



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

October is a critical time in the lifecycle of a colony, as it's when the winter bees are being produced. These are worker bees that can survive through to next April. The changes in physiology that enable them to pull off this feat are multiple, but most important is the availability of pollen, and the reduced brood rearing associated with cooler and shorter days. With the mild and dry September, colonies should have stocked up on both nectar and pollen, and therefore the last brood cycles should produce long-lasting bees for winter.

The nectar flow from ivy has been particularly fulsome – one of my stronger colonies has collected a net 33 lb of honey/nectar over the last 3 weeks! I won't have extracted this in time for our "Honey Tasting" meeting this coming Wednesday, but we

hope many of you can join us for a fun evening comparing local honeys – bring your own honey so that we have plenty to compare! It would also be great to see plenty of Canterbury entries at the Dover Honey Show on the 25th October.

We are putting together a team of beekeepers for the

Apple Festival at Brogdale on 18-19 October. Please consider giving a couple of hours to enthuse about all matters of beekeeping. See Maggie Mackenzie's article on p3.

Whilst the weather has been good, news from outside the UK about small

hive beetle is more troubling. I've dedicated 3 pages to information about the small hive beetle infestation discovered in Italy.

And finally, you are reminded that subs are now due for 2014/5 season!

Adrian

Next Meeting

Honey Tasting

Whitefriars
Management Suite

Wednesday 8th

October

7.30-9.30pm

Joining instructions

– see page 2

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The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail

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Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

OCTOBER 2014

DATES FOR DIARY

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
25th October	DDBKA Honey Show, Beech Grove, Nonington CT15 4HH
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

Whitefriars Conference room Canterbury

Free parking in the multi-storey car park. Collect your ticket and this will be processed during the meeting. Park on the 1st floor on the left and take the corridor down to the management suite at the bottom of the corridor on the left. Please car share if you can, since Whitefriars have to pay the cost of this on our behalf.

By car Set Sat Nav post code to CT1 2TF

Go around the ring road and at the roundabout opposite the Police Station turn through the city walls into Watling Street. Go past the bus station on your right and the Whitefriars multi-storey car park is straight ahead and right at the mini-roundabout. If coming from the south go down the Old Dover Rd and straight across the roundabout through the city walls.

By foot / BUS

Between the Bus Station and Whitefriars center there is an alleyway between Boots and Next. Here there is an entrance to the car park. Go to the first floor by lift and turn left out of the lift through double doors. The management suite is 20 yds along this corridor.



BROGDAL APPLE FESTIVAL

The last CBKA public event for the year is Brogdale's Apple Festival near Faversham ME13 8XZ on Sat 18th and Sun 19th October. We are looking for some volunteers to help present Canterbury Beekeepers to the many visitors. This involves talking to people about bees and honey – all of you will know more than the visitors! Showing them the bees in the observation hive or giving people an opportunity to taste a range of our honeys and helping take money for purchases.



Any offer of help is welcome but I suggest you offer to do either a morning or afternoon shift allowing you to look around for the rest of the time - but any offers of help are welcome. We need help to set up the stall on Saturday morning (arrive 9.15) and also to pack up on the Sunday afternoon (finish at 4pm)

The advantage for you is free entry to the day (normally £8) and gives you the opportunity to take a guided walk and tasting of the fruit orchards (tractor ride if you are lazy) and of course the tastings of apples and pears with the opportunity to buy. There are many other exhibits available the website link is [here](#).

Contact Maggie McKenzie as soon as possible by email : maggiemckenzie@vfast.co.uk or phone 01227 831414

Maggie

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subs due 1st October

Our new year started on the 1st October and you should have already received by email information/[links](#) to enable you to renew your membership of the Kent Beekeepers Association. You will notice that the subscription has risen from £44 to £45, which includes Beecraft magazine, BBKA 3rd party insurance and the BDI premium for up to three colonies. KBKA members receive Beecraft at a 25% reduction to the price paid by other subscribers. Don't forget to GiftAid your membership – it costs you nothing, and enhances the value of your membership subscription to CBKA/KBKA by 20%.

The renewal forms are available from our website [here](#) – and if it is convenient for you, the transaction can be completely electronic, as we can accept BACS transfers into our bank account.

Joan



SMALL HIVE BEETLE

Small Hive Beetle Detected in Europe

Many of you will already be aware that Small Hive Beetle has been detected in mainland Europe - in a port in Southern Italy. I've reproduced the information available from the NBU on the outbreak, as well as a little more detail on the natural history of SHB. This is a pest of which we should all be aware. Whilst it is clear that restrictions of bee imports might slow down SHB's arrival in the UK, economics suggests that worldwide movement of livestock, fruit and veg will continue to raise the risks of unintended importation of the small hive beetle.



Just to reinforce the point, there was an interesting snippet of beefarming activity on the TV recently. During a program about "Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves", Murray McGregor, the chairman of the Bee Farmers' Association was shown importing bees from Northern Italy to Herefordshire to fulfil pollination contracts in the Spring of 2013. You can see the program on iPlayer throughout October (link [here](#); McGregor's piece starts around 20min in)

ARTICLE REPRODUCED FROM BEEBASE

On September 11 2014, the Italian Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, [National Reference Laboratory for Apiculture](#) (IZSV) confirmed the first detection of the presence of Small hive beetle (SHB) in South West Italy, in the port city of Gioia Tauro. A second outbreak was confirmed in Rosarno, approximately 1 km from the first infested apiary on September 17th 2014. In this outbreak, 4 colonies were found to be infested. Since then further infested apiaries have been confirmed. Further details will be made available as the situation evolves on the [IZSV website](#) and on the [ANSES European Union Reference laboratory](#) for honey bee health website.

Contingency Measures

Since the beetles discovery, urgent measures are now underway to measure the extent of the outbreak, complete tracings (sales and movements of bees from the area), with the intention to eradicate and control spread in line with EU legislation and safeguards. Measures include that in all apiaries where the beetle is found colonies are destroyed and all soil surrounding the hives in the apiaries is ploughed in and treated with a soil drench.



Since 2011, there has been a substantial level of imports of package bees and queens from Italy into the UK. The NBU is arranging for further inspection of colonies belonging to these beekeepers.

Further information about the SHB outbreak in Italy has also been published on the World Animal Health Information Site which we anticipated should be updated

regularly:http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/Countryreports

The Small Hive Beetle

The Small hive beetle (SHB), *Aethina tumida*, is an invasive species originating from Africa which has proved to be a serious pest of honeybee hives in the USA and Australia. The SHB has been made notifiable within the European Community (Commission Decision 2003/881/EC)

More detailed information may be found in the NBU advisory leaflet [The Small Hive Beetle – A serious new threat to European apiculture](#), or see the World Organisation for Animal Health [OIE chapter](#) on Small hive beetle.

Geographical Range

The Small hive beetle (SHB) is native to sub-Saharan Africa. In its native range it is a minor pest of weak honeybee colonies and stored honey supers. However, European bees have fewer natural defenses against SHB and consequently it has far greater harmful consequences to European honey bees. It was confirmed for the first time outside Africa in Florida USA, in May 1998, and since then has become widespread across the USA (in more than 30 US states and as far North as Minnesota). The beetle was later detected in New South Wales and Queensland in Australia in October 2002 and more recently in Canada (traced to imports of unrefined wax from Texas, USA). The beetle is also present in Mexico and Jamaica. It is as of April 2010 confirmed on the big island of Hawaii. Further details of these outbreaks can be seen on the OIE disease incidence reporting pages, World Animal Health Information Database ([WAHID](#)).

Of concern also is the fact that in October 2004 SHB larvae were identified in a consignment of queen bees imported into Portugal from Texas, demonstrating the potential for transport in this commodity. It is important we all do everything possible to detect the beetle if it arrives in the UK. Early detection would allow control action to be targeted promptly, reducing the risks of SHB becoming widespread.



Current Status

Currently neither *Aethina tumida* nor *Tropilaelaps spp.* have been found in the United Kingdom. If either were introduced they could potentially cause major damage in certain parts of the UK or Europe, if they became established. Both parasites are statutorily notifiable under [EU legislation](#). The small hive beetle is now confirmed present in Italy, but not so far elsewhere in Europe. *Tropilaelaps* mites are currently thought to be absent.

The NBU Inspectorate carries out each year a comprehensive risk based surveillance programme for these pests in At risk apiaries or zones, such as around ports, airports, container depots. Beekeepers are strongly encouraged to monitor their hives for their presence, all the more important now that SHB has been confirmed in Italy. Suspect samples can be sent to the NBU laboratory for diagnosis. In addition to support this [contingency planning](#) and preparing for the arrival of identified exotic threats is an integral part of our work.



Supporting Research

The NBU are currently investigating potential controls for the Small hive beetle. For more details please see the [Bee Research Projects](#) pages.

Defra's website includes the recently completed risk assessment on small hive beetle which can be found [here](#). Work is ongoing to develop a lure for monitoring the Small Hive Beetle, see [poster](#).

For further information please see the 2010 article in *Biologist*: Small hive beetle, the next threat to British honey bees ([pdf](#)).

Web reference for the above article: [here](#)

What should we be doing now?

Taken from "The Small Hive Beetle – A serious new threat to European apiculture" – [NBU leaflet](#)

The experiences of the USA, Australia, Mexico, Canada, Jamaica, Hawaii and Cuba show just how quickly the Small hive beetle is able to spread. Despite our wishes and efforts to the contrary, sooner or later the Small hive beetle could arrive in the UK. It is important that beekeepers prepare for this possibility. Make sure your details are recorded on BeeBase. It is extremely important that all beekeepers register on BeeBase. If we don't know where 'at risk' colonies are located, then our chances of effectively monitoring for the arrival of the Small hive beetle, or achieving control in the event of an invasion are seriously jeopardised. This is the responsibility of the beekeeper. To register as a beekeeper, please visit <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/register.cfm>.

- Make sure you only import bees through the proper channels and with appropriate health certification. Do NOT be tempted to import bees illegally.
- Make sure you understand the essential details of the Small hive beetle's lifecycle, and how to recognise larvae and adult beetles.
- Be vigilant-you should keep an eye out for the Small hive beetle when you examine your bees – this should be part of routine colony management. If the beetle does enter the UK, early detection will allow control action to be targeted promptly where it is most needed and help reduce the spread of this pest throughout the country.
- Aim to stay informed and up to date on the spread and emerging biology of the Small hive beetle and the methods used to control it overseas. If it does enter the UK, you will need to be ready to start to deal with it. There is a great deal of new information on the Small hive beetle. The NBU provides regular updates to beekeepers as part of its bee health advisory work.

Small hive beetle and the law

The Small hive beetle is a statutory notifiable pest under both EU and UK legislation.

It is permitted to import honey bees from only a very limited number of countries outside the EU. Import regulations are our main defence against the introduction of the Small hive beetle (and other very serious bee pests and diseases) from overseas to the UK, and it is absolutely essential that all beekeepers abide by them.

Contact the NBU, or your appropriate government agriculture department for details of the import regulations. This information is also available on the NBU website.

Sending suspect beetle samples to the NBU

Suspect SHB adults or larvae should immediately be sent to the NBU for examination. Use a sealed container, such as a plastic tube or stiff cardboard box all contained within outer packaging (e.g. jiffy bag). Please provide as many details as possible - your name, the date, the apiary name and location (including, where possible, the Ordnance Survey map reference). Do not send live beetles in the post. Kill them first by keeping them in a freezer overnight (or by putting them in 70% ethanol). A simple to use sampling form is available to download directly from the NBU website (on the honey bee pests and diseases pages).

In the next newsletter, we will reproduce detailed guidance on how to check your hives for the small hive beetle.

BEEKEEPERS @ KSRC

Autumn News



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 Kent Science Resource Centre (KSRC) will be moving out of Kent Science Park on the 31st October 2014, due to completion of the rental agreement, and non-renewal. Unfortunately, this means that we've had to cancel our last 2 courses of the season – beeswax and skepmaking.

The last beekeeping event at KSP will be an event on apiary management organized for Kent branches – Julian and Adrian will be representing CBKA, at an event attended by, amongst others, David Blower, BBKA training coordinator, and Sean Holden of Kent County Council.

During the autumn, we hope that we will be able to identify a new location in which to hold the courses that have run under the banner “Beekeepers@KSRC”, and we will make a further announcement when such arrangements are in place.

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
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.