

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

Welcome to the **April 2004** issue of Bromley News.



The Bee Hives where behind me! Photo by SGT

I have been putting off looking at my bees for 2 months due to the protracted Winter but finally I did it. The first season's visit was during those two warm sunny afternoons this week. It wasn't a perfect start as I couldn't get access to my allotment, somebody had changed the padlocks (I did pay my rent honestly).

All three colonies had the floors scrapped and were given a good scorching with a blow lamp, plus I added clean queen excluders and one or two supers depending on strength of hive. I only had time to inspect the weakest stock, this was running dangerously low on stores and may not have lasted the night (good timing), I filled one side of a comb with warm syrup to tide them over. Even though this looked like the weakest stock it had 3 frames of brood which may have stretched the hive's resources, I could see a alarming amount of sac and chalk brood which might clear up as the season progresses. Later this month I shall give each hive a brood box on top with new frames and foundation let them move up and establish themselves before removing the old brood box and burning the blackened and mouldy frames.

BBKA Spring Convention 2004



I'm really looking forward to going to Stoneleigh on the 24th, if you haven't been before it's a really good day out and a chance to pick up some bargains. If you want to share a car, why not come to the apiary meeting the week before and find out who's going. Download the full programme from the BBKA website <http://www.bbka.org.uk/convention.php>

Steven Turner

Internet Resources

Apis-UK March issue No.22 prints to 26 sides of A4. Contents: Editorial; Beekeeping news; Bee press; Articles: The Danish tradition of changing all beeswax brood combs every year by David Ashton. Danish honey retains its quality translated by David Ashton from an article by Benny Gade journalist and beekeeper. African honey bee update Kim Kaplan. The genome project Matt Allen puts it all into perspective. Diary of events and more. Total D/L 246KB.
<http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters04/apis-uk0304.htm>

Apiary News

April heralds the return to two Apiary meetings per month. One on the first Sunday of the month at 11:45am and the other on the third Sunday of the month at 3:00pm . Easy, isn't it. Well I would have thought so but there are still some who turn up on the wrong day or at the wrong time. Still as long as it is not you.

For the last lecture of the season we have Peter Griffiths coming along to show and tell us how to make mead. Peter came and talked to us on the same subject about eight years ago and it was very well received. Get your notebooks out and list all the questions you may have. I am sure Peter will be able to answer them. Don't forget the date. **Tuesday the 20th April at 7:30pm .**

I looked in the mini nuke today and saw the queen, but still no brood or eggs. Two wonderful days of glorious sunshine had failed to move her into activity but no doubt if this weather carries on surely she will get her skates on.

Get your requests for swarms to either John Henman 020-8460-8452 or Clive Watson 020-8658-3786 as soon as possible but be prepared to wait, as there is a larger demand this year than is usual but be patient, I can't recall a year when we haven't found enough to go around.

Stocks that went into winter with reasonable numbers of bees and stores are getting stronger by the day but if you haven't done so already get your supers on now, the last thing you want is for your stocks to swarm and take lots of bees and honey with them.

We are still awaiting confirmation that the show at Blackheath is on which normally takes place on the first Saturday of June but the hugely successful show at Woodlands Farm, Shooters Hill goes ahead on **Sunday the 16th May**. Don't forget we want all the honey you can find and you will get a good price and no hassle. At these shows we usually run out an hour or so before closing time and it's such a shame to have to disappoint the public.

As to the Queen rearing programme, the weather has been so cold that I haven't been inclined to make a start but having said that, the days are now getting warmer and even if the sun doesn't put his hat on, it won't be long before a start can be made.

Here's to full supers and no swarming, that is no swarming from our stocks.

Peter Springall

A report from Catford beekeeper Gregory Boon

I united two colonies yesterday with the help of icing sugar. It's the 2nd time that I've done that. I'll try it again with a couple of colonies of aggressive bees, if I can get to Dave for some smoker fuel. I killed off the queen, who had served me well. That was the colony nearest the house that collects lots of pollen. I have a super on it now and they're repairing it. This is great as it allows them to use the whole brood chamber for breeding. My apidea colony is alive, with the queen laying well. **Greg**

Why not share your news and beekeeping plans with us? Email the editor.

Diary Dates

Sunday 4th April 11:45am - The branch morning apiary meeting. Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management if the weather permits. Tea and biscuits provided.

Sunday 18th April 3:00pm - The branch afternoon apiary meeting. Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management if the weather permits. Tea and biscuits provided.

Tuesday 20th April 7:30pm - Evening lecture at the branch club house - Peter Griffiths: Making Mead.

Saturday 24th April 9:00am - 5:00pm - The BBKA Spring Convention and Exhibition at Stoneleigh Park, Coventry, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ. Tickets and programme from the BBKA website www.bbka.org.uk

Sunday 2nd May 11:45am - The branch morning apiary meeting. Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management if the weather permits. Tea and biscuits provided.

Outside Events 2004

Sunday 16th May - Woodlands Farm Trust, Shooters Hill.
Further details will be announced.

For more information

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Visit our website www.kentbee.com/bromley

Advertisements

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David Harris

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