



From the Native Irish Honey Bee Society



The Protection of the Native Irish Honey Bee Bill 2021 (Protection Bill) has recently gone through its 2nd stage in the Irish Republic's Seanad.

The Bill aims to stop the damaging importation of non-native honey bees into the Republic with imports having increased by 327% between the years 2019 and 2020. Scientific research is showing more and more hybridisation every year.

Native Irish Honey Bee Society
Apis mellifera mellifera



If the bill gets through it will stop any honey bee imports into Ireland, thus stopping the imports through Rosslare, onto Northern Ireland and then over to Mainland UK, effectively closing the current loophole.

One comment from a Senator during the debate in the Seanad:

'...The Government has some concerns that a statutory ban on bee imports into Ireland would constitute a restriction on trade under EC regulations...' Now, does that sound familiar?!!



Photographs courtesy of Irish Examiner & RTE News

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Chairman's Chat

Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.



Within a day or so of *Varroa* mites being detected in Australia, I had three emails from Australian beekeepers asking for advice on what they can do. Among the questions were how fast does it spread and if treatment-free is effective.

It is difficult to help them because the situation is rather different than what we experienced in the UK. They have many more commercial beekeepers who migrate their colonies much more than we do, so aiding spread. Treatment-free isn't very reliable, as there are widely differing experiences, with some being successful, others having very high colony losses.

Although the Australian beekeepers have the experience of others to help them, they have still got serious issues to deal with. Their bees haven't been exposed to *Varroa*, so there is no resistance and presumably the mites are resistant to many of the chemicals that have been used elsewhere, so hampering control.

The unfortunate part about it is that presumably the mites were introduced on imported bees. We may never know but if so, they must have been smuggled, which is strange considering the constant publicity and warnings the Australian authorities produce. Moving stock around the world often causes more problems than it solves.

Roger

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Local BIBBA Training Course

BIBBA is organising a short course locally. This will be a one-day practical at the Wisborough Green Division's teaching apiary near Billingshurst.

The course will include an online video tutorial before the practical and in the apiary will be in small groups, tutored by experienced beekeepers. The syllabus will include much more than the usual 'grafting and mini-nuc' and will include discussion and demonstrations of how you can produce queens to head colonies that suit your locality.



Local Dates: Friday 1st and Monday 4th July. 10am - 5pm. No lunch or refreshments provided. Tickets £70.

For full details, Terms & Conditions and bookings go to the BIBBA website:
<https://bibba.com/improving-bees-by-raising-your-own-queens/> .

Bookings are also available at other venues in the country. Details on the website.

Around the Divisions

All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

Central Sussex Division

Full details of the Division's activities from: chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk or the Division's website: www.centralsussexbka.org.uk

Chichester Division

Wednesday 20th July - 'Bee Health' with Tom Moore & Gordon Allan at 7:30pm. at the Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, PO18 0EE.



Further details of the Division's activities from: secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk.

Wisborough Green Division

Details of the Division's activities from Martina Hendry, secretary@wgbka.org.uk or website: www.wgbka.org.uk. The Division's Newsletter may be viewed or downloaded here: www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html

Worthing Division

Details of the Division's activities from: Debra Edwards, dmcd.edwards@gmail.com or the Division's website: www.worthing-beekeepers.org



'Share your Division's activities with readers of the County News'

...and Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10th September - Worthing Division's 'Honey Show' at the Findon Sheep Fayre, Nepcote. <https://findonsheepfair.co.uk/>



Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th September - 'South of England Honey Show', with the Autumn Show & Horse Trials. Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TH. Details in last month's Newsletter. www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials



Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th October - '91st National Honey Show'. Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ. Details on the Show's website: www.honeyshow.co.uk/



We are on facebook so if you would like your events featured please send details to the Editor.

Worthing Success

Congratulations to Sean Keith (Worthing) who took his Basic Assessment Certificate in June and passed with Distinction. Sincere thanks to our assessor, Tom Moore, for giving so freely and willingly of his time and to Gordon Allan and Tom for the use of their apiary for the assessment.

Sue Elliott

examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

...and finally



A reminder to our new beekeepers this season.

Ensure you are signed up to APHA's National Bee Unit for access to a wealth of apicultural information. BeeBase will also advise you if there is an outbreak of AFB or EFB in the area in which you keep your honey bee colonies.

Sign up here: <https://nationalbeeunit.com/public/register.cfm>

MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

We're on the web:
www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



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