

Apiary Working Group

Attended by: Chris Shaw, Alan Greenman, Paul Twibill, Charles Davis, Steve Smith, John Danks & Kate Davis
Apologies: Penny Twibill & Craig Dimberline.
Date : 15th February, 2017

The Apiary Work Group welcomed Steve Smith & John Danks to join the group. Explaining that we do have full discussion on each topic and from that agree on a way forward.

1. Current state of apiary – rota for winter checking/feeding

Action by:

- Kate went through the state of the bees as of 14.02.17 and it was agreed that those who could meet, would meet on Tuesday 21.02.17 at 10.30a.m to check state of food on every hive. Also two dead hives need attention i.e. remove any dead bees; wax needs melting and boxes should be burnt off, preparing them for the new season. All who can attend.
- Chris mentioned Hilton Green and the work they are doing to accommodate us. They have asked to look at the apiary at Shugborough and it was agreed to show them the site on Tuesday, 28th February, 2017 Chris& Paul

2. Number of hives required for 2017

- We have 14 colonies at Shugborough; Off site there is 5 nuc's and 1 – 14 x 12 We are looking to have a maximum of 20 colonies. The current nucs will be used to replace colonies lost.
- Hilton Green. We will need to have some stands made for the nucs. Numbers and sizes to be sorted out. Charles/Chris

3. Outline of Improvers. Where to meet; what to cover in line with Alan's feedback.

- We agreed to meet at the Grid for a few weeks and then see how things go. Start date for Thursday evenings 30th March 2017. Chris to contact Phil
- The feedback received and collated by Alan was discussed. It was agreed to look at the requests and schedule in what we could. Kate to send a suggested schedule which all members are to review and change to suit. Hopefully there will be a finished article before the first meeting on 30th March. All

4. Record sheets to review

- Old record sheets to go into plastic sleeves and into a folder to store. Paul
- New record sheets have detailed information on. During one Improvers session we need to go through the record sheets to ensure everyone understands the changes to the record sheets and knows how to complete them. All
(The amended record sheet has been sent out by Paul)

5. Process to follow

- It was agreed to produce a process sheet i.e. Swarm Control. This could be used as a reference or aid for newer beekeepers. This to follow information from the member's survey.

6. A.O.B

AOB listed below is conversations which happened throughout the meeting.

- Sugar. This is being distributed at £1.00 per 10 kilo's for feeding bees dependent upon supplies. 25kilo was reserved for the Apiary. Chris
- Red cards. It was agreed these worked really well in the previous season and should continue. Extending them to the Nuc's. All
- Craig popped in and showed us some queen cages. When costed, these could be offered to members at 50p each. Main Committee
- Chris suggested on Taster days hiring the generator from Charles. She is concerned that sometimes we put on the good nature of members. Main Committee
- Frames. At some point we need to be making frames up ready for the season. All
- To stop the back row of chairs tipping over, it was suggested putting in some 4 x 1 timbers with a groove to locate the legs of the chairs. Charles

End of meeting

Thanks to Chris for the use of her home.