

North Bucks Bee Keepers' Association

Newsletter October 2014

Table of Contents

Calendar at-a-glance.....1
 Annual General Meeting.....1
 October Seasonal Notes and Editorial.....2

Calendar at-a-glance

11 th October	Bucks county autumn gathering, Aylesbury
14 th October	NBBKA Annual General Meeting
16 th October	Beds Co talk
27 th November	Beds Co talk

Annual General Meeting

You are formally requested to attend the Annual General Meeting of NBBKA, to be held on 14th October. The venue is likely to be Rectory Cottage as usual, time now confirmed as **19:30**. Your presence is needed to ensure quorum, and your votes will be needed for the election of a new management committee.



Mesi - Estonian honey and bees

October Seasonal Notes and Editorial

What a marvellous September for our bees to prepare for winter! Mine have been busying themselves collecting pollen, much from ivy, and all stocks seem very strong, with them and their stores fully occupying brood chambers. Being the perpetual party spoiler I would add this: we really need a few coldish wet days just to slow things down, perhaps to induce queens to cut down on the laying and to remind colonies that it is autumn and not spring! My bees – normally the most benign the world has ever seen – have been doing a little too much buzzing when I have been out on the garden vegetable plot, probably because there are not enough goodies around to keep them sweet and they have 'time on their hands'.

There is probably a cost to all this fine weather. There is likely to be a run on stores, so do heft hives on every visit, and remember my suggestion that you have an eke (put in place at the END of October) directly over brood chamber/wood frames (queen excluder removed), coverboard over eke, so that as winter follows and passes through you can lift the coverboard and check that THE COLONY IS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD. Use a torch if you need to look down combs. Reason: a colony not in contact with food in extreme cold weather will stay put and not move to 'the land of plenty', i.e. nearby combs containing stores. You solve any possible problem, I consider, by giving and maintaining fondant feed from 1st December onwards.

May I beg you to come to the AGM on 14th October at Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley at 7.30 pm.? We have now had in my view two years in which as a committee we have not done as much for members as we should have done. We need to have a discussion about what you would like the Committee to do, and then implement some plans. It is as simple as that. Before the meeting can you please think about what you want. For example, winter and spring lectures, regular pub nights, perhaps summer apiary safaris. We can do as little or as much generally as you want – the choice is yours. Once choices have been made, of course, the events will need manning. It would be lovely if you would serve on the Committee, but you can equally serve the Association without being on it. What we do, what you can do to make it happen is a choice for you. But please be at Rectory Cottages on 14th to give us the best possible start!

Coming back to the bees, feeding should now be complete, but if the good weather continues frankly you can go on feeding until 15th October (but have the mix a wee bit stronger than the 2 lb of sugar to 1 pint of water mix, ie make it 2 lb 4 oz of sugar to the pint, or you can use thymol – see September BeeCraft monthly notes). And finish all the September jobs I have previously gone on about.

And see you at Bucks County AGM and Honey Show (- ? entries ready) on Saturday, 11th October, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Aylesbury.

Whilst showing goes on we shall be debating the County's - and its affiliated associations', e.g. North Bucks' - relationship with the British Beekeepers' Association. The outcome could affect you and your beekeeping, and you are urged to attend. Bear in mind, too, that the 'holding-hand' voluntary visits of National Bee Unit inspectors at the request of any

beekeeper are no longer available, so support for beekeepers from the BBKA is ever more vital.

Andrew Beer