

# North Bucks Bee Keepers' Association

## Newsletter July 2014

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### Calendar at-a-glance

26-28 Sep	BIBBA Conference, Llangollen
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Bucks county autumn gathering, Aylesbury

### ***Nuclei for sale - member advert***

Five-frame 14x12 nuclei for sale (in polystyrene). The price is £195 each nuc, which comes with mated marked queen. Available now. First come first served. Reservation for £50. Please get in touch, should you have any questions. Place your order via email. Contact Details: Bertalan Lorincz, 07589714764, [lorinczbertalan@gmail.com](mailto:lorinczbertalan@gmail.com), 173 Windsor Street, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5DP

### ***BIBBA conference***

A Conference for all Beekeepers

- ◆ 26-28 September 2014
- ◆ The Pavilion, Llangollen, North Wales
- ◆ Practical and scientific topics
- ◆ Improve your bees and beekeeping
- ◆ Bee breeding and queen rearing techniques
- ◆ Management systems for native and near-native bees
- ◆ Three lecture streams each day
- ◆ 40 UK, Irish and International speakers
- ◆ Local attractions for non-beekeepers
- ◆ Good access by road, rail, ferry and air

Hosted by South Clwyd Beekeepers Association

Programme: [www.bibba.com/conference\\_2014.php](http://www.bibba.com/conference_2014.php)

Book now: <http://goo.gl/uCBLf8>

### ***Bucks colony loss survey results***

Derek at Bucks County Beekeepers summarises the county-wide colony loss survey. I don't recall North Bucks being invited to participate, explaining why ours are null results. Derek writes:

Sorry for the delay in producing the results of our colony loss survey. I've attached the spreadsheet with the anonymous data included as well as embedding the summary information here. Please feel free to use this in your newsletters, it will also be appearing on the County website.

Here are the overall results for the survey answers we received.

	1st Nov 2013	15th April 2014
Respondents		88
Chalfonts		35
High Wycombe		20
Mid Bucks		33
North Bucks		0
Total hives	362	331
Total losses		31
Loss as percentage		8.6%
Minimum hives	1	0
Maximum hives	63	62
Average hives	4.1	3.8

Breaking that down by association

	Total Losses	Loss as percentage	Minimum Hives	Maximum Hives	Average Hives
Chalfonts	12	10.2%	1	20	3.0
High Wycombe	8	14.8%	0	10	2.3
Mid Bucks	11	5.8%	1	62	5.4
North Bucks					

So overall a very good winter, though the range of losses differs greatly between the associations, worth investigations?

Best regards,

Derek

## Seasonal Notes - July

Yes we are back from **Ghana**: a wonderful month's tour around most of the Bees Abroad's current seven projects over there. Many beekeepers so anxious to learn more and improve their lives amid abject poverty. We were met with quite remarkable generosity, welcome and kindness: generosity we were quite embarrassed to accept. We lived essentially on rice, pounded cassava, yams, maize, millet with sauce containing meat knuckles or fish heads; no dairy produce but wonderful mangoes, pawpaw, pineapples all to hand - very healthy! It was the beginning of the two months' rainy season, the shorter equivalent of our winter for the bees there, so they had stored some honey but were not very active. More of all that some other time.

It was not very sensible to leave my bees in May, especially in a very early season but David, my bee partner, coped magnificently with many swarms and our number of hives staggered up to 30. I suggested in April that we should do some nuc-raising when I got back from Ghana. However my North Bucks "radar" tells me that we are all awash with swarms with no more takers for them. I have got to knock my colony numbers down to around 20, so **if anyone would like any**, please call me by 15th July on 0796 827 7247. I use Commercial frames, so the plan would be to transfer to BS frames by mid-September and hand the bees over in this form before winter. Price: a donation to Bees Abroad, gift-aided if possible.

Fiona Eelbeck has told me of the marvellous things going on with the **training**, with 15 taking the basic test. Brilliant, and good luck!

I don't think I will make these notes any longer as the Editor's deadline has obviously passed. A little tip, though, that I mentioned in BeeCraft: If you have a **swarm** in July (you remember the rhyme ending "a swarm of bees in July isn't worth a fly"- well, that may not be so) - hive on super frames; they will need changing sooner but that wouldn't be an issue. Feed a gallon of syrup with a bucket feeder, then remove when syrup gone. Next, add queen excluder and super (drawn frames if possible) and if the flow lasts, with luck you will have a full super of honey for your pains. Once the super with the crop is taken away, over super brood box you add a deep box with normal deep frames (again drawn if possible).

Start **feeding** again to encourage bees into the deep box. Later, give winter feed as normal. Leave the brood super box in place below the deep box until spring, when colony should be happily occupying the deep box. You can then either remove the super brood box and use it as your first super for honey production, or use it as a second brood box and remove, clean out, sterilise and re-wax the frames for use as a normal super.

**Robbing**: As the season slows down, robber bees will be about, as will wasps at any time. Strong colonies must be reduced to 4 inch wide, 3/8th inch nucs and colonies on less than six frames to one bee space entrances BEFORE the trouble starts.

I'm sorry this is a pretty rough Seasonal Notes for July, as I try to re-focus my life in Buckinghamshire. Call me on 0796 827 7247, or better still, Fiona Eelbeck: she seems to have all the answers. Great!