

BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET SOUTH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

March 2019



Chairman's Notes

Thanks to everyone who attended this years' AGM on Tuesday 15th January at West Parley. We had around 40 attendees. Her tenure at an end, Elizabeth El-Dars sadly stepped down as Chairman. Helga Aldersey retired as Vice Chair / Education Co-ordinator, as did Carole Davies as Speaker Secretary. I would like to thank them all for the considerable time and effort they have given to the Association, and from which we have all benefited.

I would also like to thank those who have stepped forward to fill the Committee vacancies. We've already had our first productive meeting, and have started planning education, events and tasks for the year ahead.

As I write this, we stand at the start of a new year of beekeeping and currently we have a surprisingly warm spell with the bees very busy. We should not be complacent though and think that winter is over. We are perhaps not out of the woods... Remember the Beast from last year? Don't neglect your "winter" beekeeping duties just yet. I am probably being overly concerned about it because this year in Punxsutawney from Gobbler's Knob, Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring...Fantastic!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or suggestions. Have a great beekeeping year all.

Best wishes,

Dave Neal



Basic Assessment Course

This study group aims to help students prepare for the oral and practical assessment which takes between 1 and 1 ½ hours. It will consist of 6 theory sessions. In addition, by request, we will provide one practical 1:1 session, followed by a complete practice-run of the exam, on all parts of the syllabus. The theory classes will be led by Paul Mann, our Education Officer.

The BBKA states that the assessment can only be taken if you have kept your own bees for at least 12 months. The basic syllabus covers the knowledge you should have accumulated in that time. If you feel your knowledge is lacking, please attend the Study Group and fill in those gaps; you may be pleasantly surprised at how much you do actually know and there is always support from Association members.

The syllabus is reviewed periodically, so please ensure you have the latest version (January 2019). This and some other useful articles are available from the BBKA website:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?DMF=0d1879b0-777b-4677-9751-9d036c3e7c51>

Venue (if fewer than 10 students): **3 Lord Close, Canford Heath, Poole, BH17 8QW**
Venue (if 10 or more students): **High Mead Farm Ham Lane (B3073) Longham, Wimborne, BH22 9DR**

All 6 sessions are on Thursdays, 19:30 – 21:30.
Dates: 16th, 23rd, 30th May + 6th, 13th, 20th June

To book, please contact Alla Neal:
membership@bads-bka.org

The cost of the course for each adult is **£30.00**

Payment Instructions

Cheque: Please make your cheque payable to "BADS BKA" and send to:

Mrs Alla Neal, 28 Berkeley Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HZ



Online banking (BACS):
"Bournemouth & Dorset South Beekeepers' Association "

Sort Code: **30 93 25**
Account number: **00782758**
Reference: "**Basic**"

Wanna Swarm?

As I write, it's cold and wet outside. It's hard to imagine that the new beekeeping season is only a few weeks away now. Any BADS members interested in increasing their hive numbers early in the season are welcome to contact our stalwart Swarm Co-ordinator, Peter Darley. As usual, it's "first come - first served":

peterdarley42@gmail.com

The cost is just £35 per swarm – what a bargain – but you must ideally be ready to receive it, which means getting organised early. You must also be prepared to put in the time and effort to care for your new bees, which – as everyone knows – is a labour of love at times, particularly when our bees don't read the same books as us!

Beginners Course 2019:

Theory and Practical Beekeeping

Location: High Mead Farm, Ham Lane, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 9DP

Unless otherwise stated, all 6 sessions are on **Saturdays 14:00 – 16:00**

- April 13th
- April 27th
- May 4th
- May 12th (Sunday)
- May 18th
- May 25th



Topics covered:

- Equipment needed and Apiary siting
- How to acquire bees
- Apiary hygiene
- Handling your bees
- Recognition of different stages of brood
- The importance of feeding

Cost: **£45** for members; **£65** for non-members

As numbers are limited to 12 people, enrolment is essential.

Please send cheques or BACS payments to Alla Neal, details mentioned above, with reference "Beginners" for BACS payments.

In the Apiary: March



As the Queen's laying rate increases, with few flowers around and cold days, hungry bees can starve. It's time to check their fondant stores, and monitor varroa levels.



Do you have sufficient frames for those increasing numbers of bees, or possibly a shook swarm?

Check your equipment now.

BADS member **Mike Duffin** is our local Thorne's agent, based near Ringwood: **01425 474552**

WannaBee Day 2019

When talking to people about our bees, someone will say "I'd love to keep bees". Don't forget to recommend the BADS WannaBee Day 2019: there are still a few spaces. For many of us, this valuable, hands-on date provided our first realistic insight into the amazing world of the honeybee. The friendly question and answer sessions are for those many questions that all "newbees" have, but are too afraid to ask – now's the opportunity!



Bournemouth and Dorset South Beekeepers Association
WANNABEE DAY
A One-day Course in Beekeeping
Saturday 6^h April 2019, 9.30-16:00

This is a one-day course for those who are thinking about taking up, or have just started, beekeeping or are simply interested in learning a little more about bees.

Venue: **High Mead Farm Ham Lane (B3073)
Longham Wimborne BH22 9DR**

Bee-suits will be provided but please bring Wellington boots.

Depending on the weather one or two hives will be opened so that you can have a chance to handle some frames of bees.
The Queen may be seen!

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring a picnic lunch.

The cost of the course for each adult is £40.00. This includes associate membership in the Association until 30th September 2019.

Limited number of free children places are available. Please enquire.

For more information and to book, please contact Alla Neal
at membership@bads-bka.org

Asian Hornet

No apology needed for repeating these warnings... Following a dramatic increase in hornet numbers in departments of France along the Channel, in 2018, there have been various confirmed sightings of Asian Hornets in the England since late August. Be vigilant. Put out your monitoring traps now and remember to check them regularly; nobody wants to further decimate our already beleaguered insect population. The most effective bait for AH Queens at this time of year are sugar-based. There is a useful guide to building a trap on the National Bee Unit website. Visit <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=117> and click the link to "An Asian hornet monitoring trap" to download a PDF with instructions. There is also a video showing how to construct the trap and information on the best bait.



Vespa Velutina are the latest threat to our bees, can decimate a colony of honeybees and will affect insect life generally in the UK.

To keep up to date with Asian Hornet sightings, use the following link, where you can also find details of the AH Watch App, for those with smartphones:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-uk-sightings-in-2018>

Honey & Walnut Biscuits

If you still have a little honey left over from the bumper 2018 harvest, here's an easy biscuit recipe, which recently went down a treat at a Bournemouth Symphony Chorus rehearsal day:

- 100g soft butter
- 100g sugar
- 1 large tablespoon honey
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (or you could try ginger)
- 180g self-raising flour
- Walnuts



1. Beat butter and sugar together, until creamy
2. Beat in honey and egg yolk
3. Add cinnamon and flour; mix to soft dough
4. Roll a teaspoon of dough into a ball
5. Do this 29 more times & lightly press a walnut into each one
6. Space dough balls on greased baking sheet
7. Cook for 10 minutes at 175C or gas mark 4
8. Make people happy with biscuits. ❤️

Literary Corner

"Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers."



– Ray Bradbury, *Dandelion Wine*, 1957

Visit our [website](#)

Like us on Facebook:  Follow us on Twitter: 

Editor: Emma Fisher

Contributions welcome: Badsnewsletter@yahoo.com