

Roseland Beekeeping Group Chairman's Report 2015/2016

Last season's beekeeping was influenced even more than usual by the strange weather pattern, starting with some very warm sunshine in March and early April. The bees were persuaded into early swarming mode, only to be hampered by very changeable and cool conditions for a long time afterwards. The result in my case was poorly mated queens and the lowest honey yield per hive ever experienced. Our Group Apiary suffered similarly, and I recall one of our guest speakers remarking that his honey yield was only 6% of the previous year's crop. Was it worth it? Well, it was good to have the bee suit on to keep warm.

Mention of speakers reminds me of the excellent line up we have enjoyed through the winter, and I was particularly disappointed to miss Rowland Moloney with his Notes from a Clifftop Apiary. Thank you Rose for this superb programme including the Safaris, which helped make up for the disappointments of the Summer.

Apart from the loss of queens and lack of honey, the Group apiary proved again to be a valuable education facility, and it was good to know that the weekly sessions attracted a loyal following. Thank you Caven for your continued support and commitment as apiary manager.

Events have been well supported again this year, and thank you Matt for facilitating the programme I hope by the time this report goes to press a willing successor will have come forward.

Hot off the press, you Group is now custodian of 6 sets of microscopes which will provide us with an amazing education resource for the group and enhancing our ability to educate the general public at events. Thank you Bajka for putting these in place for us.

Had we not been beekeepers we would have missed the two most fantastic social events of the year. Thanks to Robin for hosting the barbeque and to Penny for arranging this and the excellent Christmas meal.

Geoff deserves a special mention, not only for looking after our group funds, but along with Penny for their unsung support given to the Group in so many ways.

Marcus has now had a full year as secretary, and has worked quietly in the background to keep us not only well informed, but also prevents us from falling apart. Thank you Marcus for your hard work.

Our interests at CBKA have been well served by Mike W. and Robin V, as well as Michael S. as Vice Chairman of CBKA. We also have the kudos of Colin continuing as CBKA President.

There are other officers who I have not mentioned who have given the group excellent

support over the year, and my thanks are due to them for their contributions .

I am rapidly approaching the end of my third and final year as Chairman, and feel privileged to have held the post in such a strong and progressive Group. Thank you all for your support, and I wish you good fortune with your beekeeping.

Ian