Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers Newsletter

April 2017

Editor: Norman Dickinson

BRIGHTON AND LEWES DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk

Next meeting is the first out apiary meeting on 22nd April at Grassroots

Our first out-apiary meeting of the summer is at Grassroots where Amanda will demonstrate comb change and bee selection. Meetings start at 1.30pm for beginners with the more experienced being invited come along at 2.30pm. Please bring a mug for your tea/coffee and something eat and share with others. Details for the location of Grassroots can be found in the members area of the B&L website.

Last Winter Meeting 15th March - Bob Smith Shook swarm and varroa control

The last indoor meeting of the winter is always welcome as it heralds the coming of spring, meaning that we can get down to some serious beekeeping. This year's meeting was also eagerly awaited as our speaker was Bob Smith who last year gave an intriguing talk on 8mm of Nothing. His subject on this occasion was the Shook Swarm and was equally as enlightening and informative. He described how the shook swarm could provide many benefits including swarm control, the replacement of old brood comb and the ability to move from one hive type / brood frame size to another. There is also the opportunity as part of the process to change the floor and brood box for clean ones. The shook swarm is also an excellent method of varroa control without using chemicals and Bob clearly pointed out some of the hazards to bees, the environment and beekeepers associated with using chemicals.

A key requirement of carrying out a shook swarm was that there should be plenty of bees (greater than 5 full frames of bees) and a laying queen, the ideal time to carry this out would be in the "June gap". It was also essential that a queen excluder (QE) be placed above the floor to prevent the queen absconding (my big mistake when I carried out my first SS. Editor) and then feed syrup until all the brood foundation has been drawn out, which takes approximately 7-10 days. Once the queen is laying well the QE can be removed. Do not be tempted to put on supers until all brood comb has been drawn.

Bob finally invited a volunteer to carry out a shook swarm, without bees it must be said, by following the various steps that he had described earlier. All agreed following the usual Q&A session that the talk had been thought provoking and had introduced some to another tool in the box towards the improvement of their beekeeping skills. Refreshments followed to close the evening and we thank Connie and Heather for their admirable efforts in the kitchen.

The first of the out-apiary meetings takes place on Saturday 22nd April at Grassroots where Amanda will demonstrate comb change and bee selection. All summer meetings start at 1.30 pm with the first hour for beginners only, with the main meeting from 2:30 pm onwards. Please bring a mug for tea and something to share to eat.

Pat Clowser has emailed out a PDF file of the Shook Swarm presentation to all B&L members.

Bob using a volunteer to demonstrate the Shook Swarm

How I came to love the buzz by Manek Dubash

One year into beekeeping, this is the story of how I started – and the mistakes I made. As such, I don't expect it's particularly different from many of the hundreds of thousands of such stories around the world, but there's been so much to learn that just maybe it'll help someone.

Luckily, before I took possession of any bees (if that's the right way round), I had almost a year to prepare.

I'd been offered a site above a flower meadow on the edge of the Downs by some friends so I decided to plunge in. But this all started one July, too late to start a new colony that year so I researched, reading and re-reading everything I could get my hands on: books, articles, web forums, you name it.

By the time the next season rolled around, I'd joined the B+L Division of the SBKA, bought an NBC hive, assembled all the bits and pieces, and felt stuffed full of theoretical knowledge but keenly conscious that practical experience was what I now needed.

So, a swarm arrived the next June (thanks Heather!). It was late in the day (and I was very nervous) to walk them up the gangplank, so I dumped them in, gave them some 2:1 syrup and hoped for the best. Of course my first mistake, as I realised later, was that I should have left them for a few days to consume the contents of their honey crops first, just to ensure that they didn't fill the combs with disease. I got away with that one.

The colony remained small, probably because of their late start but, on the positive side, the varroa drop was low. Disease and pests were at the top of my mind, with no real expectation of honey – rather, I'd be happy to shepherd them through my first winter as a beek. Just as well really, as the colony never grew big enough to build much of a surplus – consisting of just a brood box by the end of the season – and in need of feeding then onwards.

I was lucky to have a colony at all, however, as I'd spotted four queen cells on one of my early inspections. I panicked. 'They're going to swarm', was my first thought, as I pinched out the queen cells. Later, after a calming glass of something red, I concluded that queen cells in the middle of the frame were more likely to be supersedure, so what I'd done was intervened – in a bad way. Should have just left them to it. My second and so far, biggest mistake (I think).

So, the colony was queenless. It didn't seem to make any difference to their temperament – and I had enjoyed their docile behaviour up till then – but a call for advice to Heather put everything right, as she didn't just set my mind at rest, she gave me a new queen in a box. The introduction process – hanging the box off the top of a middle frame – went fine and after a few days, she was laying like the old queen never did.

I got away with that one too. With autumn arriving, I concentrated on helping the colony build its numbers for the cold season ahead, and attending as many local B+L meetings as I could get to pick up more practical experience, and hints and tips from the ever-helpful Division members. I'd like to thank Ian White here, as he even took the trouble to come up to my one-hive apiary and check that all was as it should be.

A LASI workshop at The University of Sussex in the autumn convinced me that oxalic sublimation was the most effective and least invasive way to combat varroa, and the surprisingly large drop in December seemed to bear this out. After providing the colony with a bag of fondant for the winter, intervention was minimal, just keeping an eye on them from time to time, and putting an ear to the hive to check for the sound of buzzing life.

I'm conscious of how much more I have to learn, but also how much fun this hobby is, mixing science and the joy of observing how bees behave. And who knows, I might even get some honey this year. If I had some advice for anyone considering this fascinating hobby, it would be this: do your research, and don't be afraid to ask for help, as it will, in my experience, be freely and willingly given.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to Pat Clowser, Anne Curtis, Bob Curtis, Judith New, Hilary Osman and Ian White who participated in the recent Food Hygiene Assessment Course with all passing the assessment and have been awarded their Food Hygiene Certificates.

Photo courtesy PoshPix

Amanda advises

Selection of best bees.

At this time of year I am usually trying to decide which of my many colonies are the 'best' to raise queens from. Given the many different criteria it is not easy. I did a scientific literature search last month and have come across several things which have changed my views on the priorities I shall select for. Here is a summary of common beekeeping practices which interfere with the colony survival, in order of increasing likelihood of being practiced by hobby beekeepers like ourselves, the first five I hope do not apply to us. More recently I found a summary by the great US bee behaviourist Tom Seeley who has called this approach Darwinian Beekeeping: http://www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org/darwinian-beekeeping which is well worth a read.

1) Multiple mating's by a queen with many drones is essential for the health of a colony. Artificial insemination presents a limited queen and drone gene-pool, and drones are untested (many not having flown from the colony)
2) Migratory beekeeping puts stress on bees, affects resilience to diseases and prevents them adapting to local seasonality
3) 'Hard' chemical varroa treatments increase the exposure of bees to pesticides compromising health
4) Vertical transmission of parasites from queen to offspring favours a stable and more survivable relationship with their parasites. Routine requeening with non-local strains favours horizontal transmission which is more virulent.
5) The immune-priming ('vaccination') of eggs laid by queens through the egg yolk protein vitellogenin is disrupted if non-local queens are brought in from elsewhere and if migratory beekeeping is practiced.
6) Beekeepers play a key role in the spread of new and established pests and diseases by importing non-local queens and practicing poor hygiene.
7) Removal of drone brood for varroa control basically castrates a colony and removes well-adapted drone genes from the gene pool (as well as maladapted drones).
8) Treating against varroa prevents host-parasite co-evolution, i.e. prevents natural selection of resistance to varroa, unless adequate selection is also practiced.
9) Acaricides (hard chemicals, organic acids, essential oils) and antibiotics interfere with beneficial symbiotic organisms, thus reducing immunity.
10) The high density of colonies at apiaries promotes disease transmission and impact, causing higher varroa levels, especially by robbing and drifting.
11) Apiaries are often placed in areas with poor nutrition, but may be convenient for us.
12) Large colonies compared with small feral nests may also have a detrimental impact on colony survival.
13) Regular inspections break the propolis envelope which compromises social immunity.
14) Replacing honey stores with mainly sugar syrup and inadequate feeding leads to starvation and can interfere with symbiotic organisms which are part of bee immune system.
15) Selection against swarming (brood breaks reduces varroa), against defensive behaviour (defensive behaviour is linked to better disease resistance) and selection against colonies with lots of propolis (makes them more difficult to inspect but protects against chalkbrood and other diseases), can compromise bee health.

I then looked at the natural selection of bees able to survive varroa without our constant intervention. I think most of us agree that ultimately this is the way honeybees are going to survive in the long term. There are proponents of the non-treatment route. Treatments include hard and soft chemicals, organic acids, essential oils, icing sugar, manipulations such as drone brood removal and brood breaks etc. While I would support a no chemical treatment route, as I use none in my garden and buy organically grown food, I am not so happy with a complete no treatment concept. I don't think I could cope with the expected potential loss of up to 90% of my bees and the average survival rate after 3 years of only 15.7% of the original stock, and it taking 10 years before seeing much progress. Further reading reassured me that this is not a route I need pursue as it is only really achievable if your apiary is isolated; research suggesting about 3-5 km away from any other, which is almost impossible in our densely bee-stocked part of the UK. Also it is not going to be achievable if you only have a couple of colonies. Beginners will not have the necessary experience and it would be too discouraging if both their hives were lost year after year.

This leaves selecting for disease and varroa resistance every year for a slow improvement. Bees can show resistance to varroa by several means, most of them multiple recessive genes so it will be somewhat of an uphill struggle with all the varied beekeepers around us, although it would help if more people worked together on this. Some bees show Varroa Sensitive Hygiene; VSH, (previously known as Suppressed Mite Reproduction; SMR) when the bees can detect pupae infested with breeding varroa at the pink-eye stage and they open the cells up and dismember the pupa; preventing the mite from reproducing as the young mites die. This VSH is effective against a range of brood diseases not just varroa. Some bees do the uncapping and a pink-eye pupa seen with no cap but sometimes a raised rim is most likely a sign of VSH in progress (unless it is in a line when it is most likely a wax moth larva), others pull out the pupa. See video of VSH bees removing pupae at https://www.perfectbee.com/a-healthy-beehive/threats-to-bees/the-threat-of-varroa-mites-part-2/

Another way they resist mites is to groom more, and to bite varroa and damage them during grooming. Ron Hoskins' resistant Swindon bees have this grooming ability and a non-lethal strain of DWV which seems to be dominant over the lethal strain. We need to recognize signs of these two forms of resistance, such as uncapped pink-eye pupae, bits of chewed pupae on the insert and varroa with missing legs and chunks out of their carapace also bees biting the beekeeper. There are lots of pictures of these signs on the web. There are some pictures of varroa/pupal debris on the Cornwall Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Group http://www.cbibbg.co.uk/ (although the site does not seem to have been updated for a couple of years) where they are also promoting native bees, recognizable by flying in cold weather and mating in adverse weather and storing more pollen than Italian bees.

There is plenty of research showing that when colonies and apiaries are close together, mite levels increase. One (Frey) found 85-444 mites invaded mite-free colonies over a 2 month period in Sept/October from 1.5 km away. Up to 3

times as many mites invaded within crowded apiaries. Another experiment by Greattii in Italy found that after the normal varroa treatment in Aug/Sept and mite levels were low, there was a re-infestation of about 30 mites/per day during October and November, presumably from collapsing swarms or colonies nearby, and one colony received 474 mites in a 4 day period. They determined that drone drifting was not a significant factor and being after the end of the nectar flow, that it was most likely due to robbing. Being Italy and Italian bees being notorious for their robbing, one can only hope it is not so bad over here.
However, although some of my colonies dropped few mites (mostly between 20 and 600) in August and September during treatment; during further treatment in October and November some dropped a further 2500, mostly the larger colonies which were most likely robbing some collapsing colony within a couple of km. These big colonies (with one or two exceptions at an out apiary), were very healthy, had had low varroa during the summer, were reasonable tempered, did not want to swarm excessively and made a bit of honey. Should I mark them down purely because they happened to go out for a spot of robbing in the late autumn? Even highly resistant bees cannot cope with a large invasion and need our help.
Assuming we do not go down the non-treatment route, how do we assess resistance in colonies, given that things like a brood break, colony size, robbing etc have such influence on the numbers of mites? Several resistance breeders suggest all colonies should start the year in early spring at a low level of mites, by treating eg with Oxalic acid in December. Then monitor brood appearance, disease susceptibility, signs of hygienic behaviour and mite drops and compare during the spring and early summer to get an idea of how well they control the mites. Direct testing for hygiene using the freeze test with liquid nitrogen as used by University of Sussex LASI department, is beyond most of us.
Another thing we can easily do is prevent drones from really bad colonies entering the drone gene-pool. To quote Randy Oliver on the Scientific Beekeeping website "If you're not part of the genetic solution of breeding mite-resistant bees, then you're part of the problem. Every time you allow drones or swarms to issue from a colony that owes its survival to a miticide application, you're hindering the natural process of evolution toward mite-resistant bees!" Our queens will mate with other people's drones and vice versa. We should be responsible beekeepers and cull really bad or diseased colonies, before they die as it has been shown recently that mites tend to climb on to nurse bees in a colony with low varroa, but when a colony has a high varroa load and tending towards collapse, they are just as ready to go onto foragers (which may be from another colony, robbing the declining colony) and then have a good chance of infesting a new colony with low density of mites. It would be better to cull before they get to this stage, and prevent the drones entering the gene-pool of the local area.
So my resolutions for this year are to look more favourably on 'bald' brood and check more carefully for damaged pupae and mites on the insert which I neglected to do in 2016. Those hardy colonies which were flying at 5ºC and 6°C this winter will get extra marks in my breeding selection. I shall cull drone from any poor colonies and encourage my best colonies to produce more drones by giving a frame either with drone foundation or half a brood foundation. I shall continue to restrict chemical Acaricides to Apiguard occasionally (which I did not even use last year) and icing sugar, I am still a bit wary of oxalic acid. I shall not select against propolis, or temper unless very bad. I shall continue to aim for them to over winter on at least 50% honey. I shall continue to prevent and control swarms, not wanting to lose valuable genetic material or annoy my neighbours. I shall look out for 'survivor' colonies. Now I have my wonderful 'bee-vacuum' I will be able to rescue feral colonies which have survived, so I can rear more colonies from them. I look forward to testing my 'survivor' colony collected last October which looked healthy and had few mites. As I have about as many colonies as I can cope with, if I produce more from my best I will have to cull the worst or it will all get out of hand!
What will you be doing this year?

Further advise from Amanda

In April we should continue to the monitor the level of stores although they should be able to find nectar soon. Monitor the arrival of drone brood which precedes swarm preparations, some of mine had sealed drone on 15th March and polished queen cups. Carry out shook swarms or Bailey exchange on smaller colonies, these are best early in the month as the honey gatherers will be developing in late April, early May. Start queen rearing which may include giving a frame of drone foundation to your best colony and using a method from the Easy queen rearing sheet on the B&L website. Tom Seeley has put the cat among the pigeons upsetting traditional Beekeepers with his Darwinian beekeeping suggestions (see link below). I think most of his suggestions are very sensible, however I am not sure I agree that wild colonies never lose beeswax, as I understood that in winter they moved up into their honey stores and the wax moth ate their old brood comb (and associated disease) leaving them to make clean comb in the spring. When harvesting honey we save the drawn comb for them to re-use. So regular change of brood comb should not be frowned on.

Recent Research. A recent paper by Dave Goulson, comparing neonic, pesticide and fungicide levels in bumblebees foraging on agricultural land and urban landscape, found in general those foraging on agricultural land had higher levels of pesticides but that the highest levels of neonicotinoids were found in urban bees. He speculates that the source may be spraying in ornamental gardens even though neonics are supposed to be banned, or applications of flea treatments to our many cats and dogs. Short tongued bees had the lowest levels and levels in April and May were higher than summer. Fungicides can be dangerous because they may act by inhibiting the detoxification system in bees. All these compounds may adversely affect the beneficial microorganisms (microbiome) in the bee gut.

At a joint conference in America last month, Samuel Ramsey, University of Maryland, revealed that varroa fed of the fat stores of the developing bee rather than the haemolymph as previously thought.

Report on the SBKA AGM held on 4th March at the Herstmonceux Village Hall

The 2017 SBKA Annual General Meeting hosted by the Eastbourne and District Division was held on 4th March 2017 and was very well attended. The business end of the afternoon commenced at 1415 hrs with the Chair, Pat Clowser, opening the meeting. No apologies were offered and with no matters arising from the 2016 AGM Pat gave her Chairman's report for the year. The Chairman was re-elected as were the Secretary and Treasurer. The Hon Secretary's report and the Hon Treasurers report followed, where the unaudited accounts were approved. The SBKA Divisions then presented their reports for the past 12 months. With there being no further business, it was announced that the High Weald Division will be hosting the 2018 AGM. It was unfortunate that there were no cups to actually present but Liz Twyford read out a list of cups that members had been presented at the Honey Show, together with names of members who had gained BBKA certificates over the past year. This completed the formal business.

The first speaker was Dr Mike Williams, an East Sussex Hospital Group Consultant specialising in maxillofacial surgery and is a Royal College of Surgeons Examiner. He gave a fascinating and captivating talk on the bee sting and the various effects that it has on the human body. He first described how the bee stings, what the anatomy of the sting was and the general chemical make-up of the venom injected into the body. This was followed by a discussion of the bodily reaction to the venom and the process by which the immune system attempts to fight the infection. Finally he described the effect that the venom can have on the body, ranging from swelling and pain at the affected part through to anaphylactic shock which has the potential to kill and what can be done to ease the effects.

The second speaker was Steve Rochester, Head of Resuscitation at East Sussex Hospital Trust and has dedicated his career to ensuring the survival of trauma victims. His talk was based around the treatment of bee stings with particular emphasis on the use of Api Pens to treat those who have a pre-disposition to an allergic reaction to the bee sting. He demonstrated the use of 3 Api Pens from different manufacturers, each with their own method of injection. It is unfortunate that currently there is no standard for these pens hence the differences. He concluded his discussion with a practical demonstration of resuscitation using a dummy.

The final speaker was Jonathan Coote who is a Past President of SBKA and Chairman of Eastbourne BKA and he was discussing the management of aggressive bees. His talk concentrated mainly on the handling of bees, which should be gentle and the use of appropriate hand and arm protection. He advocated destroying colonies that showed bad behavioural tendencies then described the humane method of destruction. He also discussed re-queening as a means of improving behaviour, so long as the off-spring of the queen displayed the right traits.

The afternoon was interspersed with refreshment breaks and there were good Q&A sessions with each speaker.

Unwanted bee collection from a demolished building by Heather McNiven

Well the season started with a bang!
March 9th - A phone call from a demolition company. They had nearly smashed a property to the ground when bees emerged from the final wall. Thankfully a caring chap refused to continue with his job until a bee-keeper was called.
Ken Isted and I answered the call and the next afternoon attended the property in Hurstpierpoint. We nearly turned tail and left as the site was a health and safety nightmare. A huge unattended bonfire, glass everywhere as were planks of wood with exposed nails like bear traps! My first thought was 'Norman would be here for a week doing a H&S list' *would I do such a thing? Ed*. But, after discussion we decided to proceed.
The bees were under the planks behind the wooden shingles and, with Ken welding the faithful crowbar, this lovely colony was exposed. Considering their disturbance they were busy but friendly. The 7 sections of comb, 3 of which had brood, was easily cut out and nicely fitted into frames, and were held in place by rubber bands. They are now safely installed at Barcombe and when they are happy with their new environment I will extend them into a WBC waiting for them.

p.s. As we were leaving the site the builder arrived, and I left Ken (an experienced carpenter used to building sites) having a quiet rant as to the risks we encountered. I went back the next morning to collect the bees after they had regrouped overnight to find the fire subdued, barriers up warning of non entry due to risk, and a much tidier site overall. Job done. Many thanks again to Ken for his assistance.

Photos by
Heather McNiven

A couple of bee stories sent in by Gerald Legg

How to Get Elephants to Buzz Off

Scientific American, March 2017.

Researchers exploit a fear to reduce elephant-human confrontation

Mice don't actually scare elephants, but there is one tiny animal that the pachyderms definitely steer clear of: bees. It's a fear conservationists have begun to harness to keep elephants out of crops in Africa – a point of conflict that leaves hundreds of humans and elephants dead every year. … John R. Platt

The Elephants and Bees Project, run by the non-profit Save the Elephants, seeks to keep elephants from trampling and eating crops by building bee fences: ;wire fences strung with hives. The experimental project first began in Kenya in 2008 and has since expanded to six African countries. According to an upcoming paper in Conservation Biology, the buzzing fences have kept out 80 percent of the elephants that have approached them. These special barriers also provide locals with revenue from honey, says project leader Lucy King.

Air Shepherd, a program of the Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation, is simulating the threat of bee stings to minimise conflict. Last summer researchers brought drones [not male bees but the mechanical kind] to Malawi to search for poachers – and found that the noise of the quadcopters could spook elephants. "They sound like bees," explains Otto Werdmuller Von Elgg., The programme's head of drone operations. In addition to its anti poaching efforts, Air Shepherd now also spends nearly every night flying the buzzing quadcopters along crop fences and around Liwonde National Park as an elephant deterrent. Drones are not yet legal in every African country, but Von Elgg thinks the idea will eventually fly in more locations. "One drone is enough to move a herd of 100 elephants," he says

Bees learn to play golf to get snacks

NewScientist 4 March 2017-03-10

It's a hole-in-one! Bumblebees have learned to push a ball into a hole to get a reward, stretching what small-brained creatures were thought capable of. Previous studies showed that bees could do smart things to objects directly attached to a food reward, such as pulling a string to get at food. Olli Loukola at Queen Mary University of London and his team decided the next challenge was to get bees to learn to move an object not attached to a reward. They built a circular platform with a small hole in the centre filled with sugar solution, into which bees had to move a ball to get a reward. A researcher showed them how to do this by using a plastic bee on a stick to push the ball. The bees did learn, and even minimised the effort needed by choosing the ball closest to the hole. "They don't just blindly copy the demonstrator; they can improve on what they learned," says Loukola,. He thinks this ability to copy and refine what they observe could help the bees forage successfully in changing natural environments. Loukola also thinks the behaviour fulfils the criteria to tool use – normally regarded as the preserve of only a few particularly intelligent animals, such as primates and crows.

Unique lecture oportunity

The Secretary of the West Sussex Beekeepers Association has passed on this snippet of information regarding a lecture arranged with Professor Jamie Ellis during his current UK lecture tour, to be held on 4th April commencing at 7:30pm.

'The amazing honey bee: design and function'. The venue is the Leconfield Hall, Market Square, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AH .

Jamie Ellis is the Gahan Associate Professor of Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida, USA. He has a BS degree in Biology from the University of Georgia and a PhD in Entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa. At the University of Florida (UF), Jamie has responsibilities in extension, instruction and research. Regarding his extension work, Jamie created the AFBEE program (African Bee Extension and Education Program), the UF, South Florida, and Caribbean Bee Colleges, and the UF Master Beekeeper Program. As an instructor, Jamie supervises PhD and masters students in addition to offering an online beekeeping course. Currently, Jamie and his team have over 30 active research projects in the fields of honey bee husbandry, conservation and ecology, and integrated crop pollination. Jamie is also a trustee of the International Bee Research Association.

The evening lecture will start at 7:30pm sharp so please be in your seats no later than 7:20pm. All welcome and entry to non-WSBKA members is just £5.

Divisional Diary 2016/7

Outdoor meetings: Meetings are on Saturdays and Sundays. Unless otherwise, stated a 1.30pm start for beginners will be followed by a general meeting at 2pm. All meetings advertised will be weather permitting. Location maps are on the website in the member's section.

Summer Programme

Out apiary meetings

Sat 22nd April: Grassroots - Comb change and bee selection with Amanda Millar
Sun 14th May: PoshPix, Woodingdean - Hive Splits / Swarm Control with Bob Curtis
Sun 4th June: Newick – Queen rearing / Apideas with Heather McNiven
Sat 17th June: Preston Park – Housing a swarm and top bar hives with Philip Else
Sun 2nd July: Cooksbridge – Queen rearing with Ian White
Sat 15th July: Barcombe – Taking supers off with Heather McNiven
Sun 16th July: The Big Park – Topic to be advised with Sue Taylor
Sun 10th Sept: Grassroots – Preparing hives for winter with Amanda Millar

For your diary

7th to 9th April - BBKA Spring Convention. Full details on the BBKA website.
Sat 20th May - Sussex Festival of Bees, Heathfield Community College.
8th to 10th June - South of England Show, 50th anniversary of this great show.
Sat 5th August - Rottingdean Fair.
Sun 3rd Sept – Social BBQ at Heather McNiven's.
Sat 25th November - Sussex Beekeepers' Association Annual Convention, Uckfield Civic Centre.

The Brighton and Lewes Division of the SBKA cannot accept any responsibility for loss, injury or damage sustained by persons in consequence of their participation in activities arranged.

Officers of the Division

President
Lionel Reuben
Chairman
Ian White
E: ianda.pinehill@yahoo.co.uk
Vice-Chairman/Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Pat Clowser, 5 Wivelsfield Road, Saltdean, BN2 8FP
T: 01273 700404 E:Patricia_clowser@hotmail.com
Secretary
Hilary Osman, Holly Tree Cottage, Norlington Lane, Ringmer, BN8 5SH T: 01273 813045
E:secretary@brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk
Meetings Secretary
Mary King
Swarm coordination
Vacant
Webmaster
Gerald Legg, E: gerald@chelifer.com

Newsletter editor
Norman Dickinson, 34 Abergavenny Rd, Lewes, BN7 1SN
T: 07792 296422 E: normandickinson@orange.net
Librarian
Vacant
Out-Apiary Managers
Amanda Millar, "Burgess Hill"
Heather McNiven "Knowlands Farm"
Sue Taylor "Big Park"
County Representatives
Bob Curtis, Ian White
Education coordinator
Amanda Millar
National Honey Show Representative
Norman Dickinson
Committee Members
Sue Taylor, Gerald Legg, Heather McNiven, Mary King

Contributions to our newsletter
Contributions to the newsletter (max 900 words) can be sent preferably by email to the editor see Officer panel above for details
Photos etc. for the website should be emailed to our webmaster, see panel above.

Regional Bee Inspector:
Diane Steele, T: 01243 582612
Mob: 07775 119452 E: diane.steele@apha.gsi.gov.uk