

OLDHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Incorporating Bacup Beekeepers

FREE Newsletter to Members

Volume 33 Issue 182

February 2019



Keep the roofs weighted down and entrances clear. Source: Essex Beekeepers



ODBKA IS A NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 2018.

www.odbka.org.uk

Reporting sightings of the Asian Hornet at the Non Native Species Secretariat-
alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

OLDHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE 2019

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The Oldham Apiarist is published free to members. Deadline for letters or articles (preferably as a Rich Text Format or Word document e-mailed) is the 14th of each month.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018

Registered member £27.00 (including BDI for 3 hives.).

Partner member £20.50 (including BDI for 3 hives).

Country member £15. Friend £6.00

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OLDHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Next monthly meeting:

The rest of the season ahead

Ian Barker

7.45 pm

At

Springhead Liberal Club,

136 Oldham Road, Springhead, OL4 5SN



BEE THERE!

ODBKA 2019 MONTHLY PROGRAMME

Meetings commence 7.30 – 7.45pm

18th January	A.G.M.
1st February	The rest of the season ahead.... Ian Barker
1st March	Diseases and Pests ... Haydn Clough
5th April	Swarm control and prevention... Ian Barker
3rd May	Making Increase.....Haydn Clough
7th June	Beekeeper's Toolkit..... Ian Screen
15th July	Open Forum and Question Time
August	No Meeting
6th September	Putting the bees to bed...Treatment.... H.C Hive manipulation... I.B Cleaning Equipment
4th October	My Year of Queen rearing.....Idrees Khwaja
1st November	Honey show.... Ian B. to organise.
6th December	Christmas Party (Jacob's table)
17th January 2020	AGM

The programme is subject to change and members will be informed via the newsletter.

Current Club membership is 30. (Dec 2018). 1 Associate members (partner members, country members and Friends of the Association).

1.Snippets, Courses, For Sale

Bee Fact: Honey bees have close to three million hairs on their bodies, strategically placed to collect and carry pollen – even on their eyes!

Most of the hair is found on the bees' legs. Here, the long hairs are 5 times more concentrated, making them perfect for grooming pollen from the rest of their bodies to be stored in their pollen baskets or *corbiculae*, located behind their hind legs. Unlike nectar, after foraging, pollen needs to be deposited into a cell by the worker herself. After making her deposit she then gives herself a thorough grooming, not to improve her appearance, but to ensure her hairs will be perfect for collecting pollen on her next foraging expedition – how efficient is that!

Bee Fact: Even though bees don't have nostrils, lungs or gills, they breathe through 10 pairs of valves on their body.

These valves, called spiracles, are located on the side of their body; three pairs on the thorax, six on the abdomen and one pair hidden within the sting chamber. Though it may appear that the bee is panting, this motion is actually the bee drawing in air through its spiracles which is then vacuumed into a complex structure of tracheae and air sacs.

Bees can suffocate from the use of common pesticides in gardens as it coats a bee's body and blocks off their vents, making them unable to draw oxygen.

Care for the bees and make clean, green choices this holiday season, and remember to breathe.

Bee Fact: The size of a brood cell will help to determine whether a bee will hatch as a worker, a drone or even a queen, however, both the workers and the queen have a role to play in creating a gender balance within the hive.

Although the worker bees choose the cell size and are even capable of ingesting eggs to reduce colony numbers, ultimately the queen has the final say. She chooses to lay either an unfertilised egg in a larger drone cell, or a fertilised egg in a smaller cell to create worker brood. If the queen dies or departs without a replacement, the workers create a queen cell around a fertilised egg which—after being fed exclusively on royal jelly—will hatch as a virgin queen. So, it's both size and what's inside that counts!

Bee Fact: The queen bee knows how to blow her own trumpet!

Our “bee spy” Mira managed to capture this amazing video where you can actually hear the queen tooting! Tooting, piping or quacking are words used to describe the sound a queen makes. The sound is made by vibrating her wings and is a territorial declaration. It

can be heard before the queen emerges from her cell, or from mated queens moving around the hive, and also when there is more than one queen present within the colony. There is some speculation (as it is witnessed more frequently amongst aggressive colonies) that this sound could be a type of battle cry – a signal in G-sharp to let others know she is ready to be proclaimed, the one queen to rule them all!

Source: Flow hive Newsletters

Manuka honey

Manuka honey which is reputed to have potent healing qualities may have lost its active ingredient before buyers get it home from the shops. The anti-bacterial properties based on the methylglyoxal(MG) is found in most honeys but not in the same quantity as that of Manuka honey. Studies have found that it can ease coughs and colds and fight the bacteria that cause stomach ulcers.

Merilyn Manley- Harris of Waikato University in New Zealand suggest that the active ingredients in manuka honey might have been lost in the 4 to 6week transportation of the honey to the UK because the containers in which the honey is transported are not refrigerated and can get quite hot during the journey. In addition, shop storage does not necessarily keep it cool.

Of interest is that there is no legal definition of Manuka honey. The only available guidelines state that the honey to be labelled 'manuka' must contain some MG. This allows an escape route for dubious producers as true Manuka honey at full strength can be diluted; sold as cheaper honey and still be legal. There is no doubt this is going on as New Zealand produces 1700 tons of Manuka honey per year whereas 10,000 tons with a manuka label is sold around the world each year.

One of England's largest health food suppliers, Holland and Barrett said it would be testing its Manuka honey to establish its authenticity.

Source. The Times. 3/1/19 p.17 by Rhys Blakely.

Plants can hear bees coming!!

Plants can hear sound around them and respond to the buzz of bees approaching them by producing sweeter nectar.

Researchers at Tel Aviv University played bee flight recordings to evening primrose flowers and found that within three minutes the sugar concentrations in the flowers' nectar had increased by 20% on average when compared with those plants left in silence or exposed to higher pitched sounds.

The evolutionary biologist, Lilach Hadany said that the flowers vibrated mechanically in response to the buzz sound of the bees and this suggests that the flower serves as the plant's sensory organ. Both the nectar response and the physical vibration were sound frequency specific.

The research team think that the flower petals act a filter for sounds at certain frequencies so that the plant can only respond to those sounds produced by pollinating insects. Of course producing nectar entices the bees to gather the pollen of the plant for distribution.

A potential negative aspect to this research is that a noisy environment may hinder the plants ability to 'listen'.

So well done the Prince of Wales! He is not wasting his time! The scientists suggest that plants can react to human voices- a 2009 RHS study concluded that tomato plants appeared to speed up growth when subjected to the sound of female voices.

Sources. BioRxiv website via The Times.7/1/19.p21.

How well do pollinators do in fertilising plants in the world?

Contrary to popular belief pollinators only pollinate 8% of the world's food though some plants such as those that bear fruit have a higher percentage of pollination..

Climate Change and The Asian Hornet.

Climate change or an aberration in the weather cycle indicates that the climate is warming. Since 1965 the flowering season of the horse chestnut has shifted earlier by 20 days. The UK climate is still considered too cold for the Asian Hornet to overwinter successfully in the UK.

The bee population diminished between 1980 and 2002 but since has stabilised.



2. Courses/ Exhibitions/Conferences

Bee Tradex 2019

Saturday, 9th March 2019, Beetradox 9-00am to 4-30pm

Hall H3, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

This is the largest, independent trade exhibition of beekeeping equipment in the UK and attracts over 2500 beekeepers. A diverse range of free lectures run from 10-00am to 3-00pm.

Admittance is £5 if booked in advance, or £6 on the day.

www.beetradox.co.uk/registration

Lancashire Spring Convention .

Saturday 2nd March 2019 9.00am to 4.45pm

Archbishop Temple School, St. Vincent's Road, Fulwood, Preston. PR2 8RA

4 lectures- Joys of Beekeeping/Cutting out Bees/ From bees to Bottle/What can beekeepers learn from Commercial and Professional beekeepers.

Cost £21 (Including lunch); early bird reduction. £16 by 15th February.

To register-www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/spring-convention



John Ogden (07867557120) is selling the following items:

John is selling food hygiene standard honey collection tubs and honey gate valves.

Honey gate valve £3.50 each

10 litre Tub without valve £3.50 each

10 litre tub with valve £9.50 each

20 litre tub without valve £4.00 each

20 litre tub with valve £10.00 each

Bee Towels £3.50 each

All cheaper than can be found on e-bay.

Candipolline Gold now back in stock in two sizes.

½ Kg size @ £3

1kg size @ £5

2. Hive manipulation cloths

Hive manipulation cloths are to help the beekeeper when handling frames to keep the bees in the hive and quiet.

Oldham Beekeeper **George Powell** is making and selling them.

There are two types available:

1. Brood Box cloth made from stainless steel rods and awning canvas. £15

2. General brood/super cloth made from wood dowels and awning cloth £5

www.georgepowell2312@btinternet.com

3. Bob's Jars.

A box of 72 round 1lb jars plus lids (gold metal) will be £27.50.

12-ounce octagonal jars, twist on lid, at £4.50 for 10.

1/2lb round honey jars, screw lids, at £4.50 for 10.

These are now in stock, although the latter are limited in number!

Bob also has spare frames and foundation both National and 14x12 size as well as feeders, bee escapes etc.

Bob's Bee Supplies
Grab Your Jars Now
While They Are Still Low!
Frames, foundation,
jars and lids
Any special bits for hives
i.e., varroa Floors, Snellgrove boards etc
let me know
Ring Bob on:
338 5392 or 339 4819

Other prices can be obtained via Bob or the editor.

Gratis Offer!!

National size. 2 Brood Boxes.

Claimant to make arrangements with Haydn Clough. [Haydn69 clough@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Haydn69.clough@hotmail.co.uk)



February in the Apiary

Work by Beekeeper	State of Colony	Forage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check for stores and feed if necessary-hefting?• Visual observation-Check for hive damage; staining outside the colony on landing board for signs of noseema or dysentery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cluster starting to break up.• Queen may start to lay if warm enough.• Utilising stores.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hazel• Snowdrop

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair/replace wood work for new active season; clean around the hives if necessary; clean equipment- treat spare hives/supers; remove old comb. • Check entrance is free of dead bees/debris • Check entrance is free of dead bees. 	<p>On a mild day an inactive colony might suggest dead bees. Check. If true seal the hive and remove from the apiary.</p>	
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Mild winters

As we know, over winter our bees cluster and produce heat, eating stores to provide them with the energy to generate the heat. While it might be reasonable to assume that a milder winter might increase the bee's chance of making it through the winter because lower temperatures mean they need to generate less heat, they also eat more when the temperatures are higher meaning they are more likely to run out of stores.

Larger, healthier colonies do better over winter as the larger colony is able to maintain the correct temperature with greater ease. The ideal temperature to keep the bees from getting too cold or eating too much is between -1 and 4.5C.

It is not unusual for smaller colonies to die in the winter even though they had plenty of honey. The cluster could not maintain a survivable temperature. As the temperature gets colder, the tighter and smaller the cluster becomes. This can be another explanation as to why bees die in close proximity to frames full of honey because the cluster cannot break away to move to other frames of stores.

As the temperature drops more the cluster compresses, eating all the stores in the area of the cluster but unable to break away, and the colony starves. It's possible to avoid this kind of isolation starvation by opening the hive. Frames of stores can be moved to be next to the bee cluster but it's important that you don't divide the brood nest. Or in extreme cases a colony can be saved by spraying them in a thin syrup mist and pouring sugar syrup into empty comb using a squeezey or washing up bottle.



Member's Meeting January 18th 16 members

AGM

Thank you to all who attended and made what can be quite a 'dry' evening jolly with the banter!

With the absence of a Chair, the Secretary, being the next senior person in the Association, took the Chair. What a grand job he made of it! The Association ended with all vacancies filled as can be seen in the Committee posts at the top of this newsletter.

The various officers informed the members of events over the past year. As the secretary noted it had been a quiet year for bee swarms.

Haydn reported back from the BBKA ADM being the Association representative. Current importation by some BBKA members of queens from the continent will probably cease. Other countries involved in exportation- Australia, New Zealand and Argentina have small hive beetle problems- so no joy there! Haydn pointed out to members that rather than go to Harper Adams in April and pay £5 to visit the trade stands the trade show in March at Stoneleigh was free. (see above).

No new associations were admitted to BBKA- guess- BBKA doesn't like spending money!!! Trustee membership of the BBKA was below full strength as was the exam board. The BBKA is exploring packaging the magazine in non- plastic covers. The BBKA has recommended to suppliers not to supply leather gloves any longer.

A large part of the meeting was taken up with discussing how the BBKA would discipline trustees if it was necessary.

Humans and their Bee Medicines.

The editor takes no responsibility for the following item but whilst searching through old papers came across the following remedy claims.

Heart Disease

Making a paste of honey and cinnamon powder and applying it to bread on a regular basis for breakfast is said to reduce the cholesterol in the arteries.

This remedy can also be taken by those who have had a heart attack.

Apparently, the heart beat is strengthened and breathing becomes easier.

Arthritis

Take a 3x daily dose of one cup of hot water+ two spoons of honey + one small teaspoon of cinnamon powder. The scientific research to this originates in Denmark at the University of Copenhagen. Treating 200 patients, doctors found that in one week of treatment 73 patients were totally relieved of pain and within a month those that could not walk had started to walk without pain.

Horticultural News

Why bees prefer a middle-class garden!

Co-authors of a study from Edinburgh University and Bristol University say that bees prefer well stocked gardens to slumming it in parks and nature reserves. Bees in gardens can access more pollen.

Researchers looked at ten gardens in Edinburgh, Leeds, Reading and Bristol across the economic spectrum. Bee numbers in allotments and gardens are up to 52 times higher than in more developed area such as industrial estates or waste land.

In cultivated gardens the bees preferred lavenders, marigolds, buttercups and ox-eye daisies. For less cultivated areas bees were attracted to dandelions, common hogweed and brambles.

Source: Nature Ecology and Evolution via Daily mail 15/1/19 page 15.

The editor also can contribute to this in that flowers of a purple nature are really attractive to bees.



Honey Bee on geranium flower

Source; Courtesy of The Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA). Crown Copyright

New Beekeepers

This is the last real chance to sort out your equipment in terms of refurbishing any second-hand equipment bought or building new equipment.

If the former it really needs a good clean; especially the corner joints of the boxes being flame gunned. This to eradicate any potential disease.

So, the first job is equipment.

Here is the editor's formula for basic equipment.

1. Even if keeping only one hive purchase two hives- spare equipment or ready for an increase

2. Hive type (National?); minimum of two supers; one nuc box per three hives. Opinions differ on either wood or polystyrene- it really doesn't matter BUT do not match and mix. The editor has always used wood as parts can be disassembled and replaced relatively easily.

3. Frames

A stock of these need partially building ready for completion with wax foundation when necessary.

This year the editor is inserting in both brood and supers two frames without foundation. (see below- an extract from October 2018 newsletter re Martin Ainsworth's talk).

He makes a frame as normal. Prior to adding anything else he drills three holes, evenly spaced, into each side bar. Below the top bar he glues in place a lollipop stick although a strip of wax foundation would do. Then 'fuse wire' is threaded through the holes and fixed in place by staples. He says that the bees will lay part worker and part drone cells. By making these it helps to counter commercial wax with all its inherent problems.

5. Integrated Pest Management system (IPM)

The aspect of the above dealt with here is the weekly (7 day inspection for unclipped queens and 9/10 day inspection for clipped queens). It is about having a bucket of washing soda/squeeze of washing up liquid to house your metal tools and for cleaning rubber gloves between each hive inspection. Remember the smoker needs a good clean before the season as does your bee suit!

6. Record Keeping

Nowadays with the pace of life the time between inspections, although only seven days away, seems an age. So don't rely on short term memory. It is not infallible!

Attached is a simple record card system that should be taken to the hive and filled in after inspection

Date	Hive number	Room	Queen	Covered frames	Stores	Temper	Comments
	This is used to manage colony expansion		You can use a code here. e.g. QLNS Queen laying		Pollen Nectar		Can you identify a future breeding colony?

I think that is enough to be going on with except to check for food in the hive. The editor looks in roughly every fortnight . This is the crucial time of the season- mid way through when things can go wrong! (see the article Mild Winters above).

Images

The editor this year is starting a new section for this year with images to help the beekeeper and concentrating later of diseases and pests. But let us start with good!

All images are courtesy of APHA. Crown Copyright.



Figure 1 healthy brood

Figure2 Eggs on pollen

