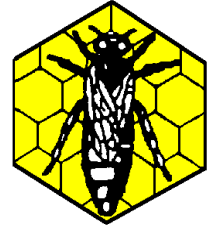


Cardiff and South East Wales Beekeepers' Association



President: Prof. R.S. Pickard,

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Secretary/Publicity officer: Barbara Chick (029 20597275)

Newsletter Editor/Subscription Mailing: Dinah Sweet (029 20869242)

Spray Liaison: Les Chirnside (01873 880625)

Librarian: Edmund Thomas (02920 811928)

Newsletter June 2008

The weather has been fairly good the last few weeks and there is a honey flow on, so now is the usual time when the hive prepares to swarm. Certainly if it is last years queen they will be starting to make queen cells, so as soon as these are discovered something needs to be done!

A few days ago I saw queen cells in my National hive so I did an artificial swarm manipulation which makes them think they have swarmed, no bees are lost and the hive continues to collect nectar. For this to work one has to be able to find the queen, so luckily John (Sweet) was with me. For the last few years he has been too busy to look at the bees very much but he has not lost his touch. We were both looking at one frame when he said that the bees were fussing around more than usual on it. Sure enough I immediately spotted the queen but without his special "bee" sensitivity I might have missed her. We had already taken out 5 frames full of sealed brood and a queen cell and put these in a hive next to and at 90 degrees to the old one. We also put in 2 frames of food as most of the foragers would fly back to the old hive. In the original hive we put in 6 frames of foundation to keep the bees busy and to slow the laying process for a while. We then put the brood super on top of the original hive as this had the old queen in it. The nurse bees would stay with the sealed brood next door and in a week the queen cell will hatch and she will fly out to mate after 3 or 4 weeks. So if she doesn't get eaten by a bird, or lose her way home, everything should work out.

Dinah Sweet

Out Apiary and Training Meetings

Saturday 21st June, Saturday 5th July and Saturday 19th July at 2.30pm. beginners sessions at training apiary, Graig Fawr Lodge, Caerphilly, CF83 1NF Phone 02920 869242

No meeting on the 28th June as Barbara has a clash with another meeting but instead, summer apiary meeting on Sunday 6th July, 2.30pm. at Harold Williams apiary in the orchard at Fonmon Castle. Phone Harold on 01446 750709 for details.

Saturday 26th July at 2.30pm summer apiary meeting at the beautiful garden of David Carrick in Lisvane. Details to follow in next months Newsletter.

Newsletter contributions If you have any contributions for the newsletter such as letters, articles, poems, cartoons etc. copied from elsewhere or made up please send them to Dinah Sweet, GraigFawr Lodge, Caerphilly, CF83 1NF. Advertising rates for commercial / semi-commercial traders at £5.00 per year for approx. 1/8th page in 12 monthly issues. One off adverts at 50p/month. Non-commercial adverts i.e. for sale of surplus equipment are free to members for a single entry.



This is a photograph from a few years ago when we had some bees at St. Fagan's museum, in the old farmhouse. The beekeeper was obviously standing directly in front of the hive! The poor bees had nowhere else to go except to land on this person's head. You can imagine that inadvertently doing this may stop them from working for a couple of hours before they settle back into their routine again!

They have been repairing the drains where the bees used to stand and so hopefully we will be back there again soon as the site is a very good one. People used to wander quite close to the hives but in the future there will be netting.

There were some excellent reports about the meeting at John King's apiary in Treforest last month. It is always enjoyable looking at different hive designs and seeing the different methods and manipulations we like to try out on the bees.

I am still waiting for a swarm to arrive in my empty hives but I believe that some lucky beginners have recently had swarms arriving in their new hives. A strong swarm can always swarm again in the same year so do watch out for queen cells when you do your weekly inspection.

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