

NEWSLETTER #190 – December 2013



The President's tips and tricks for the month of December



There are many ways to keep your bees. Each month I intend to give some tips and tricks to help you keep your bees thriving.

There should be very little to do in the apiary apart from the usual security work:

Make sure that the roofs are secure against gales

Check that mouse guards have not come adrift if you are using them

If you have solid floors do make sure that the hive is leaning very slightly forward so that rain water does not accumulate on the floor. Bees can cope with any amount of cold, but damp is another matter.

It is worth hefting the hives from time to time just to be sure that the colonies have enough food.

This is a very good time to tidy up around the apiary; if there are no bees flying then veils will not be required so it is much easier to work. Do beware of using trimmers with a rotating line; cutting discs are fine, but the vibrations from a line annoy bees more than anything.

Do you have any wax lying around— cappings and perhaps bits that you have collected through the season? If so then it will be worth getting it rendered down and turning into candles

Finally, if you decide to treat against varroa with oxalic acid then this should be done before the end of December.

Merry Christmas to you all.



Your Club Hives – Neil Sandison

Hive No.1 :-**2013 Queen**. Demaree split from hive No. 4 in June. Into winter, after removing Q./Ex., on single deep with 9 frames and shallow with 7 full frames both with D/ends. “Winter” top box and cover board on
1/12/13 oxalic trickle. 3.5 lbs. block of candy on.

Hive No. 4 :- **2012 Queen** following Demaree split for No. 1. Into winter, after removing Q/Ex., with Double deep 8 frames and D/ends in each and winter top box & cover board on
1/12/13. oxalic trickle and 3.5 lbs. block of candy on.

Hive No. 6 :-**2013 Queen**. From June Nuc. Taken from No. 5 which was a demaree from No. 7. Club No. 3 (Queen not laying) was united with this one in August. Into winter, after removing Q/Ex., with single deep 8 frames and shallow with feeder frames and D/ends in each and winter top box and cover board on
1/12/13. Oxalic trickle. 3.25 lbs candy on.

Hive No.7 :-**2012 Queen**. Demaree 29/5/13 with new hive on Stance No. 5. Into winter, after removing Q/Ex., with single deep and shallow both with 9 frames and D/Ends. Winter top box and cover board on.
1/12/13 Oxalic trickle. 3.75 lbs candy on

Hive No. 9 :- **2013 Queen**. Swarm lost 8/6/13. New Queen slow to start laying, not very strong but may survive the winter. After removing Q/ex. and putting top winter box and cover board on into winter with single deep with 8 frames and D/ends.
24/11/13 4.5 lbs candy on. 1/12/13 oxalic trickle (some bees working on the candy)

On the 1st Dec and 9th, when I was cleaning draw boards, there were a lot of bees flying which at first I was pleased to see but **remember the more they fly the more they eat so keep checking your hive weights or put candy on just in case.**