Dear All,

As we are approaching the end of the year I have been reflecting on the past few months, how much we have achieved and how much still needs to be done…

I think we all should be very happy about the increasing number of our members taking the basic courses in beekeeping as well as the more advanced modules. Congratulations to all and thank you to those who are always ready to help and support and give their time freely to less experienced colleagues.

We have just had our Best Ever Honey Show and you can find a full report published by Peter Darley on our website - http://www.bads-bka.org/whats-on/annual-honey-show/

The Show went wonderfully well and far exceeded all expectations, due entirely to a small team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it such a success. Alison Chopping, Deb Edlund, Jean and Alan McLucas, David and Alla Neal, Rachel Stevens and not to forget our great judges, Margaret Davies and John Bunting, THANK YOU!

But it was Honey Lovell assisted by her husband Graham and David Neal providing man-power who planned, organized and carried out the whole project to the end. Thank you Honey for all your hard work and dedication.

Unfortunately, there is not much place here to name the winners and runners-up in all categories, so congratulations to all but a special acclaim to Jean McLucas for the most points in the show and Fred Sedgeley in the Novice category. Thank you to all participants and well done All.

With best wishes,
Elizabeth El-Dars

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**OUR APIARY HIGH MEAD**

Another season has come to an end. All seven colonies were successfully treated with MAQ strips early in August. Over a two month period starting towards the end of August and finishing mid-October some 61 kgs of sugar was given to the bees. This is slightly less than usual because most of the colonies began putting a good deal of the heather honey collected around their brood-nest. (Do these early preparations indicate a cold winter ahead?)

We managed to take a small crop of honey both floral and heather that High Mead Farm is pleased to be selling in their farm-shop. If anyone wants to buy honey from the Association please contact me.

Next season we are going to try running a colony on two brood-boxes as primarily a method of swarm control. We shall also be trying out a method of Varroa control using an artificial swarm. I am sure other things will be tried and I hope more members come and enjoy the High Mead apiary next year.

David Aldersey, High Mead Apiary Manager

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**BADS-BKA CONVENTION- Sat, Feb 25, 2017**

Speakers:
Ron Hoskins, John Hendrie, Norman Carreck, Roger Patterson

For any enquiries please contact: Alla Neal, lapa11@hotmail.com, 07900805355

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**Bees, neonicotinoids and the EU**

An Interesting article to read— https://fullfact.org/europe/bees-neonicotinoids-and-eu/

Sent to us by Sarah Atkins

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**MODULE 3 Study Group**

Our autumn study-group for Module 3 has now started. We have ten members (the maximum size of the group) attending it which is very encouraging and hopefully quite a few of them will go on to sit the exam next year.

Whilst on the subject of education, the dates for the Basic Certificate Course are now published on our web-site. I hope all our members who have bees but who have not yet obtained the certificate will seek to attend the course, take the test and profit fully from all that the association has to offer. Go on have a go, the exam is purely practical and very easy, but gives you lots more confidence when dealing with your bees. I hope to hear from you soon.

Helga Aldersey, Education Co-ordinator

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**Student’s Feedback—**

Helga Aldersey and Kelly Smith have recently started a series of study evenings, attended by ten BADS members, all intending to take the BBKA’s exam on Honey bee Diseases, Pests & Poisoning next March. All the “students” have passed their BBKA Basic Assessment and a few of us have taken a module exam before. Learning to write with pen and paper is a skill in itself these days! The group is interactive, learning from one another, and sharing discoveries such as particularly good articles, or websites. If the first evening was anything to go by, we’ve got a lively few months ahead of us, and hopefully we’re all heading for a BEE+

Emma Fisher
Our Winter meetings
at West Parley Hall at 7:30pm

6th Dec    Queen rearing –
Kevin Pope
Christmas plate supper

21st Feb    Queen rearing –
Bob Menz

21st Mar    Anaphylaxis –
Dr Chin

18th Apr    Swarms, swarms, 
swarms: the how and why –
Pam Hunter

If you missed a lecture the link to Peter’s Darley reviews is here:

OUR APIARY DUDSBURY

We have 9 association Hives at Dudsbury these were made up from 3 original hives and 6 swarms actually there were 8 swarms but some I united to make stronger colony’s to take through the winter. They were all treated in Early September for Varroa and have been feed. I will also start from this month adding a kilo pack of fondant to each hive. All were strong on the last inspection and all hives had new Queens in 2016 all were marked.

I have not removed any honey from the hives this year and just rotated any supers to below the brood box for the Bees to have good stores, and come through the winter strong into next year. We will plan to have a maximum now of 12 colonies in Dudsbury these will be broken down into honey production hives, and Queen rearing / training hives. I have chosen the Horsley style of queen rearing as a simple but very effective way of raising queens that anyone can do themselves in their own apiary.

Bob Menz, Dudsbury Apiary Manager

BIBBA Conference at Isle of Man

The Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) 2016 conference was held on September 20th - 22nd at the Villa Marina, Douglas on the Isle of Mann. BIBBA exists for the conservation, reintroduction, study, selection and improvement of native or near-native honeybees of Britain and Ireland. Alla and I decided to have a short holiday plus attend the first 2 days of the event.

I’ve never been to the Isle of Man before but really enjoyed the visit. The weather was pretty good for the time of year with long periods of sunshine. If you have never been to the Isle of Man I would definitely recommend a visit as it is quite a cute place. From the money raised during the lecture we held at Parley Hall by Roger Patterson this year, BADS are listed as the sponsor of one lecture by Roger.

Three of the lectures that stick in my mind were ones I attended by Tony Maggs about his experiences as a bee farmer, Dorian Pritchard about how to detect inbreeding and one by Randy Oliver about dealing with varroa. Tony Maggs described how he had started beekeeping and slowly moved towards being a bee farmer by primarily increasing his number of out apiaries and having a shop. I guess the only contentious issue that came up was some bee farmer's imports of bees from Italy at which we were all a little horrified. The prime thrust of Dorian's lecture was that an increase of the number of diploid drones is a sign of inbreeding. Randy is a very entertaining lecturer and gave very good insights about assessing the varroa load of a colony and how this relates to a colony surviving the winter. We had a nice evening at the conference dinner on Wednesday night meeting Isle of Man beekeepers who obviously have it easy with no varroa to contend with!

Alla Neal, Membership Secretary

National Honey Show—27,28,29 Oct 2016

This year the NHS was at a new location but as usual offered a very good choice of lectures and workshops. Many bee-keeping suppliers had their stands in the Trade Hall and, of course, I couldn't resist some bee-shopping...

This year I was stewarding plus I attended a Candle Making workshop. I have never made candles before. The first 3 candles I made were — rolled, moulded and dipped. It is interesting to note that bee-keepers value a good dipped candle much more than any other as they know that this is the hardest and the most time-consuming type to make but the general public prefer rolled and moulded. As patience is not something I have much of (you don't say - Dave), I think that the dipped candle probably was my first and last one ever but I loved using silicone moulds — so easy and fun to use! If anyone would like BADS-BKA to organise a Candle Making Workshop please contact Helga..

Alla Neal, Membership Secretary
**MEMBERS TIPS**

**Robbing screen**

We have, over the course of this season been reduced from a high of six colonies to two. The remaining two are being seriously depleted by wasps. Although some nests have been destroyed, there is at least one that cannot be found. It is heart-breaking watching the stripy devils flying in and out virtually unchallenged.

A search of the Internet has revealed devices called robbing screens. These are frames that cover the entrance with a mesh front with a new entrance at the top. Fitted late at night, they work by excluding wasps, and robbing bees, following their noses but not the official residents as they know the way in as they left by it that morning.

Not wanting to purchase them from New Zealand, which may not be suitable for Nationals, nor wanting to make one due to the urgency, we noticed a solution.

Spare mesh floors can do almost the same job. After aligning stand, floor and brood box, the spare floors can be strapped to the hives vertically; sitting on the ground with the entrance at the top against the hive. An entrance block can then be fitted if necessary. It seems to work quite well.

One flaw is that there is still a space to get through by flying under the existing floor and up between the spare mesh floor and the existing floor below the entrance. However, a suitable tight fitting piece of wood can easily rectify this.

Dr Steve Parlour

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**OBITUARY**

Christopher Ian McPherson Cox, 1952 - 2016

Christopher Ian McPherson Cox, known as Ian, was a member of Bournemouth Bee Keepers from the 1980s until he became allergic to bee stings and had to give up the craft. He was Chairman from 1995 to 1997 and his name is still on the Chair’s ribbon worn today.

Ian was always a pleasure to chat to or work with. He was particularly involved with the August Bank Holiday Honey Show that was held at Haskins Nurseries in Ham Lane, bringing in a trailer load of tables and with the continuous flow of the public there was never a dull moment. His funeral at Bournemouth Crematorium on Monday 17th October was a celebration of Ian’s life. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Paul Mann, Previous BADS Chair.

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**BOOK TO READ**

*Healthy Bees are Happy Bees* by Pam Gregory

“The disease topic is always relegated to the back of the book... when talks are given on this subject only the dedicated few turn up.

It’s never going to happen to “our“ bees after all, is it...” writes Pam Gregory, author of an excellent book, *Healthy Bees are Happy Bees.*

I discovered it while considering studying the BBKA’s Module 3 syllabus (Honey bee Pests, Diseases & Poisoning), but you don’t need to be studying to enjoy reading this book. Kevin Pope, our SBI, tells us that we must inspect our brood for signs of disease at least twice during the active season. Reading this book, you’ll see the brood with fresh eyes. Full of clear photographs and descriptions, I think it’s essential reading for anyone who takes the health of their bees seriously. With a simple yet direct writing-style you’ll want to know more about these fascinating little creatures and how to help them survive and flourish. I highly recommend it.

Emma Fisher, Treasurer

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Our Website: [http://www.bads-bka.org/](http://www.bads-bka.org/)

Find us on:

For comments and feedback please e-mail to: [secretary@bads-bka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bads-bka.org.uk)