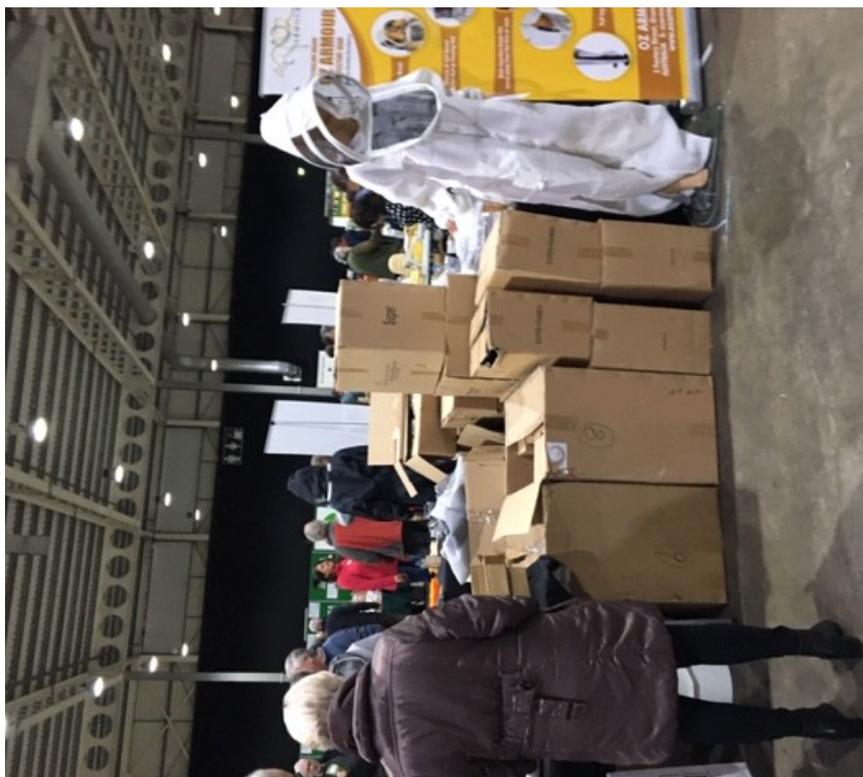


Blandford and Sturminster BKA

March 2019 Newsletter



The main Hall at Beetradox at Stoneleigh

It has been a very variable winter and spring. There were two weeks in February when the temperature was in the high teens and twenties gave our bees the wrong message. Queens started laying in large numbers and now the workers have to keep all that brood warm and fed when temperatures have gone back down to normal. Keep a careful eye on your bees they may need feeding to keep the brood warm and the cold at bay.

As you can see from the picture I went to Beetradox which is the beekeeping suppliers annual event at Stoneleigh. It gets bigger every year and there is always plenty to see. You always leave with less money in your pocket than you started with. The talks this year were not as interesting as in the past. They were mainly given by traders explaining their wares. You could swap wax for foundation and find bargains for frames and hives; there is a canteen and lots of chances to chat to beekeepers so it is worth going.

Apiary Tidy up Day The beekeeping season is coming and we need to prepare for it. The apiary bees have suffered from the weather and we may not have as many large colonies as we started with. We have our apiary clean up day and frame making on **Saturday 30th March from 10.30am until 12.00pm**. Please come and help if you have an hour to spare. The moles have been busy as usual but hopefully there are fewer of them.

Dorset AGM on Sunday 10th March Margaret Murdin the President of the BBKA came to Dorchester to give a talk on The Queen before the AGM meeting. She gave a very interesting and detailed description of the queen's differences from other bees, her physiology and behaviour.

Geoff Buckland retired as the chairman after his stint of three years. He has been a very able and dedicated chairman; he is to become the DBKA Education Officer. Liz Rescorla is the secretary of DBKA and I shall be Chairperson; the rest of the council is largely unchanged. Tim Villiers will give the details in the next edition of Honeycraft. Sherborne won the Hambros Cup for the greatest percentage of new members and East Dorset has their Exam entrances paid for because they had the greatest number of people taking their Basic Beekeeping Exam.

Beekeeping Introduction Day As you know our main Spring event is the Introduction Day for new Beekeepers and people interested in Beekeeping. Terry Payne is organising the event so let him know if you can come. There are about 27 visitors this year; 15 of whom are new students for the first year course. Please come and lend a hand if you can. People always feel more welcome if there is someone to talk to. As usual we shall be taking them up to the apiary and showing them the colonies. We hope the weather is more settled than it is now.

Best wishes and happy beekeeping

Lesley