



# WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER - JULY 2008

### BOB's BIT

The plight of our bees continues to get welcome publicity in the press. A particularly good piece was in the Sunday Independent recently, an extensive review, and refreshingly accurate.

This week when I was called to a swarm in Hatherley Road, I found that a neighbour had turned a hose on it, believing it to consist of wasps! So You may imagine my disappointment that such ignorance should exist. I enticed the bedraggled survivors into a box, for the sake of the children , but there was no sign of the queen and even I could spot a queen in that sorry little lot.

But there is a chance to educate the public, on 16<sup>th</sup> August, when the Winchester Allotment Society have invited us to put on some sort of show. We need an observation hive, and anything else to carry the message that "Bees are Good for You". If you have a very well-behaved colony, then perhaps we could demonstrate some manipulation.

Despite it being the mythical June Gap, some nectar is coming in from somewhere, so perhaps we will have a crop after all. Performance is again very varied, one strong stock gathering nothing and another with two supers.

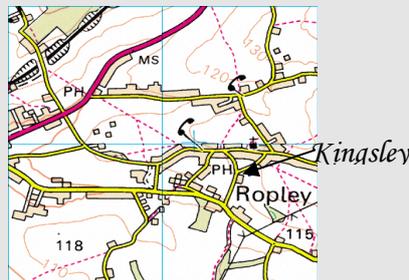
I liked the piece in BBKA News in praise of the drone,



### APIARY MEETING Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

**With Robin Houghton at  
Kingsley, Church lane,  
Ropley**

*From Winchester, follow the A31 to reach Ropley. After the petrol station and the Anchor Pub, immediately turn right into Petersfield Road. Follow the road for 1 mile and then turn left into Church Lane. The house is the first on the right, about 400m up the road just after a left turn.*



"gifted with an urgent death wish" and "impulsive and pleasure-loving". I noticed that the article first appeared in The Irish Beekeeper, so I am now off to see how the Irish do their beekeeping. Watch next month's piece, to be sure.

### BEE DISEASES RECOGNITION DAY & APIARY MEETING Saturday 14th June.



*Ian Homer's talk and demonstration in progress.*



*EFB. A notifiable bacterial infection causing 'melted' and discoloured larvae.*



*Sac Brood (Chinese Slipper). The result of a viral infection of the larvae. Not notifiable.*

Ian opened his talk by stressing the need for Hive Hygiene to minimise the risk of disease. Beekeepers need to ensure they are creating the good conditions and using practices conducive to maintaining the health of the Hive. He explored the risks of various diseases, including Varroa and pests.

Beekeepers need to be vigilant in looking out for AFB - sealed brood sunken with scales on the bottom of the cell. The test is the 'rope test' using a matchstick. The treatment is destruction.

EFB: the cells are not capped with partly formed larvae. The treatment is 'shook swarm' onto new foundation.

Sac brood is a virus infection where the egg turns into a larva and pupa but the last moult doesn't happen. Treatment is shook swarm and re-queen.

Bald brood: bees uncap the cells as they think there is something wrong, usually linked to wax moth - action re-queen.

Ian also highlighted the features of the fungal infections of chalk brood, stone brood and chilled brood.

Adult bee diseases include: nosema, which is dysentery identified by staining in the hive. A new strain has been identified.

Acarine: a mite which affects the breathing of the bee.

There are 44 different strains of Israeli acute paralysis syndrome; deformed wing virus and paralysis virus - bees seen shivering on the comb.

#### Watch out for:

- Tropilias - not found in Britain yet it's a mite half the size of varroa but

unlikely to survive in our climate.

- Small Hive beetle: half the size of the honey bee could be sustainable here and most likely to arrive in soil, fruit or with imported bees or queens.

#### Key messages:

- Know what's normal in the hive - what healthy bees look like and their behaviour.
- Minimise the risk - avoid: introduction of disease, clean tools and suits, smokers; spreading disease by moving frames or using used or dirty equipment.
- Create an environment which is clean by scorching hives and washing tools and equipment with washing soda.

#### Other practical measures include:

- Clear up wax; don't leave frames around; avoid drifting between hives; keep the apiary tidy;
- Replace foundation regularly.
- Look for diseases by shaking off the bees from each frame at least twice a year.
- Always hive new swarms from unknown sources on new foundation.

Remember 'healthy bees are happy bees.'

Many thanks to Malcolm for the above report.

Further thanks to Malcolm and Margaret for keeping everyone lavishly plied with super home-made biscuits, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Also for the use of their bees in the afternoon demonstrations.

Many thanks also to Cathy Crawley for the excellent photos, some of which I have used (above). *(Editor's note. If including this many pictures has caused unacceptable download times, please let him know.)*

## WINCHESTER PRISON BEES

HMP Winchester cannot look to introduce bee hives on site at the moment and possibly not for the foreseeable future.

Several staff have raised H&S concerns, but in addition it has become known that there have been several changes to the corporate manslaughter bill and new changes are due around November (approx). These changes include the Prison Service and make the Prison Governor accountable. As litigation is a major issue, the Governor has asked for the project to be put on hold.

## FOR SALE AND WANTED

Ros Medd is hoping to obtain second-hand a small electric extractor suitable for Langstroth frames this year. If you can help, please contact her on 01962 712463 or by e-mail at:

Ros.medd@btinternet.com

If any members are in need of specific equipment or have equipment for sale, please let the editor know, preferably by e-mail (see below).

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