

East Lancs BKA Weekly Hive Opening Report 25th June 2018

Just a short report as I went up to Offshoots today to carry some of the actions needed following the last Apiary Session. These were mainly to add supers to give the bees more room to store nectar and pollen and free up space in the brood boxes for young.

A small observation point - you can tell which way the frames are set out (cold way - frames running away from the entrance or warm way - frames across the entrance) by looking at the orientation of the boxes. If there's a flat side above the entrance then it's the warm way. If there's a recessed side above the entrance then it's the cold way. You should, therefore, know where to stand to open up the hive **BEFORE** you take the roof off. This doesn't apply to Payne's poly hives (like A10) as they're recessed on all four sides.

Hive A3A

This is the first split colony from A3. When we looked at it on 17th June there was no sign of a queen or brood but they seemed to be running out of room, so we added another brood box. When I looked today, little use was being made of the extra brood box. Nevertheless, I added a queen excluder and a super. Next time, if there's no further progress, I may add a frame of eggs from another hive.



Hive D1



This is one of the queen right colonies and has a see through crown board under the roof on top of the double brood box. There was brood in the upper brood box. I added a queen excluder and super to this hive.

Hive D1A

This is the split from D1 and just has a single brood box. A queen excluder and super was added. Note how the sun has caught the bees in the photo!



Hive A10



This is the poly hive with a new queen. I needed to swap the lower of the two supers (as It was one of my own boxes) for its proper matching super. I also replaced the wooden crown board with a thinner poly crown board so that the roof fits better.

Hive C2

This is the captured swarm. As noted last time, it is looking quite full and there is brood in their so it's likely to become viable colony. It should be moved to a full size hive at the next visit.

Possible Honey Crop

Part of the reason for adding super to the hives above is that most of the original colonies have already collected a fair amount of honey and it should be possible to extract some honey later in the summer. I am hoping that we can agree to replace the existing old tank of ambrosia with a new consignment so that, in the autumn and winter, we can easily feed the colonies if we've taken honey off them.

Dave Parker
Apiary Manager