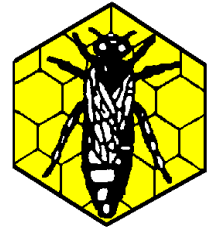


# Cardiff and South East Wales Beekeepers' Association



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## Newsletter May 2008

At last we are having some glorious sunshine and the temperatures are really hot so it is 'swarming time' when strong colonies will be building queen cells and unless you do an artificial swarm, the old queen and a large group of her workers will be gone!! I have put a large number of bait hives out so I hope a passing swarm will consider them home sweet home. I was called out for a swarm in some ones back garden in town yesterday but the honeybees were such a non viable unit with no queen and low numbers of workers, that they will not survive for very long.

As I suspected my bee losses this year were due to Nosema and Amoeba, protozoa parasites that invade the bee's gut. Those of you that were at the teaching apiary on Saturday would have seen me crush up about 20 bees (put in the freezer first for 15 minutes) with a small drop of water and the resulting 'soup' put on a microscope slide and examined at 400 times magnification. Among the pollen grains in the background were the luminescent and very small Nosema and Amoeba spores at about 4/5 microns in size. I am feeding the colonies that have survived, Fumidil B which is an antibiotic. They are taking this down quite slowly as there is so much forage around but luckily I haven't put the honey supers on yet as it would contaminate the food. Hygiene in the apiary is now very important as robbing from old frames or putting on contaminated supers will only perpetuate the problem.

Dinah Sweet

### Out Apiary and Training Meetings

**Saturday 24th May**, 2.30pm training session at Julia Bartlett's apiary, Penllan Farm, Machan, CF83 8QE. Directions - Coming from Caerphilly towards Machan take the turning left opposite the school and workman's club. Follow the lane for about a mile until you see a yellow sand container. The farm entrance is opposite this on the right. There will be 'Bee' signs. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DIFFERENT VENUE FROM USUAL SESSIONS!

**Saturday 31st May**, 2.30 pm at John King's apiary- Out Apiary meeting. Phone John King on 01443 400798 for directions and to give him an idea of numbers.

**Saturday 7th June and 21st June, 2.30pm.** beginners session at training apiary, Graig Fawr Lodge, Caerphilly, CF83 1NF

**Saturday 28th June at 2.30pm.** Out apiary meeting at Barbara Chick's site, probably at the fruit farm but directions will follow in the next 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 photo from last week when the BBC were filming in the training apiary. The morning was taken up filming with Iolo and the honeybees with 3 people who had never seen any sort of bee before. The bees behaved very well and the novices really enjoyed themselves. We may well have some new recruits! Luckily I managed to spot the queen which created a lot of interest and even the camera man and sound person enjoyed themselves.

We had a bumble bee expert from University College London and the afternoon was spent with him marking the bumble bees with a number on their thorax as they were let out of the cage. He then weighed them on sensitive scales and again when they came back a few hours later. Some came back a little lighter than when they left but most returned with a minute amount of pollen and nectar. They have a very untidy small nest with big wax honey pots that they load with nectar. It was amazing seeing numbered bumble bees foraging on the gorse nearby

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