

# Harlow Bees-letter - April 2016

## Upcoming Meetings

**April 7 - Queen Rearing** : Mini nucs and queen introduction; with Pat Allen

**May 5 - Bee Diseases & Pests**; with David Rudland



## Secretary Notices

Last month - We had an excellent talk from Mike Morgan on Bee Venom and Anaphylaxis, and a part from Chris about his personal experience with ongoing anaphylactic shocks and a live demo of a Jext adrenaline auto-injector. The topic was very popular and we had members not only from other Essex divisions but also from other county associations.

## Beekeeping course

The annual introduction to beekeeping course is going great. I am sat at the last of the theory sessions as I write this, David has done a part of feeding bees, I've talked about the associations around beekeeping (Defra, BBKA, EBKA, etc) and Danny is just talking about extracting honey. Next is the apiary sessions.

## EBKA Events

The EBKA website has been recently updated on its homepage <http://ebka.org> to show upcoming events and learning opportunities. One of the events is the Ted Hooper memorial Lectures with talks from Clive de Bruyn and Margaret Thomas.

## HarlowBees Events

Upcoming in the next few months we have **Pet's corner's 50th anniversary celebrations** on Sunday 1st May, **Hallingbury Flower Show** on Sunday 24th July and **Pandon Week Bee Weekend** in August

## Applying for the BBKA Basic practical assessment

We've had a few members saying they don't know how to get involved in taking the BBKA Basic. As such, with help from David McCorkindale, who is taking "the basic" this year, here is a small guide to booking and getting on the assessment.

1. Go to the BBKA site and download the entry form ([http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations\\_assessments](http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations_assessments)) - assesment fee is £21 - you will need a committee member to sign you off as 'ready' to do the assesment.
2. The assessment syllabus is also on the above link.
3. This form needs to be sent to the county Education officer - Pat Allen ([pat.allen@btconnect.com](mailto:pat.allen@btconnect.com)) - before July 31st
4. You will need to take the assessment before the end of August - arranged with Qualified beekeepers across the county.
5. You may chose to take advantage of the county subsidised training <http://ebka.org/whats-on/bbka-basic-assessment-training-day/> - book before 31st March

...any questions ask Nick ([wwwcight@gmail.com](mailto:wwwcight@gmail.com)) or David ([davidmccorkindale@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmccorkindale@hotmail.com))

## Springtime Chores

*I had to move an old WBC hive in mid-March. A colony had built wild comb which was cut out and tied into frames. It had little food but masses of brood. They were gentle and I was able to work with bare hands. The old hive had a resident rat and was rotten and full of woodworm. It burnt very well. One colony which overwintered had two queens and a little drone brood. The*

## For sale

### Buckets

- Honey buckets £2  
David Tyler (01279 730228)

### Wax for sale

- recycle wax with Roy

queens were preserved for microscopic study and the two colonies were united.

#### *First Inspection*

*There are five things to look out for:-*

- 1. Queen. Find her and see that she is marked (I always use white). I clip half of one wing (never both or she can still fly). I see that she is laying and there are combs of brood.*
- 2. Is there sufficient space for her to lay?*
- 3. Is there enough food until the next visit? I don't mean we feed them masses so it can be extracted as honey.*
- 4. Are there signs of swarming? Bees make little so-called 'play cells'. Ignore them. If there is an egg in a queen cell mark it. It may be eaten. When there are larvae then the bees may swarm or supersede. With one, two or three cells the bees may decide to replace her. More than three and they may decide to leave en masse.*
- 5. Look for signs of disease. The two brood diseases AFB and EFB are occasional plagues. Learn to recognise them.*

*I am setting out a bait hive. Wish me luck!*

*by Roy Cropley*

**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** Pauline Tidmas

**Divisional Trustee** Martin

Cavalier

**Training Liaison** Mike Barke

**Council Liaison** Brian Bull

**Newsletter** Nick Holmes & Roy

Cropley

**Mailing Officer** Lisa

McCorkindale