



# BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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April 2019

Issue No 11

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## IT'S SPRING



Following the Spring Equinox on 20th March and the clocks going forward on the 30th March, we all start to feel hope and anticipation of better weather to come. Indeed our bees, along with most other insects, are showing signs of activity, early flowers are decorating our hedgerows and gardens and for those of you hoping to take your bees to oil seed rape, the first busy time of the year is nearly upon you. If you haven't had the time or the weather to check your bees yet, April will hopefully provide both, but remember, if a cold spell hits it may still be necessary to feed your bees with spring syrup to ensure that they have enough food for the young brood. It would be a disaster to have nurtured your bees through winter only to lose them from starvation if we have another cold spell, keeping an eye on stores is worth the effort.

The Spring inspection is the first chance to check on the health of your colony. It's always worth refreshing yourself and reading up on signs of disease, or if you enjoy a challenge, you can now study Bee Pests and Diseases through e-learning on Bee Base, or even sign up for the Module 2 BBKA course on Pest and Diseases. It's also the best time of year to spring clean your hive, removing all the winter protection of mesh and mouse guards and replacing your basic hive parts with clean ones to help keep contamination from build up on old comb etc. down to a minimum. Whether you choose to do a Baily Comb change, the shook swarm method or rotate brood frames, it's worth moving your bees onto new floors and boxes at the same time. Remember if you do put them on fresh foundation, feed them with a stronger syrup to ensure they have enough carbohydrate to produce the wax needed to build new brood comb. Spring is also a good time to check Varroa levels and take any action necessary.

Happy Bee Keeping for 2019 Season



Newsletter Editor: Penny Ward

E-mail: [badbkanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:badbkanewsletter@gmail.com)

## Committee Members and contact details:-

<b>Club President :</b>	<b>Ken Logue</b>
<b>Vice President :</b>	<b>Bob Hurd pat_bob@talktalk.net</b>
<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Richard Matkin 01283 812958</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>David Coates 01283 713603</b>
<b>Honey Show Secretary:</b>	<b>Cath Ambler 07973 369888 cath.ambler@gmail.com</b>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	<b>Francis Oldfield 07452834828 francis.oldfield@gmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer :</b>	<b>Sam Hampton sam.hampton@btinternet.com</b>
<b>Education /Training :</b>	<b>Suzanne King suzanne.king21@btinternet.com</b>
<b>Sue Coates</b>	<b>susan_coates@talktalk.net</b>
<b>Shelia Pirie</b>	<b>smpirie@hotmail.co.uk</b>
<b>Hamish Low</b>	<b>hamish51151@gmail.com</b>
<b>Nigel Collier</b>	<b>rcperformance@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Jane Ratcliffe</b>	

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### Club Meeting Dates for your Diary 2018

**Henhurst & District Recreational Club**  
**Henhurst Hill,**  
**Burton-On-Trent,**  
**Staffordshire,**  
**DE13 9TB**

**MONDAY 15TH APRIL**  
**MONDAY 20TH MAY**  
**MONDAY 17TH JUNE**  
**MONDAY 15TH JULY**  
**MONDAY 19TH AUGUST**  
**MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**




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### Events round and about

<b>Bee Disease Day</b>	<b>8th June</b>	<b>Alrewas Show</b>	<b>20th July</b>
<b>Farm Sunday</b>	<b>9th June</b>	<b>Sudbury Courtyard Event</b>	<b>20th July</b>
<b>Barton Festival</b>	<b>22nd June</b>	<b>Ashbourne Show</b>	<b>17th August</b>
<b>Winshill Fete</b>	<b>23rd June</b>		
<b>RSPCA event</b>	<b>23rd June</b>		

# Events Feed back

## Pictures from our Presentation Night and Christmas social night 2018





## Honey Show Results 2018

### CUPS AWARDED 2018

Names for each cup below are shown in the order of winner (1<sup>st</sup> place), and second place entrants in class.

FRED AND AMY SHARMAN ROSE BOWL	Gift Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Heidi Clarke.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Suzanne King
JACK ALDRIDGE MEMORIAL CUP	Light honey	1 <sup>st</sup> Penny Ward.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cath & Alan Ambler
DON PARKER CUP	Medium Honey	1 <sup>st</sup> Hamish low	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kathy Shaw
PERCY AND EDITH SMITH CUP	Dark honey	1 <sup>st</sup> Dave & Sue Coates	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nigel Collier
COOPERS SQUARE CUP	Soft set honey	1 <sup>st</sup> Nigel Collier	2 <sup>nd</sup> Richard Matkin
THE INAUGURAL CUP	Naturally Granulated Honey	1 <sup>st</sup> Dave & Sue Coates	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cath & Alan Ambler
JACK BANNISTER MEMORIAL CUP	Composite class	1 <sup>st</sup> Jane Ratcliffe	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cath & Alan Ambler
ASSOCIATION CUP	Highest points in honey class	1 <sup>st</sup> Hamish Low	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cath & Alan Ambler
ROUGH LEA CUP	Highest points in the novice classes	1 <sup>st</sup> Jane Ratcliffe	2 <sup>nd</sup> Penny Ward
R. W. ARCHER CUP	Dry mead	1 <sup>st</sup> Nigel Collier	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ken Logue
ASSOCIATION CUP	Sweet mead	1 <sup>st</sup> Nigel Collier	2 <sup>nd</sup> Richard Matkin
ASSOCIATION CUP	Beeswax cake	1 <sup>st</sup> Jane Ratcliffe	2 <sup>nd</sup> Suzanne King
PETER CASH MEMORIAL CUP	Beeswax candles	1 <sup>st</sup> Robert & Pat Hurd	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cath & Alan Ambler
ESMERALDA CUP	Honey cake	1 <sup>st</sup> Sheila Pirie	2 <sup>nd</sup> Robert & Pat Hurd
EDGAR PRATT CUP	Best individual exhibit	Geoff Matthews	
BURTON DAILY MAIL CUP	highest points in show	Jane Ratcliffe	
ASSOCIATION CUP	Second highest points in show	Cath & Alan Ambler	
JUNIOR NOVELTY CUP (Cup kept by winner)	Junior Novelty	Heidi Clarke	

### NO CUPS FOR THESE CLASSES

HEATHER HONEY.	1 <sup>st</sup> Hamish Low	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cath & Alan Ambler
ONE FRAME OF SEALED HONEY	1 <sup>st</sup> Geoff Matthews	2 <sup>nd</sup> Geoff Matthews
CUT COMB HONEY.	1 <sup>st</sup> Hamish Low	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Ratcliffe
NOVICE LIGHT HONEY	1 <sup>st</sup> Penny Ward	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Ratcliffe
NOVICE MEDIUM HONEY OR DARK	1 <sup>st</sup> Heidi Clarke	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Ratcliffe
NOVICE GRANULATED OR SOFT SET	1 <sup>st</sup> Jane Ratcliffe	2 <sup>nd</sup> Suzanne King
BANANA DATE HONEY LOAF	1 <sup>st</sup> Robert & Pat Hurd	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Ratcliffe
NOVELTY CLASS	1 <sup>st</sup> Cath & Alan Ambler	2 <sup>nd</sup> Penny Ward
JUNIOR NOVELTY CLASS	1 <sup>st</sup> Heidi Clarke	
PRO-AM CLASS	No Entries	



## Education

### Introduction to Beekeeping



#### Course Details

Each course runs from 9:15am to 12:15 pm and the course fee is £120.

The maximum group size is 8.

Venue: Three Roofs Apiary, Quarndon, Derbyshire.

The course includes both theory and practical work and follows the syllabus for the BBKA Basic Assessment in Apiculture. It will suit people who are thinking of taking up beekeeping or have already started. A set of course notes is provided and students will receive follow-up practical and email support. Protective suits and veils will be provided.

#### Spring 2019 Saturday Mornings

A 15-hour course running over five Saturday mornings. Dates for 2019 are:

1. 1st June
2. 8th June
3. 15th June
4. 23rd June
5. 29th June

#### Autumn 2019 Saturday Mornings

A 15 hour course running over five Saturday mornings. Dates for 2019 are:

1. 3rd August
2. 10th August
3. 17th August
4. 24th August
5. 31st August

Margaret Cowley  
BADBKA member

For more information and a booking form,



[email: bees@honeybee.org.uk](mailto:bees@honeybee.org.uk)

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*The very best of luck to all those who have taken*

*BBKA module exams in March*





## Diet Changes Honeybee Larvae from Queens into Workers

Scientists at Queen Mary University of London and the Australian National University have unravelled how changes in nutrition in the early development of honeybees can result in vastly different adult characteristics. Queen and worker honeybees are almost genetically identical but receive different diets as larvae. The researchers have found that specific protein patterns on their genome play an important role in determining which they develop into. These proteins, known as histones, act as switches that control how the larvae develop and diet determines which switches are activated. They found that the worker developmental pathway is actively switched on from a default queen developmental programme. This change is caused by epigenetics - a dynamic set of instructions that exist 'on top' of the genetic information. Epigenetic modifications encode and direct the programme of events that leads to differential gene expression and worker or queen developmental outcome. The study, published in *Genome Research*, describes the first genome wide map of histone patterns in the honey bee and the first between any organism of the same sex that differs in reproductive division of labour. Lead author Dr Paul Hurd, of Queen Mary University of London, said: "The ability of an individual larva to become a worker or a queen is due to the way genes are switched on or off in response to the specific diet; this determines such differing outcomes from the same genome. We show that queens and workers have specific histone patterns even though their DNA is the same. These proteins control both structural and functional aspects of the organism's genetic material and have the capacity to determine which part of the genome, and when, has to be activated to respond to both internal and external stimuli." Co-author Professor Ryszard Maleszka, from the Australian National University, added: "The extent of histone modifications uncovered by this study was remarkable and exceeded our expectations. We were able to identify where the important differences are in the genomes of workers and queens." Epigenetic information can be altered by environmental factors, including diet. In the case of the honeybee, the queen larvae are fed a diet of royal jelly, a potent substance capable of changing developmental instructions. Dr. Hurd said: "Think of the genome as the instruction book of everything that is possible, but the epigenetics is the way in which those instructions are read. Epigenetics is about interpretation and of course there are many different ways to interpret these instructions and when and in response to what." The authors found that some of the most important epigenetic differences are in regions of the honeybee genome that are not part of genes. For the first time, these caste-specific regulatory DNA regions that are so important in making a queen or a worker, have been identified. Professor Maleszka said: "Our findings are important because a high level of similarity of epigenetic tool kits between honeybees and mammals makes this familiar insect an invaluable system to investigate the sophistications of epigenetic regulation that cannot be addressed in humans or other mammals." Fred Ayres, Lune Valley Community Beekeepers via ebees.

Sourced from WBKA by Nigel Collier



## **BURTON & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **HELD AT THE HENHURST & DISTRICT RECREATIONAL CLUB**

**MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

#### **PRESENT:**

R Matkin (Chairman); K Logue (President); S Hampton (Treasurer); D Coates (Secretary); A Ambler (Web Master); C Ambler (Membership & Honey Show Secretary); S King (Education Co-ordinator); S Coates (Librarian); P Ward (Newsletter Editor); S Winfield; N Burton; D Ward; M Whiteland; K Shaw; K Shaw; P Pilkington; G Pilkington; S Ward; M Nock; A Edwards; S Barratt; K Dickson; I Dickson; T Webster; C Illsley; M Coleman; B Hurd; P Hurd; C Ward; J Barryman; R Crutchroy; A Greenman; M Burton; B Burton; T Woodman; R Woodman; J Ratcliffe; R Smith; C Ring; C Green; V Bridgot; N Collier; T Walker; P Hodson; M De Haviland; T Wigfall; L Champney; S Orme; K Gillman; J Russell

#### **APOLOGIES:**

P Dickinson; A Hardy Taylor; T Hardy Taylor; S Pirie; M Cowley; L Webb; R & M Dams and L Roberts

The chairman asked all present to stand for a minute's silence out of respect for members who had recently passed away.

#### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

P Pilkington proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record; seconded by S King.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

No matters arising from the minutes.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

The secretary reported that the last year had been good with an increase in membership and attendance at the monthly meetings. However, two areas were not working - the honey show and the presentation night.

Two module education courses had run. Module 1 run by S King and Module 2 run by D Coates, both independent from Derbyshire. Seven people took the exam in November and results were due out soon. Thanks were given to J Russell for the use of a conference room at Ashbourne veterinary surgery. The module courses will run again this year, taking about 6 evening sessions to get through the syllabus. Members were urged to take the basic examination, which is a practical, whereas the modules are written work. The club has more of a challenge this year as it aspires to charitable status, financial stability and the setting up and running of a teaching apiary. Committee members have visited various examples of teaching apiaries around the area and have put together set questions to each one visited. The responses received proved very useful.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The treasurer explained that the accounts would now be set out differently as the organisation proposes to become a charity. Part of the registration process is filing a set of accounts in a certain format. Last year these were signed off by K Logue as auditor. Practices that are adopted for charities of B&DBKA's size is that an independent examiner is required, hence Mr Brian Wood. Supplementary accounts are available in detail if required.

A Ambler queried the statement on page 5 1b and it was discussed that the wording was somewhat confusing but correct.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The chairman confirmed that it was a year since commencing B&DBKA, a move which was right and had worked well. Membership currently stands at 109 and the monthly meetings are well attended and organised with good external speakers and in-house talks received. Charity status and the training apiary to be discussed later in the meeting but will greatly benefit the association in the future.

Only a few members entered the honey show, which was disappointing and the chairman urged members to take part. B Hurd has now stood down from the committee and the treasurer's role, which he carried out for 13 years. The chairman thanked B Hurd and the committee for all their hard work. The association will consider having the AGM in February next year, as this works better for the accounts.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

It was proposed that the committee members remain in post without change. This was proposed by C Ring; seconded by P Pilkington. New committee member N Collier was proposed by C Ambler; seconded by D Ward.

**APPLICATION FOR CHARITABLE STATUS AND CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION:**

The treasurer confirmed that many beekeeping organisations are charities. Gift aid and other benefits come with the status. Two documents accompanied the Agenda which detailed becoming a charity and the constitution.

The training apiary development and charity status work together. A plot of land is required initially, which is likely to be leasehold. This is a major reason to develop charity status as it will hold the lease and not the committee members and raising money would be easier if the club is a registered charity.

Initially, the standardised constitution would be adopted. After this, the rest is a form filling exercise, with one form to be filed with the Charities Commission. It should take until the end of March to get a charity number.

Members unanimously were in favour of the charitable status and constitution.

Members queried if there would be any disadvantages. It was confirmed that this was merely paperwork and administration.

It was raised that various forms of charitable status exist and certain types cannot own property. The treasurer confirmed that the form of charity to be adopted would be the most suitable for the association and allow the ownership of land.

It was also queried if trustees would be liable for debts and if those trustees had yet been identified. The treasurer confirmed that they would be committee members who have specific jobs, i.e. treasurer, chairman and secretary.

The AGM asked for support to register as a charity and to change the constitution.

Charitable status was proposed by A Ambler; seconded by K Logue. A change to the constitution was proposed by K Shaw; seconded by G Pilkington



## **TEACHING APIARY:**

The Chairman informed the meeting that the association was looking to set up a teaching apiary. Sites had been looked at, together with a possible offer from N Burton. Suitable sites were welcomed by the committee.

Committee to be given authority to locate a teaching apiary was proposed by G Pilkington; seconded by M Whiteland.

K Shaw discussed the ideal site for a teaching apiary, which consists of good car parking for 10-15 people regularly and up to 40, within good proximity of Burton on Trent, ideally away from trees, fairly open with a sunny aspect, room to put a storage shed, (anything larger may need planning) a secure site, which may be overlooked by housing. Sites can include disused orchards, 2-3 acres of unused land, but not plots of land with pending planning permission. Solihull site was good, wind shielded, hut on site, good parking but out-grew themselves quickly.

The Chairman reiterated that at this stage the committee was merely looking for support and happy to look at all suggestions. There is a flexible timetable, looking to get it up and running as soon as possible, but the site needs to be right first time. The secretary said the committee have looked around and know what they do and don't want. It may be difficult to find the right site but this would be worth waiting for.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The treasurer discussed an upcoming Swarm Management course, booked at The Priory Centre on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 9 am to 4.30 pm at a cost of £20 per person. Tickets available through Eventbrite.

The Honey Show was discussed and it was asked if the date could be moved 2-3 weeks later towards the end of September or early October. C Ambler confirmed that the club would avoid the same weekend as Derbyshire and would have to consider availability of Coopers Square in Burton. The secretary asked for more help/assistance and proposed running small workshops on how to prepare honey and labelling etc. for the show. These are proposed to start in July/August and would run separately from the monthly meetings.

The secretary raised that the presentation night was not working. The last event attracted only 12 attendees, excluding committee members. The last committee meeting decided to not have a set presentation night but would tag this onto the November meeting, for which Jed Marshall was lined up to give a talk.

The group discussed having the December meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.

It had been a year since the newsletter launch. Newsletter editor confirmed that no input was received from members for the content and welcomed information from everyone. The group praised the editor for the production of the newsletter. The Chairman urged all members to contribute.

The secretary was currently putting together the year's monthly meetings programme for speakers and any suggestions were welcomed. Members raised a possible bee disease day, Asian Hornet, Small Hive Beetle and Queen rearing.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

To: All Area Association Secretaries & AHAT Co-Ordinators  
 From: Anne Rowberry, Trustee and Vice-Chair  
 Date: 13 February 2019



Reference: Asian Hornet Newsletter no. 1

## A WAKEUP CALL – ARE YOU READY?

I have just read an article on DVAV (Dorsal-Ventral Abdominal Vibrations) and I think we as Beekeepers need to take on the message – **‘work is on the horizon’**. Not the Spring Inspections or frantic frame making or even booking tickets for the Spring Convention, but we need to be busy. Now is the time to take an extra stroll around woodlands before they come into leaf to check no uninvited guests have been building nests. There won't be any Asian Hornets in the nests but it may indicate that there could be overwintering queens about to emerge in the area. Please see the Lifecycle diagram of the Asian Hornet

Hopefully your area Association has established an Asian Hornet team with each branch or club in the Association having their own team.

It is really important that each member of the team is aware of the main identification points of the Hornet and has an information card to refer to if needed (these can be obtained from the NBU or downloaded from their website). Every beekeeper team member needs to be sure about the identifying features of the Asian Hornet (the Yellow Legged Hornet) . We need beekeepers confident about; what it looks like, able to refer sightings to NNSS and where possible video, photograph or preserve the specimen.

Have you all sent details to the BBKA to add to the Asian Hornet Map? The public will be asking for your help, just as they do when they have a 'swarm'. How many times have we been called to Bumble Bees, mating Solitary bees or even wasps! It is time to get all those hornet traps ready they are sold by Beekeeping Equipment Suppliers but can easily be made with plastic drink bottles and all the instructions are on the National Bee Unit site, take a look on Beebase.

It is the Spring and the only hornets around are likely to be overwintered queens or those joining us from France. When we put traps out remember to monitor them- there are several ways to eliminate killing some of the bycatch. these include a piece of sponge or tissue in the base of the traps that have no dry areas, small holes to aid escape etc. the method depends on the type of trap used. There seem to be two main baits sold possibly with similar ingredients. Some Counties are already ordering the wasp attractant known as 'Suterra'. If you use it please ensure you use disposable gloves, wash your hands when you finish and take care. It does contain traces of Sulphite and a very few people may have an allergic reaction especially if it gets on the face. There has only been one suspected incident in the UK so far, possibly caused through dispensing the liquid into a lot of small containers Although it may not have been caused by Suterra it is probably better to take precautions. It is very effective in attracting hornets. Some beekeepers used it on the edge of the apiary to keep hornets away from their bees , it was definitely the preferred food.

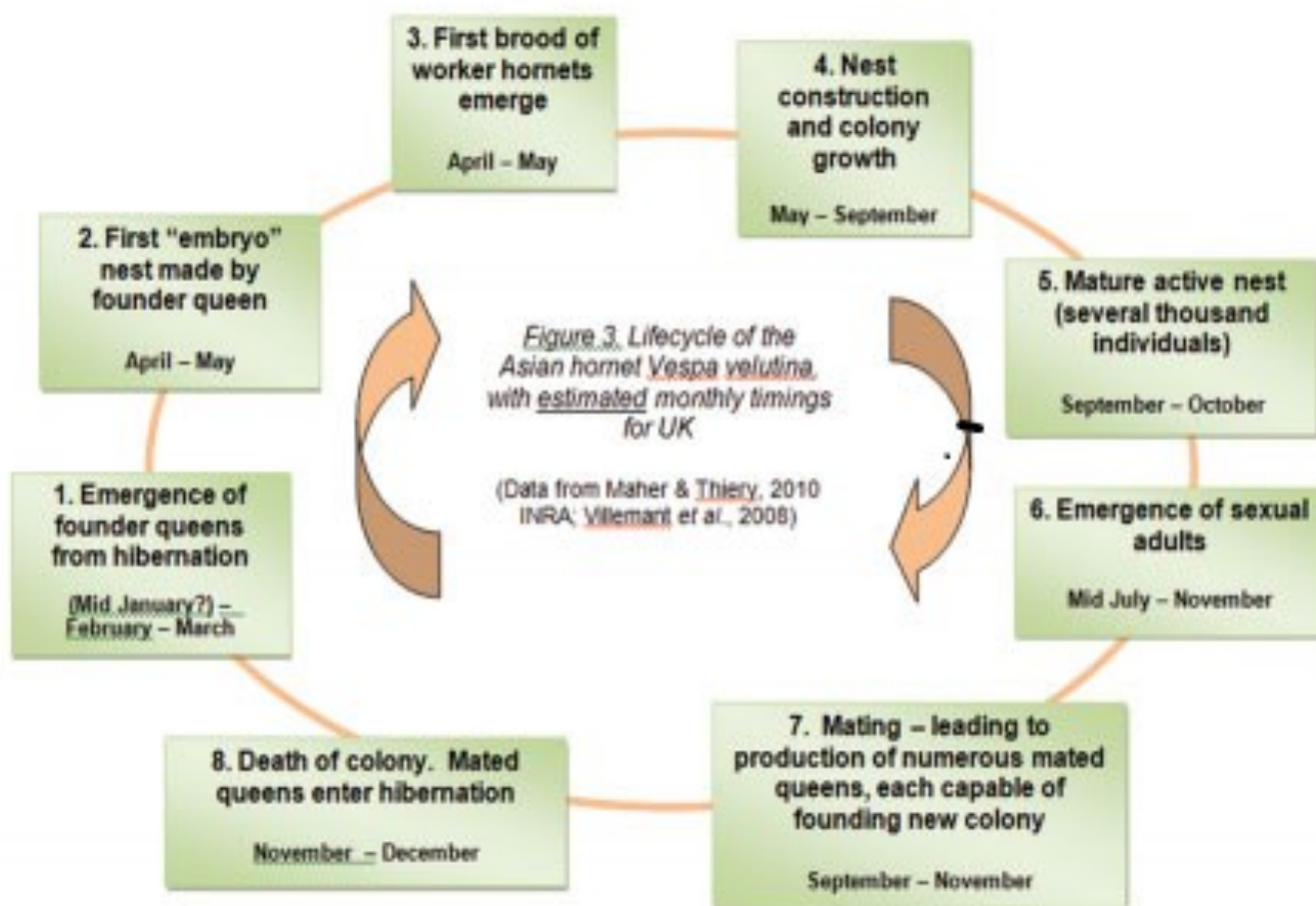
Controlling the Asian Hornet is not just a beekeeping problem. We need to be raising awareness, Public gardens, schools, parks, allotments in fact all the public need to be aware. Overwintered queens will build low nests in sheltered places such as garages, sheds rooves, sides of buildings etc. They will look similar to small wasp nests when they start but bigger and they will grow. Please don't remove these nests (the workers may have started to build a Secondary nest and they need to lead the trackers to that nest) just contact the NNSS and the inspectors will follow it up.

What can the beekeeper do to help to protect their bees except to be vigilant and look for hornets? The hornets often attack by flying under the hive from the back – a skirt from the base of the hive to the floor on three sides may help; let the grass grow especially in front as trackers in Jersey observed that the hornets were often patrolling a few inches above the ground in front of the hive. There is also a wire grid that can fit onto the front of the hive, it allows the bees to fly through but the hornets are apparently reticent to follow. Research to isolate pheromones is making strides especially in France and there is some hope that the Asian Hornet numbers in the future may be controlled. We are continually learning more.

I will keep you all informed as we move into the active bee season.  
 Anne Rowberry



## LIFE CYCLE DIAGRAM OF THE ASIAN HORNET



### Burton & District Beekeepers Library



The associations library is going from strength to strength. Many of our speakers have remarked how good it is. Various people have donated books over the last 2 years which was very kind and very much appreciated. If you have any publications that you no longer use or need and feel may be of interest to our members or use to our library, please bring them along to any meeting

Many thanks to all those concerned.

### FOR SALE

Nucs, Seller Kathy Shaw



For those of you looking to purchase Nucs of bees off Kathy this year please be aware that all her overwintered Nucs have now been sold. She will be happy to reserve one for early summer for anyone who is looking to purchase one for this year. Her Nucs will be ready for sale in May,

For more info please contact Kathy Shaw on:-

**Tel: 07714022971 or 01889 562196**

**Email: [info@beeworthyhives.co.uk](mailto:info@beeworthyhives.co.uk)**