

BCOG Bee Report June 2014

The bees have been busy during the better weather of May and June. To help prevent swarming and to maintain the bees' natural instinct to reproduce I split the original hive and took a few thousand bees to create a new colony at Ourganics in Litten Cheney.

The removal of the bees reduces the pressure in the hive. The comb that accompanied the split had some queen cells in production. My hope is that these will produce a queen in the new hive and that she will make a successful maiden mating flight and then start laying. If a queen does not emerge the workers will feed one of the eggs in the comb with royal jelly and bring on a new queen. This process will take 16 days.

Bee Maths:

Egg laid => Queen born = 16 days

Queen to orientate herself and make flight and start laying = 7 days

Eggs laid => New workers = 21 days

So, at most, 42 days after splitting new workers should be hatching. I shall make an inspection of the comb after 27 days and hope to see eggs and maybe some larvae. I looked at them flying and through the glass window this week and they look very healthy.

The hive that contains the swarm from last year is doing very well. I added some new top bars at the beginning of the month and new comb has been drawn down from them already. I expect to carry out a split next week.