

Harlow Bees-letter - September 2017

Upcoming Meetings

September 7 - Beekeeping in Africa & the relief of poverty with Richard Riddler

October 5 - Candlemaking with (tba)



Secretary Notices

Last month we had our Harlow Honey Show, the results were:

2 jars of light clear honey	2 jars of medium clear honey	6 Honey Nut Cookies
1st Mike Barke	1st Mike Barke	1st Pauline Tidmas
2nd Sue Frazer	2nd Sue Frazer	2nd David Tidmas
3rd Carol Sissons	3rd Carol Sissons	

Our judge for the evening, Jim McNeil, commented that the standard of the honey exhibits has greatly improved since we started in 2015. The standard of honey you sell should be as good as the honey you exhibit - get it right and you have a good product. Main comments were that jars were slightly underweight. If you over fill jars a little it allows you to skim bubbles and imperfections off the top of the honey. A water bath helps reduce crystallisation



Picture of the month

Unfortunately we did not have any submissions this month so have provided a picture of some different brood stages I took last month. Bottom we can see an egg, probably a day old as its not standing straight up, a freshly hatched larvae on the left - about the right age/size for queen grafting (day 3-4), and then two on the right which are progressing (day 4). Future submissions by 15th of each month to wwwcight@gmail.com.

Events

We had a nice weekend at Parndon wood again this year, the event going off without a hitch. We had good weather and lots of interested parties coming to visit and learn. Limited volunteer numbers meant we had to limit our activities a bit, but we still managed live inspections, honey tasting, candle rolling and talking to people about the observation hive. **We could not have done without our volunteers; many thanks to : Mike, Sabina & Suzanne Barke, David Tyler, Eddie Smith, Val Jepps, Nick Holmes, Sue Frazer, Carole & Steve Rogers, Victoria & Pauline Tidmas.**

130th Essex Show

Next weekend we have 130th Essex Show - a 1 day event only on Saturday 2nd September 2017 at the Orsett Showground Near Grays, Thuruck, Essex RM16 3JU.

You can download more forms from the Essex website www.ebka.org

COME ON HARLOW MEMBERS LET'S SEE IF WE CAN WIN AGAIN THIS YEAR!!!

If you wish to enter any of the classes they have to be at Orsett by mid day Friday 1st September.

If you cannot take your entries yourself Mike Barke will take them to Orsett for you.

Please ring Mike & Sabina on 01279 428437 to arrange your drop off to them.

They must be at their home by 7pm Thursday 31st August. 19 Priory Avenue, Old Harlow CM17 0HH

Is Summer over?

Most of us have gained little honey in the last month. This year it varies with one person with five supers full and another a mile away with nothing. Some bees have brought nectar in and then ate it. There were days when bees went out with more than they brought back. Next year will be better I promise you. I have put foundation on some colonies and fed with syrup so they can draw it out for next year. There was little or no oil-seed rape this year when the crop failed because of the weather. A lot of ragwort was producing its strong stuff (I hate the taste). Some years there is a lot of ivy which not only tastes awful but also goes too hard for the bees to eat. Beekeeping is a difficult hobby which makes it so fascinating.

The National Honey Show

This will be held over three days from Thursday 26th October to Saturday 28th at Sandown Racecourse Esher, Surrey. KT10 9AJ. There are classes for honey, blocks of wax, mead, cakes, sweets and photographs. Essex has its own competition with an entry fee and small monetary reward or you can compete against the world for no entry fee and larger prize. There are lectures (get in early), sales stalls and a restaurant. Details are on the internet.

Winning at the Show

In the class for 2 jars of honey the jars holding one pound and lids (bronze) are polished inside even if new and perfectly match. The honey in the right colour class has been strained through a fine cloth and is free of cloudiness and tiny air bubbles. The surface is clear. To avoid underweight each jar is filled up to the lid so there is no space between the surface of the honey and the bottom of the lid. Put on the lid days before the show to conserve the aroma. It is not a fault if there is honey on the lid. Put the labels supplied by the entrant's secretary on the right place and polish off finger marks. Good luck. Every judge is different.

Roy Cropley

For sale

Buckets

- Honey buckets £2

David Tyler (01279 730228)

Wax for sale

- recycle wax with Roy

Roy Cropley (01992 626668)

Sugar

35p kilo - bring a bag

Danny (01279 420679)

Division committee

President Danny Nicoll

Chairman & Librarian David Tyler

Vice Chair David McCorkindale

Secretary & Web Editor Nick

Holmes

Treasurer Pauline Tidmas

Divisional Trustee Martin Cavalier

Swarm Liaison & Spray Liaison David Swindale

Training Liaison David McCorkindale

Council Liaison Brian Bull

Newsletter Nick Holmes

Mailing Officer Lisa McCorkindale