



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

So what are we to make of the weather? After almost 10 days of Spring-like sunshine, the blackthorn is flowering, and the early bulbs such as snowdrops, crocuses and winter aconites are almost done. The bees will have done their best to take advantage of the warmth to collect pollen and nectar, so there should be quite a bit of brood in colonies – so the hive “central heating” will be turned right up to keep the eggs/larvae at ~35C. Provided your colonies are well-provisioned, then early brood can be a good thing once the real Spring starts – but the increased usage of stores makes the colony more vulnerable should the weather turn cold for an extended period.

Looking back through my records, inspections in March have been fairly common, as we tend to have mild daytime temperatures in East Kent, so fingers crossed!

It's been nice to see the honey bees (and bumblebees) out enjoying the sun, but of course, other insects will also be tempted out of their winter

hideaways. The only wasps you will see over the next 4-8 weeks will be queen wasps, and whilst no-one really wants a wasp-nest close to your house or apiary, these carnivorous social creatures have an important part to play in

maintaining the population balance of plant-eating insects. Fewer of us will see queen European hornets – though they are an impressive sight, being much larger than honey bees and most bumble bees.

What none of us really want to see are Asian hornets. There are some notes on page 4

from Dougal on how we might go about detecting Asian hornets, and we have the opportunity to hear from someone who has encountered Asian Hornets first-hand in Jersey. Sam Day of Whitstable and Herne Bay branch of KBKA is coming to give us a talk on Wednesday. There will also be a chance to hear an update from Jan and Dougal on the discussions that have been ongoing to set up a Kent coast Asian hornet action team (AHAT). It should be an interesting evening, and I hope many of you can join us on Wednesday. Adrian

Indoor Meeting

Asian Hornet experiences in Jersey

Sam Day

Whitefriars Management Suite

Wed 6th March

7.30-9.30pm

Details on p2

CBKA Officers

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Maggie McKenzie

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Jan Soetaert

The easiest way to contact us is via email using the links above, but you can also use the contacts page on the website.

Contact [Newsletter Editor](#) to contribute articles

MARCH 2019

DATES FOR DIARY: yearbook at <http://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/calendar/cbka-list/>

2019

Wed March 06	branch indoor meeting, 7.30-9.30pm, "Experiences with Asian Hornet in Jersey", Whitefriars Management Suite
Sat March 09	BeeTradeX 9am-4pm, trade show in Warwickshire (https://www.bee tradex.co.uk/)
Thu March 21	Committee meeting, 7-9pm, Old Gate Inn, Old Dover Road, Canterbury
Sat March 23	BBKA modules examination day https://www.bbka.org.uk/modules
Sat March 31	Closing date to apply to sit BBKA Honey Bee Breeding certificate
Sat April 06	Apiary Meeting, Palmsted Wood, 2-4pm. Assuming weather is good, we will make a first Spring inspection
Fri-Sun April 12-14	BBKA Spring Convention, Newport https://www.bbka.org.uk/Event/spring-convention-2019
Sat May 04	Bee safari
Sat May 25	Meet the public – BeeDay at Whitefriars (to be confirmed)
Sat June 01	Apiary meeting, Jan's place. Queen rearing preparations

You can get our calendar, either as a google calendar (cantbees@gmail.com), or for other programmes using this URL: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/cantbees%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

INDOOR MEETING

Experiences with Asian Hornet in Jersey

Wednesday 6th March 2019, 7.30-9.30pm

Whitefriars Conference room, Canterbury

Sam Day spent time on Jersey last summer helping the beekeepers there identify the locations of Asian hornet nests. She is planning to give us two presentations. One will be a short 'Intro to AH', just to ensure we are all familiar with the biology of the yellow-legged hornet: life cycle of the nest; where hornets are likely to be seen; at what time of year. The second part will be a longer presentation on the activities thus far in Jersey, and actions we might be able to take as Beekeepers dealing with AH here in the UK. She has kindly offered to make the 'intro' presentation available to us, in case you have anyone wishes to use it to speak in schools, or want to give presentations to the general public to raise awareness about *Vespa velutina*.



DIRECTIONS

Whitefriars Conference room, Canterbury

By foot / BUS

Between the Bus Station and Whitefriars centre 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 yards along this corridor.

By car Set SatNav 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.

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.



BRANCH NEWS

Swarm Management

BBKA have asked me to bring the list of swarm collectors up-to-date in readiness for the Spring swarm activity. For those of you who are new to the process, here's a quick overview. BBKA offer a service to the public to identify a local beekeeper who can be contacted to remove honeybee swarms. If you haven't seen this before, then have a look at <https://www.bbka.org.uk/swarm> and scroll down to "step 3: Find a local Swarm Collector." Signing up for this makes your contact details available to the general public.

With the Canterbury branch, we do also receive direct approaches to collect swarms. We use this to "match-make" swarms to recipients. For some people, it's not convenient to be in a public directory as a swarm collector, but when you are prepared to collect the occasional swarm, then having your details available to our Branch Swarm Coordinator will enable us to better manage swarms in the Canterbury area.

For those of you who would like a swarm, either to restock or to start out, then we'd also like you to supply details - this information will not be published, but just used within the branch.

So, if you want to either collect swarms or receive swarms, can you fill out this form - <https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/swarm-management/>

Even if you have filled this out in previous years, and are currently showing on the BBKA map, we need you to consent again - this is to make sure that we have your continuing permission to use your personal information (GDPR)..

Basic Assessment

It's time to organise training for the Basic Assessment. If you have been keeping bees for at least one or two years and are reasonably confident in handling a colony and have some experience of managing swarming, whether that was a success or not, now is the time to consider taking the BBKA Basic Assessment. This is an oral and practical assessment carried out by an assessor on behalf of the BBKA and held in a local

apiary. It confirms that you have reached an appropriate standard; a bit like passing the driving test. If you have done one of my courses you will have covered most of the knowledge needed for the assessment.

To assist you we are going to run a few theory and practical sessions to cover the syllabus starting on one day during the week beginning Mon 8th April, either the Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur or Fri. Don't worry if you can't make one of those days we will try to be flexible to meet your needs.

If you want to take part please email or text me your name and tell me which days you can and cannot do and I will pick the day that most can go on. It will probably start at 7pm but let me know if that's not OK.

julian@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk or text 07761 839 119.

If all goes well, I will try to have a practical session over the weekend 27/28 April. I will decide on a location when I know who is likely to attend.

However if preferred, you can prepare for this yourself and download the Basic syllabus and application form from the BBKA web site and send off with a fee of £20.

Julian Audsley

Beginner Training

Julian and Dougal are both teaching Spring courses for beginners to learn about beekeeping – and all courses are almost completely full. Dougal has a few slots left on a Sunday afternoon series near Folkestone. Please contact him by [email](#) (or via the website) if you are interested to join.

THE ASIAN HORNET - WHAT NEXT?

This threat to people, the biodiversity of our environment and, yes, to bees and beekeeping too, is almost upon us.

Last year a nest was discovered in the city of Calais, and two individual drones were found at Dungeness. A very few nests have been destroyed in the New Forest and in the West Country.

The threat is now imminent.

If it becomes established here, it will become a major consideration for everyone, not just beekeepers.

In August and September 2018, three people died in Normandy after being stung by this unwelcome invader. In "Manche" (of the five Departments that make up Normandy, it is the one comprising the Cherbourg peninsula and its base) over 4,500 nests were destroyed during the year. And that was without any organised campaign to hunt them down, those were simply the ones that the public pointed out to the authorities as a nuisance!

To prevent or delay that scale of problem here, we need to make sure that the first invaders are quickly spotted, reported and dealt with - before they get a chance to produce dozens (maybe hundreds) of new queens for the following year.

We must make sure that we, and as many others as we can reach out to, are able to recognise the thing when we see it.

It is big, it is really dark coloured, and it flies noisily, sometimes fast.

To try and minimise mistaken identity, I call it the "Dark Hornet" - yes it has yellow feet, but masses

of other insects have yellow legs!

If you see one at rest, you should photograph it immediately, check the ID in the Asian Hornet Watch App (free to download to your phone),



EUROPEAN HORNET (L) AND ASIAN HORNET (R)

and then report it - which you can do from within the App.

Individuals won't attack you. But go near the nest and you are sure to be attacked, in force. Fortunately, there shouldn't be any danger in trying to photograph an individual hornet while resting or feeding.

Rather than waiting for the first of them to find us, we can try to detect them by luring them in to traps or monitored bait stations.

There are lots of designs online for DIY traps (e.g. on Beebase), and they can also be bought cheaply - either as a complete trap or an adaptor for a clean used plastic bottle.

However, for success in detecting these things in your neighbourhood, what is absolutely necessary is to use the very best, most attractive bait possible.

If you knew there were hornets out there and were trying to reduce them in your apiary, you could put out lots of traps in the apiary, and experiment to see which bait was best at any particular part of the season, or most economical, or whatever. But that situation isn't where we are (yet) thank goodness.

To detect the things being here, we need to spread the traps as widely as possible, and we need to use a bait that is guaranteed to bring in any asian hornets foraging in the area.

If we use an 'experimental' DIY bait and catch no hornets, does that mean there aren't any hornets? Or just that the DIY bait didn't work?

In Jersey, for the last two years, they have been testing different baits.

By far the best at attracting Asian Hornets was "Suterra" Wasp Bait (which confusingly is now being re-branded as "Trappit" Wasp Bait). Not only does it 'work' attracting them, but it keeps on doing so for ages without "going off" or weakening.

For detecting Asian Hornets, we shouldn't be using anything else.

It does (naturally) attract ordinary wasps, but importantly it positively repels bees.

After you've seen one and reported it - and you have evidence (photo or specimen) - then the pro's can take over, to find and destroy the nest.

But it all depends on us, and all our friends, watching out for the things, and reporting them - with evidence - if ever we do see one.

Dougal Hendry



Positive Thinking No. 18

February, 2019



Mission Statement:

- To further and promote the craft of beekeeping
- To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment.

The unified voice of British Beekeeping

From MARGARET WILSON, BBKA CHAIR

VAT

We recently asked for specialist advice regarding the VAT registration for the BBKA, I have to say this was prompted by one of our members asking the question as it was something that I never considered as it all was in place before my time and my previous experience in business has been wholly registered for VAT without exception. We asked our Auditors for advice on this matter and they indicated that we needed specialist advice on this, so we asked for a quotation. They said it would be anywhere between £3,500.00 and £5,000.00, plus VAT. Being beekeepers ourselves and not liking to spend money if we did not need to, we thought that was expensive so searched for other VAT specialists and received and accepted a quote for £1,800.00 plus VAT of course.

Mostly we are doing everything correctly but there is one area where we may not be and that is on the sale of Adopt A Beehive, basically because we provide some items within that sale, it becomes liable for VAT. We wondered how 'Adopt a Whale' and such like managed but after investigating we found that they give a one year membership to any donation so that makes it non vatable. This is ongoing, as we have needed to ask for additional advice on this one, if we have to pay the VAT then HMRC can ask for the payments for the past four years, hence the ongoing advice.

We will in future give an 'Adopt' membership to all those purchasing Adopt a Beehive, but that membership will not attract any of the facilities offered to other types of BBKA membership.

CIO

The Solicitor handling the CIO has accepted and checked the documents with the alterations we were able to make, this has now gone forward for sanction. I understand this will only take a few weeks, so we must wait and see if the Constitution that we sent will be acceptable, Fingers crossed meanwhile Stephen Barnes is liaising with those who at the ADM asked for further changes to be put forward at the next ADM. I will give you progress reports as we go along.

Asian Hornet

The evenings are beginning to draw out, days are gradually getting warming and the weather is improving. This is the time when our colonies are expanding but it is also the time when over wintered mated queens will emerge from hibernation and we need to be vigilant. Queens may soon be coming in from France on shipments of wood, plants, hitching a lift on a car or ferry or blown here by winds and we need to have some monitoring traps out. The NBU will be ensuring that areas where hornets have been found last year have plenty of traps but an effort to catch these queens is important. Thankfully many Area Associations have established AHAT's, working through their branches to establish a team of beekeepers who can help identify suspected hornets in their own areas reported by beekeepers or the public. The Asian Hornet reporting Map is on the BBKA website and hopefully we will have contacts in every area, these hornets could appear anywhere. Beekeepers need to spread the word so that people working outside especially near trees or flower rich sites, gardens, or in areas of interest visited by the public can recognise the Asian Hornet and encourage others to be aware. It isn't only beekeepers who will be affected, all pollinators and small insects will be targeted as the hornets search for food. Our food production, wildlife and flora could all be affected if we do nothing.

Remember, 'see it, snap it, send it' to the NNSS

Spring Convention

Everyone is now getting ready for the Spring Convention, held again this year at Harper Adams, the programme look good, so please remember to get your bookings in for the lectures and workshops. There is something for everyone there from new beekeepers to those who are experienced with many years of beekeeping behind them, the beauty of this event is the fact that everyone is happy to talk about bees so whatever you want to know there is someone there who can answer your question.

Communication

We have created a spreadsheet, showing what is happening at the BBKA and what progress is being made on all those things that were proposed and agreed at the ADM, this will follow on from the office after this letter as they keep an eye on the progress of everything on an ongoing basis but briefly here are some answers:

The Auditors have been instructed to wind up BBKA Enterprises, suppliers have been written to re leather gloves and the Potato starch wrapping for BBKA News has been ordered. The CIO and the Disciplinary documents have been sent in, so it is nice to be able to show you that we do indeed take note of your propositions each year and we do act on them. Hopefully the transparency this year will be better for all concerned. One of the items you voted on was the supply of leather gloves to beginners, there has been a mixed response to that with one supplier saying they do not supply leather gloves in their beginners packs, but do sell them and were rather surprised at my suggestion to wear two pairs of gloves whilst handling bees, I have written back to explain about the transfer of disease so now await a further response from that supplier, however here is one response which is quite good.

From: Shop <shop@bbwear.co.uk>

Date: 5 February 2019 at 14:17:57 GMT

To: "margaret.wilson@bbka.org.uk" <margaret.wilson@bbka.org.uk>

Subject: Leather Gloves

Hi Margaret,

Thanks for your letter regarding the use of leather gloves.

We agree with you, and have always told members of the associations that they dont allow leather gloves to be used at their apiary. We also tell people that, if they really need to out of fear of getting stung, that nitrile gloves will have to be worn over the top, for the reasons mentioned in your letter. I have attached a copy of our 2019 Association Letter, which we send out every year with our catalogues, which includes a line about leather gloves and the need for nitrile if they are using leather. We will also make a note to add a side note to the leather gloves in our catalogue next time we do a print run which will most likely be before the 2020 season.

BBwear Limited
Kind regards
James Bright

This is not the only response we have had, some not quite as co-operative but on the whole most are in agreement with our request.

BBKA Executive actions following ADM 2019

Date	Ref	Proposition	Update week ending 20th January 2019	Update at 8th February 2019
12/01/2019	1	Trustee disciplinary & dispute procedure	Adopted at ADM but some changes required. S Barnes continuing to revise it aided by volunteer members.	ongoing
12/01/2019	2	Constitution for CIO	Some changes required Governance to complete	S Barnes met with solicitor. Application will be submitted to Charity Commission within next fortnight
12/01/2019	3	Schools and Education as members	Adopted at ADM and is included in CIO constitution	No further action required at this time.
12/01/2019	4	BBKA News wrapping/recyclable	Sharon Blake needs to order wrapping imminently.	Potato starch wrapping ordered.
12/01/2019	5	BBKA Participation at Tradex	ADM proposition was moved to next business to BBKA can attend at their discretion	BBKA will have a stand at the Bee Tradex show 9-3-19
12/01/2019	6	Wind up BBKA Enterprises Ltd.	Proposition was adopted.	H Pool has written to auditors to ask their assistance to strike the company off
12/01/2019	7	Video Conferencing for meetings	Facility already available and installed in the conference room.	No further action required at this time.
12/01/2019	8	Four hours of discussion for proposition	Proposition fell at ADM but BBKA Exec had already tried to compress formalities to allow as much time as possible for propositions to be discussed.	Encourage members considering becoming AA Delegates to attend as visitors first so they become familiar with the format of an ADM.
12/01/2019	9	Publish Minutes when final	ADM revised the proposition to a summary of a meeting should be made available on the website.	Summary of Exec Meeting 19/1/19 has been uploaded to website under https://www.bbka.org.uk/meeting-dates
12/01/2019	10	Contact Suppliers re leather gloves.	Margaret Wilson to compose letter to go to all known suppliers.	Letter sent to all BBKA News advertisers past and present (approx 90). Positive responses received. Will speak to traders at Tradex.
Date	Arising from ADM Jan 2019		Actions Taken	
12/01/2019	11	Defra Consultation	ADM requested Anne Rowberry's letter to Defra be circulated	On-line consultation was open to members of the public. AR responded as a BBKA Trustee, an AA officer and personally but as the consultation is closed we cannot reproduce the response. In future we will endeavour to keep screen shots of answers to online surveys.
12/01/2019	12	Importation of Bees	Practical difficulties of preventing imports discussed at ADM but BBKA will press for more control once Brexit is finalised.	Statement on website is work in progress. https://www.bbka.org.uk/Pages/Category/should-i-keep-bees/Tag/becoming-a-beekeeper
12/01/2019	13	Create membership category for Universities and other establishments	Martin Hudson (London Beekeepers) suggested to LS using Institutional membership	Governance Committee to consider this.

12/01/2019	14	Follow up on VAT exemption for beekeeping equipment.	M Murdin agreed to action at appropriate time - once Brexit is finalised.	No action at present.
12/01/2019	15	Copies of accounts or summary on website	Full set of accounts appear as part of the financial report in the ADM papers under compliance on the website. These will remain until next year's finance reports are made available.	No further action at present.
12/01/2019	16	Voting for Trustees is a muddle - delegates don't understand it	Governance to look at this as part of review of how trustees are recruited, interviewed and if necessary delegates should be able to decline a trustee	Governance Committee to consider this.
12/01/2019	17	Disagreements in Area Associations	Delegates suggested Link Trustees to be more involved in resolving disputes.	Trustees to try to establish closer relationships with their link AAs.
12/01/2019	18	Raised by delegate : Treatment of Laddingford	Delegates vote to accept Laddingford as an AA was overturned by a membership vote. Concern that delegates had not declared interest in Beecraft magazine.	Expression of concern received from Derbyshire BKA on treatment of Laddingford. Gen Manager has spoken with Laddingford and they are in discussion with two local AAs about becoming a branch

The West Sussex BKA Bee Market & Auction

In attendance:

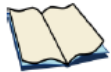
Payne's Southdown Bee Farms Ltd.



Suppliers of bees and beekeeping equipment. Paynes will have a wide range of equipment available. You can also order from them in advance and collect at the auction.
www.paynesbeefarm.co.uk/



Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day. Also available will be a garden plant stall so stock up for the growing season.



The Auction catalogue will be available online at www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html after 24th April or at the event at a charge of 50 pence.

Note:

Dogs are welcome on Campus, but owners must comply with the following rules set by Chichester College:

- Leashed at all times
- Accompanied on Campus at all times
- Kept away from the Animal Centre and all animal husbandry areas
- Must not enter any buildings
- Waste must be cleared away

The West Sussex Beekeepers' Association expresses thanks to the Principal and Staff of the Brinsbury Campus for their assistance.



WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION 45th BEE MARKET & AUCTION

SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2019

At

Chichester College – Brinsbury Campus, North Heath, Pulborough, RH20 1DL

Acceptance of lots 08:30 – 10:30. Auction commences 12:30pm.



**Free Admission and Car Parking (Parking Discs available on arrival)
Dogs are welcome on Campus but please see Note**