



BUZZWORD

First prize, National Honey Show

The Newsletter of the
Norfolk Beekeepers' Association

Dec/Jan 2019/20

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Chairman's foreword | 1 |
| Oxalic acid treatment | 2 |
| Organic honey? | 2 |
| Keeping an eye out | 2 |
| Swarm control | 3 |
| Autumn honey show | 4 |
| Xmas presents 1 | 4 |
| 100 years ago | 5 |
| Buzzword prize | 5 |
| Secretary's report | 6 |
| Jeff Rounce | 6 |
| Venetia Rist MBK | 7 |
| Bowler wins salver | 7 |
| Xmas presents 2 | 8 |
| Forthcoming events | 8 |

Next issue in February

All articles, events and things of interest to the beekeeping world should be sent to the Editor by

25 January 2020 at:

buzzwordnbka@gmail.com

Published bimonthly
Volume 20, Issue 6

Chairman's Buzzwords

Graham Wrenn



Do all beekeepers like honey like Winnie the Pooh who ate so much honey that he got stuck in Rabbit's hole and had to wait days until he was thin enough to get out?

The answer of course is no. Beekeepers keep bees for a variety of reasons and here are just a few:

- To derive an income from selling honey, though this is always unpredictable.
- They are fascinated by the bees themselves and just like watching them.
- To aid pollination.
- To save bees from extinction.

Yes, I know that you will think that I have gone crackers with that last one but it was a reason given to me by a member of the public at the Norfolk Show as to why he had purchased a hive. He said that he intended to leave them alone in his garden and was most put out when I told him that he was responsible for their health and that he would need to treat for varroa and inspect for other diseases.

I hope that you have had a good honey crop, have done your treatments, have finished feeding and have checked and wrapped up your bees for winter – and that you are not like him.

Once again we have had sightings of the Asian hornet and nests have been eradicated. Not only do we need to be vigilant but we also need to get the general public on the lookout. We do have a supply of credit card-sized identification cards showing the difference between the Asian and European hornet. If you would like a few to hand out they are available at all of our events and we will be happy to order more should the need arise.

Over winter, now that you have taken off your supers, it is a good time to do cleaning, repair and replacement of your equipment but do it sooner rather than later, as leaving it until the depths of winter when the weather is cold and miserable you are less likely to want to do it. Come the spring, when you need to use it, it will probably be too late as you will, if you are anything like me, have forgotten what wants doing to which item.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Executive Committee and me to wish every member a very merry Christmas season and a happy New Year with bumper crops and healthy bees. Graham
(chairnbka@gmail.com)

First prize for *Buzzword* at the National Honey Show

Your association has been awarded first prize in the class for branch newsletter. See page 5 for more on what the judges had to say. Have your own say. There's still time to complete the *Buzzword* survey if you have not done so already. Results will be published in February 2020. Please go to <http://bit.ly/2OdLH2w>

Oxalic Acid Treatment of Varroa Mites (Dec./Jan.)

John Everett, Master Beekeeper



We published John's helpful article on oxalic acid treatment in the January 2019 issue of *Buzzword*. But it may have come too late for many of you to get your preparations in place and so we publish a shortened article in the hope the timing is better for you. For the original article, please see <http://bit.ly/38ZOP34>.

Oxalic acid is used when there is unlikely to be any brood in the hive and all the mites are on the skin of the adult bees, known as the phoretic stage of the mites.

There are two accepted ways of treating colonies in December or January and you can also treat swarms.

1. Evaporate 2–5g oxalic acid into your colony using a vaporiser.
The vaporiser is expensive (c£35) but the oxalic acid crystals are less than 5 p per hive.

or

2. Dribble about 50ml 3.2% oxalic acid solution into your hive
Remove the crown board and dribble the warm oxalic acid solution over the gaps where bees are clustering. There is no need to worry about the exact dose but experiment dribbling water before you use the acid.

Organic honey?

I have been told that a fellow beekeeper is selling honey in Beccles as "organic" honey.

To be organic you need:

1. to have hives on certified organic land;
2. to have hives made from untreated wood;
3. use foundation and comb that must be made from organic wax;
4. to have a four mile radius (Soil Association) around the hive that must be organic or wild/uncultivated;
5. to use organic sugar for feeding and only before or after a honey flow;
6. a veterinary prescription for disease control for drugs or treatments such as formic acid (MAQS, methanoic acid, also known as formic acid), acetic acid or lactic acid;
7. not to clip the queens (it's not allowed);
8. marketing – good hygienic care.

Items 4 and 5 make it almost impossible for those of us living in Norfolk and Suffolk to have organic honey and to label it as such. However, I am sure that most of us do take care when looking after our bees and marketing honey.

I am content with marketing honey simply as "Norfolk". John

I make the 3.2% solution of oxalic acid which is free but donations to the orphanage we support in Uganda would be much appreciated.

- Oxalic acid is poisonous if ingested so please wear disposable gloves and eye protection when treating your bees. Don't inhale, eat or drink it!
- Wash any spills with excess water to dilute and remove the acid.
- Practise dribbling with water before you use the oxalic acid.
- If there are crystals in the acid solution warm it slightly. Warm the solution to about blood heat so it doesn't chill your bees too much. Just stand the unopened bottle in hot water for a few minutes.
- If you wash out the dribbling syringe and dry it, it will last for years. Keep the plunger half way down the barrel to prevent it from sticking to the bottom end.

I appreciate that some folk are against using oxalic acid but over numerous years I have found it to be really useful. I have even experimented overdosing the occasional hive and the colonies have survived. Any reduction in the varroa population in the winter must be beneficial for your bees in the spring.

John has free copies of the *Managing Varroa* booklet from FERA if you want a hard copy or see <http://bit.ly/36UIUdJ> to download one.

Is there an alternative to using oxalic acid?

Some beekeepers are using a single tray of Apiguard in winter or early spring before supers are placed on the colony. They report satisfactory results.

From the FERA *Best Practice Factsheet*

Keeping an eye on things

On December 2nd 2019 as I was walking past a beehive I noticed two worker wasps going in. They should have been dead a couple of months ago – global warming or just a mild autumn?

I removed the crown board and saw five seams of bees between central frames and noticed that the outer frames appeared to have been emptied/robbed by wasps.

All I could do was seal the hive with mesh so no more wasps could enter and put on a pancake of fondant immediately above the frames with the bees on.

At this stage you should treat for varroa and look out for woodpecker damage then hope the bees will survive.

Your hives are very unlikely to blow over but it is worth checking after strong winds.

Old texts talk about giving your bees fondant or candy at Christmas – some of us overfeed in the autumn.

Merry Christmas! John

Swarm control — worth planning ahead

Trevor Nash, Vice-chairman

Trevor is often asked about “his special method” of managing his bees on double broods for swarm control. Here he describes that method and the thought processes behind it and, although we are in the midst of winter, it’s never too early to start planning. You may find that Trevor’s method works for you.

In 2016 I hosted an apiary demonstration about the management method I use for swarm control. Several members asked if I would explain how it is done. So here is a basic summary but there are a few tweaks and other variations you could try.

It is worth mentioning that, when working with bees, it is not an exact science. Bees do not always conform to our desires so you must be ready to adapt your methods and experiment. Sometimes things work and sometimes they don’t! I think that this is what makes working with bees interesting – it would be boring if they were always predictable.

The method

By the end of the season I manage the colonies to be on double brood chambers. There is no excluder fitted so the queen has complete movement in both chambers. In my first inspection in the spring, I check the position of the brood nest. This can vary from each colony and also on the time of the inspection and how hard the winter and spring season has been.

Depending on the size of the brood nest, I may decide to split the nest with an excluder so keeping the queen and brood in one box and stores in the other. If this is the case, I have found by experience that it is an advantage to keep the stores below the brood nest. This is a similar procedure to the Bailey comb change method using an eke with an entrance between the brood chambers and blocking off the entrance in the floor. The advantage of this is to prevent too much stores being put into this brood box. I found that, when I put the brood box above

the brood nest, this box was so full of stores that it was not practical to use the frames for an artificial swarm as the queen did not have sufficient room to lay eggs. Occasionally, I may pre-empt the colonies swarming and split before queen cells are present so that they do not stay on double brood too long.

As the new season progresses I prepare to do an artificial swarm on the colonies. I place a floorboard, crown board and roof beside each colony which is on a double hive stand. Once a colony shows queen cells, I remove the queen on her frame and place it in a nuc so that I can carry out the artificial swarm. I choose a well-positioned queen cell that is unsealed and remove all the other queen cells. The brood box is then installed on to one of the new floors on another stand from the original stand. This is done to prevent bees returning to the parent stock as the new site is beyond 3 feet from its original location. The crown board and roof are then placed on the artificial swarm. Next, I check the frame that the queen is on for any queen cells and remove them.

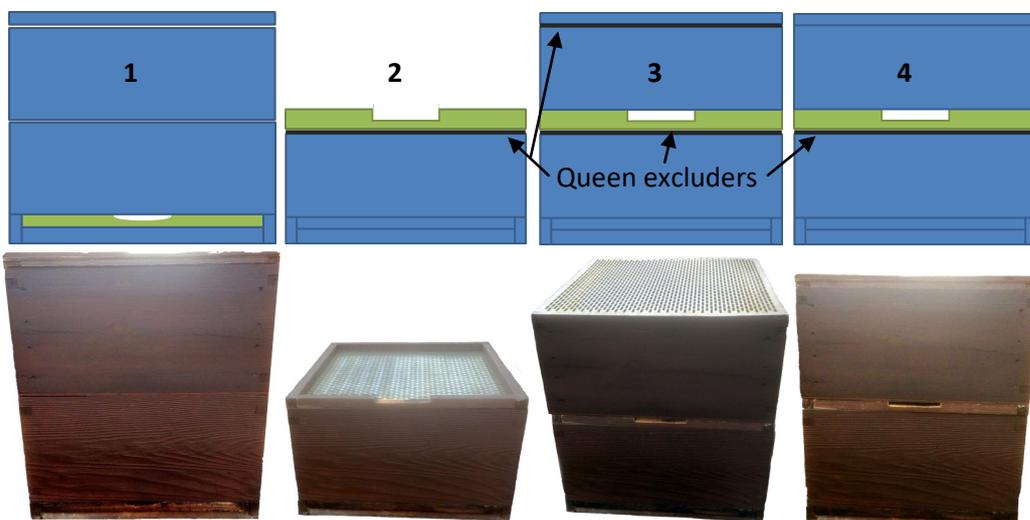
The queen with frame is then placed in the remaining brood box (on the original site) that has either been stored below or split from the other box. Any supers remain on the parent stock. After six days I check the artificial swarm for any further queen cells and remove as necessary. This colony is then left alone until the new queen has hatched and begins to lay. Once this has been done on all the colonies, each parent stock will have a different artificial colony as a neighbour.

As the season progresses and all the colonies have been treated for varroa, the colonies on each stand are united by placing newspaper between the neighbouring brood boxes making one double brood colony on each stand. In effect, one colony is now an old queen on a parent stock and the other is a young queen of an artificial swarm but they are not mother and daughter because the artificial

swarm had been moved to a different stand. I do not remove any of the queens unless I have a need, maybe because of bad temper or productivity. In all cases I have found that the new queen from the artificial swarm will dispose of the old queen from the parent stock.

Now the colonies are back to double broods with no excluder fitted and ready for winter. All colonies are strong with the combined bees with good stores to last through to the spring ready for the process to start again the following year.

I hope you find the above helpful and should you wish to try it out or would like any additional information I would be pleased to help. Trevor (vicechairnbka@gmail.com)



Top, illustration to show the hive photographed below it. 1, double brood with entrance on floor with no excluders as it would be during winter; 2, the entrance in the floor blocked off and an eke entrance with excluder to prevent the queen entering bottom brood box; 3, excluder above top brood box to allow supers to be added above; 4, assembled hive with new entrance in between the brood boxes

Autumn honey exhibition and social event

Pat Marshall, Show Secretary

We had a good turnout this year for the honey exhibition and the Q & A session was a success, although not everyone could agree on the best method for tackling varroa.

Paul Metcalf did the judging this year and he wryly commented that you can do a lot to ruin the taste of honey but not much to improve it. In the 1920s, he said, beekeepers were able to fill half of St Andrew's Hall with exhibits but today we have only enough to half-fill a room at Easton College. How things have changed.



The list of prizes won is at right and all who saw Paul judging know that he is not only looking for whether it's been cooked (caramelised) or has started to ferment (both bad points), he's also after clarity, aroma and flavour. In terms of flavour, in Paul's view, as oil seed rape is very similar to invert sugar there generally isn't that much.

Paul Metcalf in action at the Autumn Honey Show: he looks for identical colours in both jars, clean honey (without bits of bees), aroma and flavour intensity

Well done to all our winners and to everyone who took part. Next year I expect an even bigger turn out. Show Secretary showsecretarynbka@gmail.com

Question and Answer session

Chair: Garry Bowler

Panel: Ian Watkinson, Alvan Parker, Trevor Nash

Sample of Questions:

- Q. Why do you clean a jar with methylated spirits?
- Q. What plant is dark honey from?
- Q. Bees are notorious for removing things you don't want them to, such as rubber bands, so why don't they remove (wax moth) chrysalises from the hive?
- Q. How to treat with Apiguard?
- Q. How to treat with oxalic acid?
- Q. Panel's view on MAQS strips?
- Q. How do you make a honey bee 'health' formula?
- Q. How do you prevent swarms?
- Q. When did the swarming season stop?
- Q. What to do about chalk brood?

For answers to these questions and more, please see future issues of *Buzzword*.

| Category | Name of person taking first prize |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| MEMBERS CLASS | |
| A Light liquid honey | Alan Chapman |
| B Medium or dark honey | Mr & Mrs A Marshall |
| C Creamed or granulated honey | Trevor Nash |
| D Novice Class | Linda Hunt |
| E Retail Class | Garry Bowler |
| F One cake of wax | Venetia Rist |
| G Honey Madeira Cake | Peter Lavender |
| OPEN CLASS | |
| H Light liquid honey | Peter Kidd |
| I Medium or dark honey | Nick Downs |
| J Creamed or granulated honey | Peter Kidd |
| K Composite Class | Mr & Mrs A Marshall |
| L Two containers of cut comb honey | Nigel Bowden |
| M One shallow frame | Alvan Parker |
| N Commercial Wax | Venetia Rist |
| O Six 1oz blocks of wax | Venetia Rist |
| P Candles | Venetia Rist |
| Q One bottle sweet mead | Nigel Bowden |
| R One bottle dry mead | Lynne Pettit |
| S Honey cake | Pat Marshall |
| T Biscuits | George Male |
| U Sweets | George Male |
| V Craft item | Lynne Pettit |
| GIFT CLASS | |
| W Liquid honey | Peter Kidd |
| X Creamed or granulated honey | Peter Kidd |

Suggestions for Xmas presents

Paul Metcalf suggested natural history books by Tom Seeley; these are our picks:

Honey Bee Democracy by Tom Seeley "is a wonderful book, beautifully written and illustrated, about humanity's greatest friend among the insects. Seeley, its leading authority, here presents it to a broad readership, with scientific exactitude written in lyrical prose." (Edward O. Wilson, co-author of *The Superorganism*)

"This book gave me a respect and fascination for the honey bee, that became a passion for studying for the advanced BBKA modules and assessments." (Ian Jobson, MBK)

Honeybee Ecology: A Study of Adaptation in Social Life by Tom Seeley "If you really want to understand what is going on inside the hive and how the colony allocates work and makes decisions this is a great book. It is based on thorough scientific work and is very readable." (Ian Jobson, MBK)

A Norfolk beekeeper's record 1918–1932

Peter Beckley

In the last issue of Buzzword this story was left with the words “and then something happened...”. What did happen, I hear you say? Well, without wishing to disappoint you, nothing, really. 1922 does not appear in the Record, nor 1924. There are no pages missing. Perhaps Mr Thouless was much involved with his other interest, coleoptera? Or, perhaps, something on a national/international scale was intervening?

“1923

The Apiary in this year seems to have been reduced to four colonies: two in WBCs; one in a “12-frame hive”; and one in a Highbury hive. The beekeeper had adopted a ‘brood-and-a-half’ system in the WBCs and Highbury hive.

The notes only record a September inspection with no evidence of any surplus honey and the beekeeper’s usual problem with queens and queen introduction.

Again, one wonders what happened in 1922 to have the effect that returning to the bees wants did not occur until September.

Turning to the back of the notebook there are entries of a more general nature. There is a copious note copied from the *British Bee Journal* (Feb. 8th 1923) on queen rearing and, from the *Smallholder* (June 18 1927):

*“To prevent Swarming”. Bees in WBC hives each containing two body boxes of 10 frames each. The queen lays in the top box first. When well filled with brood reverse the position of the body boxes. Alternate the two boxes every 3 to 4 weeks. A queen excluder is not necessary for either sections or shallow frames.**

* (‘The past is another country – they do things different there’ – Peter)

This part of the notebook was also used to contain samples of blossom of various plants stuck on to each page: lime; lilac; cherry; holly; pear; apple; plum; oak; laburnam; beech; sycamore; willow; horse chestnut; elder; elm; hawthorne; alder; Scots fir; box; yew; Douglas fir. The samples have long since disappeared and the over-writing on the pages indicate the notebook had been used for another purpose before being pressed into service as a record of beekeeping activities.*

*(Ever the parsimonious beekeeper – Peter)

Also in this part of the notebook is a record of the cost of beekeeping in the first two years (see right).

The next section is headed up 1920 but there are no entries of expenditure and there is no further record of expenditure in the notebook. The average wage in 1920 was £5 per week.

Next time we will plunge into 1925 with the first record of honey yield and sales.

| 1918 | | | £ s d | Total |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|
| Feb. 16th | M. Atkinson | 6 frame colony | 3 0 0 | |
| May 4th | Tacon & Cowell† | 2 Highbury hives‡ | 2 17 0 | |
| | | Sundries | 1 13 6 | |
| May 27th | | ditto | 14 0 | |
| Sept. 7th | | Candy | 14 0 | |
| | | | | <u>8 18 6</u> |
| 1919 | | | | |
| Jan. 30th | Taylor | WBC Hive | 3 4 0 | |
| | | Extractor | 2 9 6 | |
| | | Feeder etc. | 12 6 | |
| July 24th | | Shallow Frames | 13 9 | |
| | Tacon & Cowell | Sundries | 16 9 | |
| | | Sugar | 4 8 | |
| June | Redgrave | 2 long hives | 1 10 0 | |
| July | | Queen Bee | 10 0 | |
| Aug. | | ditto | 9 0 | |
| | Wilkson | Sugar (40lb @ 7½d) | 1 0 5 | |
| | | | | <u>11 15 2</u> |

“Cost Bees” as Mr Thouless put it, for 1918–19

†Tacon and Cowell, Seed Merchant and Gardeners Supplies, 15 Rampant Horse Street, Norwich. They were still trading well into the 1960s and I remember well a made-up WBC hive displayed in their window. It was a good place to get honey jars but they were limited to the amount of beekeeping equipment and sundries they could keep in the shop. I think they supplied Taylor’s equipment – Peter

‡Can anyone identify a Highbury hive and describe it? – Peter

Buzzword’s first prize!

First prize at the National Honey Show was awarded to *Buzzword*.

In the new category, 104 Branch Newsletter, the judges commented:

“Good title, beautifully laid out, superb articles!! We like the photo of the author with the article. Interesting, stimulating, worth waiting two months for!”

The *Buzzword* Editor would like heartily to thank all those who have contributed articles over the past year, which clearly helped secure first prize. I am always on the lookout for even more articles!

The Secretary Matters



Garry Bowler

This is not my favourite part of the beekeeping year. I miss not being able to check on my bees and I don't like having to keep my fingers crossed that all will be OK when we get to next spring (especially when there were signs that a couple of mine may not make it through this year).

My e-mail inbox is quieter but that means I can get a little 'slack' in how often I check for e-mails.

As far as Committee matters go a couple of current items are preparations for the BBKA ADM and starting to make plans for an Association apiary. The ADM is on 11th January 2020 so our meeting on 3rd January will cover how the Association would like our delegate to vote on propositions. These can be viewed on the BBKA website (in the members' section) so let us know your views. Your delegate this year is our Membership Secretary, David King, assisted by yours truly riding shotgun (which means I will be next year's delegate).

Association apiary

A site has been identified for the apiary and we now need to make plans for getting it up and running and decide how we want it to benefit members (e.g. rearing queens, holding demos etc.). We do also intend to have storage and be able to bulk buy some supplies.

President's evening surprise

At the Presidents Evening I was surprised, honoured and flattered to be presented with the Jeff Rounce Salver. Surprised because I am Secretary and supposed to know what is going on but the rest of the Committee kept it 'secret'. It is an honour and I am flattered that I am considered to deserve to hold the Salver. I volunteered / was persuaded to be Secretary because I like to help. That I am seen to be doing a 'good job' is a bonus. (See who was Jeff Rounce and what the Salver means to the Association, right)

Educating schools and scouts

Previously, I have mentioned James Page and presentations to youth groups at schools, scouts etc. NBKA has purchased a hive and virtual frames so that James can better demonstrate what a working hive looks like. 1st Lingwood and Strumpshaw Scout Group were the first to benefit from this and James reported that it went down very well. Should anyone else wish to do similar demonstrations then this hive would be available. Currently, James is very kindly looking after this hive.

Finally, I hope you all have a very enjoyable Christmas remembering to have some beekeeping stuff on your list to Santa. I need a new smoker and a stock of smoker fuel if any of you wanted to know....

Association library correction

It appears that the wrong email address for the library was given in the yearbook and the correct address is:

librarynbka@gmail.com

Jeff Rounce:



who was he and why the salver?

Paul Metcalf, NDB

Jeff was a pilot in the Second World War, in coastal command. After leaving the RAF he trained as a schoolteacher, first teaching at Wells Secondary Modern and then at Fakenham. Before training to be a teacher, he had acquired an interest in beekeeping, and at both schools he included beekeeping in the curriculum, enthusing many at the time to take it up. Witness to this is the number of times that either Wells or Fakenham appeared on the schools' beekeeping competition shield.

He was a long-standing member of King's Lynn Beekeepers' Association (now West Norfolk and King's Lynn) and Norfolk Beekeepers' Association. He joined the committee of Norfolk Beekeepers Association in 1960, and since that time served in some way on the committee until he was no longer able to do so, probably 2010–2011. He was chairman from 1970–1972, and later became a Vice President, still attending committee meetings.

He was a proficient practical beekeeper keen to impart his knowledge. I remember demonstrations at his apiaries, and some may remember his honey handling demonstrations at his house, Mill View, Gt. Walsingham, and the excellent food provided by Verna Rounce.

At the President's evening if you wanted to win it was Jeff's table you needed to be on as he had a fountain of knowledge, not only in beekeeping, but also general knowledge.

He loved the Committee, and was at his best at the time of the disagreement with Norwich City Council, over the Association's honey label. The label had been in use from I think the 1920s and in the centre had the Norwich City coat of arms. Someone from City Hall with an interest in heraldry objected and there ensued a protracted battle of letters, with NBKA being threatened with court action. Jeff was disgusted when the Association gave in, and a new design of label was produced, with a WBC hive in place of the coat of arms.

He was a regular participant in the honey shows both exhibiting and helping in the running of them.

So why the salver?

Those of you who show, and win cups, will note names on them, which you have not perhaps heard; they are either past members who people wanted to recognise or perhaps members who wanted to donate something to the Association. It has to be said that the Association has an impressive array of silverware.

In 2000 the members of Jeff's family approached the Association with a view to donating something to record Jeff's interest in Beekeeping, and as the Association already had many cups it was decided to award a salver to a member who had contributed in some way to the furtherance of the association and beekeeping. The salver was awarded for the first time in 2000 to Jeff.

Master Beekeeper!

Congratulations to **Venetia Rist** who received her official badge and certificate at the President's evening in November in recognition of her achieving Master Beekeeper status.

It is the culmination of years of hard work, skill and knowledge.

To achieve this significant award, which has only been won by a handful of people in Norfolk, Venetia had to complete all seven modules of the written exams (no mean feat in itself) and the gruelling (by all accounts)



Advanced Husbandry Certificate (which involves having already passed the General Husbandry Certificate).

The modules include: Honey Bee Management; Honey Bee Products & Forage; Pest, Diseases & Poisoning; Honey Bee Biology; Honey Bee Behaviour; Selection & Breeding of Honey Bees; and Honey Bee Management, Health & History.

Venetia is the Chair of West Norfolk and King's Lynn Beekeeping Association as well as being the NBKA Examinations Secretary. Venetia is also very successful in winning prizes at the National Honey Show for diverse entries such as honey, wax, microscopy and photographs.

It's a great achievement!

Garry wins Rounce salver

In a surprise to no-one except Garry, the Jeff Rounce salver (see left) was awarded at the President's evening to Garry Bowler, the Secretary of the Association, in recognition of all that he does for the Association.



Garry does many things behind the scenes (and even wins prizes at the various honey shows) and is truly appreciated for the calm, quick and measured way he does everything.

As Paul Metcalf has said "the salver [is awarded] to a member who had contributed in some way to the furtherance of the association and beekeeping".

Well done Garry, it is well-deserved!

WBC or National, my choice

Graham Ford

Graham looks back on a long history of beekeeping and gives his reasons for changing from a WBC to a national.

A few months ago, I realised I had been keeping bees for over 30 years. When I started it was nearly all WBCs as I had to take over my father's hives when he passed away suddenly.

I suppose wanting to respect all he had taught me about keeping bees (he had been keeping bees over 40 years before he died), I kept using the WBCs for many years. But slowly I have moved into using Nationals.

That caused few problems as both hives take the same size frames so swapping frames if needed was easy.

Where the benefit of using Nationals came was when I was offered two out-apiaries and transporting Nationals is much easier than WBCs. Nationals are basically square boxes and can be strapped together very easily. Trying to do that with a WBC is nearly impossible because of how it is assembled.

Maintenance is also easier with Nationals. The WBC only looks 'proper' when the lifts are painted white, whereas Nationals are mainly stained with a suitable wood stain (I have known people to use creosote, not something I would use personally).

Floors and roofs are also different. Legs on a WBC will sink into the ground if not supported whereas a flat floor on a stand is all the National has, that is unless you use a varroa mesh floor. On the WBCs I had, they had felt roofs that needed replacing but all the nationals are tin so much more long lasting.

Now, well beyond my three score years and ten, I found that the many parts of a WBC, the lifts (a minimum of two as I always have brood-and-a-half hives, more of course when supers are added), a roof which you could not use to stand supers on and generally working at a lower level because of the height of the floor, it was time to consider my back with all the extra lifting and the working height. So the WBCs went and it's now all Nationals.

Having said all that it is good to know that some of father's WBC hives are still in use to this day and look the part in a lovely walled garden setting.

NBKA Christmas lunch



A very pleasant meal and good company was enjoyed by around 25 members on Sunday 15 December at the Stower Grange. Thanks to George Male who took the photograph

Suggestions for Xmas Presents 2

Venetia Rist

A bright yellow one-man hive-moving barrow from Thornes, at £80. This will enable me to move a hive on my own without having to drag it or enlist another person to help.

The barrow easily collapses to nearly flat so that it can easily be put in the car.

Or

For a lower budget, at about £10, a correx nuc box. Wedmore said that “no problem in beekeeping can’t be solved by putting something into, or taking something out of a nuc box.”

Very handy to accompany the hive tool and smoker as an essential in hive inspection. The first frame taken out of the hive can be placed in the box for the safety of the bees and to discourage robbing. The queen on her frame when found can be placed in the nuc for safekeeping while any hive manipulations take place. No worries about where she is or what she’s doing.



NBKA crossword

Solutions – “Bray Growler”

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | I | C | K | E | L | | F | L | O | A | T | S | |
| O | | L | | | O | | | A | | P | | T | |
| S | P | I | N | | | C | O | S | T | L | I | E | R |
| E | | P | | | A | | | E | | S | | A | |
| M | E | S | H | F | L | O | O | R | | | | I | |
| A | | H | | A | | R | | A | S | I | A | N | |
| | | E | | R | E | G | A | L | | N | | | |
| F | I | R | S | T | | A | | L | | C | | A | |
| E | | | | | H | O | N | E | Y | C | R | O | P |
| E | | W | | I | | | V | | | E | | P | |
| D | R | A | I | N | A | G | E | | | N | A | I | L |
| E | | S | | G | | | N | | | S | | E | |
| R | I | P | E | S | T | | | S | U | P | E | R | S |

Local suppliers listing

Please note that this list is made up only of the suppliers in Norfolk who have confirmed that they are still ‘in business’; to add your name to this list (for which there is **no** charge), please contact the Editor at buzzwordnbka@gmail.com

Applebee Apiary, Rockland St Mary

John Everett, Master Beekeeper

We carry a large range of beekeeping equipment from Thornes and other suppliers.

We breed and sell honey bees. Large stocks of hives, frames, foundation, jars and other beekeeping sundries always in stock; beginner’s courses from May.

01508 538231 everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk
<http://applebeeorchard.co.uk/>

Closed Sundays

Don Cooper, Roughton NR11 8QP; 01263 761517

5/6-Frame BS nucs available in May from £150

30lb Buckets of honey

Advice on “all things bees”

Glebelands Apiary, Rocklands St Mary NR14 7BX

Peter Beckley, Thornes agent (reportedly the longest serving in the UK)

01508 480262; orns@btconnect.com

Forthcoming Events

| Date | Time | Event | Venue | Contact |
|-----------------|---------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| January | | | | |
| 3 | 19:00 – 21:00 | Executive committee meeting | Easton College* | Secretary |
| 11 | All day | BBKA ADM 2020 | Myton School, Warwick | Secretary |
| 25 | 14:00 – 16:00 | Problems in beekeeping through the ages | Easton College* | Paul Metcalf |
| February | | | | |
| 15 | 14:00 – 16:00 | Computing in beekeeping, talk by David King | Easton College* | Secretary |
| 21 | 19:00 – 21:00 | Executive committee meeting | Easton College* | Secretary |
| March | | | | |
| 7 | 14:00 – 17:00 | AGM and Padmore Lecture: The honey bee and man by Peter Beckley | Easton College* | Secretary |
| 20 | 19:30 | Paul Metcalf: Starting the bee-keeping year | Easton College* | Secretary |
| 21 | TBA | Module exams | Easton College* | Exams Secretary |
| April | | | | |
| 3 – 5 | All day(s) | Spring Convention | Telford | Secretary |
| 4 | 14:00 – 16:00 | Opening up (Apiary Demo) at Jill Webb’s apiary | Aslacton | Secretary |
| 16 | 9:00 | Spring Fling | Norfolk Showground | Secretary |

*Rooms are on the first floor of the Sports Centre