

BCOG Bee Report June 2016

Despite my best hopes I have yet to see any scout bees approaching the bait hive. I made the hive with a group of top bar hive beekeepers at Litton Cheney and within a few days of putting hers up one of the group caught a swarm. I wait in anticipation!

On Friday the 3rd of June I collected bees from a beekeeper in the Midlands. I collected 5 three pound packages for various people and various hives. The packages came in small framed boxes with plastic mesh wrapped around. The bees have access to a feeder and the mated Queen is in a small cage suspended from the top of the box. As we transferred the boxes into the back of my van we tried to brush off loose bees clinging to the outside of the mesh. One of the boxes had a rip in the mesh allowing bees to escape. We wrapped it up with parcel tape as best we could but the odd bee was still getting out!



The five hour journey back to Bridport was exciting and stressful and it took considerable concentration to ignore the growing number of bees flying around in the back of the van and the occasional bee that came into the front.

Aby assisted by Mitch we emptied the Bees into the hive. The Queen was safe in her cage and we removed the bit of sponge keeping her inside and covered the end of the with newspaper. The bees would eat this away and by the time she was free they would be familiar with her scent.

I removed the empty queen cage a few days later and observed the bees had already made some comb. The next step is to see some eggs! I decided not to change the entrance to the second hive.

I made an inspection 3 weeks later and the bees have produced lots of comb and lots of brood. All looks well for a flourishing hive.

