

Aggressive Bees. [Sometimes it's good to try something different]

The text book way of dealing with aggressive bees is to move the brood box with the queen a reasonable distance away so that all the flying bees return to a brood box on the original site. This just leaves the house bees with the queen and makes her far easier to find, catch and despatch.



A nearby beekeeper was in so much difficulty with dealing with her aggressive bees that she was going to sell her bees and called me asking what she should do, as selling a hive with aggressive bees was not an option.

When I went round I found the hive with the bees was far too heavy to move any distance. So I took off the empty hive slid the hive with the bees to the right and turned it through 90 degrees and reassembled the empty hive on the left hand side. All the flying bees immediately congregated at this entrance and started taking in pollen.

The bees with the queen took exception to the move and showed their aggression by following me all the way to my car some 50m away.

Bret and I called the next day to find the queen and replace her with one of his small colonies that he was prepared to donate.

I was quite prepared for the bees to sense the queen pheromone in the RH colony and all finish up back with all the other bees. Not so, as it was obvious that all the flying bees were now in the LH hive because the bees with the queen were now so well behaved it was quite remarkable and made finding her so easy.

Sometimes it's worth defying convention and trying something different? John Farrow.