

Barnsley Beekeepers Association

Meeting 2cd November 2020

Venue ... Wherever Home is
Meeting Started ... 7.00pm
No. Present ... 25 via ZOOM for BBKA Business
34 for Presentation by Buckfast Abbey
Apologies ... None received
Chairman ... Richard Senior

Chairman's Welcome

Previous minutes: - October 2020

These minutes were proposed accepted by Paul Kees, seconded by Ivor Flatman with no objections.

Matters Arising

Members were reminded that subs are now due.

Supplies of tamper proof labels, Ambrosia liquid and empty jerry cans are still available.

Richard is still formulating bulk purchase of fondant, contact him if you will require some in the near future.

Honey jars are likely to be in short supply in the near future.

Investigations are in hand with Ivor and Richard into the future supply of foundation of various sizes. Prices have yet to be determined but are likely to be substantially less than commercial sellers. Delivery may well be delayed due to Covid restrictions.

A lively discussion ensued on the advisability of bulk (IBC size (1,000 litres)) supply for members, initial layout cost could be high.

Training and courses

Following the successful zoom session held on Monday 19th Oct. another "Teach-in" is to be organised for Monday 16th at 7:00pm, the subject to be "Bee Biology"
Our web site shows all the other webinar courses and meets that are available to members.

Members Questionnaire

Thanks to members who have already completed the questionnaire. The results are now published on the members web site.

Apiary at Wentworth Castle

Eric and Colin visited the Apiary on 17th Oct when all Varroa strips were removed and the colonies settled down for winter (mouse guards fitted, stores checked etc) Of interest is the mouse guards that Eric has manufactured from redundant plastering corner strips and simply stapled into position, very effective.

The Nucleus, currently looked after at home by Colin, is in a confused state, last examination suggested a drone laying situation, but the bees are extremely content, despite wasp attacks. Eric suggests getting them through winter then reviewing the situation with a possible queen replacement in Spring.

Jobs in the Apiary

Remove any remaining Varroa strips. Check stores and feed if necessary. Mouse guards.

This period of the year is time to do all the general maintenance of hives and hive parts, cleaning, repair & re-painting and storage in sheds etc. It's also a good time to make up any new boxes frames and so on, but don't put any fresh wax into frames, it tends to deteriorate over time, leave that until time of use.

Next Meeting Programme

December meeting is traditionally a honey biased American supper type of event. That's been scuppered by Covid, but infant plans are afoot to continue with a zoom meet, examples of culinary skills with e-mailed recipe's, with visuals for our mutual, virtual, consumption.

Gary's famed Christmas Quiz will go ahead (Val said, so it must be right!!) with a clever set of "break out" groups forming teams on zoom. No, I don't know how it will work so another voyage into the unknown beckons.

Dec 7th Christmas Bash and quiz

Jan No Meeting

Feb 1st Celia Davis:- 'Nuc It'.

Mar 1st To be confirmed. Proposed Jim Pearson 'Myths and Legends'

Apr 5th To be confirmed, we're not going too far ahead in the circumstances.

Any Other Business

The meeting closed at approx. 7:40pm to make way for our speakers

Speaker

Speakers tonight are Martin Hann and Clare Densley, directly from Buckfast Abbey, via the courtesy of Aimee and her ZOOM account.

A History of Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey – Why was Br Adam a celebrity beekeeper? His work is put into a historical context and reassessed in the light of contemporary scientific research. A contemplative journey into the roots of beekeeping at the Abbey from medieval beginnings, through the rebuilding of the Abbey which began in 1882, to beekeeping in the early 1900's when Br Adam first became a member of the community. The creation of the "Buckfast bee", which made Br Adam famous, was a response to the country wide losses of colonies seemingly caused by the "Isle of Wight disease" first recognised in 1904, but it became a quest for something much more elusive. Is there such a thing as the perfect bee? The talk finishes with how the bee department operates now and why we no longer maintain Br Adams work.