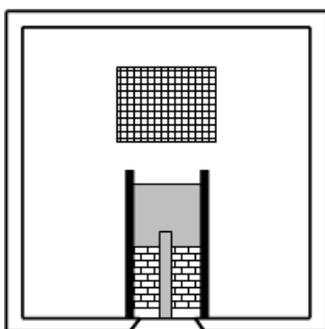




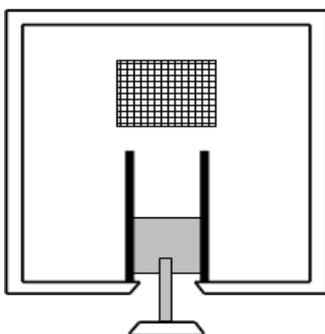
Fact Sheet 06

Using a Horsley Board to control Swarming

The Horsley board uses a hole covered by a square of queen excluder. This remains open for the first part of the process allowing all bees but the queen free access throughout the hive. An entrance in the side of the board is later opened. The entrance is attached to a metal sheet which closes off the patch of queen excluder as it is pulled open. At this stage the top box (with the brood and nurse bees) become separate from the queen and flying bees. A patch of mesh continues to allow the mingling of scent between the two sides of the divide.



Horsley board - entrance closed, queen excluder open



Horsley board - entrance open, queen excluder closed

Method (for use once queen cells have begun to appear)

DAY	
1	<p>Having prepared a second brood box with foundation and/or drawn comb.</p> <p>Remove the roof, supers, etc from the mother colony and find the queen (hold her in place with a marking cage to prevent losing her during subsequent manipulations).</p> <p>Place the brood box to one side.</p>



	<p>Place the second box on the old floor and remove a couple of frames from the centre to make a gap. Put a queen excluder under the brood box to stop the queen absconding.</p> <p>Place the queen on a frame containing some unsealed brood in the gap in the second box ensuring there are no queen cells on this frame. Remove the marking cage, close up the gap and add a spare frame to the edge.</p> <p>Check the mother box for queen cells, select one OPEN queen cell with a visible grub in royal jelly and remove all others.</p> <p>Rebuild the hive with queen excluder on the second box, followed by the supers,</p> <p>Horsley board, mother brood box, crown board and roof.</p> <p>Locate the Horsley board so that the entrance is uppermost and faces the rear (opposite side to the main hive entrance).</p> <p>Close the entrance of the Horsley board.</p>
3-4	<p>Close the entrance on the Horsley board to one bee space. This opens the patch of queen excluder and allows bees free movement between both the brood boxes.</p> <p>Check that the original queen cell you left is still ok and that no further emergency queen cells have been made, if there are remove all of these.</p> <p>Once the old queen is laying in the bottom brood box remove the bottom queen excluder.</p>
10	<p>Pull out the entrance wedge. This will prevent the newly emerging queen access to the supers and brood box below</p>
30-37	<p>Check for eggs in the top brood box.</p> <p>If eggs are seen you can now decide whether to make increase in colony numbers, join up with the existing colony, once the new queen has been assessed, by removing the old queen, or run as a two queen colony.</p>