

The Essex Beekeeper

Issue 656
August 2019

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Monthly Magazine of the
Essex Beekeepers' Association
www.ebka.org

Furthering the Craft of Beekeeping in Essex
Registered Charity number 1031419

Bee Health Day

By Jim McNeill, Romford

Just over 50 Essex members had a very enjoyable day with our county bee inspectors at the millennium centre in Dagenham on Thursday 20th June.

It all started with a talk on the Asian hornet & how we all must be on the look out for it, not to put out traps as these are indiscriminate & would kill our native hornet plus a lot of other insects which do no harm to our bees.

We were then split into 3 groups; one out to the apiary to watch how inspectors look for disease & go through hives with out upsetting them which is an art on it's own.

One group went into another room to look at fresh diseased comb, to show how hard it is to see disease on the comb and where to look for it & be able to smell them.

The last group stayed in the main room where they were told all about which chemicals we can and can't use. Also to use different chemicals every year so as to help stop resistance happening

I hope everyone went away having learnt something & had a good day meeting up with friends from other divisions. I would also like to thank all the inspectors for all the knowledge that they passed on to everyone. Jane Riddler would also like to pass on her thanks for such an "exceptionally good event this year". 🐝

Articles appearing in The Essex Beekeeper are not necessarily the views either of the Editor or the Essex Beekeepers' Association

To ensure inclusion within the diary of county-wide events would Divisions provide the editor with details of local meetings by the 4th of the previous month.

Robert Silver – robert.silver@outlook.com

Propolis

By Fred J Ayres, Lune Valley, via eBees

Propolis is a resinous mixture that honey bees produce by mixing saliva and beeswax with exudate gathered from tree buds, sap flows, or other botanical sources. It is used as a sealant for unwanted open spaces in the hive.

Honey bees collect resins on their hind legs from a variety of plants and deposit them in the nest cavity where the resins, often mixed with wax, are called propolis. Two graduate students, Mike Simone-Finstrom (PhD 2010) and Renata Borba (PhD 2015) demonstrated that the presence of a propolis envelope on the inner walls of the nest cavity acts as an antimicrobial layer that enshrouds the colony, providing a quantifiable constitutive benefit to bee immune defences (Simone et al., 2009; 2017; Borba et al. 2015; 2016). The propolis envelope also directly reduces two diseases of honey bees, chalkbrood and American foulbrood (Simone-Finstrom and Spivak, 2012; Borba and Spivak, 2017). Propolis use by honey bees is an example of social immunity, and is a unique example of social-medication, since bee increase resin collection after challenge with a fungal parasite (Simone-Finstrom and Spivak, 2012).

Propolis has been used for years in folk medicine because of its proposed effect on various body systems, dating back to the time of the ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians. In fact, Hippocrates notes that propolis is beneficial for promoting wound healing, both internal and external, while Pliny the Elder, documents that propolis may be used to treat tumours, muscle pain and ulcers.

This bee product was also documented in the Persian manuscripts as a remedy for various conditions, including eczema and rheumatism. Today, propolis is used in a wide variety of skin care products, including creams and extracts. It is also available as a supplement, with people taking it on a regular basis to boost their immune system function. 🐝

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Divisional meetings around the County

Meetings in August 2019

1 **20:00-22:00 - Harlow Show, Harlow Division**

Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 5EL

1 **20:00-22:00 - The Rose Method, Matt Broughton, Romford Division**

Address: Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 5EL

19 **19:30-21:00 - CBK Monthly Meeting, Chelmsford Division**

Address: The Link, Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford

25 & 26 **10:00-16:00 - Divisional Honey Competition at the Countess of Warwick's Show**

Little Easton Church, Manor and Rectory, Park Road, Little Easton, Great Dunmow, CM6 2JJ

25 **13:30-16:30 - Beekeeping Taster Session, Romford Division**

Thames Chase Forest Centre, Broadfields Farm Cottage, Pike Ln, Upminster RM14 3NS

Includes open hive demonstration, protective jacket and veil provided.

25 **15:00 - Apiary meeting and BBQ, Braintree Division (Telephone Jan French 07725-166609),**

Coney Green, Great Bardfield, CM7 4PV

28 **19:30-21:30 - Hyde Hall Past, Present & Future, Southend Division**

WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED

Meetings in September 2019

5 **20:00-22:00 - A-Rated Homes - Derek Mitchell, Harlow**

Address: tbc

7 **Essex Annual Honey Show, Orsett Show-ground**

14 **14:30-16:30 - Taster Session for Prospective Beginners, Saffron Walden Division**

Address: tbc

25 **19:30–21:30 -BeeBee Wraps
with Kath Austin, Saffron
Walden Division**

Address: Swards End Hall,
Radwinter Rd, CB10 2LG

29 **19:30–21:30 -Apiary
meeting, Farnbridge Hall,
White Notley, CM8 1RN
(Telephone Antony Stark
07769-681135), Braintree
Division**

Address: tbc



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Diet supplements in queen rearing

By Reigate Beekeepers, via eBees

When requeening a hive we know that for three days all larvae are fed Royal jelly but for any larva selected to become a queen this continues for the rest of their lives.

This improved nutrition helps in the development of the queen and therefore her long-term viability in the colony. In a study by De Souza et al 2019 they took this nutritional element a step further by testing the effects of providing additional sugars and juvenile hormone on 1-3 day old grafted larvae.

The virgin queens were measured and rated for their reproductive potential, and showed an improvement in quality when supplemented.

For 1st day larvae this improvement was most marked when fed both sugar-enriched diet as well as the juvenile hormone. For 3rd day larvae only the juvenile hormone affected the growth.

When measured again after mating, queens who were fed both the sugar-enriched diet and the juvenile hormone showed a higher sperm count and viability.

These results indicate that diet supplements can improve the quality of the queens during rearing. 🐝

Saffron Walden Beekeepers present:

EBKA Conference 2019:

The Changing Face of Beekeeping

SPEAKERS

Ged Marshall

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Dr Jonas Goldman

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Professor Steve Martin

University of Salford:

Our search to understand long term Varroa tolerance

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Will Messenger

The history of beekeeping and the history of the Porter Escape.

(There will also be an exhibition of artefacts on display in the Foyer.)

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Supporting the work of Bees Abroad

BBKA Exams 2019

By Steph Green, Exam Secretary

The next date for taking any of the written modules will be the 9th November 2019. The deadline for applications to be received by the BBKA is the 30th September.

Application forms and information can be found at: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/exams-and-assessments-of-the-bbka>

For more information please contact your EBKA Exam Secretary Steph Green at: examsec@ebka.org 🐝

Jars a Plenty!

By Michael Webb

A very big thank you to Jean and David Smye for organising the sale of honey jars again this year. After three months hard work, their efforts culminated in EBKA members arriving at Forest Lodge Turkey Farm or at the designated collection point for two days at the beginning of July to collect jars. Jean and David with two helpers in sorting the orders provide such an excellent and very economic service for members to enjoy. As well as saying thank you, we should also salute their dedication over many years working tirelessly for the benefit of our members. 🐝

Small hive beetle

By Barry Crabtree, Ipswich & East Suffolk, via eBees

Small hive beetle (SHB – *Aethina tumida*), a pest of honey bee colonies, is alien to the European Union and can cause significant damage to the beehive from destruction of combs to fermentation of honey and colony loss.

On 20 June 2019, 5 years after the first and only report of the presence of *Aethina tumida* in the Sicily region, an apiary was infested in the municipality of Lentini, in the province of Syracuse. The epidemiological investigation is still ongoing.

<https://www.izsvenezie.com/aethina-tumida-in-italy> 🐝

Stupid bees and CBPV

By Barry Crabtree, Ipswich & East Suffolk, via eBees

Prof Giles Budge from Newcastle University spoke about EARS3 and research into CBPV.

Chronic bee paralysis, the disease caused by chronic bee paralysis virus (CBPV), has become more common in England and Wales in recent years. CBPV is also on the rise worldwide with significant increases in the last few years in China, Italy and the USA.

There are some ‘giveaways’ for diagnosing chronic bee paralysis. Bees trembling/walking backwards & forwards (giving the moniker ‘stupid bees’), and bees that look dark/black, greasy and hairless (not to be confused with a bee covered in honey). If you see these in a colony it is a good bet it has CBPV, especially if there are larger than normal numbers of dead bees just outside the hive entrance. Bees that catch CBPV usually die within a week. Unfortunately, according to Prof. Budge, there is no recognised treatment for CBPV. You could try a shook swarm: shake them into the air though. Or replace the queen. Doing this may make you feel better, but there is no proof that it is making a difference.

What is known about CBPV is that it is transmitted between adult bees and hence drifting between colonies may be a contributing factor in disease spread.

We will be having updates from Prof Budge & Thodora Commandeur, the EARS3 PhD student who has recently started work focusing on the effect the bees’ diet may have on CBPV. 🐝