

BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET SOUTH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

February 2021

David & Alla Neal – Retirement from Chairman and Treasurer Roles

At the AGM, we had to say good-bye to David & Alla who have now retired from their committee roles.

David & Alla became members of BADS, starting their beekeeping in 2014 and right from the start were very involved in the club. Alla has been Treasurer for 6 years, was also membership secretary for a period of time and David has been our Chairman for the past 3 years. All of these roles are very time consuming and it is easy to take the work that the committee members do for granted. On top of this, they have both been very involved in the Asian Hornet Action Team, running the training sessions for our beginners and the Wannabee Days for prospective beekeepers and in helping to organise the Honey Shows. Their IT skills have been invaluable, especially in running committee meetings, training courses and the AGM by zoom.

So, on behalf of the committee and the members, we must give a huge thank you to them for their hard work and commitment to BADS over the past few years. They are of course still active members, so we will still see them around.

BADS-BKA Committee

Update on Paul Mann

Paul has recently had to hang up his bee-suit due to ill health and as he is a little unsteady on his feet now, has moved into a care home in Hamworthy. Myself and Carole (Trim) have kept in contact with him and he has had some ups and downs over the past year. I had a lovely chat with him a few weeks ago, when he sounded very positive, and is enjoying having the company of other residents and carers. He is looking forward to nicer weather when he can get outside and help with the gardening around the care home.

For those that don't know Paul, he is a Master Beekeeper and one of our most experienced members, starting his life-long hobby in 1942 when his father joined the Birmingham Beekeepers and acquired his first colony of bees, with the help of 12 year old Paul. He has been a very active member of BADS over the years, Chairman more than once, Vice Chair and Education Secretary more recently, and has passed on his knowledge in numerous training courses that he has run over the years. We wish him all the best.

Anne Moran

Association Diary Dates

West Parley Memorial Hall

No meetings till further notice but do look at your emails for information about virtual meetings. Let's hope later this year we can meet face to face again.

A Few Ways to Use a Nucleus Hive in Your Beekeeping

1. Moving a bought nucleus to a full size hive

- Place the nucleus alongside the hive to be used, entrance facing the same way and leave overnight
- The following day place two frames of foundation in brood box at one side.
- Open nucleus hive and gently smoke your bees.
- Lift out first frame of bees and place in hive, next to the first frame of foundation.
- Continue to transfer frames of bees, making sure that they are the same way round as in the nucleus hive.

- Add further frames of foundation to fill the brood chamber.
- Close the hive and leave for a few days before inspecting. Be prepared to feed if the weather is cold or wet.

2. Queen raising using a queen cell

This describes how to use a nucleus hive to raise a queen from a queen cell.

- Into an empty brood chamber place one frame of sealed cells with ideally an open queen cell in which a larva can be seen, brush off all the bees but do not shake the frame.
- Shake bees from two more frames of sealed brood and add add a frame of stores
- Put this hive above a queen excluder above a brood chamber of bees, and close the hive. This is one way of obtaining a queenless colony without the need to find the queen.
- Leave for 2-4 hours.
- Nurse bees will be attracted through the queen excluder
- After this time transfer the frames into a nucleus hive and leave for 21 days. Ideally move to another site or block entrance with grass to delay adult bees flying back to original hive.
- After this time look for pollen coming in , this suggests a laying queen.

3. Swarm control

- Move the queen to a nucleus when swarm cells are seen
- This nucleus should have two frames of sealed brood with bees, one empty frame of drawn comb and one frame of stores.
- In the original hive shake bees from all the combs in turn looking for
- queen cells.
- Remove all but one of these cells to leave one queen cell, ideally an open one in which you can see royal jelly and a larvae.

- Leave the original colony for at least three weeks to allow the new queen to hatch, get mated and start laying.

Notes:

Wooden nucleus hives can be purchased from the bee suppliers but in my view are quite expensive. I have made my own nucleus boxes using exterior grade plywood. Plans are available on the Internet.

Polystyrene nucleus hives are now readily available. They are cheaper than the wooden version. I am trying one this year for the first time .

The Dave Cushman Website is a mine of information on all aspects of beekeeping, including many other uses of nucleus hives.

<http://www.dave-cushman.net/>

John Chudley

Shook Swarms

A) Conditions Required or When

- 1) In a large hive bees should be covering at least 5 frames
- 2) Weather should be forecast to be fair for the next week (end Mar-mid April is likely time)

When not

If you are hoping that your colony will produce a crop of rape honey then postpone until after the crop has been collected

B) Benefits of Carrying it out or Why

- 1) You give the colony a clean box etc.
- 2) By removing all brood the colony is given the vigour of a swarm
- 3) You reduce the varroa load
- 4) You get rid of any lurking brood diseases (EFB and AFB)
- 5) The new comb will be drawn perfectly
- 6) Research by the NBU indicates clean wax helps combat nosema (no other treatment is available)

- 7) The new wax stimulates the Queen into an egg-laying frenzy
- 8) If you recycle the brood-comb then provided it is not more than a year old it should yield the weight of the foundation originally given

C) Equipment Required

- 1) Floor with Varroa board
- 2) Queen excluder
- 3) Brood box
- 4) 5 (possibly 6 frames) with foundation
- 5) Several dummy boards
- 6) Crown-board
- 7) Overall feeder
- 8) 1kg of sugar in a thin syrup ie. 1kg sugar in 1.25l water
- 9) Queen-cage

D) Method or How

- 1) Put 5 or 6 (exact number will depend on the size of hive that you are using and the size of your colony) frames with new foundation into a clean brood box
- 2) Open your colony and find the queen. Place her carefully in a queen-cage and put that in your pocket to keep her warm and safe
Or: open your colony and find the queen. Carefully place the frame on which she is sitting into the roof of your hive at an angle so that no bees are harmed
Or: if you cannot find your queen carry out the procedure detailed in para 6 starting with the outside frames and working in from each side. The queen is likely to be on one of the inner frames and the bees on the floor of the new hive will cushion her fall when you shake her off
- 3) Move the existing hive to one side
- 4) Place a new floor with a queen-excluder above on the hive stand and put the new brood box onto it
- 5) Separate the frames so that there are three on each side of the box
- 6) Take each frame out of the old brood box, and shake and brush off all the bees into the new box. As each frame is cleared of bees, place it behind the old box.

Brush all bees remaining on the old box or floor into the new box

- 7) When all the bees are in the new box take one of the inner frames and release the queen onto it
Or: carefully pick up the frame from the roof, locate the queen and transfer her onto one of the inner frames in the new box before brushing off the remaining bees into the box
- 8) Carefully push the frames together and put a dummy-board next to the last frame so as to shut off the empty part of the box. I would suggest you also place a couple of extra dummy-boards across the void so that the space is totally unavailable to the bees
- 9) Put on the crown-board and place the feeder on top. Add one kg of sugar in thin syrup
- 10) Remove the old floor, box, frames and crown-board. Cut out the wax etc from the frames and render it down to recover the wax. Clean the wood-work thoroughly
- 11) Remove the queen-excluder from under the new brood box once the queen is back in lay (4/5 days)
- 12) At the same time treat with oxalic acid
- 13) Add new frames, one at a time, between the brood-nest and one of the store frames as the colony increases in size. (The brood-nest should cover all frames apart from the frames at each end, which contain honey, nectar and pollen)

We have covered the “when, why and how”. As for the where I trust it will be in your apiary and as for the “who”, that it will be you!

David Aldersey

Commentary

A different type of Swarm!



Non-swarming hive on the right carrying on as normal. Once a prime swarm has left, the hive that swarmed may behave at the entrance as if nothing has happened but you will have lost up to half your bees!

Adrian Rozkovec

Honey and chilli pork with sweet potato mash

Serves 2

Ingredients for the sweet potato mash

- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cut into cubes
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 30g/1oz butter

For the pork

- 2 x 100g/3½oz pieces of pork fillet
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp clear honey
- pinch chilli powder
- small handful fresh chives, chopped, to garnish

Method

1. For the sweet potato mash, boil the sweet potato in a saucepan of salted water for 6-8 minutes until tender. Drain, return to the pan and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Add the

butter and mash with a potato masher or push through a potato ricer until smooth. Cover and set aside to keep warm.

2. For the pork, season the pork fillets with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
3. Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the pork for 4-5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for a further minute.
4. Add the soy sauce, honey and chilli and cook for a further 3-4 minutes, or until the pork is completely cooked through and the sauce has reduced slightly.
5. To serve, slice each pork fillet into three pieces and place onto a plate with the sweet potato mash. Pour over the pan juices and garnish with chives.

Anne Moran – Membership Secretary

This is YOUR Association Newsletter. Please feel free to share your beekeeping experiences – good or bad – along with photos, honey recipes, hints and tips, anecdotes and links to any interesting articles.

In response to the members, please note that we have agreed to provide a 2 monthly, rather than quarterly Newsletter, so all the more reason why we are requesting contributors.

Please email Adrian Rozkovec: newsletter@bads-bka.org

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