

The Essex Beekeeper

Issue 656

August 2019



In this issue

Bee Health Day

BBKA Exams 2019

Jars a Plenty!

Small hive beetle

Stupid bees and CBPV

Diet supplements in queen rearing

Propolis

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

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: Sewards 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



The widest range of
English language
bee books

The home of



"the quality quarterly with quarterly quality"

www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

Saffron Walden Beekeepers present:
EBKA Conference 2019:
The Changing Face of Beekeeping

SPEAKERS

<p>Ged Marshall <i>A year in the life of a professional beekeeper</i></p> <p><u>Kindly sponsored by:</u> R Andrews Glass Ltd www.andrewsglass.co.uk</p>	<p>Dr Jonas Geldman University of Cambridge <i>Does conserving honeybees help wildlife?</i></p> <p><u>Kindly sponsored by:</u> Hive Consultants www.hiveconsultants.co.uk</p>
<p>Professor Steve Martin University of Salford: <i>Our search to understand long term Varroa tolerance</i> <i>(Kindly sponsored by BJSheriff.co.uk)</i></p>	<p>Will Messenger <i>The history of beekeeping and the history of the Porter Escape.</i> <i>(There will also be an exhibition of artefacts on display in the Foyer.)</i></p>

Set within the beautiful grounds of Felsted School, lectures will be held in the Barbara Karen Auditorium

Quality Catering (all inclusive)
Vendor Stalls

Super raffle prizes
 including a bee suit and accessories bundle kindly donated by B J Sherriff



Sunday, 20 October 2019

Felsted School, Dunmow, CM6 3JL

Tickets available now (£25): www.swbka.org


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. 🐝

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. 🐝

PETER DALBY - PEBADALE APIARIES

For all your beekeeping and apitherapy supplies

Large Stock held - all year round

Competitive prices; any item not stocked to special order

37 Cecil Road, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN8 8TN

Tel: 01992 622645

Email: pebadalebees@btinternet.com

Open Mon - Sat Telephone before calling

(any reasonable time)

CLOSED SUNDAY

Agent for E H Thorne and Northern Bee Books

The Bee Shed

Approved National Bee Supplies Stockist and Distributor

A Range of Frames and Foundation

Hives and Hive Parts, Tools and Equipment

Open by Appointment: Please call Wendy on **07764 609 803** or

Email: beeshed@btinternet.com

f The Bee Shed Stock

Meepshole, Great Prestons Lane,

Stock, Essex CM4 9RL

EBKA Trustees

President Pat Allen, Hon CLM

Chair of CEC Jane Ridler

E: jane.ridler@uwclub.net

T: 01799 218023

Gen Secretary Tony Rand

E: secretary@ebka.org

Treasurer Paras Shah

E: treasurer@ebka.org

Braintree Bridget Mudd

E: bridget.mudd@yahoo.com

Chelmsford Jan Tutton

E: cec@chelmsfordbeekeepers.com

Colchester Tony Rand

E: tony@agewhatage.com

D.H. & Maldon Glenn Mayes

E: trustee@maldonbeekeepers.org.uk

Epping Forest Don McHale

E: donaldmchale@gmail.com

Harlow Nick Holmes

E: wwwcight@gmail.com

Romford Paul Wiltshire

E: paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

Saffron Walden Vanessa Wilkinson

E: swaldensec@ebka.org

Southend Vernon Amor

E: blueboys21@aol.com

EBKA Exams Secretary Steph Green

E: examsec@ebka.org

Regional Bee Inspectors

Epping Forest and Romford Divisions (excluding Brentwood)

Peter Folge

E: peter.folge@apha.gsi.gov.uk

T: 07775-119433

All other Divisions:

Keith Morgan

E: keith.morgan@apha.gsi.gov.uk

T: 01485-520838 or
07919-004215

The Essex Beekeeper Magazine & Web site

Editor: Robert Silver

E: robert.silver@outlook.com

T: 07956-487703

Advertising: Jean Smye

E: jsmye@sky.com

Mailing Secretary: Michael Elliott

E: michaelelliott55@sky.com

Web site: Nick Holmes

E: webmaster@ebka.org

Divisional Contacts

Braintree	Jan French	T: 07725 166 609
Chelmsford	Fiona Cutting	
Colchester	Morag Chase	T: 01206-522576
D.H. & Maldon	Carlie Mayes	T: 07979-862952
Harlow	Nick Holmes	T: 07730-735752
Epping Forest	Katy Langley	
Romford	Sue Richardson	T: 07971 957333
Saffron Walden	Vanessa Wilkinson	T: 07747 506000
Southend	Pat Holden	T: 01702-477592

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. 🐝

**Apivar**[®]
By Vétro-pharma

available in the UK
exclusively from

**THORNE**



- ✓ Kills up to 99% mites in one application
 - ✓ Easy to use and no temperature constraint
 - ✓ No resistance proven over 20 years of testing
 - ✓ Contains only two ingredients
 - ✓ Shelf life of 2 years
 - ✓ Can be used whilst feeding
 - ✓ Remove supers before use
- Only £31 to treat five hives



**THORNE**

Est. 1913

E H THORNE (*Beehives*) LTD
BEEHIVE BUSINESS PARK
RAND, Nr. WRAGBY
LINCOLNSHIRE, LN8 5NJ
Tel. +441673 858555

sales@thorne.co.uk www.thorne.co.uk

like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/E.H.Thorne or follow us on Twitter @ThorneBeehives
subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2BXpFns>