



# Harlow Bees August 2020 Newsletter



**ALL HBKD MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



**Coronavirus or COVID-19 update:** To minimise the risk of infection, all meetings, events, courses and general gatherings are still cancelled. Please wear your face mask and try and maintain a normal but safe routine. Refer to the HBKD, BBKA and NBU website for updates and above all – *stay connected and stay safe.*

## Secretary Notices:

**Harlow Honey Show Entries:** With social distancing high on the agenda and meetings postponed, our own HBKD honey show for August has obviously been cancelled. It is hoped that the Essex show will continue in some format, possibly in November and maybe at a venue such as Writtle College? We will have to wait for the exact details.



Harlow missed out on the 2019 trophy by a valiant effort from Romford members, who stepped up and entered most classes. The weather has been good this year - so the honey must be flowing! If your bees are doing well the HBKD could have a bumper year of honey entries....?! We have plenty of time to plan for the Honey Show and the show entry details and classes will be published soon. Let's put a smile on our faces and finish this very strange year by winning the Trophy for Harlow!! Are you up for showing everyone how good your honey is by entering your honey in the show?!

**Invitation:** The Romford Division have invited members of the EBKD to join their monthly Zoom meetings: held on the first Thursday of each month. If you are interested in partaking in the meetings, please contact the Romford division and they will provide you access to the meeting.

**Question:** *In the absence of our HBKD monthly meetings in Harlow, are there any HBKD members that would like the HBKD committee to arrange regular Harlow zoom meetings, so that we can maintain contact with each other?*

## Membership Secretary/Treasurer:



**'eR2 (electronic return version 2)'** An update: Our new online secure database - we thought this would be the highlight of 2020 - but it has just slipped itself quietly into the background...! Most of the HBKD members opted to renew their membership online, which was a great benefit all round! Members can now view their own personal membership information, make any amendments and ensure the data is correct, allowing the administrator to scan and forward payment requests based on accurate data.

The HBKD is set to continue using eR2 for future annual subscriptions. Most of the parameters are set (some Divisions are still to set this up), but we had hoped to have the online payments arranged by now, but Covid has set us back a little. In the meantime, we will be changing banks to facilitate this and allow us to make and accept BACS payments that will make finance transactions much smoother.

**Covid 19:** This virus has totally changed our way of life, leading to isolation, 'Social Distancing', postponement of divisional meetings, however we have still been allowed to carry on our craft of beekeeping! This year, much of our communication is online, whether using 'Google Group' to chat amongst members or to transfer information from the EBKA or BBKA. 'Zoom' online meeting platforms have been useful - where groups can hold Divisional Monthly meetings or Committee meetings.

**Membership update:** we are a small division now, compared to most others in Essex. 12 members decided not to renew their 2020 membership. We started the year with 87 active members (Registered, Partners, Juniors and Associates) and £ 3,907.39 for our use. Today, we have 89 active members (1 returning member and a new Beekeeper joining us). We now have around £ 3,900.00. There has been limited activity within the HBKD account: the small amount we receive is from subscription payments that maintain BBKA, EBKA, BDI & BeeCraft services and were all paid. Our donation to Kings Church for the hire of the hall at the beginning of the year has secured it for our use, once normality resumes! Regrettably, the beekeeping Introduction Course had to be cancelled so all payments were obviously returned.

## Beekeeping notes for August:

The arrival of the August newsletter often coincides with the busiest period of the Beekeepers calendar – the removal of frames of honey from the hives and the extraction of the summer honey harvest! However, there are still important chores and activities that need to be done around the apiary, to keep the bees healthy and reduce potential work for yourself over the autumn and winter.



### Apiary Jobs for August:

- **Plan ahead** - order **sugar** if you haven't already ordered any Apikel: you'll need this to feed the bees up for winter, once you have finished taking the honey off the bees and/ or treated the bees for Varroa. If you are a BBKA member, you will be able to order discounted sugar in bulk from Booker Wholesaler/ Cash and Carry or buy in bulk from Tesco's.
- Check the Varroa count of all your colonies and if you decide to treat the bees, choose the product/ technique that you would like to implement once the honey has been extracted.
- Whilst the weather is still good, melt down and recycle wax cappings, scrapings and old foundation into lovely golden blocks of beeswax – give to Roy Cropley in exchange for discounted foundation or keep for home projects.
- Re-Queen any sluggish/ bad performing colonies - or colonies that have old Queens that may not make it over the winter period.
- Dispose of any redundant Beekeeping equipment and audit what new equipment you will need for next year.
- Start thinking about what Spring bulbs and early spring flowering plants you would like to order/ plant up for next year.

**August Forage:** Agapanthus, Agastache, Boston Ivy, Catmint, Cosmos, Dahlia, Echinacea, Echinops, Goldenrod, Hebe, Helenium (Sneezewort), Himalayan Balsam, Hogweed, Hollyhock, Hyssop, Knifophia, Ling Heather, Nepeta, Penstemons, Purple Loosestrife, Ragwort, Red and White Clover, Rosebay Willowherb, Rudbeckia, Sunflower, Thistles, Virginia Creeper, Water Mint and Zinnia.

### Did you know?



**Famous Beekeepers:** well, the Corona virus lock-down has produced a new clutch of new-bee beekeepers, one of which is our very own former Essex footballer and former Captain of the England football team, David Beckham! He has purchased and assembled a 'Flow Hive' and provided a variety of Beekeepers suits for his family. He is regularly updating the global Media machine about his adventures with honeybees – bit like James Middleton!

**Curious corner:** As we know, the bee carries nectar and pollen back to the hive, on its' back legs or pollen baskets and may be the origin for the expression "bee's knees" to describe something of great value. However, this is tenuous and obscure. The origin of the phrase may have something to do with corruption in business, or a reference to the American dancer who popularized the Charleston dance, Bee Jackson, or something else completely different. Any ideas? Mmm. Something to ponder on....

**Bad Bee joke of the month:** What do you call a bee that's always complaining? A grumble bee...!

### Other dates for your diary:

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### Divisional Library:

David Tyler is the Library Monitor for the ever-growing HBKD library. If you want to borrow any books, contact David to see what he has in stock that may be of interest.



### Jars for Sale:



Heavily discounted and bulk orders of honey jars can be made through the HBKD in time for next year's summer honey harvest, **from May 2021**. If you require jars in the meantime, purchase direct from BBKA recommended suppliers who also offer discounts to BBKA members.

### For Sale:

**Used Wax & honey separator pail – THIS IS A BARGAIN! C'mon! GO CRAZY – MAKE AN OFFER OVER FIFTY QUID!!!** – You know you want one! A new one from National Bee Supplies is **£96.75** and any extra will go to HBKD funds - so you'll be supporting your fellow HBKD comrades too! Go on – You know you need one!

**Used Flow Hive for sale – including bees - £500.** Just over two years old and may be of interest to anyone who fancies trying something a bit different? Please contact Brian Bull for more information.



### Items always available for Sale

Items for sale:	Price:	Contact:	Telephone no.
Honey Buckets:	£ 2.25 each	David Tyler	01279 730228
Wax:	Various	Roy Cropley	01992 626668

### Committee Members

Position:	Name:	Position:	Name:
President:	Danny Nicoll	Spray Liaison:	Ben Hart
Chair/ Librarian:	David Tyler	Council Liaison:	Ralph Cullen
Vice Chair:	Mike Barke	Training Officer:	Bihn Nguyen
Secretary:	Carol Sissons	Bee Health Officer:	Pamela Chambers
Membership:	Pauline Tidmas	Asian Hornet Co- Ordinator:	David Tyler and Louise Carr
Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Website:	Nick Holmes
Swarm Liaison:	David Swindale	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers