



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

Whilst the summer honey should be safely stored in buckets and bottles by now, there's still plenty of beekeeping to be done, in the weeks that should be considered the beginning of the beekeeping year. Ensuring the health of your colonies through adequate feeding, and inspection for diseases is a top priority in late August / September. If your bees are in the countryside, they likely will be working hard to glean what little food there is left in the margins of fields. However, if you are close to a good stand of ivy, they will quickly be able to gather lots of glucose-rich nectar, and - even more importantly - the ivy pollen. The latter will ensure the last cycles of brood raised will be well fed to produce the long-lived winter bees that ensure the survival of colonies through to next April's blooms.

Next Meeting

Disease Inspection & preparing for winter

Westbere Lane,
Westbere

Saturday 6th

September

2.30-4.30pm

Joining instructions

- see page 2

Our last Bee Day in Whitefriars will be on Sat 13th Sept from 11am till 4pm. It's a good day out talking to locals & travellers about bees and of course selling honey. Any help will be gratefully received! (Email Jenny

Cotterill at toetaljenny@gmail.com to offer your support. Next month we will be at the Brogdale Apple Festival - so please try to find time to support one or both of these events.

A recent report of EFB near Elham and Stowting

reminds us that disease inspections should be a regular feature of your apiary management - we will discuss this at the apiary meeting on Saturday, but there's some reminders for you on p3, taken from the NBU.

And finally, why not enter a Honey Show this autumn - see page 4! Adrian

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The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail cantbees@gmail.com

Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

SEPTEMBER 2014

DATES FOR DIARY

6 September	Apiary Meeting, 2.30-4.30pm, Bredlands Lane, Westbere
13 September	Meet the public: BeeDay 11-4pm, Whitefriars Shopping Precincts, Canterbury
24 September	East Kent Ploughing Match, 9am, St John's Farm, Swingfield, Dover, Kent, CT15 7HG
27 September	Thanet BKA Honey Show at Acol Horticultural Society Show
8 October	Indoor meeting, 7.30-9.30pm, in Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury CT1 2TF Honey tasting, and how to prepare for a show
18-19 October	Meet the public: Brogdale Apple Festival, Faversham
30 Oct – 1 November	National Honey Show, St George's College, Weybridge Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2QS
12 November	Indoor meeting, 7.30-9.30pm, in Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury CT1 2TF AGM

DIRECTIONS

Our final outdoor meeting of the year will be at our branch apiary, Bredlands Lane, Westbere, Canterbury CT2 0HD. This is just off the A28 Canterbury to Margate Road on the left hand side before Hersden. Go up the road past Spires Academy, and the apiary is on the right hand side of the road. Contact on the day 07816 975286

As always make sure you wear freshly washed clothing and clean plastic gloves. No leather gloves may be used to handle frames.

There are 6 hives with bees at the moment, some already getting Apiguard treatment. If you haven't got Apiguard, Julian will be able to sell you what you need (at a very good price) during the apiary meeting.



DISEASE INSPECTIONS

European Foul Brood

Some of you may have heard that there was confirmed case of European Foul Brood in a colony in Bladbean during August. Michael Cooper, our seasonal bee inspector confirmed the diagnosis, and treated it with a shook swarm procedure into clean sterilized equipment; the old combs were burnt. A 6 week standstill order was imposed – meaning that no equipment or materials can be removed from the apiary.

We should all learn the symptoms of European foulbrood:

- Twisted and discoloured larvae;
- Chewed/perforated cappings;
- Melted larvae;
- Scales.

Each symptom is marked with a coloured ring in the photo below

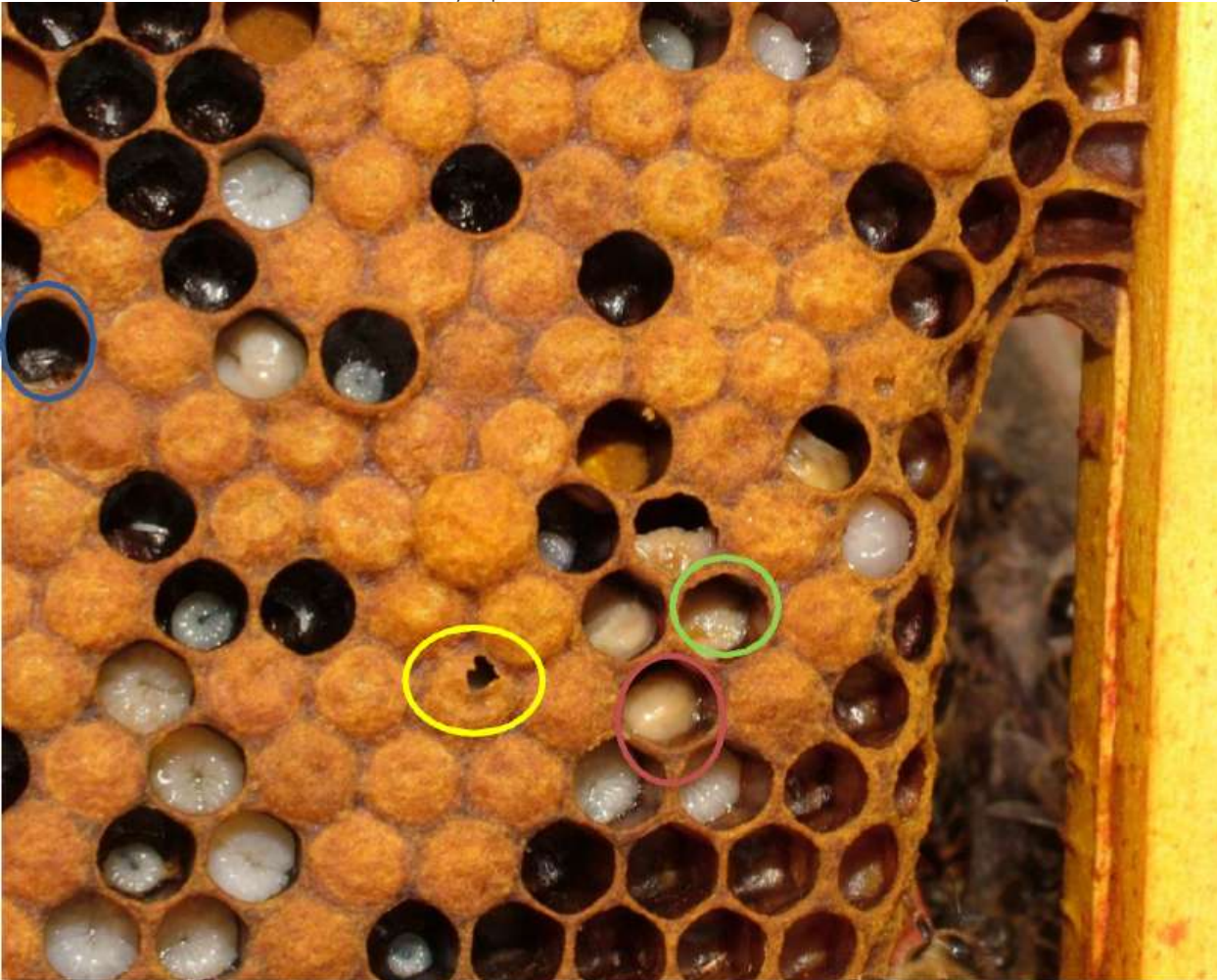


Figure 1, a comb showing symptoms of European foulbrood (EFB).

This is a good reminder for us all to be vigilant. Best practice (as recommended by NBU) is “stage 2 apiary hygiene”, for any apiary not in an EFB risk area:

- Check colonies for disease signs twice a year.
- Change three or four broods comb in each colony
- Basic apiary hygiene – keep equipment clean, and sterilize broodboxes with a gas torch before storing
- Quarantine supers, brood and excluders at apiary level.

The above information is taken from two NBU factsheets:

“Containing Disease” ([link](#)), and “Apiary and Hive Hygiene” ([link](#))

And much more information on brood diseases can be found in [this long publication](#) “Foulbrood diseases of honey bees”

HONEY SHOW SEASON

time to have a go!

You will see from the diary that a series of honey shows are happening in September and October, culminating in the National Honey Show. Whilst some take these very seriously, the real purpose is to encourage us all to prepare honey and other hive products to a high standard, whether for personal/family use, or for retail. At the Kent Honey Show in July, Sue Clapson repeated her triumph of 2013, and won a big silver cup - The Agricultural Cup was awarded to Sue for the most points accrued from two 1st's, three 2nd's, three 3rd's and one highly commended 4th place, these being for a variety of categories which included honey, wax, honey cake and honey biscuits. Sue also managed to win the Mead Cup for a 1st in the Sweet Mead category and a 2nd in the Dry. Several folk were also involved in the Honey Show which was part of the Festival of Bees at the Mann Lake facility in Bridge on Bank Holiday Monday.



The Thanet Honey Show is coming up in late September, followed in October by the Dover and District Honey Show – make sure you make some time to drop by, and even better, set aside an evening to prepare some exhibits. Look out on our website for more details and application forms for the Thanet and Dover shows. Below you will find a longer article about the National Honey Show.

APIARY VISIT REPORT 9 AUGUST

Sixteen club members crowded into my little apiary on 9 August to talk about varroa and bees and to look at some hives. I had a long series of daily varroa drop counts from three hives to report and that led to a detailed discussion of how to combat the deadly enemy of our bees. It was noted that daily counts give higher average figures than waiting for a week and then counting. Perhaps some varroa crawl away, perhaps the ants carry them off, whatever the explanation intermittent counting may generate a false sense of security. We looked carefully for DWV but even those with the best eyes were unable to find clear evidence of this problem, this observation may tie in with that of Prof Ratnieks at Sussex that his hygienic bees are able to tolerate high counts without serious damage from viruses. The sun shone on our gathering, the bees tackled the raspberries with enthusiasm as did the beekeepers and a pleasant day was enjoyed by the participants.

David Cockburn

BEST VALUE SUGAR

If you have a lot of hives, it's worth chasing down the best value sugar, if you need to feed your bees in preparation for winter. Here's a quick synopsis of the deals we've heard about recently:

Bookers (Broad Oak Road, Canterbury) are 25kg bags for £18.99 or two for £15 each which equates to 60p/kg. Farmfoods (near Morrisons in Dover) have 1kg bags for 59p. Tesco do a Tate and Lyle 5kg bag for £3.85 = 61.7 p per kg. According to DDBKA, Poundstretchers & Lidl 69p/kg.

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

Newsletter August 2014

This year the National Honey Show opens on Thursday morning, 30th October, for the first two lectures (9.30 and 11am), the Trade Hall opens at 12 noon and the Show Opening Ceremony is at 2pm. The show then continues with lectures and workshops in the afternoon.

We hope you're having a bumper honey harvest this summer and as you admire the hard work of your bees (and yourselves of course) do start to think about how you can further celebrate not just by eating it all. With stunning presentation walk away with prizes at both your local honey shows and also at the National Honey Show.

If you're new to all this, your local shows are a good place to start. Talk to all the other exhibitors, they are usually willing to share their tips for getting the last air bubbles out etc. etc. Offer to steward for the judges, and observe what they are looking for. The same goes for county shows and also the National Honey Show. We always welcome offers of help, so do contact us if you are interested in stewarding! It's a good way to learn. The best judges have a long history of exhibiting, stewarding and willingness to learn as much as possible, and have a lot to offer.



When all the judging is over by Thursday (sometimes late) lunchtime, we still have the rest of the show to enjoy with the full programme of lectures and workshops, and the golden opportunity to browse the wide range of show stands, as well as collect any pre-ordered goodies, saving the cost of carriage. The Schedule should land on your doormat any minute now if you are a National Honey Show member. It's not too late to join you can download a form (and/or the Schedule itself) from the website. Membership also includes entry to the Show itself and attendance at any of the lectures for all three days.



Workshops, by their nature, have limited capacity. Our on line booking system will open as usual on 1st September

<http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/booking> If you don't have access to the internet, ask at your local library, most libraries now have internet facilities.

Over the last two or three years, there have been some new entry classes. One of interest was the commercial honey beer class which has attracted quite a few entries and we hope, inspired the industry to continue celebrating honey in this way.

Another to try your hand at, introduced last year, is the microscopy class. The closing date is a little earlier for this class as we need time to prepare a larger exhibit for display. Were you inspired by the Quekett educational stand at last year's show?

57. ▲ One Microscope slide, 3" x 1", subject pollen or honey bee anatomy, labelled in accordance with instructions issued by entries secretary. Exhibits will be photographed by the National Honey Show for display purposes at the show. First: £10; Second: £7; Third: £5. (Sponsor: Bee Craft)

For 2014 we have two new classes: Class 6 for 2 jars of set honey; and Class 41 one bottle of sweet and one bottle of dry mead.

There are also many classes to tempt the artistic and inventive among us: label design, photography, needlecraft etc, and there is a wide selection of classes for juniors and schools: we'd love to see you there.

Time constraints prevent detailed judges' comments for every entry but two of the Gift Classes: **Class 5:** Two jars of liquid honey and **Class 6:** Two jars of set honey will have judges' feedback for every entry. Many of the judges stay at the show during Thursday afternoon, some for Friday and/or Saturday, and would be happy to answer interested enquiries about the classes they have judged. Any exhibitor is free to approach any judges

who are around after judging is complete.

Visitors to the Show will remember that the National Honey Show publishes a series of booklets on showing a range of honey products, pollen, judging, plus a short history of the National Honey Show. New editions of the complete range will be available during this year's show. We'd like to thank the many individuals (you all know who you are – thank you!!!) who have undertaken the task of bringing the various texts up to date, and BeeCraft magazine for their huge contribution in designing and laying out the revised booklets. The booklets will be on view for all three days in the Trade Hall so do come and browse.

Because we have such a full programme, many visitors are torn between which of the parallel lectures/workshops to attend. Eight of the 2013 lectures are available on the National Honey Show YouTube channel for you to revisit as often as you wish. We have been amazed and delighted at their popularity: they have had a total of over 98,000 views to date.

This makes us very much want to continue sharing our prestigious lectures with the rest of the world, but leaves us with a rather large funding problem. For 2013 we were fortunate in receiving a grant from the National Lottery. We are currently applying for grant funding for 2014, but these are one-off contributions. We would love the support of continuing sponsorship so do spread the word for this fantastic opportunity for 98,000 sponsorship acknowledgements. Anyone interested is most welcome to get in touch.

In the meantime we are dedicating the proceeds from the National Honey Show raffle to the video enterprise. To this end, we very much appreciate all support. If you have a local meeting, county show or other event before the end of October, please e-mail nationalhoneyshownews@gmail.com and let us know how many raffle ticket booklets you would like, and the address to send them to. The draw is held at the show on Saturday afternoon, but ticket stubs can be returned to Christa (at the address on the tickets) beforehand.

Back to the Show itself. It's a great event and good to see everyone from far and wide catching up on the year's news.

We've a great series of lectures on the latest topics of international interest (full details in the Schedule and on the website) as well as the Saturday lectures for those new to beekeeping, and/or just interested in Yearly Beekeeping Activities, Swarms, Diseases, and Products of the Hive for Showing.

As ever, the National Honey Show relies on a large team of volunteers, and all offers of help are most welcome. Do contact us, - you can e-mail the Show Secretary at showsec@zbee.com and he will pass your offer to the right person – if you can spare some time at the Show to help.

We have a unique collection of displays, lectures and networking opportunities at the National Honey Show, and look forward to seeing you at the Show this autumn: Thursday 30th October to Saturday 1st November 2014 once more at St Georges College, Weybridge.



BEEKEEPERS @ KSRC

Courses in 2014

Beekeepers @ KSRC



Beekeepers @ KSRC is now in its 3rd year and its prime purpose remains essentially the same – to provide training and education opportunities for “Improver Beekeepers” from any local Associations and Branches. Novice beekeepers are best taught and mentored in their local associations but this makes it hard for local groups also to provide in-depth training for a relatively few Improver members; we hope in part to address that gap.

The year's events are continuing into November – below are the courses that still have places:

Microscopical Analysis of Honey, Saturday 4th October 2014, 10-4pm

Skep-making, Saturday 8th November 2014 – 10-4pm

Beeswax Workshop, Saturday 8th November 2014 – 10-4pm (yes, same day as Skep Making)

Sign up at www.ksrcbees.org.uk

Bob Smith, Julie Coleman and Adrian Davis

NEW NDB SHORT COURSE DATES



We are pleased to announce new course dates for the autumn. The following courses are open for booking and currently have spaces available:

Month	Date	Course Title	Lead Tutor	Venue
Sept	20, 21	Queen Raising	Ken Basterfield	Devon
Sept	26, 27	Brood Diseases	Dan Basterfield	Devon
Sept	28, 29	Adult Diseases	Ken Basterfield	Devon
Oct	11, 12	Honeybee Behaviour	Dan Basterfield	Harper Adams
Oct	11, 12	Seasonal Management	Ivor Davis	Harper Adams
Oct	24, 25	Microscopy	Ken Basterfield	Devon
Oct	26, 27	Anatomy & Dissection	Dan Basterfield	Devon

For more information and to apply, please visit the NDB website ([here](#))

We are working to confirm dates & locations for courses in early 2015 and we will email you about these as soon as arrangements have been confirmed.

The National Diploma in Beekeeping Board.