

BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET SOUTH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

June 2022

Chairman's Report

Just as the coming of spring has lifted all our spirits so the re-awakening of our Association from the paralysis of Covid has been great to see. Not only have we been able to have get together meetings at West Parley but our first social/beekeeping event took place in May. My thanks to Natalie and David Sewell who, when rain threatened, opened not their garden but their house for the tea party which followed hive-inspections at our Dudsbury apiary.

We have also had a resumption of courses at High Mead. Our **Wannabee Day** was very well attended, while both of the beginners classes have been oversubscribed with attendance limited to fifteen each. A course for those of our members who want to take their basic assessment has just concluded. Their assessments take place next month and I am sure all will do well.



Our next meeting will be a sale of beekeeping equipment and barbeque on the field next to the West Parley Memorial Hall on 9th July. It will be a chance either to dispose of surplus equipment or perhaps acquire something that you did not realize you were missing! I hope to see lots of you there. In the meantime enjoy your beekeeping.

David Aldersey

Beginners Course

In the words of Plato "the beginning is the most important part of the work" and I'm sure this will be the case for those of us who took part in the Beginners course class of 2022.

15 of us took part in the course led by David, Helga and Kelly. The course consisted of a talk followed by practical experience of hive inspections, which ran for 6 Saturday mornings. The talks included Hives and equipment; bee biology; swarm control and collection; Hive inspections; Diseases; Feeding and honey harvesting. We were blessed with the weather and able to inspect the hives at Highmead Farm every Saturday morning for the six weeks it ran. This gave us experience of what a healthy hive should look like and how to inspect it.

For anyone new to beekeeping I can thoroughly recommend the course as it was a great foundation for beekeeping and lots of fun! No question was too stupid and the leaders were extremely patient as we got to grips with holding frames and tools at the same time as inspecting the bees.

The members of the class of 2022 have since set up a WhatsApp group so we can keep in touch and share our experience of beekeeping. The posts mostly consist of sharing photos of swollen hands and faces from stings and questions like... I'm not sure if my queen is still there...? It's always hard to spot a queen on your own when there is no impromptu cough from an experienced beekeeper as you lift out the rack with the queen on it!

I'm pleased to say that many of us on the course have gone on to start beekeeping and have acquired colonies recently showing the success of the course.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Beginners class of 2022 to thank David, Helga

and Kelly for generously giving up their time to share their knowledge and expertise.

Lizzy Wood

“A Queen in a cage is worth two on the grass!”

Having just completed a basic assessment course with David, Helga and Kerry the attendees were invited to go along to the Dudsbury Apiary to take part in a shook swarm. It was a really interesting learning experience. The shook swarm was to replace old frame comb and get rid of Varroa.

It all started very well, the queen was located on the last frame looked at and this frame was placed in the upturned lid of the hive roof. “wouldn’t it be best to put the queen in a cage whilst we do this?” “No she’ll be alright there” Famous last words! When I picked up the frame again to find the queen I inadvertently let the frame swing and then we could not find her...

Aaaagggghhh!!!! DISASTER

She had fallen off onto the grass somewhere, Oh no! So it was into “queen search mode” for all present, being careful not to move our feet in case we stood on her. It seemed like a long time but in reality only about 4-5 minutes. There was no obvious sign of her being accompanied by any cluster of bees and an “Eagle eyed” Helga saw her climbing up the hive frame towards the old brood box. Phew! Disaster avoided.

For me this experience reinforced two things in my bee education;

- Better be safe than sorry!
- Handle the frame with the queen on it very carefully!

Bee warned!

Paul Merrick

Dear Members – a reminder

The next Newsletter will be in September. I don’t mind what you would like to send in so long as there

is a bee theme...good or bad experiences, some ideas on how to do things better, anecdotes, interesting photos, honey based recipes...

Thank you to all those that have contributed.

Adrian Rozkovec newsletter@bads-bka.org

Morocco’s Inzerki Apiary

The oldest traditional collective apiary in the world, is located in the rural town of Argana in the south of Morocco and has passed from one generation to the next since its construction in 1850.

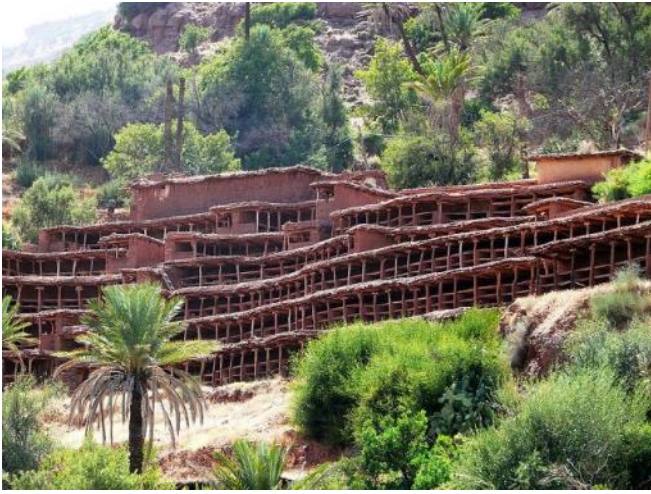
The apiary is made of mud, wood, palm, and braided reeds, is south facing at an altitude of 1000m and now composed of 279 cells. It has been restored several times since its construction.

The collective apiary belongs to around 250 holders who each possess 15 to 20 hives within the massive structure

The bees are a North African subspecies of the Saharan yellow bee. The bees pollinate the area’s rich and varied biodiversity, which includes argan tree groves, juniper, holm oak, acacia, lavender, thyme, almond, cactus, orange blossom, and various medicinal plants.

Each year in July and August, the Imouzzer Honey Festival promotes local products which tourists can sample and visit the Argan apiary itself.





Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Adrian Rozkovec

Bees do not always work to your plan....

Picture 1

Classic positioning of emergency queen cells. Queen stopped laying about three days after our weekly inspection. Cells formed around the edge of the last area of comb laid. Strangely, the bees must have killed their queen as they raised the cells as she was no longer present.

Pictures 2 and 3

Both sides of a frame taken from a colony of drone laying workers. This time thank goodness not one of our colonies!

David Aldersey

Collecting a Swarm: Bee vac parts

Ian Warmer



The bee vac, vacs up bees though a hose pipe and then the bee end on the landing board so they can walk up on to the frames. As the pressure is lower after they enter the box, this means that they are not blasted against the back board. They then can stay in the box to start up the colony. Or transfer frames out.

Vacuum

Vacuum is a every day vacuum cleaner without housing

The vacuum is run on electric.

A petrol leaf blower also fits.



Screen and Vac Housing

The screen is there so that the bees do not go into the vac, and also for transport for ventilation.

Vac housing. This is removed for transport. Hole to be cut to fit vacuum cleaner



Base and Framed box

The base has a slope so that the bees have a place to land when vacuumed up.

Full brood box with foundation allows the bees somewhere to settle.



Full assembled with clips locking it all down. it is on a stand to show it better but does not require one

Recipe: Serves 8

Rick Stein's Cornwall: Steamed sponge pudding with honey butterscotch sauce recipe.



Ingredients

175g butter, softened + extra for greasing
175g light muscovado sugar
1 Tbsp honey
3 large eggs
175g self raising flour

For the sauce

50g butter
100g light muscovado sugar
150g honey
150ml double cream
Ice cream to serve.

Method

Generously grease a 1L pudding basin with butter. Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, beat in the honey, beat in the eggs one at a time, add a spoonful of flour with the last egg, fold in the remaining flour. Cover with a pleated sheet of greased foil and tie in place with string.

Steam for 2 hours, in a steaming basket over a pan of boiling water, lid on, topping up the steamer with boiling water if required.

Make the butterscotch sauce by placing all the ingredients but the cream in a pan over a low heat stirring until all the ingredients have melted and combined, stir in the double cream and keep warm.

Uncover the pudding and carefully run a knife around the edge of the basin to loosen and cover with an inverted plate and turn out.

Serve in wedges with the honey butterscotch and Cornish ice cream and more honey as required.

Bee Supplies – Mike and Liz Duffin

If you need bee equipment or supplies please be aware that the Duffins, are the local agents for Thornes (EH Thorne Beehives Ltd), a major national Beekeeper supplier. They are very helpful, keep a good stock and you don't have to pay for packaging and postage!

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