

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

Welcome to the **July 2003** issue of Bromley News.



Bromley Beekeepers Honey Sales at Blackheath Village Fair

I was asked if I would look at a swarm/colony which arrived about two months earlier and entered the floor space underneath an attic bedroom. The house owner was concerned that honey would start dripping through the kitchen ceiling and wondered if removal was the best option.

Just like the TV series "Mission Impossible" Your bee challenge this month - should you decide to except it! If anybody from your bee force be killed or injured, we will deny any knowledge etc . Before committing myself to suicide missions I always look at the job and give a quote. There was a limited window of opportunity of only two weeks while the occupier of the room was on holiday.

On visiting the property you could tell from the alleyway that the occupying forces where indeed honeybees mainly by the loaded pollen baskets looking like bomblots. The owner had cleared the room of furniture and carpets which made it easy to remove some of the flooring. I could see the combs where attached to the top of the floorboards. I decided to come back another day with my equipment and undertake the work to remove and save the bees.

It was a hot Sunday afternoon, the floor boarding was removed. With gentle smoking all the combs where cut out and inspected for the queen but she wasn't seen which is not unusual in operations like this. I put all combs in a large cardboard box trying not

to damage them.

The plan was to put the cardboard box with an open entrance where the combs were originally positioned and cover the box and hole in the floor with a black blanket and hope all the flying bees would go in the box with the brood combs. Going back that evening I found the bees hadn't gone in the box and the majority were still under the floorboards making more combs. The extreme hot weather might have prevented this plan from working.

I went back another evening and managed to get the remaining bees fanning and running upwards into another cardboard box using some Fabi-Spray, this bee repellent spray is very effective in confined spaces. The bees needed to be moved more than three miles away, which I had pre-arranged with Janie and David in Penge who were expecting me that evening. What they didn't expect was me turning up at 11pm to hive them. Picture David and Janie in their night clothes with torches at the bottom of their garden! I used an empty brood box to put the cardboard box with the combs in and shook in the rest of the bees. I can tell you the bees were not pleased with this treatment and went on a stinging season at the only part of my body not fully protected which were my ankles (no socks), with all this going on I placed a second brood box with foundation on top and retreated as fast as possible.

The only reason why I didn't wait until the next day to hive the bees was due to work commitments. That evening my ankles were a little sensitive but I slept OK. The following day I could not walk as my ankles were both badly swollen. I had to phone in sick, it was two days before I could walk again. Bees can be dangerous so wear your jellies!



**The Observation Hive at the
Horniman Museum Forest Hill
Designed and built by Peter Springall**

Internet

Improved web version of this newsletter with pictures

URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/newsletters/julybbk03.htm>

Apis-UK-The free Beekeeping web magazine and newsletter

Contents: Editorial; Beekeeping news; Bee press; Articles: Natural Ways of Improving Varroa Containment (part 1) The Importance of the Shape and the Position of the Brood-Nest Ian Rumsey; The Independent Science Panel on GM Final Report; Steven Turner's sneak preview of the observation hive at the Horniman Museum Forest Hill; Matt Allen reflects on foraging and pollination. FACT OR FICTION: Confusion over Nosema and Dysentery. BOOK REVIEW: Form and Function in the Honey Bee - A beekeeper's view. Historical note: Drones. Readers letters: John Sewell. Diary of events. Total D/L 242KB.

URL: <http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters/apis-uk0603.htm>

Steven Turner

Apiary News

Those of you without the advantage of e-mail missed out on your newsletter last month. Partly my fault I must admit. I was late sending the copy and Clive who deals with the printing and distribution was tied up and couldn't deal with it at short notice.

The swarm that I mentioned last month that had turned into a drone layer was dealt with by giving it a queen from one of my mini nuc's. There was some doubt as to whether this was the best course of action, but we decided to carry on and see what happens. All will be revealed at the meeting on the 20th of July. I must say that the job was ably carried out by our two young ladies Claire and Cathy and a very good job they made of it despite it being their first time demonstrating at the Club.

Our next Branch activity is on **Keston Common on the 6th July** and the following **Sunday the 13th July we are at Foal Farm**, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill so get some honey ready for sale and turn up and have a bit of fun as these events are always most enjoyable.

It's still not too late to get your name down to assist at the Kent County Show. This can also be great fun and talking to the public can really give confidence to newcomers, as you don't realise how much you know until people start asking questions.

Clive is once again staging his **BBQ and it will be at on the 16th August** at his Dorset Road site. This is a great event and gets bigger each year. I am off on BeeTour in a couple of days and will be taking all the invitations with me to distribute on the coach.

Another date to watch out for will be the invitation by Robin and Jenny Spon Smith to their Apiary. I was unable to get hold of them to fix a firm date, but watch this space. Don't forget the Branch Honey Show in conjunction with the Orpington Branch on **Saturday 13th September**. Don't forget to contact Peter Bashford on 020-8656-

7990 if you need an entry form alternatively you can download it off the web site.

See you all soon

Peter Springall

Diary Dates

Fri, Sat & Sun 11, 12 & 13 July - Kent Honey Show and Beekeeping Exhibition at the Kent Agricultural Show, County Showground, Detling. Schedule and entry forms from www.kentbee.com

Sunday 20th July 2003 3:00pm

The branch afternoon apiary meeting. Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management. Tea and biscuits provided

Sunday 17th August 2003 3:00pm

The branch afternoon apiary meeting. Beekeeping demonstrations and hive management. Tea and biscuits provided

Saturday 13th September 2003 - The Bromley and Orpington Honey Show and Beekeeping exhibition.

Opens to the public at 2.30pm FREE ENTRY. Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham, Kent. See quality products of the hive; buy pure English honey; things for kids to do; watch the bees at work safely behind glass in the demonstration hive; beekeeping exhibits and more. Refreshments available. Honey Show Schedule and entry forms from the URL: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/news/honeyshow2003.htm>

For more information

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Visit our site www.kentbee.com/bromley

Advertisements

(free to members or £10.00 for non-members)

David Harris

Is now an approved Thorne agent able to supply all beekeeping needs at a discount. 49 Shawbrooke Road, Eltham SE9 6AL. A telephone call before calling is much appreciated 020-8850-7826 Web: www.busybusybee.demon.co.uk

FREE Six large (very heavy) concrete slabs idea for standing hives on

Collect from Steven Turner 153 Thornsbeach Road, Catford, SE6 1HB Tel: 020-8698-0313

Pollen Trap for Sale

Unused - I'm not able to say if its suitable for WBC or National hives, buyer take risk therefore only asking £5.00. Contact Steven Turner as above.

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