



## Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

### Branch Web Site

Have you visited the Branch Web Site yet ? All the information about the Branch is on it we now have a Members Area to access this the password currently is: mandible.

You will need this for access to all Coop purchases

### Warwickshire Beekeepers Association Annual general meeting

In accordance with the constitution of the Warwickshire Beekeepers Association (The "County"), notice is hereby given of the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015

at the National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LG . The agenda for the meeting and minutes of the last AGM are attached and you are cordially invited to attend.

Should you wish to present apologies or give notice of issues to be raised under The "Matters Arising" agenda Item, please send them direct to the Honorary County Secretary, Gill Rose' at [gillianbrose@googlemail.com](mailto:gillianbrose@googlemail.com)

### Agenda for the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual general meeting of the Warwickshire Beekeepers Association Wednesday 25 March 2015 At 7.30pm

#### At the National Beekeeping centre, Stoneleigh Park

Welcome to attendees, guests and 'holding' trustees.

- To receive apologies for absence
- Minutes of the previous AGM held 26 March 2014  
(These will be highlights only)
- Matters arising
- Reports
  - Chairman
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Honey Show Sec.
  - National Honey Show
  - BBKA delegate
  - Bee Diseases Insurance (BDI)

MB

GR

GR

GR

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2015  
(The Treasurer proposes Bloomer Heaven & Co. Ltd.)

JW

6. Propositions

MB

- Proposition on the SB Stokes fund
- Proposed membership rates for 2016:  
Full member - BBKA £19.00, WBKA £9.50  
Partner - BBKA £12.50, WBKA £3.00  
County and Junior member: BBKA £9.50, WBKA £3.00

7. Election of officers

MB

- Chair elect
- Membership secretary
- Examination officer
- Confirmation of other positions \*(see attached)

8. Appointment of Honorary life members

9. Honoraria

10. Presentation of certificates

SD

11. Date and place of 136<sup>th</sup> AGM: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at NBC, Stoneleigh

12. Meeting close

MB

## It's All In The Balance

The 2014 final accounts of Warwickshire Beekeeping Association ("The County") have been published in the members' area of the County's website <http://www.warwickshirebeekeepers.org.uk/> where, in accordance with the requirements of the constitution, they are available for scrutiny by members prior to their ratification at the forthcoming AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Should anybody not have internet access and require a paper copy please contact me on 01926843416.

It appears that income exceeded expenditure which is always a good sign

Bernard Brown

## Catastrophe the Bees Have ESCAPED



This is the scene that greeted me at the old Branch Apiary at Bubbenhall when I visited early in February.

Roger

## Thank You

As you are aware I have relinquished the position of Apiary Manager, this prompted Mike Townsend to do a resume (embarrassingly to me) of the work I have done for the Branch at the AGM this ended with the honour of being made an Honorary Member of the Branch, I did a word of thanks at the time but feel I missed some thanks out.

First of all I would like to thank the Branch for this honour and for having the trust and faith in me to look after and have the hives ready when required, a big thank you to all the knowledgably members who turned up on Tuesday evenings and at other times when required to open up the hives and give an explanation of the hive.

Finally to all the members who have come along on Apiary nights to learn and ask many questions, it has been privilege to be able to do this and to help so many people into the art of Beekeeping which I know has been appreciated by the number of emails and phone calls that I have received thanking me for this.

I am still around to give advice and help if needed, just give me a ring or email me as you have done so in the past.

Roger

## Bee Inspired

Calling all with a flair for visual design.

The branch has acquired an A-board with which to promote honey and hive products sales at our public displays and we are inviting designs from members for signage to entice the passing public to come in and forage. Submitted designs will be judged and the chosen one(s) made up into signs for use this year. The A-Board is double sided so will accommodate two different signs. Each side measures 550mm wide by 800 mm high.

The closing date for submitting your design is 31<sup>st</sup> March and should be sent to Bernard Brown, Public Displays Co-ordinator, at [bernardnbrown@aol.com](mailto:bernardnbrown@aol.com) or if hard copy, to Highfield, Langley, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0HW.

Oh! and there may just be a prize for the chosen entry .....in addition, that is, to the reward of success.

Bernard Brown

## Spring Walk 2015

This year the Spring Walk will take place on Sunday 29th March. We have selected a gentle circular walk, starting at historic Kenilworth Castle, on flat farmland & open countryside, with many attractive views. There are no stiles and the walk is dog friendly apart from some farm livestock. For part of the walk, you will enjoy the delights of The Millennium Way. The total distance is 6 miles, which takes about 2 1/2 hours to complete. Please assemble at 10.30am in the free car park at the front of the castle, for an 11.00am start. Lunch has been booked for 2.00pm at The Clarendon pub, just across the road. We need to advise the pub of numbers, so it would be helpful, therefore, if members wishing to take part on the walk or to just join us for lunch could contact me at [sean.haswell@gmail.com](mailto:sean.haswell@gmail.com) or on 07982 914795 by noon on Saturday 28th March.

Sean Haswell & Maggie Allen

## DHL Update

To be awarded Honorary Membership at the AGM was a complete surprise. Standing up to thank the Committee and members present for their votes, I just couldn't think what to say, so thank you all once again I am extremely grateful.



DHL continues to progress well as can be seen in the picture and my thanks go to all the members who have helped so far. We have dismantled the old shed and re-erected the replacement. The Warwick Youth Justice people have also been instrumental in doing quite a bit of tidying up. There have been a few burning of rubbish sessions and the odd baked potato and cob of sweet corn cooked on the embers. I am hoping that the shed will be fully functional before the season gets under way, not long now!!

Mick Smith

## Volunteers required to man the Swarm Line

The British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) headquarters is situated at the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh. During the swarming season they receive many telephone enquiries from the general public about bees and wasps. The BBKA administrative staff would welcome assistance from Warwick & Leamington Branch members during weekdays in dealing with these calls. We have some past experience in dealing with these enquiries which has been very interesting and enlightening.

The Branch has agreed to assist by manning a telephone at the Headquarters and dealing with all enquiries relating to swarms ('swarmline'). To do this we require volunteers who would be prepared to spend a half day, morning or afternoon, sitting at BBKA HQ taking telephone calls from the general public and advising accordingly. It is envisaged that we would be required from the beginning of May until mid June, but this will be dependent on the weather.

We already have a dozen volunteers but more are required. Please do volunteer if you feel that you have the time. Please identify a vacant half day slot from the diary accessible via the link on the home page of our website [www.warleambees.org.uk](http://www.warleambees.org.uk) and email Peter Stanworth, who will make an entry in the diary – [peterstanworth@btinternet.com](mailto:peterstanworth@btinternet.com)

The BBKA staff will be very grateful for our assistance, which will go some way in thanking them for the help they give us.

Peter Stanworth

## Snippet

I am looking for some honey candle wax to make some candles, as I do handmade candles in small numbers for local crafts etc. My home no is 01926 811387, I would like to source it locally or email thanks Susan Donovan

## Would you like to be a mentor to a new beekeeper?

Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers is currently running the Introduction to Beekeeping course, and the Branch aims to offer a mentor (preferably living close by) to any of the participants who become members of the Branch. Could this mentor be you? Here is your perfect 2015 opportunity to talk 'bees' to people who will really value your enthusiasm and excitement about them.

Mentors are volunteers with a number of years beekeeping experience (this need only be 2-3!!), who may (or may not) have completed their Basic Beekeeping Assessment. You would be expected to offer contact, advice and support when the novice needed you, respond to queries reasonably promptly, and make occasional visits to your protégé's apiary. If you felt out of your depth at any time, you would seek the help of more experienced beekeepers. Advice would be around: good bee husbandry and hygiene, notifiable diseases, and Beebase. You could give a reminder to the new beekeeper about the benefits of belonging to the Branch – e.g. apiary sessions, group purchasing, further training.

Most of all, you would be an ally to them, making sure that they felt that they could always talk to you if they felt stuck – particularly those who might feel a bit shy about asking.

Though some mentors may choose to do so, you would not be expected to provide equipment or physical support to conduct manipulations, nor to undertake holiday cover or swarm collection.

We've had 55 people attending the course, and would love them to get a warm welcome to the beekeeping community. If you feel that this could be you, and would like to know more, take a look at the outline role for being a mentor on our website: <http://www.warleambees.org.uk/beekeeping-training/beekeeping-mentor/>

If you are already confident that you could mentor, please let us know by clicking on the form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YEvxd-CMQ9Mn5-IA8rQpaV-qHzPkBWnVEWanlf33WJc/viewform>

or by contacting me directly on [bates.liz@outlook.com](mailto:bates.liz@outlook.com) telling me how many people you would be willing to mentor, the acceptable distance to the new beekeeper's apiary, whether you would 'distance' mentor and any other constraints you might have.

We will try to match people, but obviously, there may be more candidates than mentors, or vice versa. We'd love to hear from you

Liz Bates

## Nucs in Demand

With the confirmation of small hive beetle in Sicily and the threat of it entering this country with imported queens, delegates on the 2015 Introduction to Beekeeping course were actively encouraged to source their bees from UK raised stock. Consequently there is quite a demand from our new members for locally raised nucs. To go some way to meeting this demand, we have created within the members' area of our newly re-designed website, a "Nucs Available" page to put those with nucs for sale in touch with those wanting to purchase some.

So, if you plan on having nucs or colonies available for sale, please post your details on this page by sending the following information to Bernard Brown at [bernardnbrown@aol.com](mailto:bernardnbrown@aol.com) so prospective purchasers may contact you.

Name; Location; Phone No; Email Address; Additional Information; Please note that all transactions will be a private matter between seller and buyer and no responsibility attaches to WLBKA for what may or may not transpire.

## In the Branch Apiary

I have continued to keep the hives well fed with fondant which they seem to be taking down quite readily, I am a little bit concerned with one hive it seems to be a bit small, should we continue with very cold weather then I feel it will not survive, so let's hope for a warmer time to come.

Roger

## Swarm Prevention and Collection Lecture

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at BBKA 7.30pm

Honey bees are social insects. They are unable to survive unless they live collectively in a colony. In order to maintain the species they have to reproduce by colony division. A large part of a colony will exit the hive together with the queen, set up home elsewhere and form a new colony. This is known as swarming. Although swarming is a necessary part of the life of the honey bee it does mean that if it occurs then the beekeeper can lose a large part of his colony and also a large part of his potential honey crop from the remainder.

Swarming is a very basic instinct in the honey bee and therefore is difficult to control. Even in the best managed colonies, swarming will occur. However with appropriate management, the proportion of hives that swarm will be minimised.

The lecture will discuss the various methods of swarm control, and also the collection of swarms. The branch also has developed an organisation whereby volunteer branch members collect swarms when notified of their presence, often by members of the general public.

The programme for the lecture:

- 7.30pm Swarm prevention and collection – Clive Joyce
- 8.30pm Branch swarm collection organisation – Barney Ward
- 8.45pm Refreshments
- 9.00pm Further thoughts on swarming – Tim Foden

This lecture will include many slides. It has been given over several years and has proved extremely popular. It is aimed at all levels and will be of interest to all beekeepers.

Peter Stanworth

## Hints and Tips

The bees will be flying every day, when weather allows, and there is a great temptation to have a look at just what is going on! Don't be too hasty - wait to see the flowering redcurrant (*ribes sanguinum*) come into bloom and then you should be able to safely carry out your first inspection. Opening up too early could jeopardise the queen.

Got a lot of honey? Then why not try your hand at making Mead? You generally need 3lb for the dry variety and about 4lb for the sweet. There are detailed recipes in the library books but, for best results, make sure you use the correct type of yeast SN9 for the dry and BV7 for the sweet.... confused already? - Take a trip to the Wine Emporium in Studley and the very helpful owner will give you loads of advice ..... so you had better make a day of it! The other thing to mention is that you have to be very patient- 2 years for the dry and 3 for the sweet, but it will be worth it and you can enter it into the Honey Show too! There is even a Mead tasting workshop at the Convention in April, if you want a preview of what you could produce.

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to [h.essex@virgin.net](mailto:h.essex@virgin.net)...

Thank you Helen Essex

Editor Roger Wilkes, email address is [roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk](mailto:roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk) or hard copy can be posted to him at: 12 Mercia Avenue, Kenilworth, CV8 1EU. **Content to him for next month by March 27th, latest!**

Please send in plain text, unformatted, using Microsoft Word or another common program.

**BeeTalk is:** Designed, produced, printed and distributed by Roger Wilkes

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