



## DUNFERMLINE AND WEST FIFE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

### Demaree method of Swarm Control

The Demaree method of swarm control was first described by an American beekeeper George Demaree in 1884. The objective is to separate the unsealed brood and eggs from the queen and thus reduce crowding in the hive (give the bees, both Queen and Workers more space). This has the effect that the bees are fooled into thinking that they have already swarmed!

The method described below is one of the many variations which have been developed over the years and has been found to suit local members and conditions.

#### EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

Additional Brood Box with additional frames of (preferably drawn) comb or foundation.

Additional Floor.

Super or Shallow Box with frames to fill as above.

#### OPTIONAL: (needed if you wish to make increase)

Snelgrove Board or similar with Queen Excluder material.

Cover Board.

Roof.

#### METHOD:

1. Move the original hive to one side and place new floor and brood box in its place.
2. Find the Queen\* in the original brood chamber, place her on a frame containing sealed brood and honey – **no eggs or young larve**. Make sure there are no queen cups or cells on the frame with the queen; if present remove them or replace the frame.
3. Place the frame with queen and any young bees adhering in the center of the new brood box. Add the rest of the frames of sealed brood - **no eggs or young larve** - then add one or two frames of honey and pollen before filling out the box with empty frames.
4. Place the Queen Excluder on top then add any supers from the original hive or, if there were none, a fresh super filled with drawn comb or foundation. (**Lots more space for the bees!**)
5. Now place the original brood box or boxes on top (**this should now contain all the young brood and eggs**) fill out any space with comb, cover with the crown board and finally replace the roof. In this configuration the workers from both brood chambers can work in the supers and the whole stack will develop with a common hive aroma.
6. Check the top boxes after about 7 days and be prepared, if you do not wish to make increase, to destroy any queen cells being constructed.
7. Repeat until swarming impulse has declined.

\* If you can't find the Queen don't panic – brush or shake **all** the bees from the original hive into the new brood box just prior to placing the Q E on top. Then proceed with step 4 checking carefully that she is not still hiding in the original hive.



### TO MAKE INCREASE:

Before step 5 insert a Snelgrove or Division Board on top of the supers followed by the super(s) and original brood box.

Once there are queen cells with developing larvae in the top brood box cover any escape or vent holes in the Snelgrove board with Queen excluder (or place a second Queen Excluder beneath the Snelgrove board) and reassemble with the upper rear flight hole open to allow bees to fly direct from the upper brood chamber.

In due course the new young queen will fly to mate from this upper outlet and will start to lay in what will now be her brood chamber.

You now have a new young mated queen laying in the top Brood Chamber and the old queen happily at work down below **Decision time.**

You can leave as is with both Queens supplying bees to fill your honey supers, or 'Split' the hives and run them as 2 separate entities with the possibility to unite them later if your old queen shows signs of age or even repeat the whole exercise with one or both halves. (Only possible in a very good conditions in this area).

**Don't forget** that you will soon have many more bees in the hive and those bees can, in a good nectar flow, fill your supers very rapidly. Have additional supers and frames ready to accommodate extra bees and honey. Always aim to have more space than you think you need.