High Wycombe and District Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity No. 299638

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Newsletter - June 2006

Diary

Forthcoming Events

27th May - 2nd July	**-**	**Small Worlds Exhibition at the Environment Centre**
12th July	**-**	**New BeeKeepers Meeting**
15th July	**-**	**Apiary Inspection, Barbeque and Farm Tour**
19th/20th August	**-**	**Wycombe Town Show (Note Revised date)**

12th July (Wednesday) - 7.30pm New Beekeepers Meeting at the Environment Centre

This meeting is for all people who have just completed the course, or have started beekeeping, in the last couple of years, or are interested in starting beekeeping. We recognise that, when you set out as a beekeeper, there are many issues that arise that you need to discuss, The purpose of this meeting. therefore is to support and advise beekeepers and to highlight, that we all need ongoing discussion with each other, however experienced we may or may not be - there is always plenty to learn and many ways of finding solutions to issues All newish beekeepers to this meeting to raise the issues that have arisen for them with some of the more experienced beekeepers. Second-hand equipment will also be for sale

15th July (Saturday) Marlow Apiary Inspection, Barbeque and Farm Tour. Widmere Farm Marlow

The event ,will begin at 10.45 with Beulah Cullen inspecting the Association Apiary Marlow

This will be followed at approx 12.45 pm by a barbeque at Widmere Farm - this is on a 'bring and share' that is bring your own meat/veggies for the barbeque, salad will be provided, and bring a pudding or drink to share. Picnic plates, cups and cutlery will be provided

At approximatly 2.15pm the farmer, will take us on a tour of the farm,demonstrating wild flower areas; the Bumble Bee research areas; his policy on headlands and plantation strips the crop management strategy. We may be able to visit the ancient crypt. We need an idea on numbers for provision of salads and barbeques, so please let me know if you'll be attending on HW 531599 chazecamber@yahoo.co.uk Directions for the venues will be given in the July Newsletter, friends and family welcome,

19th/20th August Wycombe Town Show

The date for this show was altered this week and we now need to decide whether we are able to put in a presence. We usually have a large area, however in order to make an impact we need a good many members to assist. I had rung round everyone who'd offered to assist this year, and on the basis of the previous date, we had sufficient coverage. Now it's back to the drawing board and seeing whether there'll be enough members available for the new date so please expect another round of phone calls/emails,

Christine

Chairman's Chat

Far be it for me to grumble but May has been a month well worth forgetting as soon as possible. What seems to have been persistant rain has gone right against our beekeeping requirements. Swarms have come out of the hives and probably been washed off the trees into a sodden heap on the ground. Virgin Queen mating flights have been delayed past the time scale for a successful mating. The Oil Seed Rape crop has finished two weeks early despite a late start and we have not been able to examine our colonies in the way that we ought to in order to maximise the colony strength for the summer flow. If 2006 is not to be written off we urgently need a change in the weather.

One major event not affected is the Bees and Bugs Show at the Environment Centre. Sylvia and Raymond Chamberlin, supported by Clive Hill, have put in an immense amount of work and the result is a marvelous show which is worthy of everyones support. It is a truly 'must go' event for anyone with the slightest interest in garden insects.

Many thanks to the members who made their hives available for inspection by lan Homer, our Regional Bee Inspector, when he carried out a most thorough tour of the colonies. He inspected 13 hives during the morning for which we had his services.

John Crick

For Sale

4 x 30 lb buckets of unstrained 2006 honey
from our Hughenden apiary.
Available at £54 (£1.80 per Ib.)
Buckets returnable please.
Contact Bob Hunter on 01494 716379

I have for sale a few spare items from the Woodworking Day held earlier this year. All at bargain Prices.
Dummy Frame kits
Three for BS Deep @ £2.50 each
Three for 16 x 10 @ £3.00 each.
One Trolley Board @ £7.50.
Two 16 x 10 Nuc box kits @ £15.00 each.
Clive Hill: 01 494 526557

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Recent Event Reports

Meeting on 19th May. Getting into Beekeeping & Running the London Marathon - in support of Bees for Development - Bill Turnbull

Our Chairman introduced Bill Turnbull as a man of many parts: A beekeeper, A marathon runner and charity fundraiser, a remarkably successful competitor in the TV programme 'Strictly Come Dancing', and a fellow supporter of Wycombe Wanderers. Bill is also a TV star, through his work as a journalist and anchorman of BBC1's morning news programme 'Breakfast', which goes out each day between 6.00 and 9.00am. So his job has made him into a perpetual early riser. He has also become involved in charity work, particularly for Bees for Development.

In talking to and with us, Bill gave us insights into a good many parts of the above CV, but thankfully I don't recall anything on football!

News of our star's appearance had reached out to other supporters of The Environment Centre and beyond, so our audience was somewhat swollen by several interested non-beekeepers. It was good to make them welcome and to hope they all enjoyed their evening.

Bill talked with us, keeping us both amused and informed in the process. We learnt that his family live in a country location somewhere near Beaconsfield. He got into beekeeping in a rather indirect way via the family's pet hens, Agatha, Sally and Tabasco. One day Tabasco took sick, and had to be taken to the vet. There on the wall at the vets' surgery in Pinner was an advert for beekeeping classes at Harefield. Bees obviously fitted with the family's 'country lifestyle', so Bill found out some more and then joined the classes. His first colony had got him 10lbs of honey, and then promptly died out: but he had been persuaded to enter the honey in the Middlesex Novice Class at the National Honey Show, and won! So, as many of his audience had also experienced, he quickly become hooked on Beekeeping!

Bill then explained some of the non-standard ways that simple things like bee stings can affect the working life of someone who is continually before the unforgiving eye of a TV camera: and whose job means working strange hours and visiting faraway places. Amongst other things we learnt about his experiences with bee swarms; how bees are probably psychic and do their best to thwart your plans when you are busy; how security lights that come on at night can cause previously static swarms to take flight again; how a honey extractor with honey still in it can become a useful long-term conversation piece and teaching-aid in the kitchen, when friends come to dinner; and how a freezer can be useful to store oilseed rape honey in the frames so it remains liquid for extracting several months later. Meanwhile Bill has got to running nine colonies, and has recently bought a Kenyan Top Bar hive to try out. He is also training-up his son to help with the bees; and he is getting to be very useful.

We also heard how Bill had run in a good many Marathons, including the 1st London Marathon in 1981; and how he had got involved with raising money for Charity by getting sponsorship. At the National Honey Show he had met Nicola Bradbear and later been asked to become a Patron of Bees for Development, a Charity which has the aim of encouraging beekeeping as a sustainable and income generating activity for the 3rd World.

Bill ran over the way an athlete trains for the Marathon. It can take a year of preparation. In 2004 he took part in the London Marathon dressed as a beekeeper - one of the first costumed runners. He was sponsored by Thornes and ran in a beekeepers tunic with round veil and beekeepers gloves. He was hoping to beat his personal best of 3 hours 45 minutes, but the costume had slowed him down so much that he could only manage 4 and a half hours. However he had raised over £3000 in sponsorship for Bees for Development.

During questions we learnt a little of Bill's background as a journalist. He had worked on radio for quite a few years, including The Today programme with John Timpson and Brian Redhead. Then we heard about the 'Strictly Come Dancing' programme, when he had had to become as super-fit as an Olympic athlete: then finally we heard about working on the BBC Breakfast TV programme. Some of the audience feedback he obtained was obviously useful to him, and was going to be fed back in to the programme makers

Bill had agreed to divert his speakers fee to Bees for Development and the proceeds of the tea sales were also being dedicated to that cause. He left us to ponder the Beekeeper's Blessing: May your Supers always be overflowing. and may the swarms that you catch always be somebody else's.

Many thanks to Bill for a most enjoyable and interesting evening.

Clive Hill

Phil's June Quiz

1. The exoskeleton serves the honey bee as a primary defence against pathogens. (True or False)
2. As a colony makes preparations to swarm, please explain what structural, behavioural, and physical changes you would expect to see on each of the following: - (6 points)

a) Foraging activity
b) Wax glands
c) Queen's egg laying rate
d) Queen's diet
e) Scout bees
f) queen cups

3 After a primary swarm leaves the colony, explain what two events may occur back at the parent hive. (2 points)

4. What is the primary explanation for a colony issuing a swarm in the late Summer/Autumn. (1 point)

5. Nectar has a wide range of PH values even though the final product, honey, is acidic. (True or False)

6. In heavy varroa mite infestations, new worker honey bees may emerge with shortened abdomens misshapen wings and deformed legs and may weigh less than healthy bees. The misshapen wings are believed to be caused by deformed wing virus. (True or False)

7. Most bee viruses persist as unapparent infections and cause no overt signs of disease. (True or False)

Sadly Phil Wiggins has decided that this will be his last set of quiz questions and "Life in the 1500s".
On behalf of all readers I would like to thank him for all his hard work and interesting contributions

Editor

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26th May Visit by lan Homer, the CSL Southern Region Bee Inspector to visit the apiary I share with Christine Hazell. Which we had made it into an open invitation.

Our visitor from 'on high' (well, Bernard Wells apiary actually) did arrive. We had other visitors too, four of them, with two being from this years Beginners Course. Luckily the rain held off, the temperature held up, the bees behaved themselves: and we all had a very interesting time.

If you haven't met him, lan is a big, genial and very tall man. He wears one of those orange bee suits too, so he does rather stand out! In the space of about an hour and a quarter we went through all eight colonies of bees. Five were done slowly, with discussion; then the last three were fairly whizzed through, but with no less precision. We all learnt a lot; and for the Beginners it must have been a real eye-opener.

lan judged that the slow build-up of some colonies was due mainly to bad Chalk Brood stress. It is obvious in the form of the usual 'mummies' but he also showed us how to diagnose it in a sickly larva. (The larva is spread out with a matchstick, then looked at carefully. With Chalk Brood the gut is white due to fungal mycelium, not the usual yellow due to pollen). We also had the good advice that the thymol of the Varroa control treatment Apiguard can be used to control Chalk Brood. That it might well be worth changing to a new bloodline of queen: and that later the colony can be moved off the infected frames by making an Artificial Swarm in August, after the honey had come off. This treatment will also help to control Varroa. lan said he prefers to move bees to new frames (with consequent reduction in brood disease and Varroa) by using late summer Artificial Swarming, plus feeding; rather than trying to do so in the spring, when the bees are put off drawing comb by the cold weather so common at that time of year.

lan said that he inspects some 800 bee colonies a year, as well as running colonies of his own. So he has an enormous practical knowledge base to draw upon. He was amazingly quick (within seconds and on the first frame) to diagnose that a colony was preparing to swarm, or had recently done so. To do this he scans frames looking for the presence of eggs, and the balance between eggs, unsealed and sealed brood.

A few more of Ian's tips. Like me, Ian uses top beespace in his hives, and would never consider going back to bottom beespace. He uses Langstroth hives and likes the large brood chamber with consequent fewer frames to check for queen cells. He has hive stands arranged so that the top of the brood chamber is at a comfortable working height. He likes framed wire excluders and puts them on running front to back.

The best Bee Book for beginners is still Ted Hooper's "Guide to Bees and Honey". The best book about bees is Robert Winston's "The Biology of the Honeybee". The best super frames are Manley frames, but this means using a radial extractor. Put a coat of Vaseline (Petroleum Jelly) over surfaces like frame ends where you don't want the bees to propolise things together; this will make it much easier to separate surfaces, or move frames later.

lan has offered to come and give us a 'Disease Recognition Day' next year, and I hope we will be able to take him up on this.

Many thanks to Ian, for making this visit so enjoyable and for his depth of experience and advice.

Clive Hill

Answers to Phil's June Quiz

1. True

2. (a) Activity decreases and eventually virtually ceases prior to the issue of the swarm.

(b) Workers engorge honey which causes the wax glands to develop, so comb construction can begin immediately after swarming. Thus a large proportion of the swarm's make up has active wax glands when they swarm.

© Workers cut down on feeding royal jelly to the queen and as result the queen's egg laying rate is reduced..

(d) Workers place the queen on a diet, as she needs to slim down so she can fly. She loses 1/3 to 1/2 of her body weight in eight to ten days time.

(e) Scout bees stop scouting for food and start looking for a new home site.

(f) The number queen cups in the hive increases. Those already present have new wax added to the opening and the cup is enlarged in size. There will be an egg in each cup/cell.

3. After a primary swarm issues from a colony, back at the hive there are several queen cells, often sealed. Either the first queen that emerges goes around and kills all her rival queens in their cells or, she does not do so, or is prevented from doing so by the workers, and leaves the hive as a virgin queen with another group of bees, as a secondary swarm.

4. Swarms that issue at this time of the year are a complete mystery, since they will not survive. It is thought that that it may be a means by which the colonies get rid of excess bees (*Population Control*).

5. True. Nectars display a wide range of acidity and alkalinity (ph) even though the final product is acidic.

6. True. Varroa Destructor may act as a vector of the virus.

7. True. Viruses normally exist as low level latent infections and of course cannot be seen with the naked eye.

National Honey Show

This year, all first time exhibitors and people who've not exhibited in the last 10 years, will not be required to pay any entrance fee for the first four classes entered into the show. This offer is in addition to free entry to the show to all members who've joined local associations during the last year.

Christine

Life in the 1500s

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. They would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and re-use the grave. When re-opening these coffins 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer" Who says history is boring?

Phil Wiggins

Seasonal Tips and Reminders. June 2006

This May we've had a right mixture of weather again: quite a bit of cold, a bit of warm and a bit of wet. The different plant flowering periods have knitted together to give a prolonged spring nectar flow: but the doubts have been if the temperature was OK, and the bee numbers were high enough for productive foraging. I think it makes two years in succession that the horse chestnut trees have been in flower for nearly the whole month. And we've had quite a bit of their 'brick red' pollen being taken into the observation hive at our base in The Environment Centre. The bees have of course been eating their new honey during the colder and wetter spells; but if your colonies didn't swarm, there should still have been a good nectar surplus to be converted to stored honey.

If your bees have been busy and there's lots of honey, then what's to be done? That depends on if there is oilseed rape honey in the hive, which because it is a high glucose nectar, carries the risk of honey setting in the combs. If you're sure there's no rape, you can leave it on and give yourself the luxury of a single honey extracting session probably in August. But a decision like this carries penalties: you'll need to have plenty of supers to put on the hive; and perhaps a small ladder to reach the top, to get the supers off. Then you will get plenty of high level arm and back exercise, and so your back is at significant risk when lifting supers to do your hive inspections in the meantime. (In 2002, Beecraft carried an excellent series of articles on wise lifting and back care for beekeepers - so look there for further information.) In the past I've taken the leave-honey-on option, but it's not enjoyable to get the top supers off full of honey when they're six foot or more up in the air, and you're standing on a milk crate or two, to reach them!

If you do need to extract, to make some empty super space or get rape honey off before it sets; put the full supers on the hive over a clearer board (with at least two Porter escapes, or one of the modern plastic grid tunnel bee escapes in it) and with an empty super beneath to take the bees. Bring the full supers home as soon as possible, say no more than a couple of days and preferably less, so the honey stays warm. Then extract while the honey is still warm. Even a few degrees temperature difference makes a huge difference in honey viscosity, the colder the thicker - with more honey left in the combs after extracting. Put the empty supers back in the evening to reduce excitement in the colonies, and to feed them a little too. Make sure the colony has sufficient stores after removing the honey crop: transient nectar dearths can cause starvation.

You're supposed only to extract capped honey: but a small proportion of properly viscous uncapped honey shouldn't cause problems. (Test uncapped honey by shaking the combs. Unripe honey has low viscosity and will fall easily from the comb. Ripe, viscous honey will stay put.) If the moisture content is higher than 20%, fermentation is a certainty. Between 18 and 20% it's likely. The moisture content can be measured easily with a refractometer, or less accurately with a hydrometer; but these are expensive luxuries for a beginner. Put rape honey into buckets to granulate, then re-melt it later. In jars it sets very hard, and usually has bad frosting. Honey for sale must look appetising, not scruffy.

In early June it's common to get a nectar dearth, due to a lack of flowers that bees can work. It's known as the "June gap" and can cause a sudden risk of starvation even at the height of summer. In such circumstances, a small emergency feed of syrup will save the colony and be used by the bees as food, not stored

And so, to colony maintenance during June. Much like May really, regular 7 - 10 day inspections. In early June the brood nest should still be expanding, but will soon tail off. Keep your eye out for the queen, eggs, brood of all stages, and huge areas of capped brood. Look for brood disease, and queen cells. Also watch for the level of Varroa mites. Use a decapping fork to check drone brood. If you do take a swarm, treat it for varroa as soon as you hive it, while the mites have no brood cells to hide in. Check your stock of Varroicide, you'll be needing it in August.

Later in the month, make sure the bees have plenty of space (2 - 3 supers) to store the main summer nectar flow. In my experience this usually fits well with the month of July, but with our earlier summers, it could start at the end of June. This nectar flow tends to be from lime trees, brambles, and rosebay willow-herb. Once it starts, a strong colony can fill a super in a few days, then they'll run out of cluster space inside the hive on a wet day, and have to make hive space by hanging outside, perhaps in the rain. Such over-crowding tends to make colonies swarm too!

Finally, don't forget to make a little time to sit beside the hive: relax, listen, watch and wonder.

Clive Hill

The Small Worlds Exhibition

at the Environment Centre continues for another month until July 2nd. We were fortunate in having Ian Homer to open the Exhibition last Friday evening. He used the Varroa scenario to highlight the role of mankind in exacerbating problems within the small worlds that share the planet Earth

The exhibition is proving very popular and has averaged over 100 visitors each day. The children who come show great interest in the tiny creatures, though there is plenty too for adults with enquiring minds.

Those of us who researched these creatures have been delighted and fascinated by our discoveries. Please publicise this event to your friends and neighbours and try to get down yourselves to share the experience. We are open from 11am to 4.0pm on Saturday and Sunday this coming weekend and then on Thursday 11.30 am to 3.30pm, Saturdays 11.0am to 3.00pm and Sundays 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Sylvia

Items for publication will be accepted as hard copies (typed, printed or handwritten) as long as they are totally legible. Normally the closing time for material will be 7am on the 1st of the month

Send them (preferably unfolded) to:

Newsletter, 22 Claremont Gardens, Marlow, SL7 1BS.

E-mails **(without attachments)** can be sent to:

hwbka.newsletter@tiscali.co.uk

Notes from Margaret Thomas's Talk on Swarming & Swarm Control.

When Margaret Thomas gave her excellent Talk on this subject to HWBKA, back on 27th January 2006, she left a copy of the overheads she had used for us to use further. In an earlier Newsletter I promised to circulate them to our members: and although it is a month later than I had hoped, here you are. What follows is a succinct and excellent working summary of the swarm control scene. Many thanks to Margaret for this material

SWARMING
Starts with queen rearing, followed by well defined, but varied sequence of events
Now agreed to be multifactorial:-
* colony size,
* worker age distribution,
* brood nest congestion,
* reduced transmission of queen substance. Add in abundant resources and genetics.

Normal swarming time
Signs swarming is about to happen

The process
Swarm issues.
Afterswarms or casts

Supersedure

DISADVANTAGES OF COLONIES SWARMING
Anxiety/Nuisance to the public
Nuisance to other beekeepers
Danger to other beekeepers
Loss of queen
Loss of bees
Loss of honey crop
Frequent castes - non viable
Perpetuation of swarmy strains
Spread disease - varroa, etc

SWARM PREVENTION: THE 10 DAY INSPECTION
Queen marking - ease finding queen
Clipping - The basis of the '10 day inspection' system

Normally old queen leaves with swarm when the first cell is sealed.

Scenario 1, Q clipped:
If no Q. cells found on inspection today, a swarm could emerge 8 days later. (egg to sealed queen cell = 8 days).
The clipped Q. is unable to fly - she leaves with swarm and falls to ground - gets lost - swarm returns. The bees can make a second attempt with the first hatching virgin, i.e. 16 days after inspection
It is therefore safe to leave the colony for 14 days. You will have lost the Q. but not the bees ....

Scenario 2, Q clipped:

On inspection Q. cells found and all are destroyed. The colony will make emergency queen cells using up to 3 day old larvae. The earliest this swarm can issue, (remembering the old Q is unable to fly, and if attempts to do so will be lost), will be with virgin in 10/11 days The arithmetic is as follows: The bees using a 3 day old larva, [Day 6 in the life cycle (3 days as egg + 3 days larva = 6], convert this larva into a queen larva. It will be a further 10 days before virgin emerges, (the life cycle from egg to emergence is 16 days) add another day before she flies = 11)

NB. The 10 day inspection gives a safety margin of 1 day!
Just a warning, in warm weather queens may emerge after 15 days, instead of the usual 16

Scenario 3, Q not clipped:

If no Q. cells found on inspection today, a swarm could emerge 8 days later. (egg to sealed queen cell = 8 days).
Bees make Q cells as soon as you leave, cell sealed on 8th day, Swarm leaves
Or
Q cells destroyed on inspection today. Swarm could emerge 2 days later Emergency Q cell made from 3 day old larva Q cell sealed in 2 days swarm leaves

SWARM PREVENTION METHODS

Maintain young queens good supply of Queen Substance
Prevent congestion: Remove sealed brood and bees
Replace combs removed with drawn comb
Don't use foundation in the brood chamber
Create space super well ahead of need - unripe honey takes up more space than the finished product Space encourages foraging and honey production
Honey processing bees are moved out of the brood area
Give foundation to draw upstairs - moves young bees out of the brood area.
Move fully filled super frames from the centre of the super to the edge, creates space.
Under-super with empty supers to create immediate space

SWARM CONTROL:
There are 3 components in a colony - queen, brood and bees. In this context the house bees are the important ones. Two need to be separated from the other Most methods involve splitting the queen from the brood and young bees. The following methods do this:

Artificial Swarm (Pagden) split once queen cells are found
Demaree split before queen cell production,
Modified Demaree Split brood without finding queen
Shook swarm Shaking bees onto foundation Removing all brood Requeen with a current year Queen.

This method increases the amount of queen substance available to house bees and does therefore not require splitting the colony. This has to be done in conjunction with increasing the space available to the bees
Getting a queen early in the season is problematic, so may not be a practical method.

References:
Hooper and Morse Encyclop. under Swarming prevention P378384
Hooper Bees &Honey Ch 5 P 112 clipping and 10 day inspection. Ch 7 Artificial swarm, re-queening method, clipping, marking
Winston Biology of the Honeybee Ch 11,
Snelgrove Swarming

FURTHER DETAILS OF THESE METHODS

Artificial Swarm (Pagden)
Equipment: Spare floor, brood body and drawn frames, cover board and roof

1. On finding queen cells, move the brood chamber ‘A’ to one side of the original site.
2. Find Q. remove any queen cells on that comb
3. Place into new brood box ‘B’ containing drawn comb (foundation may inhibit Q. laying)
4. Place 'B' on the old site
5. Replace queen excluder and supers
6. The flying bees return home.
7. This is now an artificial swarm.
8. Initially there is no brood to rear.
9. The colony will concentrate on nectar gathering
10. The Q finds empty comb to lay in.
11. There are few nurse bees.
12. There is proportionately lots of Q substance
13. The colony abandons swarming
14. Check the following week for new queen cells
15. Destroy these if the Q is laying.
16. Thereafter the colony can be left alone. Note: Colony may supersede later
17. In the old brood chamber ‘A’:
18. Cut out sealed Q. cells only if there are unsealed cells. Reduce cells to 2 - 3
19. This allows you to move brood box ‘A’ to other side of the new box ‘B’ the following week.
20. This leaches new foraging bees, into the nearest hive the parent hive on old site
21. Thus reducing the number of bees in the old box ‘A’, over 1000 bees a day could have been emerging during the week.
22. This increases flying force of the parent hive
23. If only sealed cells were available this double move cannot be done as a virgin may have emerged and would get lost/killed.
24. Added advantage of double move - virgins mate faster from smaller units.
25. Leave alone
26. Check the virgin has mated and is laying in 3 weeks.
27. Kill old Q and unite back to original colony.
28. Note: If the old box ‘A’ was short of food give comb of sealed stores or feed in 3 - 4 days time or it will be robbed by bees returning to parent site.
29. Disadvantages: need to find the Q and extra equipment

Demaree:
Equipment: Spare brood body and drawn frames, queen excluder

1. Brood and young bees should be split before queen cell production,
2.Usually Q.left downstairs on 1 comb of brood in new brood box with drawn comb, not foundation
3.Relieves congestion and gives Q. empty comb to lay in
4. Brood placed above 2 supers
5. They feel queenless and build queen cells
6. Options:
7.remove all queen cells, and allow top box to fill with honey
8.or separate boxes by slipping in solid crown board, and give separate top entrance, leaving 2 good queen cells.
9. Allow new Q. to mate and lay
10. Once laying swap bottom for top box, or
11. run as 2 Q. colony, or.
12. kill old Q.

Disadvantages:
Splitting the brood nest (usually early in the season) leads to possible chilling of brood if weather turns cold (Bailey).
Need to find the Q.

Modified Demaree
This is used if there are queen cells, but you cannot find the queen.
Equipment: Spare brood body and drawn frames, queen excluder and cover board.

1. Move the old box to one side.
2.Place a new box on the old site containing drawn comb, less one comb.
3. Take out one comb containing brood from the old box, destroying any queen cells on this comb
4.Place this comb into the new box.
5. Shake all bees from the brood chamber into the new box
6. Replace the queen excluder and supers (at least 2)
7. Add an extra queen excluder
8. Place the old brood box on top of the queen excluder and supers.
9. One week later eggs will tell whether you managed to trap the Q downstairs.
10. If Q. is in top brood box, swap the top for the bottom.
11. Proceed as for a Demaree.

Shook swarm
Separates queen and bees from brood - not disease control

Equipment: Spare floor, brood body with foundation, entrance block with opening shut with green grass.
1. Open colony, giving supers to neighbouring colony.
2. Move the brood box to one side.
3. Remove each brood frame one by one and shake / brush all bees into new box
4. Take care not to spread honey around. (Risk of robbing)
5. Brush bees out of old box.
6. Remove and burn/melt down old comb
7. Add feeder and feed 2 gallons thick syrup
8. Give supers as soon as frames drawn

Note: The green grass in entrance will dry, releasing bees. One way to stop absconding.

Disadvantage: Loss of brood, drawn frames, possible loss of honey.

Advamtage: Will not swarm.
New comb seems to give vigor Removes all incipient disease.

Requeen - with current year Queen
Cut out all Q cells, shake each frame clear of bees to avoid missing Q cells. Make up nuc from colony
Place the nuc next to main colony.
Leave for two days
Check the nuc for own queen cells and destroy
Introduce new Q to nuc in a Butler type queen cage. Following week, kill old Q.
Check again for Q cells (shake)
Unite the nucleus to the now queenless colony, using water spray, flour or newspaper method
Probably safer to cage her in Butler quick release type cage before uniting.
Advantage: There is no loss of brood production therefore potential workforce.
Disadvantage: It is difficult to obtain or rear queens for early May, the usual swarming period.

Clive Hill