

South Staffordshire And District Beekeepers Association



Fact Sheet 05

Clive de Bruyn Queen Rearing Method

Day 1

- **6pm** from a double brood colony find and remove the queen, on the frame she is found on, into an empty Nuc for safe keeping.
- Select all brood frames that have open brood cells ie. eggs and grubs.
- Shake all the bees off into bottom brood box.
- Put the queen and her frame back into the bottom brood box.
- Put queen excluder (QE) over bottom brood box
- Put brood box with open brood cells on top of QE
- Replace supers, crown board and roof.

Day 2

- **8am** open up hive, placing supers to one side.
- Shake all the young bees from top brood box into a deep Nuc that contains frames of honey and pollen.
- Knock the bees down and feed with heavy syrup / ambrosia in frame feeder.
- Place Nuc in a cool place and cover with hessian cloth, spray with water through vents

Day 2

- **7pm** using pre determined genetic material ie frames of eggs and grubs, transfer young grubs using grafting tool or hole punch into plastic queen rearing cups.
- Place cups onto bars on specially adapted frames.
- Knock bees down and quickly Put frame into queen rearing Nuc (QRN), the bees will be desperate to rear the queens.
- Take Nuc to its place in the apiary and allow the bees to fly.

Day 4

- Check bees have pulled queen cells.
- Check the mating boxes for feeding purposes every couple of days and top up as necessary.

Day 8 - 10

- Harvest the cells and put into apidea / mating nucs.
- Continue to feed as necessary.