placed inside the hive and attempts are made to seal the entrances. The treatment takes about 6 mins per hive - 3 mins heating and 3 minutes for the gas to cool again.



The gas is damaging to human lungs, so maximum distance given the cable length, checking the wind direction (windless days best, otherwise stand up wind) and wearing breathing protection (face mask in picture) is necessary. This year once again I will be using this method on top of the apiguard I have already applied in the autumn.

Honey Recipes - Vanilla Christmas cookies

MAKES ABOUT 80

- vanilla pods 2
- caster sugar 250g
- plain flour 500g (sifted)
- cold butter 375g (cut into small pieces)
- egg 1

1. Split the vanilla pods lengthways and scrape out the seeds with the tip of a knife. It's important to use real vanilla and not vanilla essence. It will not be the same flavour and you want the small black seeds in the cookie.
2. Mix the caster sugar and the flour, then add the butter with your fingers until coarse crumbs are formed.
3. Add egg and vanilla seeds. Continue working until the dough is formed into a ball.
4. Put the dough on a lightly floured table and knead it for 1-2 minutes. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill for at least 1 hour or to next day.
5. Preheat the oven to 200C/gas mark 6.
6. Flour the table and roll the dough into sausages about 1cm thick and 5-6cm long. Curl each one into a ring and press the ends firmly together.
7. Place them on a baking tray lined with baking paper and bake for about 7 minutes.
8. Cool on a wire rack and store in an airtight tin.

(recipe via theguardian.com)

activity without disturbing the bees. The device picks up and analyzes vibrations

Male bumblebees on the other hand are seen as dimwitted and having few aptitudes beyond an interest in mating. But new research by Queen Mary University of London's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences found the males are just as smart as females.

For more bee news and further details on the above stories please see <http://nicksbees.co.uk>

For sale

Buckets

- Honey buckets £2

David Tyler (01279 730228)

Wax for sale

- recycle wax with Roy

Roy Cropley (01992 626668)

Division committee

President, Spray Liaison & Swarm Liaison Danny Nicoll
Chairman & Librarian

David Tyler

Vice Chair

David Tidmas

Secretary & Web Editor

Nick Holmes

Treasurer & Mailing Officer

Pauline Tidmas

Divisional Trustee

 Martin

Cavalier

Training Liaison

 Mike Barke

Council Liaison

 Brian Bull

Newsletter

 Nick Holmes & Roy Cropley