



Coming Events and Winter Programme

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Dates have been set for our Winter Programme and will be detailed on the website soon, but in the meantime here are a few dates to keep open in your diary for the forthcoming events:

7th and 21st October 2009

4th and 18th November 2009

5th December 2009 - Social Night probably at Lindsay's

27th January 2010

10th and 24th January 2010

3rd and all following Wednesdays in March 2010.

Ayr Flower Show is of course the main event coming soon in August. Entries of honey from old hands and novices will be welcome, also wax moulds and photographs of bee related subjects. Beekeepers from Norway will be coming to the Flower Show to meet us; they have also expressed a desire to see our apiary. We don't have a fixed date for this, but it will be over the Flower Show weekend and we will be delighted to show them our bees and hope the Scottish weather behaves itself.

Our thanks again to Tony and Elizabeth for making this possible.

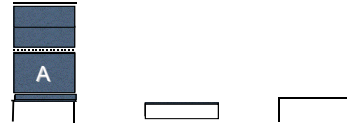


.Following requests from readers for diagrams to accompany his last Comment, Ian J. has issued a set of diagrams which can be found on the following pages. Many thanks to Ian for the time and effort put into producing them.

If you discover queen cells being built in the brood box you can usually prevent the loss of a swarm by doing the following artificial swarm measure



Lift off the roof and set it to the side inverted and place a second stand next to it



Lift off the supers and lay them across the upturned roof



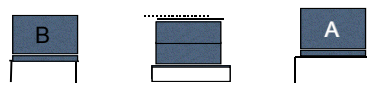
Lift off the brood box and place it on a new floor on the new stand



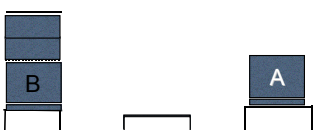
Place a new brood box (B) filled with drawn frames or frames of foundation or some of each, on the old stand -- remove the central comb and lay it to the side



Remove the queen excluder from box A and find the frame with the queen on it -- place this frame in the centre of box B after first removing any queen cells on the frame. Put the frame taken out of B in the end of box A after closing up the gap in the frames caused by the removal of the frame with the queen on it



Place the queen excluder on box B and set the supers back on top



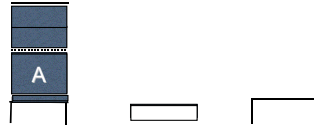
Replace the roof on B and add a crown board and roof to A



An alternative procedure requiring less equipment is as follows



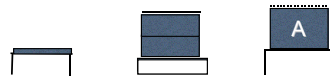
Lift off the roof and set it to the side inverted and place a second stand / roof next to it



Lift off the supers and lay them across the upturned roof as before

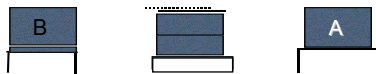
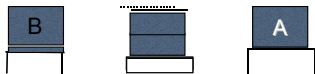


Lift off the brood box and place it on the new stand



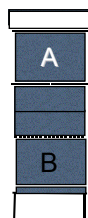
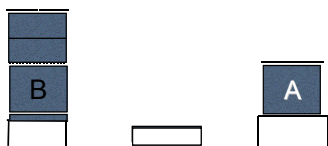
Place a new brood box (B) filled with drawn frames or frames of foundation or some of each, on the old stand -- remove the central comb and lay it to the side

Remove the queen excluder from box A and find the frame with the queen on it -- place this frame in the centre of box B after first removing any queen cells on the frame. Put the frame taken out of B in the end of box A after closing up the gap in the frames caused by the removal of the frame with the queen on it



Place the queen excluder on box B and set the supers back on top -- take the crown board off the supers and place it on A then place a Horsley board or equivalent, on top of the supers

Put box A with the brood and queen cells on top of the Horsley board and replace the roof



After 24 hours close off the access to the bottom boxes and open the rear door in the Horsley board so that the flying bees can return to the lower box via the front entrance. Newly emerged bees will use the top rear entrance as will the virgin queen. When she has emerged, been mated and starts laying, you have the choice of starting a new colony or killing the queen below and uniting the two boxes with newspaper. A simplified version of the Horsley board consists of a crown board with three eighths inches by inch beading round the edges on both sides. In the centre is a hole, say six inches by three inches covered by queen excluder. You require a piece of perforated zinc large enough to cover the queen excluder. In the top edge of the board you cut out a three inch piece of the beading in the shape of a wedge and fix it back in the gap so that it forms a hinged back door. After the bees have sorted themselves out in around 24 hours the perf. zinc is pinned over the queen excluder, and the rear entrance is opened.

Treasure Hunt and Barbecue

Saturday 27th June saw an excellent turnout for the barbecue and treasure hunt. The clues provided by JoyceM were great fun to work out as well as sufficiently taxing (but not too difficult to work out on a very warm day: a perfect balance). The winners were Jane and Mike, second placed Lindsay and family and third Tom and Margaret Palmer. Congratulations. Thanks to the chefs; I don't know who all contributed to the cooking but Phil looked great in his apron. Thanks also to Vicky and Ian for the delicious home made strawberry tarts made with home grown strawberries.

We must once again thank Tony and Elizabeth for allowing us to use their garden for the barbecue. A great day enjoyed by everyone, children included.

From the Herald:
Saturday June 27th 2009
By Alison Rowat

A Swarm of Bees at a bus-stop.

Honestly you wait for ages for one endangered insect and suddenly 10,000 arrive at once. Glasgow is a notoriously tough town, but no-one came at the creatures with a rolled-up newspaper. Instead, Weegies simply went about their business as the police and council got into a collective tizzy. With officialdom having no luck finding a bee-keeper - it was sheer luck that some local chap happened to be versed in the ways of bees and took care of the situation. The bees are now resting at an undisclosed location prior to getting their own council houses.

Tuesday July 14th 2009
By Sarah Morrison.

Alarming Decline of Honeybees

It is claimed that ministers have until recently taken little interest in the problem, it is claimed. The cross-party Public Accounts Committee wants DEFRA to ring-fence research spending on bee health and not allow it to be diluted by looking at other pollinating insects. Edward Leigh, Tory chairman on the committee, said he found it difficult to understand why Defra had taken so little interest in the problem. According to government figures, the number of honey bees has fallen by 10% to 15% in two years, but officials of the SBKA suggest that figures have been as high as 30% in some areas of Scotland.

“We have seen quite a decline in the last number of years,” said Phil McAnespie, vice-president. Mr. McAnespie said that while the government and Defra were promising around £10m to research pollinating insects, it was too little and too late. He said “They are trying to play catch-up but for many years we have suffered the consequences of mites and other factors.”

Mr. Leigh called for Defra to make a concerted effort to persuade beekeepers to register which would give the department much better information on the incidence of bee disease and enable it to deliver advice on bee husbandry much more effectively.

The Observer
21st June 2009
By Caroline Davies

Honeybees ordered off Council Allotment.

Honeybees have been evicted from an allotment in Huddersfield because the council has defined them as “livestock” IT consultant Jason Clegg has been ordered to remove five hives from his plot. He accused the council of contradicting its own environmental policies by not supporting what is rapidly becoming an endangered species.

Ayr and District Beekeepers Association

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Vice President Joyce Duncan 01290 550132

Secretary/Treasurer Lindsay Baillie 01292 570 659

www.ayrbeekeepers.co.uk

We love Honeybees



Grandparents - The new Eco-Warriors.

An Age Concern survey of 2,000 people found that the majority of pensioners consider themselves environmentally aware.

Mike Abrey-Bugg, Age Concern Energy Services Product Manager, said the older generation are the real eco warriors of society, caring more about the environment than any other age group. And as well as saving the planet, being green can also help save money - a priority for many when the credit crunch news dominates the headlines.

However altruism appears to be the overriding factor in the older generation's eagerness to be eco friendly.

More than 40% said what they do now for the planet will affect future generations.

Louise Gray The Telegraph 22.9.08.

Widespread outbreak of New Form of EFB in Scotland

Breaking News:

In early July 2009 disease in the apiaries of a commercial beekeeper in Perthshire was diagnosed as a variant of European Foulbrood (EFB). Around 5% of his colonies are infected and the beekeeper is pursuing a policy of burning all affected colonies. It is possible the disease is as yet unrecognised elsewhere and more widespread

The disease is hard to identify and the affected colonies have been thought until recently to be suffering from Parasitic Mite Syndrome. The beekeeper reporting these problems to the Scottish Government wishes to acknowledge the role of the local bee inspector in identifying the true nature of the infection.

Updates to this note will be published on the SBA website also look at the August Scottish Beekeeper. The Scottish Government is meeting with stakeholders next week to discuss how best to tackle this big threat to our bees.