

Integrated Varroa Management Workshop

In 2001 varroa mites that were resistant to pyrethroids were found in Devon. Since then resistant mites have been confirmed in Cornwall, Devon, Pembrokeshire, Durham and Shropshire. In October 2003 they were found on the Somerset/Dorset border; further cases have been found in 2004 and 2005 in Dorset, Kent, Surrey, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. It is inevitable that resistant mites will occur spontaneously and spread to other parts of the country during the coming years.

Resistance means that pyrethroid treatments we have used until now (Bayvarol and Apistan) will have little or no effect on such varroa mite populations. Even if you do not live in the areas where resistance has been identified, **resistant mites may already be present in our colonies.** If we continue to use Bayvarol and Apistan and **do nothing else then our bees will die out.**

This workshop is intended to give you, the beekeeper, the knowledge to identify such mites and the confidence to use other techniques to control them. The day will be informative, most of the techniques are easily carried out and are designed to enable you to keep bees without many lost colonies. **We all need to learn to manage our bees in a different way.**

The workshop will be led by Southern Regional Bee Inspector, Ian Homer, assisted by other members of the Central Science Laboratory National Bee Unit. There will be two lectures, “Varroa and an Ethic for Control” and “A Plan for Integrated Varroa management” plus six 20 minute practical demonstrations that will cover;

- Use of Apiguard,
- Open Mesh Floors and monitoring mites,
- Drone Brood Culling,
- Queen Cage Trapping,
- Artificial Swarm Technique,
- NBU and ‘Beltsville Pyrethroid Resistance Testing.

Programme

10.15 Registration

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Welcome by Conference Chairman

11.05 Varroa and Ethic for Control

12.00 Practical demonstrations of assessment and control techniques

13.00 Lunch

13.45 Practical demonstrations of assessment and control techniques

14.45 Tea

15.00 A Plan for Integrated Management

15.45 Discussion and Closing Remarks

Entrance ticket £6.00 (see reverse for details)

Please make all cheques payable to **Melksham Beekeeping Association**

Tickets are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Attendees are welcome to bring a packed lunch that can be consumed on the comfortable patio area or a selection of filled rolls will be available from behind the main bar.

There will be a nominal charge of 50p per person for tea/coffee and biscuits.