



The Combings

www.ydbka.org.uk

Association News

Our Annual Honey Show was held at Murton on Wednesday 21st November 2007. The turnout was disappointingly low with only 61 exhibits in the show – this is the lowest number while I have been one of the organisers – the show tables were bare.

Nonetheless the standard of exhibits was high and was commented on by Judge Ivor Flatman. Sue Hesp won the Honey Show Cup once again with 25 points, followed by Alan Johnston with 18 points and in third place with 14 points was Jenny Smith. A new class was introduced this year for the Best Jar of Honey in Show. It was won by Pete Allanson with a jar of medium honey. John Fuller's Trophy for a Block of Wax over 1lb weight was won by Jenny Smith.

While the Honey Show was being held in one room, members gathered in the café next door. Sue Hesp laid on sandwiches and cakes, tea and coffee. There was a quiz and a raffle.

One possible reason for the poor turn out could be the England v Croatia football match at Wembley.

A Committee Meeting was held at Murton on Wednesday 31 October. Reading through the minutes two points are worthy of note:

1. Membership categories

Tom Robinson, Chris Robinson and Alan Johnston reported back to the Committee the results of their deliberations about membership categories.

It was agreed that it was necessary to broadly follow the BBKA and YBKA membership categories, but the Committee agreed some deletions and amalgamations of categories to simplify matters for both the membership and the Treasurer. Each of the remaining categories, where monies are paid to YBKA or BBKA, matches one of their categories.

As the proposed revisions require a change to the Constitution, it was agreed that the Treasurer and Secretary should prepare a document for distribution to the membership outlining the proposed changes. This

would allow an informed membership to discuss the matter at the Half-Year General meeting (provisionally April 2008) prior to membership renewal at the end of 2008.

2. Murton rent

The Secretary reported he had recently received a letter from Mr. Draper, Site Manager, Murton, detailing rental fees for YDBKA's room usage at Murton, starting 1 January 2008. averaging eg £50 – £60 per meeting and £180 for the Honey Show. The Chairman and Secretary had met with Mr. Draper to discuss the Association's concerns over the proposed changes, and Mr. Draper had then written again offering a flat-rate rental fee of £25 per meeting, instead of the current £200 annual "donation".

The Secretary recommended that the Committee accept this basic proposal, which they did. The Secretary undertook to reply to Mr. Draper and to negotiate further on events such as the Honey Show and the Auction.

The following have recently joined York Beekeepers, please make them welcome to our Association:

Natasha Caine
Ulla Valreth
Alan Scaife
Paul Ruxton
Colin McNichol

Here are some of the topics discussed at a committee Meeting held at Murton on Wednesday 6 February:

1. The Association will run a bus trip to Stoneleigh on Saturday 19 April. In the past we have had difficulty in getting enough bums on seats to cover the cost of the coach and having to invite other Associations to make ends meet.

2. This year the Committee have decided to subsidise the price of seats to Members. No firm prices are available yet. It is all down to you.

If you are interested, then call Rob Coleman on 01 904 762 532 and book your place.

Rob is also planning to run his Queen Rearing course again this year.

Last year Tom Robinson offered to purchase equipment for Members at a small discount. If you wish to take up Tom's offer then contact him.

Our Annual Auction will be held on Saturday 17 May at Murton. Tom Robinson will be the Officer in Charge this year.

Let me remind you that if you have any bees for sale, they must be inspected by the Seasonal Bee Officer and pronounced disease free in your own apiary before being brought to the Auction. Bees not so inspected will not be accepted.

Volunteers are wanted to man the pavilion at weekends at Murton during the summer – May, June, July and August. Either Saturday or Sunday to suit you.

Contact Secretary Alan Johnston with your dates.

We are also looking for volunteers to host apiary meetings for our summer programme. Again, contact Alan Johnston.

David Aston and I successfully entered 10 members for their BBKA Basic Exam last year. We plan to do the same again this year. If you are interested then contact David.

There will be a preliminary meeting to discuss what is involved, followed by a one to one meeting to go through the syllabus and do a dummy run.

Sue Hesp will be organising this year's "Introduction to Beekeeping" class. The first lesson will be held at Murton on Tuesday 6 May and will run for eight weeks on Tuesdays. The cost - £35.00. As usual it will consist of theory and practical sessions. If you know of any body interested then have them contact Sue.

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

There is an article in September 2007 issue of The Beekeepers Quarterly on pollen written by Ann Harman. I have always understood that surplus pollen is stored into cells, that it was packed down and a layer of honey put over it to preserve it.

In her article, Ann Harman states that "pollen undergoes a lactic acid fermentation which does not destroy the nutrients, but acts as a preservative. When the pollen in a cell has completed this fermentation, a layer of honey is then placed over it".

Our Honey Judge Ivor Flatman told me that he had

been made a Senior Honey Judge. Well done Ivor. Let me remind you about going to our apiaries. Tell your nearest and dearest where you are going and what time you anticipate returning home. If you have a mobile 'phone, have it on your person, fully charged and switched on ready for use in an emergency. Accidents by definition cannot be predicted.

Still on our apiaries, make a note of grid references of each of your sites, for they are often remote and possibly difficult to give any one directions to get there.

Also take your nearest and dearest to your sites occasionally so they are familiar with these locations.

With queens not getting mated properly and soon becoming drone layers due to the weather being so bad last summer, I suspect we will find colonies coming out of the winter with drone laying queens.

If you find this, then please let me know. I would also like to hear of your winter losses in general.

There was an article in the March 2007 edition of "The Beekeepers Quarterly" on pests and diseases. While on about AFB, the article states that AFB spores can remain viable for hundreds (plural) of years.

When I first came into beekeeping, I was taught that AFB spores could remain dormant for twenty years. This became fifty years and now hundreds of years.

WEARING GLOVES WHILE MANIPULATING YOUR BEES

When I first started keeping bees I was taught to wear leather gloves with gauntlets while manipulating bees as a protection against stings. It became the norm to get stung on my gloves every time I went into a hive. I have re-queened colonies accusing them of being bad tempered.

A couple of years ago I noticed beekeepers were wearing Marigold type gloves while handling bees. They are very thin so would give no protection from stings. I was working bees with Alan Johnston a short while ago. I was wearing my leather gloves and he was wearing marigold's. I was getting stung and he wasn't. It was then that the penny dropped – my gloves were giving off the sting pheromone from previous times. As soon as a hive was opened up – the bees got the scent and attacked. Even washing my gloves made little difference. I spoke to another beekeeper on the same subject – he put his leather gloves in the washing machine with his bee suit a -drastic measure, but the

result was the same – he got stung as soon as he opened a hive.

Since then I have used marigold gloves. I no longer get stung as before. Marigolds only keep your fingers free of propolis. You could then take things one stage further and use the thin latex gloves used by mechanics, they can be bought for about a fiver for a box of 100 and disposed of after use.

YOUR FIRST INSPECTION IN THE SPRING

This is the first time you will have looked at your bees for at least four months. You will know by hefting if they still have stores remaining – after that it is an educated guess as to what things are like inside by looking at bees flying in and out.

It is the time when you look for a laying queen, look for signs of foul brood and replace old black combs.

It is on the subject of old combs that I wish to dwell for a while. Replacing three or four combs every year is good practice. I suggest you go a stage further and replace ALL of them using the shook swarm.

REASONS

With the incidence of pyrethroid resistant varroa becoming wide spread, it will get rid of all varroa in capped cells, thus reducing the amount of varroa present in the colony.

The shook swarm is a method being increasingly used instead of chemicals, for the treatment of EFB. You will reduce the numbers of bacterium present and the possibility of an EFB out break later. Remember – three of our members have had EFB diagnosed in their apiaries. It will also reduce the risk of nosema, amoeba and chalk brood.

The use of chemicals to treat for varroa can build up residues in wax. Changing all your combs will give you a clean start.

METHOD

You start with a clean floor, brood box with clean frames and new foundation adjacent to the overwintered colony. You then shake all the bees from the overwintered colony in to your clean brood box. If you find the queen before shaking it will do no harm to cage her while you finish the manipulation – you know where she is then. (If she is not marked then you have an ideal opportunity to do so. Marked queens are much easier to find, should you need to do so later on. Also you can tell if supercedure has taken place).

Doing a shook swarm later in the year we are advised to put a queen excluder between the brood box and floor for a couple of days as there is a risk of the colony absconding. I think you can omit this with it being early in the season.

You now have a colony in a clean box and on clean frames – but no food. You MUST therefore FEED so your bees can draw comb for the queen start laying again.

The brood in the overwintered colony has to be sacrificed to get the best results from this manoeuvre – it always breaks my heart to do so. The earlier in the season that you carry out this procedure, the less brood you will lose.

Go back a week later and you will be surprised how much comb the bees have drawn out and how many eggs the queen has laid.

CHECKING FOR PYRETHROID RESISTANT VARROA

In your December edition of "Combings" on page 16 under "Past Events" – Wednesday 12th September when Selwyn Wilkins from CSL was our speaker. He told us that the small Apistan strips used with the CSL test kits would not be available when stocks ran out as the manufacturers had ceased trading. Future testing would have to be done using the Beltsville method. Below is how it is done.

This is a simple test, a variation of the USDA Beltsville Test, to check if Varroa mites are resistant to Apistan. Apistan resistant mites will almost inevitably be resistant to Bayvarol.

Cut a 9mm x 25mm piece from an Apistan strip and staple it to the centre of a piece of thin card about 75mm x 125mm in size.

- Place the card in a 500g (1lb) honey jar with the strip facing inwards.
- Prepare a 2- 3mm mesh cover to close the jar. Plastic greenhouse shading mesh is ideal. Cut a piece larger than the opening so that it can be folded back and secured using a strong elastic band.
- Shake adult bees from one or two brood combs into a container such as an upturned roof or washing up bowl. Gently scoop up bees with the jar until half full, approximately 150-200 bees. Make sure you do not include the queen in the sample.
- Place a sugar cube in the jar and seal off using the mesh. Store in the dark at room temperature with the mesh uppermost.

- After 24 hours hit the upturned jar with the palm of your hand over white paper. Repeat two more times to dislodge any mites. Count the mites knocked out.
- Immerse the bees in the jar in a solution of water and washing up liquid, about washing-up strength.
- Wash the dead bees to remove any remaining mites. Place the bees in a coarse kitchen sieve (not a flour sieve) that will hold bees but let varroa mites through. Secure a honey straining cloth or jelly bag under the sieve to retain mites. Place under a fast running cold tap or tap with shower fitting to wash any remaining mites off the bees. Count the number of mites washed off.
- If the total number of mites is less than 5 discard the results.
- Calculate the efficacy as a percentage. Multiply the number of mites knocked down by 100 and divide by the total number of mites, i.e. the number knocked down plus those washed off. If the answer is less than 50% it indicates that a resistance problem is likely. Repeat the test at least once more to double check since the method is not precise.

Please complete the Voluntary Varroa Resistance form WRT(I) and return it to The National Bee Unit, Room 10GAO1, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1 LZ. The form is available from (www.csl.gov.uk), Regional Bee Inspectors or from the NBU at the above address.

If you have any queries, please telephone the NBU on 01904 462510, or email: science@csl.gov.uk.

Editors note: The CSL method of doing this test tells us to put your sample of bees in the freezer to kill them, taking as long as four hours to do so. A slow death I think. To drown them in washing up water is very quick, with the bees being dead within

60 seconds. Those of you with the CSL test kits will still be able to use them, but must first seal up the slot in the bottom where the Apistan test strip was inserted.

Dr Eva Crane and York BKA

You will all be aware that Doctor Eva Crane died recently. She was the founder of what is now the International Bee Research Association. She had connections with Yorkshire for a number of years – she taught and lived in Sheffield. She also lived in Hull, and it was there that the IBRA had its first address.

There is a tenuous link between Eva Crane and York BKA. If you read the article in the December 2007 edition of "The Beekeepers Quarterly" written by Michael Badger, he mentions that Eva Crane's husband - who was in the navy during the war, was employed by a firm of ship brokers in Hull. This brought him into contact with Colin P Wadsworth who was a ship broker and ship owner in Goole.

Colin Wadsworth was Secretary of Ousedale BKA based in Goole in 1944 (he was seeking some one to take over his Secretarial job at that time). In 1959 he was in negotiations with senior members of York BKA which resulted in Ousedale BKA amalgamating with York BKA.

It is an interesting article that Michael Badger has written. He mentions many well known names in Yorkshire beekeeping.

I have another article written by him and that too makes interesting reading.

If you go back to "Combings" No 11 of June 2004, there is part of an article on Alf Race's "History of York BKA" where the amalgamation of Ousedale BKA with York BKA is mentioned.

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Large stock and very keen prices on all items.

Cedar National hive parts, frames (all in first and second quality), clothing, gloves, foundation, jars, spacers ,tools, smokers, medicines, straps etc. etc. all normally in stock and at below list prices.

Advice on the selection and use of beekeeping equipment always available.

Open every Saturday morning 0900 hrs to 1230 hrs April to October inclusive.

Beside the Harrogate Arms, past the RHS Harlow Carr Gardens, Crag Lane, Harrogate, HG3 1QA, or by arrangement.

A map showing our location is available at:

www.hrbka.org.uk

Another famous beekeeper died in January — Sir Edmund Hillary. His fame lies with the first conquest of Mount Everest in 1952, not with beekeeping although he was a commercial beekeeper.

EASI - STEAM FRAME CLEANER

I have the doubtful distinction of being the first to use one of our newly acquired Thorne's "Easi-steam". It is used to clean old wax and honey out of frames.

It started life as a wallpaper stripper (the stripping plate is still in the box). Thorne's have adapted it for melting old comb.

It consists of an electric boiler with three meters of hose which is connected by a gland nut to the centre of what looks like a hive roof. The roof is a snug fit over the top of the brood box or super of frames that you want cleaning up. The boxes of frames sit on a 3" wooden eke which in turn sits on one of your floor boards. Inside the floor is a 1/2" deep steel tray and in the tray is a mesh grid raised slightly off the tray.

To use the cleaner you put the tray in the floor, the eke on the floor, your box of frames on the eke and finally the roof with the attached hose on top. The hose is screwed into the boiler which is filled with water and finally you plug in the electric cable (also three meters long) and switch on.

After half an hour the boiler will be producing large quantities of steam. Leave for a further half hour before having a look. By then the old comb will have fallen out of the frame, or can be knocked out without any bother.

When all frames are free of comb, remove the box and frames, spread the debris evenly in the bottom tray, return the roof and leave for a further half hour before having a look. You may have to turn the debris over again to get the maximum amount of wax out of it.

With the boiler producing large amounts of steam, it is advisable to melt your combs in the open but because of electrical connections, to have the boiler inside. With three meters of flex and three meters of steam hose you have plenty of scope.

Thorne's warn that the heat will melt plastic runners — I found this to be true the first time I used it. I was using it in the middle of December when we had that cold spell and could do two 14 × 12 boxes in an afternoon.

A large tray under the spout is a must. You start by getting condensate, followed by honey before your wax start to melt. Some condensate is given off

throughout the whole process.

I used soft water in the boiler (because it was in a water butt nearby). I think it would be advantageous to use soft water to reduce the possibility of saponification.

Take care while using it. There is boiling water and some parts get hot.

While speaking of using Association equipment, let me remind you that the Association has three hand driven honey extractors for use by Members. One is held by Rob Coleman, another by Jenny Smith and the third by Sue Hesp.

The two Easi Steam will be held by Tom Robinson. If you wish to use one, then contact Tom.

Honey is better than children's cough syrups for a silent night ... David Rose

This piece appeared in "The Times" newspaper on Tuesday 4 December 2007. Usually after an article on honey is put into print, we often have an upturn in sales.

"Natural honey is a more effective remedy for children's coughs than over-the-counter medicines, researchers say. A dose of buckwheat honey before bedtime easily outperformed a cough suppressant in a US study.

Honey did a better job of reducing the severity and frequency of night time coughs. It also improved sleep quality for children and their parents.

Dextromethorphan (DM), the active ingredient in many cough mixtures sold in chemists and supermarkets had no significant impact on symptoms. Honey has been used in medicine for centuries, not only to treat coughs and bronchitis but also to assist the healing of wounds. For, coughs it is often mixed with lemon, ginger or brandy.

Ian Paul, who led the researchers from Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pennsylvania, said: "We hope that medical professionals will consider the positive potential of honey as a treatment given the lack of proven efficacy, expense, and potential for adverse effects associated with the use of DM." DM can cause severe involuntary muscle contractions and spasms, the researchers said. Cases of teenagers using the drug to get "high" were also common, they said.

Dr Paul's team observed 105 children and, teenagers with respiratory tract infections. The study ran over two nights. On the first, none of the participants was given any, treatment. On the second, they were divided into

groups who received either honey, an artificial honey-flavoured DM medicine or no treatment, about, half an hour before bedtime.

Parents answered questions about their child's symptoms and sleep quality, as well as their own ability to sleep. They rated honey as significantly better for the relief of symptoms: The findings are reported to day in the journal *Archives of Paediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.*"

The Food Standards Agency says that honey should not be fed to children under the age of one due to the risk of the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum*.

Editors note:- Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum sagittatum*) thought to have originated in China, is grown extensively as a grain crop in many parts of the world. It is essentially a crop for light land and does not thrive on heavy clay soils. Not seen much in the UK apart from East Anglia.

Buckwheat honey is dark colour and of strong flavour.

If you want more information on buck wheat, then read "Plants and Beekeeping by F.N.Howes.

I have mentioned in the past that I get from the East Riding Trading Standards their news letter "Food Focus". Their Winter 2007 edition has two articles of some interest to us as beekeepers. They are both self explanatory

Specified Quantities Revision

For those food operators used to packing in prescribed quantities then you will be happy the EU is looking to harmonise the Weights and Measures law across Europe when it deregulates the provision to place specified quantities on many food products. The burden of packaging pre-packaged food will be lifted when out dated restrictions currently in place to apply specific quantities on food are relaxed, giving food operators greater flexibility to select their own pack sizes. From April 2009 food operators will be able to pack their food to a size suitable to their consumer demands. With the exemption of wine and spirits where new measures will apply, the new Directive (2007 / 45 / EC) revokes the existing UK rules on specified quantities brought in place by the Weights and Measures (Misc. Food) Order 1988.

Flexibility exists for the UK Government to retain its own national restrictions on butter, milk, coffee, sugar and dried pasta however other food stuffs will be free to be packed in any quantity including flour, tea, potatoes, salt, jam, chocolate and biscuits.

Whilst the new requirements are not in place for food packers until 2009, any packer placing a product on

the market or thinking of doing so after Christmas this year can call their local Weights and Measures Inspector in the Food Standards Team for future advice. This is good news for packers of products like jam and honey who have historically been restricted to declaring on their pre-packed jars at retail in fixed (imperial) quantities (57g, 115g, 227g, 340g, 454g, 680g or multiples of 454g). Please seek clarification from your Local Authority Weights and Measures Inspector.

Ian Reader, Senior Trading Standards Officer, Tel: 01 482 396 225, email: ian.reader@eastriding.gov.uk

Mike Marshall took his grand daughter to see the new bee film. She enjoyed it but Mike has a more jaundiced view

As a minor player and amateur participant in our fascinating and worthy pursuit, deemed by many uninitiated as foolhardy if not reckless in the extreme, to maintain and actively encourage the breeding and subsequent procreation of our friends the Honey Bee.

May I recommend all to visit your local cinema complex to experience the undoubted delight and educational effect this aptly titled "B" movie will engender? With some trepidation, may I respectfully suggest, some of our more dedicated sanctimonious or just grumpy old association members will possibly condemn the makers, DreamWorks, of inaccuracies beyond belief. No doubt exclaiming with stinging rebuke that the makers should as a matter of intellectual accuracy have sought the expert advise of at least the BBKA or possibly a greater seat of knowledge YDBKA.

Surprisingly very little mention or insight was made of our most important participant "Her Royal Highness". But thankfully it was most noticeable that the *equal rights movement* so beloved by our ladies, had, as I have predicted for many years eventually recognized that we guys deserve to have many of those rights returned to enable us to fulfil our responsibilities in life. The film depicts this future utopian society superbly. As it is the drones that are the hard working and dedicated "pollen jocks". Free to travel the world sourcing the raw materials to enable the others, presumably ladies, to manipulate, in factory conditions the aim of all the population of the hive, to manufacture honey.

If my bees are living in such opulent conditions depicted in this film. I for one will endeavour, if it is deemed appropriate, to be reincarnated as a handsome, virile, stinging pollen jock.

The social standing of these long-lived leaders is patently obvious in the film. Although it is graphically obvious that their discovery that humans are

systemically stealing their production quotas for sale to supermarkets. Who would dream of such a thing! No mention of imports mind you. Like Chinese goods, the workers of foreign lands are being down-trodden with the sole aim of profits. Would we do that?

If you can accept the inaccuracies you will most certainly benefit from this experience. You don't have to take a child with you although I did. My granddaughter in all innocence thought it was technically true to life. She envisaged those boxes at the bottom of the garden were buzzing with activity. But please enjoy the spectacle of bees talking and reasoning amongst themselves. It begs the question "do they talk to each other". Are we seen as thieves, profiteers and marriage guidance manipulators? Or just "net encased" removal men who voyeur the activities of their Queen and shuffle the furniture around unnecessarily.

Lets get scientific! Honey, I'm Bendy

Question: Why does a slice of bread spread with honey gradually become concave?

Answer: Those of you who eat their honeyed bread in a more leisurely fashion, there is a simple explanation. Bread is approximately 40% water while honey is a strong solution containing approximately 80% sugar. This means that moisture is drawn out of the bread and into the honey by osmosis. Removing the water makes the bread shrink, but only on the side exposed to the honey. This causes the bread to become concave. This is less likely to happen, of course, if you butter your bread before spreading the honey. Butter forms a water impermeable layer that protects the bread from dehydration by the honey.

Peter Bursayn Barrie, Ontario New Scientist Magazine

WHAT YOU ALL WANTED TO KNOW!

The earliest recorded swarm was on 23 March 1886, and the latest on 12 December 1894.

PAST EVENTS

Wednesday 21st November

This was the evening of our Annual Honey Show and was held at Murton.

Wednesday 16th January

The speaker for our first meeting of the year was John Chandler from Harrogate. His topic – "Candle Making". Those of you that did not come missed a

first class demonstration by a man that has won many prizes at the National Honey Show. His main claim to fame was producing a beeswax candle some 2½" in diameter by 3 ft long a few years ago. He cooled it with water – slowly reducing the temperature over a period. He deserved a prize for his plumbing as well as producing such a large candle.

John's talk took us through the composition of wax. The density of wax – 0.959 to 0.975, which means it will just float. Put a block of wax in water – if it sinks it has been adulterated – if it floats high it has also been adulterated.

Melting wax – you have no control over solar extractors, when working they over heat the wax turning it a characteristic khaki colour. He reckons the best way is to use a steam wax extractor – they do not over heat the wax.

He makes his own silicon rubber moulds. The bought ones have a seam down one side which usually leaves a mark on your candle – alright for use but no good for showing- the mark is not so noticeable on ornate candles.

He recommends using square braided wicks for beeswax candles.

Editor's note :- Steam extractors work well. Put your wax onto a pair of old tights. Use outside as they produce a lot of steam. Thorne's have two in their catalogue – the cheapest one is £222. Perhaps the Association should have one for its Members.

Wednesday 6th February

Your Committee met at Murton. The salient points discussed have been mentioned earlier.

FOR SALE

HONEY JARS and AMBROSIA

Colin Hattee has 1lb squat honey jars for sale. Priced at £17.50 per half gross including lids. Lids on there own are £6.00 per half gross. Colin is now doing 340 gram/12oz hexagonal jars – these come in boxes of 84. For a box of 84 with lids the price is £21.50. 84 lids on there own is £5.00. 14 lb tubs of Ambrosia are also available at the special price of £13.00 per tub.

Colin will bring your order to meetings or you can collect them from Colin's home by prior arrangement.

HIVE STANDS

Tired of always ending up with backache every time you go through your hives , do you have to do your beekeeping on your knees? Then no more, for I have the solution. Purchase one of our purpose made hive stands capable of carrying two or three hives, made of light weigh metal fully galvanised, strong and robust, will last you a life time and find out the pleasures of easy hive manipulation all for the modest cost of £45. Enquiries to Bob Hirst email pamandbob@btinternet.com

HONEY BUCKETS

Steve Hudson has new 30lb honey buckets with sealed lids for sale. £2.00 each. Contact Steve for further information.

QUEENS

Bill Spence of South Riding BKA will have good quality black queens that are quiet, tried and tested and four frame nuc's in good quality boxes available

for sale from early June. Queens are £20.00 each. NUC's POA. If you are interested, then contact Bill. He is a member of the "Black Bee Brigade".

SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS

SN1's. scraped clean of wax and propolis and dipped in a boiling caustic solution. Price £4.00 for ten. Also national galvanised castellated spacers – 9 and 11 slot. Price £4.00 for five pairs. Please contact John Fuller for further information.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 8th March

Yorkshire BKA Spring Conference will be held at the Buckles Inn, on the A64 near Askham Bryan, York. Starting at 10.00. The principal speaker will be Michael Young, The President of Northern Ireland Beekeepers Association. The title of his lecture is "The Africanised bee and its effect on beekeeping in the USA"

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Steve Hudson has new 30lb honey buckets with sealed lids for sale. £2.00 each. Contact Steve via the Secretary.

HONEY JARS

We are a wholesaler and distributor of jars and bottles, based in Lincolnshire. We would be more than happy to quote for the Honey Jars and Caps that you use. If you would like a price list e-mailing to you, just let me know.

Please contact Mark Schofield, Patteson's Glass:

mark@jarsandbottles.co.uk

Wednesday 19 March 1930 at Murton

Dr David Aston is to be our speaker this evening – his topic “Making up for winter losses”. Given the increasing need for strong colonies headed by new queens, a chance to hear David’s own queen rearing techniques is not to be missed..

Saturday 5 April (Lincoln Auction)

The first of this year’s auctions will be the Lincoln District sale held at the Lincolnshire County Showground, Scampton. (The showground is on the A15 some five miles before Lincoln). The sale to commence at 1100 hrs. Bees for sale will be accepted on Saturday morning before 1000 hrs, equipment from 1500 hrs `till 1900 hrs on Friday 4 April.

For more information contact Alan Campion, email: campion133@btinternet.com.

The Lincoln auction is held undercover in a big shed, so weather is not a problem.

Sunday 13 April

Beverley BKA’s Auction will be held at Woodmansey Village Hall. Viewing from 1100 hrs, auction starts at 1200 noon. Woodmansey is some four miles south of Beverley on the A1174 Beverley to Hull road. Further information can be got from Secretary Lester Quayle.

Saturday 19 April

The British Beekeepers Association’s Spring Convention will be held at Stoneleigh. Just about every equipment supplier in the land plus some from overseas will be there. It is an ideal opportunity to see what equipment is available.

Pre booked tickets to BBKA Members are £12.50 – must be booked before 5 April. On the day £15.00 to members on production of your Membership Card.

At the time of writing (mid February) it is anticipated the Your BKA will run a subsidised bus trip for members. Contact Rob Coleman for further details.

Wednesday 16 April 1930 hrs at Murton

Dr Richard Baker of CSL will speak on how climate change is affecting beekeeping.

Thursday 24—Sunday 17 April

North of England Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show at the Great Yorkshire Show Ground, Harrogate.

Saturday 26 April

Yorkshire BKA’s 50th Conference will be held at Bishop Burton College, Beverley. (On the A 1079 a few miles on the York side of Beverley). Guest Lecturers will be Graham Royle NDB, Murray Read from New Zealand and Pam Hunter. The cost is £20.00 per head with lunch or £15.00 per head without lunch. Contact Dudley Gue for further information.

Saturday 17 May (York Auction, Murton)

Our 9th Annual Auction will be held at Murton. Bees for sale will be accepted between 1800 hrs and 2000 hrs on the evening of Friday 16 May. Equipment for sale will be accepted from 0900 hrs on the day, viewing from 1100 hrs and the auction will commence at noon.

Further details from Association Secretary Alan Johnston email: sec_YDBKA@hotmail.co.uk or Tom Robinson.

June

The National Trust is having another “Balsam Bash” at Hardcastle Crag – “to remove the invasive Himalayan Balsam from the Crag”.

No dates or venues are given so I suspect they will be having more than one bash. It could be a nice day out for the walkers among you – but don’t tell them you are a beekeeper and you love the stuff because you get a good late honey crop off it!

Saturday 14 June

The committee of Yorkshire BKA are to arrange the 2008 Field Day on at the Normanby Pavilion on the Great Yorkshire Show Ground. This will commence at 09.30 hrs and there will be refreshments, Bee Microscopy, talks in honey production and Food Safety, Cleaning equipment and Colony Hygiene as well as supplies and sales. More information with prices later.

Wednesday 18/Thursday 19 June

Lincolnshire Show at the Lincolnshire Showground on the A15 a few miles before you get to Lincoln.

Tuesday 8/Wednesday 9 & Thursday 10 July

Great Yorkshire Show will be held at the Harrogate Showground.

Saturday 26th April

Yorkshire BKA's 50th Conference will be held at Bishop Burton College, Beverley. (On the A 1079 a few miles on the York side of Beverley). Guest Lecturers will be Graham Royle NDB, Murray Read from New Zealand and Pam Hunter. The cost :- £20.00 per head with lunch or £15.00 per head without lunch. Contact Dudley Gue, 87 grove Park, Beverley, HU17 9JU. `phone 01 482 881 288.

Saturday 17th May. York Auction, Murton

Our 9th Annual will be held at Murton. Bees for sale will be accepted between 18.00 and 20.00 on the evening of Friday 16th May. Equipment for sale will be accepted from 09.00 on the day, viewing from 11.00 and the auction will commence at noon.

Further details from Association Secretary Alan Johnston on 01 757 633 202, or [e.mail sec_YDBKA@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sec_YDBKA@hotmail.co.uk). or Tom Robinson on 01 904 626 170

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If you are interested then ring 01 422 844 518.

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Lincolnshire Show at the Lincolnshire Show Ground on the A15 a few miles before you get to Lincoln.

Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th + Thursday 10th July

Great Yorkshire Show will be held at the Harrogate Showground.

Wednesday 16th July

Driffield Show.

Wednesday 23rd to Sunday 27th July

Tatton Park RHS Flower Show.

Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th + Monday 25th August. (Bank Holiday Weekend)

Cawood's annual Craft Fair. Barkston Ash BKA will be in attendance there.

Friday 12th September to Sunday 14th September

Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th October

National Honey Show. This is held at the Royal Air force Museum at Hendon, just to the north of London.

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