

Harlow Bees-letter - December 2015

Upcoming Meetings

7th January 2016 - "Harlow AGM"

4th February 2016 - tba



Secretary Notices

Last month - we had the Christmas party - it was lightly attended but we had fun nonetheless. The quiz was an interesting one with some surprising non Apis related questions at the end that allowed people to gain real points from general knowledge.

This coming month we have the AGM - As we said last time, please step forward for roles you feel you can contribute with.

2016 Membership subscription

Membership runs 1st January until 31st December 2016 - as such please ensure payment and passing the form to Pauline as soon as possible..

Goodbye 2015

I shall not look back on the past year kindly. I had some nucs and small swarms which built up to 2 frames of sealed brood and then became queenless. What happened to the queens I have no idea. It seems I am not alone. Perhaps we could raise it at the next meeting.

Fifty years ago

When I started with bees it was our proud boast that the honey was pure. We used very few chemicals. Some of us used Fumidil to reduce nosema during winter. I never did. And PDB to kill wax moth in stored combs. It is no longer in favour. Today there is a great range of treatments called Integrated Pest Management to deal with varroa. Now it is found to be unnecessary.

The way forward

It is a genetic thing. The best queens come from docile stock that swarm very little. To this we can add the ability to resist pests and diseases. They are called hygienic bees.

It was found that when sealed brood had died or was infected by varroa some workers would remove it. The hygienic bees overwinter well and build up quicker in the spring. Perhaps in a few year's time varroa will be a minor pest like baula.

by Roy Cropley



Hive Monitoring

Nick Holmes has recently joined a crowd funding project on bee hive monitoring. He has recently taken delivery of 2 monitors for hives which will record temperature and humidity every hour to be picked up on apiary visits. Updates in due course...

This month elsewhere

New long-range micro backpacks for bees could provide vital information

A Bangor University ecologist has got together with a microelectronics expert at the University to bring cutting edge micro-technology to resolve these problems to be able to track bees over their whole range.

Herbicides, not insecticides biggest threat to bees, beekeeper says

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

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Nick Holmes

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Newsletter Nick Holmes & Roy Cropley