

1923 - 2019



Medway
Beekeepers
Association

Medway Beekeepers Association

Celebrating over 95 years of support for beekeeping
and beekeepers in and around the Medway Towns



Newsletter June 2019

Warmer weather is now here! The new season is now in full swing so keep checking for signs of congestion and don't forget to put on those supers when required. Wasps are now about so set traps where necessary.

Past Event:

Saturday 18th May 2019

MBKA Outdoor Meeting – Queen Marking

2 – 5pm Association Apiary Site



The weather was poor to start with but it brightened up after a while. We only managed to mark one queen at this meeting, because we had all of the hives to open and inspect - now five hives. The queen we did manage to mark was in hive number 1 which was a swarm that Jen had picked up.

David Hopper has donated one of his colonies as he is downsizing.

The colony was on a National brood box and we had to transfer all the combs into one of the Apiary's brood boxes. We placed this onto a ventilated floor. This enabled us to return David's brood box, floor and travelling screen.

As there were eleven frames of sealed brood and bees we decided to do a Bailey comb change. So, we placed another brood box on top of the original with a queen excluder between them.

Some of the novice beekeepers removed frames for inspection under the supervision of Bob and Mark. Hive number 5 was quite feisty and we decided that it would have to be re-queened in the near future. This hive has two nearly full supers and so another super was put on.

By the time we had inspected all colonies, we had no time to do any more queen marking. But a varied number of tasks had been performed and the session proved to be very productive.

Mark Ballard (photo courtesy of Elaine Laight)

Saturday 25th May 2019

Introduction to Beekeeping: Practical – Mating

11am Association Apiary Site



Again, the weather was a bit suspect to start but soon brightened up. As the meeting progressed the temperature got up to 23 C.

8 beginners turned up for the meeting. We split into two groups Bob and Sheila taking one and Mark and Jen the other. All the beginners were encouraged to open the hives, handle the frames and comment on what they saw in the frames.



Generally, the hives are expanding well. The hive donated by Dave Hopper has decided that it wants to swarm, so an artificial swarm was performed. The queen was found, marked and clipped and placed in a new brood box on the original site.

The parent colony was set up adjacent to the artificial swarm. This has now increased our stock to 7 hives.

Hive number five is still very sharp so Mark will replace the queen this coming week. We can use a queen which is from a docile colony in an Apidea. This hive also has two supers that will need extracting soon.

Mark Ballard (photos courtesy of Elaine Laight)



Beekeeper Achievements;

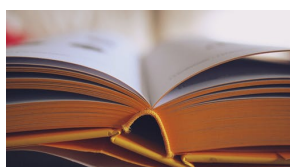
BBKA Written Examination March 2019:

In recent years, members of MBKA and other local associations have come together to increase their knowledge of various aspects of beekeeping, often aligned to one of the BBKA Module exams. The 2018/19 Winter Studies group looked at honey bee products and forage and about half the group elected to take BBKA Module 2 in March, with excellent results - Paul Akehurst (C), Sonia Belsey (C), Christine Dudley (D), Jennifer Ferry (D), Jane Howells, Elaine Laight (D), Archie McLellan (C), Veronica Owen (C), Susan Viner (C).

Sue Viner also passed her Module 1 exam and Mark Ballard completed the whole set by passing Module 8! He is awarded the Advanced Theory Certificate; very well done!

Bob Smith (Education officer)

Education Report:



Winter Studies Group 2019-20

Following on from a very successful Winter Studies Group in 2018 - 19, we are now planning the Winter Study Sessions for 2019 - 20.

In this year's Study Group, we will be looking at all aspects of bee health, bee disease and pests. The programme, created by Bob, will include all aspects of the BBKA Module 3 but the

sessions are aimed at all MBKA beekeepers wishing to increase their knowledge in this area, not just those planning to take the examination. Typically, about half the group will do this.

All BBKA members are welcome to join the Study Group, but the numbers will be limited to 18. This is dictated by the size of the room. So, please sign up early with me, particularly if you aim to sit the examination. These are participative not taught sessions, and although Bob & Mark will lead the group, we all need to contribute. As before, the study sessions will be held once a fortnight, for two hours, probably Monday evenings, 19.30 - 21.30, at Wainscott Memorial Hall starting in mid-October, the day and dates to be confirmed. If, having participated in the sessions, you wish to take the exam, this will be on 21 March 2020. As an indication, the course fee for the Winter Studies last year was £20 to cover the cost of the expenses and will probably be the same or close to this amount. The exam costs £30 to sit and will also be held at Wainscott.

If you would like to do the 'Preparation for Basic Exam' sessions this summer, there is a session scheduled for 3rd June 2019, again 2 hours 19.30 - 21.30 at Wainscott Memorial Hall, with the exam, which is a practical, later in June / July (tbc). If you would like to join this group, again please let me know – the preparation sessions are free but you will need to pay the BBKA £20 for the exam.

Finally, some of you are embarking on independent study for some BBKA modules. Could you please let either Bob or me know (preferably both) if you are planning to sit an exam or two on 9th November 2019 or March 21st 2020 with MBKA, so that we can make appropriate plans and book the hall.

Thank you

Jen Ferry

You may contact Jen on the following email: jen.ferry@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Beekeepers Bazaar:

Ray Cass is unfortunately giving up his beekeeping so has equipment for sale:

All equipment is National:

Mesh Floor 3 @ £15 each

Standard Brood Boxes 2 @ £20 each

Supers 2 @ £15 each

Crown Boards 3 @ £7 each

Roof (4" deep) 3 @ £20 each

Queen excluders: Plastic 1 @ £2.50; Metal slotted 2 @ £3 each

If you are interested please contact Ray on: **01634 404522**

Are you looking for a useful book to assist your studies?

Mai Monk is selling: 'Practical Beekeeping' by Clive de Bruyn. £15 (the condition is as new).

For collection please call Mai on: **01634 58164**

June's Events and Meetings:

Saturday 1st June 2019

Meeting: Asian Hornet – Report on the experiences of nest removal in France.

2pm Lenham Community Centre
Lenham, Kent

Saturday 15th June 2019

MBKA Outdoor Meeting

2 – 5pm Association Apiary Site

You can find the apiary at 215a City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TL

Wednesday 28th June 2019

Bee Chat

Come and share your stories and hear everyone else's!

4th Wednesday of the month at The Pier, Lower Upnor, ME2 4XA, at 7.30pm.

Future Events (One for your Diaries)

5th-7th July 2019

Kent County Show

Venue: Kent County Show Ground, Detling, Maidstone

For details of the Honey Show please look at April's Newsletter.

You can find a copy of this at www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/archive

European Foulbrood Alert:

Please be aware that Beebase is showing an outbreak of EFB in the Sittingbourne area. There have been eighteen colonies with EFB in Kent so far this year, in six apiaries, belonging to two beekeepers. The Sittingbourne area seems to be at the centre, this is the highest percentage of EFB in examined colonies, in the country. Beware and safeguard your own colonies with extra careful hygiene and swarm management.

Asian Hornet Update:



Visit: www.nationalbeeunit.com for the latest updates.

Facebook

Facebook enables us to reach members and the public quickly and provides a platform for interaction. Social media is becoming more and more a part of everyday life and a way of communication. Help us reach 100 followers- join our Facebook page for information, updates and events <https://www.facebook.com/medwaybka/>

And Finally:

A list of the meetings can also be viewed by going to: www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events

Thank you to all who have contributed to this month's edition and remember if anyone has any news, ideas, amusing stories or comments or indeed suggestions about the website or for any future newsletter, please get in touch with me, Paul Lawrence at the address shown below, we really do appreciate your input.

Contact Details:

Chairman

John Chapman
john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter and Website Enquiries

Paul Lawrence
paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk