



# *Southampton & District Bee Keepers Association*

## *November 2009*

*Foragings*  
*Newsletter*

*Contributors this month*  
Andy Willis

*Contact Details*  
*Editor: Mark Simmons*  
*Telephone: (023) 8032 7686*  
*Email: [newsletter@southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk)*  
*Web: <http://southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk/>*

## *PESTS & DISEASE*

In line with the CSL guidelines the Varroa count for October

Level and Control Required	Average Mite Drop per Day	Proportion of Infested Drone Pupea
Low No Action	8 or less	
Medium Plan Action		
High Take Action	More than 8	

### *Hampshire Honey Show and Convention*

14th November 2009  
Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh

Advance tickets at £10 each available from Diane Burrows  
[secretary@southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk)

#### Morning Lectures

10.15 - Dr Dave Chandler - Fungal control of Varroa  
11:30 - Clive de Bruyn - What the hobbyist can learn from the  
Commercial Beekeeper

Lunch provided

Afternoon Workshops  
2pm and 3pm

Bee Disease Identification	A Natural approach to
Making Mead	beekeeping
Beekeeping on a shoestring	Encaustic wax art
Making up a Nucleus of bees	The Beehaus beehive

## *Check list for winter survival of a colony of bees in November*

### **Varroa under control.**

- a. Check average daily mite drop is less than 8 per day and ideally less than 1 per day. Too late for Apiguard now but oxalic, formic or lactic acids can be used in brood free period in December if the colony is strong enough and not weakened by viruses.

### **Capped stores**

- a. 6 to 8 frames of capped stores in the brood box (national) which equates to 40lb stores. Feeding should be completed by early November using thick syrup (2lb sugar to 1 pint water)

### **Weather tight**

- a. Ensure your hives are weather tight to keep out the rain and ensure the hive is kept damp free.

### **Reduce entrances**

- a. Reducing the entrance guards against robbing and rodent attack in cold weather (you can fit mouse guards if you like).

### **Queen right**

- a. Some colonies go queenless during the winter, these colonies are doomed and are best united to a queen right stock that is short of bees as soon as noticed.

### **Strong enough**

- a. A good number of bees is required in the brood box to enable 35°C heat to be generated in January and February when brood rearing recommences. (minimum of 3 seams of bees in the winter cluster, 6 to 8 seams is ideal)

If you can answer yes to all of the above then you have done your bit and stand a good chance of the colony surviving the winter, but nothing is guaranteed in beekeeping. Large colonies of bees will eat more stores in the winter than a small colony.

# *Dates for the Diary*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*1<sup>st</sup> October*

## **S&DBKA Subscriptions over-due**

For those who haven't re-joined yet, now is the time. As per the Association articles, agreed in 2008, if you haven't re-joined your name will be removed from the membership list. If you are planning to attend the AGM, please note that only paid up members will be eligible to vote.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009*

## **HBA Autumn Convention and Honey Show** Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh

Tickets available on the door for £12.00

See advert in side for further details of the activities taking place on this day. They are trying a new format this year, so the more people who attend and give feedback can only ensure that our local county convention can continue.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 14:00*

## **S&DBKA AGM**

4 Horseshoes Pub, Nursling

Support your association by attending the AGM and comment/discuss the issues that have arisen over the past 12 months and plans for the next year. Following on from the AGM will be a chance for members to socialise over a small buffet. Free to members.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~