



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

August 2018

Edition 06

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Editorial

The heather season is upon us and it started earlier. I was told the heather was in flower on the 20th July. Let's hope the nectar is flowing. I have also found wasps have started early but they are much smaller than normal, please see Bronwen's information about wasps in this newsletter. More signs this heat wave is affecting the flora and fauna of our beautiful Yorkshire. However so far, the year is turning out to be a great honey year.

I would also like to ask if any one has any beekeeping related articles then they would be most welcome. Please forward them to me.

It's a brilliant packed issue with an advert for an up and coming bee improvement events organised by our new Education Officer Elaine Robinson, an article about how the Great Yorkshire Show went and of course our regular feature of what to do in the apiary this month.



A wasp trap in my Methley apiary

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the August edition of the YBKA newsletter.

What a summer we've had – high temperatures, no rain, a hosepipe ban due to start in some areas and reports of parched plants without much nectar about. Then out of the blue, literally, hail storms, torrential rain and spectacular thunder and lightning.

But hey, that's nature for you and as beekeepers we should all be in tune with the vagaries of the British weather.

The real success of our beekeeping season will be judged once we start the extraction process and which most beekeepers will have completed by the second week in September.

Most of the local agricultural shows are over and hopefully beekeeping has been well represented.

My own association (Halifax) hold theirs on 11 August and that normally heralds the end of our beekeeping year with just an afternoon in September spent demonstrating the extracting of the association supers.

As I checked my diary today, 1st August, in order to remind myself to do this piece, I noticed that there are just 152 days to Christmas so don't forget to start thinking of getting the sprouts ready on a low simmer.

You will see both in the newsletter and on the YBKA web page information regarding a Bee Improvement event taking place in November. This is the result of excellent work done by our new education officer, Elaine Robinson, who has thrown herself well and truly into her new role. So, let's all support this unique event and hopefully improve our own beekeeping in 2019.

Finally, a bit of a moan.

One thing that I cannot abide are abbreviations just for the sake of it. I have been following the BBKA Facebook page for some time and there are many beekeepers who are referring to themselves, and others, as BEEKS – I am a BEEKEEPER and proud of it - BEEK is a town in Holland or the verb to BEEK is to bask or warm in the sunshine – on second thoughts, given the summer heatwave that we have had maybe I am a BEEK!

Lester Quayle's funeral arrangements

For the attention of any Yorkshire BKA members who knew Lester and would like to have this information. His funeral service will take place on Friday 24th August at 1:30pm at the Haltemprice Crematorium, Willerby. Followed by refreshments at the Mercure Grange Park Hotel, Willerby, were all are welcome to join Rita and family afterwards. Family flowers only please. Donations welcome to 'Pancreatic Cancer Research'.

The 2018 Great Yorkshire Show Y.B.K.A report

This summer the weather has been exceptionally hot, and this in turn brought out record crowds at the 2018 Great Yorkshire Show. The Y.B.K.A Pavilion was very busy indeed, especially on the first day. We got names and addresses for quite a lot of potentially new Beekeepers at the show due to team of volunteers who try to encourage new members organised by our chairman Philip. They did a great job and all names and addresses were sent to their nearest association secretaries who will hopefully inform them of their next meetings to enable them to attend and hopefully join

We also had record honey sales at this year's show. All honey sold contributed by members attending as volunteers or as stewards within the YAS honey show a cross who Y. B.K.A support. This would not be possible without the total dedication of our treasurer Nobby for selling the honey and equally so of Peter Schollick to talks to the public and explains the difference between the various types of honey and assisting them chose the ones they like best to purchase. This system works very well and thanks also to all our other volunteers who all help give the public a great three days at the show within the YBKA pavilion. My thanks to John and Mary homes of Bees Abroad stand and to Frank Ward of H.&R. B.K.A who run the Bees for development stand in the Pavilion. All of whose tell me they did very well for the various charities raising money to train and purchase equipment to establish new Beekeepers in some of the poorer countries throughout the world. Giving them a stable income from the sales of their honey when established.

We also had Jim Pearson who doubled as a judge in the honey show this year and also ran the microscopes stand attracting a great deal of interests in the pavilion. His brother Jeff has a gazebo outside on the lawn showing the public how to make straw skeps. This has proven a great success with lots of young and old having a go and doing very well under his guidance. We have an observation hive outside with two volunteers each day talking to the public and explaining the inner workings of a beehive, plus showing the public the marked queen and difference between drones and worker bees.

This year we also had a stand by Spinks Compak our jars and container company based in Leeds and proving very popular and getting in orders from the public and other Beekeepers both.

My personal thanks to each and every one who came along as a volunteer to help out at our Pavilion and brought honey for sale. Everyone who contributed to a great display and supplied knowledgeable assistance to all the publics questions and needs over the three-day show.

If you missed out as a volunteer this year please try again next year first week after Easter I start taking volunteers names and the days they can attend. Plus inform all your secretaries to send out the notifications straight away to all members giving everyone a fair chance to attend.

Have a great summer see you next year.

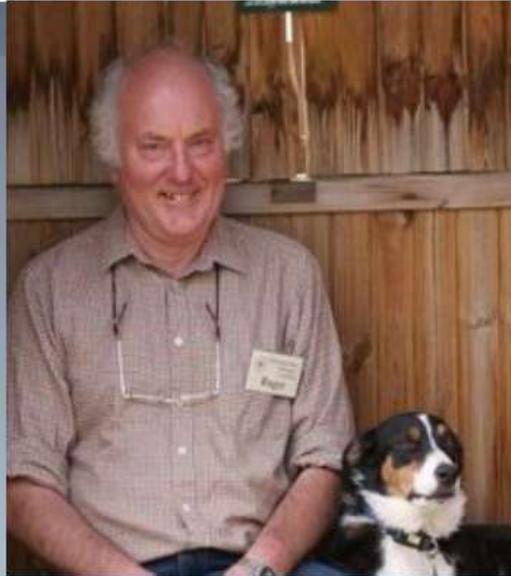
Dave Shannon.

Penistone Agricultural Show – 8th September 2018

With 13 classes in the honey section. Description of the classes can be found online on the show website under Homecraft. Printed schedules are also available. Postcode for the event is S36 6DW. Full details on their website [here](#).



YORKSHIRE
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



ROGER PATTERSON

BEE IMPROVEMENT EVENT

York 10th November or Huddersfield 11th November

Roger Patterson, who owns and manages Dave Cushman's famous beekeeping website, is coming to Yorkshire across 2 dates in November, to spend a full day with YBKA members, talking on the subject of Bee Improvement. To include assessment of colonies, recording positive characteristics, bee breeding and queen rearing techniques. The event is suitable for beginners and experienced beekeepers alike.

See YBKA website for details and to make a booking
<https://ybka.org.uk/events/category/events/>

The Apiary in August

You have to cast your memory back a long time to recall a summer as hot and prolonged over as longer time as this year is turning out to be. Phew! what a scorcher we are getting. Detrimental to our honey crop in many areas, including my own. However other areas doing great with the nectar pouring in from clover and other plants.

By now for those of you intending taking bees to the heather, all the preparations should now be completed, new thriving queens producing good strong colonies all full of brood at all stages and also full of flying bees to gather in this very important crop of heather honey. We need our hives full like this to maintain the total max. of flying bees whilst on the heather. Mainly because the flowers of the heather are so very small, and the bees need to work exceptionally hard to gather in a surplus for the Beekeepers plus fill their brood boxes to sustain themselves through the long winter months.

We still need to keep a check on our hives at this stage of the year, as some supersedures can take place with older queens that start to fail. So, it's imperative you can recognise the difference of a supersedures cell from a swarm or emergency cell. Also, late swarming can also happen so be aware and keep up to date with those inspections.

We are in some areas not in what's known as a "dearth" when all the trees and flowers have dried up and there is no available nectar for the bees to sustain themselves or build up that much needed surplus for winter. If this is the case we need to start and feed our bees or you may lose them over winter. Remember a colony requires at least 50/ 60 lb. of honey plus pollen in every hive to get through the winter months. Pollen is equally as important. You need at least two frames of pollen in each hive. So, we can't be complacent, and if we feed now we may also have to top up again in a few months' time to attain the levels req. of both, pollen and nectar.

All our summer honey should now be getting ready to be removed and extracted. Now due to the exceptionally long hot spell our honeys water levels have been very low. In some cases, only two thirds of the combs are being capped however the honey in the uncapped cells is still good and ready for extraction. Check with your refractometer and if the reading is below 20 it's ok to extract.

Most of my own this year to date has been around the 17/ 17.5 mark, very good. If for some reason it's reading very high and over 20, then I would feed it back to allow the bees to re process it. Unless its heather when the water content is higher and needs to be below 23.max. If it's not this also needs to be fed back.

Still keep a check on the varroa mite situation and as I said last month treat now when your honey comes off and don't put it off thinking all will be fine. It won't!

With all these things to do August is a very bust time for us Beekeepers, but equally well worth it at the end of the day.

Happy beekeeping and full supers

Dave Shannon

The Science Behind Bee Keeping

Scientists make normal bees behave like 'killer bees'

Africanized honeybees, commonly known as 'killer bees,' are much more aggressive than their European counterparts. Now researchers have examined neuropeptide changes that take place in Africanized honeybees' brains during aggressive behaviour. The researchers also showed they could turn gentle bees into angry ones by injecting them with certain peptides. Full article [here](#).

Bees adjust to seasons with nutrients in flowers and 'dirty water'

Researchers have discovered that honey bees alter their diet of nutrients according to the season. A spike in calcium consumption in the fall, and high intake of potassium, help prepare the bees for colder months when they likely need those minerals to generate warmth. A careful inventory of the bees' nutrient intake revealed shifting sources and how limitations in nutrient availability from these sources can have implications for the health of both managed and wild colonies. Full article [here](#).

Know your wasps!

Thank you to Bronwen White for a great email about the wasps that are currently out and about. I have seen in my own apiary a great deal of small wasps this year and just thought they were the same wasps that I see every year. However, Bron provides some great insight.

The small wasp that is being a pest in my garden at the moment is the tree wasp - *Dolichovespula sylvestris* - not the larger common wasp - *Vespula vulgaris*. I have noticed the tree wasps becoming more common in recent years.



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Calendar of events

Friday 7th Sept : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

Saturday 8th Sept : Penistone Agricultural Show

Saturday 22nd Sept : Mead making Course

Friday 5th October : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

Saturday 6th October: Autumn Delegates Meeting (Provisional)

October : Countryside Live & YBKA Honey Show (Harrogate)

October 26th – 28th : National Honey Show

Friday 9th November : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

10th November : Bee Improvement day – York

11th November : Bee Improvement day – Huddersfield

Saturday 10th November : Module Exams

Saturday 24th November : AGM 10a

Provisional dates for study days over the winter period, these dates are to be confirmed in upcoming newsletter editions.

- Saturday 3 Nov • Saturday 8 Dec • Saturday 12 Jan 2019 • Saturday 9 Feb • Saturday 16 March

Classified Adverts

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