

## Queen Progress at Barrwood

Barrwood normally experiences a June gap: a period when the spring nectar flows are finished, and the summer crop is only just starting. This year there didn't appear to be a break. When we inspected on 26<sup>th</sup> June, we were removing heavy supers. The WBC, created from a nucleus at the beginning of the month, was building comb above the crown board for space to store the nectar. We were running low on supers.

The real interest, though, was with the nucleus colonies from our queen raising programme, three of which were so strong they were moved to full sized brood boxes. The first of these proved a messy process as extra comb had been built and it contained brood. A queen trapping cage, designed to restrict a queen to laying in only one frame, was used to stop the queen laying in the wild comb. It would remain in place until the brood had hatched and would then be removed. Unfortunately, the queen could not be found, so a visit in a few days is required to check she is outside the cage.

Other nucs had not fared so well. One was given a frame containing eggs from another colony to test if it was queenright. Others clearly had failed to produce a mated queen. However, we have three strong colonies headed by fecund queens that can be used to replace the two less docile queens at Barrwood.

*Cliff Hayward, Chairman and Barrwood Apiary Manager*

## Bees in the Oast

At the beginning of June, Sarah Rapley and John Farrow removed a colony of bees from behind the tiles of an oast house in Leigh. Sarah removed several tiles to expose what turned out to be a very small colony.

The comb was then cut out and placed with bees into a poly nucleus. They set up the Bee-vac to vacuum the few remaining bees into the poly nucleus and the bee removal was complete.

It was the quickest extraction ever, all completed in under two hours. The poly nucleus was left until late evening to collect foraging bees as they returned to their original home.



For more pictures of this swarm removal, follow the link to our website:

<https://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Bee-Colony-Extraction-Leigh.pdf>

## Extractor Hire

The branch has two 9-frame manual extractors for hire to members. The cost is £15 for three days. You are responsible for collecting and returning the extractor within that time frame. You will be given instructions on the correct use and cleaning of the extractor. For those of you in the Sevenoaks area, please contact Sarah Rapley: [stweditor2@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:stweditor2@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk) and if you are in the Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells area, please contact Liz Birchenough: [membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk)

## For Sale: Bees, Jars and Tank

Boxes of 11lb honey jars. Have been stored for a while so the boxes look old, but the jars are unused.

Large 50lb polythene settling tank with filter

Colony of Bees

Enquiries to Cliff Hayward: [pbhayward9@hotmail.com](mailto:pbhayward9@hotmail.com)

## Under the Table



I took these photos of a swarm which appeared under a table supporting polyhives. I did not deal with it straight away and it has developed into the mass you can now see with large amounts of comb.

I was hoping that it would go up into an empty polyhive but it preferred to stay where it was and to develop there.

It is going to be a challenge to cut it off and transfer it to a full hive

*Vic Webb*



## For Sale: Bee Equipment



6/7 standard National brood box & supers, frames, Dn/Sn4s, Wire QE, mouse guards, entrance blocks, quilts, some feeders

Some nearly new, all in good order.

Almost giveaway prices.

5 Frame Nucleus Box + 5 of Dn4. It has the extension for a feeder: £34-50

Solar Wax Extractor: £22-50. Will accept an offer for both.

WBC Lifts, mixed condition, mixed prices

Contact Robin Toop: 01892 525085 / [Robin.toop@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Robin.toop@hotmail.co.uk)



## Diary Dates

**Sunday 3 July: Apiary meeting** at 11am at Hilbert Road

**Saturday 9 July: Apiary meeting** at 2pm at Barrwood Apiary

**Sunday 17 July: Apiary meeting** at 11am at Hilbert Road Apiary

**Tuesday 19 July: Honey Workshop** at 7.30pm at Weald Memorial Hall. Please reserve a place at [membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk) so we know how much equipment we need to provide.

**Saturday 23 July: Apiary meeting** at 2pm at Barrwood Apiary

*Send any photos or items for the newsletter to  
[marystaffurth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marystaffurth@yahoo.co.uk)*