



## Newsletter

### April 2016

Well, finally it's bee season and it's been great to get into the hives, however briefly, to see what the girls have been up to! One thing our lot have been up to already is making drone cells, which is good news bearing in mind our plans to re-queen at least one of our colonies. Mind you, the very changeable weather continues to pose a risk. Forage is available now but as the one thing bees can not cope with is wet conditions, they will be quite restricted in getting out to it. Hefting is still important to check that your colonies have sufficient stores, if not, they may need feeding.

Our bees appeared to be thriving until this weekend when we found bright yellow splashes on one hive and also on the ground in front of it. At first sight we assumed this was pollen, considering the colour, though it was curious that so much of it had been spilled. Then we noticed there was also a higher number than usual of dead and dying bees and we realised the splashes must be evidence of dysentery. The two other hives also have some of the same yellow splashes, though much less. We have checked a sample of bees from the most badly effected colony for nosema spores, and have found no evidence so far. We have some reading up to do and will be keeping a close eye on the poorly bees.

This year's queen-marking colour is -  
**WHITE**

### **Will Yellow Roses Grow Best?**

This is one of the mnemonics for remembering the sequence of colours:

Years ending in 1 or 6	- White	-	<b>Will</b>
Years ending in 2 or 7	- Yellow	-	<b>Yellow</b>
Years ending in 3 or 8	- Red	-	<b>Roses</b>
Years ending in 4 or 9	- Green	-	<b>Grow</b>
Years ending in 5 or 0	- Blue	-	<b>Best</b>

## Meetings

Our next Branch meeting is next **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April** and will feature a demonstration by **John Heath and John McCann** of **how to make a solar wax extractor and a warming cabinet**. I want one! Come along to **St Anne's Millenium Centre, Rainhill** at 2.30pm and see how you can get one too.

The next **apiary session** with Dave Harrison is '**Hands On**' and will be held on the **evening of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**, from 6pm, as usual at the **Branch Apiary at Woolton Manor**. These sessions are of particular benefit to beginners, but open to all. The more folks turn up, the more sharing of experience there is, which is great for us all.

I have to admit, the tea-making experience turned out to be somewhat novel at the last meeting. But luckily tea out of doors always tastes good, no matter how it gets dispensed... Anyway, we had a great turn out, with lots of bees making appearances, some minor manipulations of hives and lots of exchanges of ideas.

Details of our proposed 24<sup>th</sup> September meeting have changed but are now confirmed. Our guest speaker will be **Dr Jennifer Rowntree**, who will talk about **Plant Diversity and Honeybees**. The meeting will take place at **St Anne's Millenium Centre, Rainhill**, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Many of you may have met Dr Rowntree at our evening meeting in St Helens Bowling Club in March or at the Wirral meeting in February. She is the supervisor of Dr Latha Vellaniparambil. See below, Research....

Don't forget, details of all meetings are on the website too - just roll the cursor over the calendar to the right of the web page.

The session on making up hives with Neil Dingley at Tarbock was really productive and we will repeat this practical day again. Graham Royle's talk at St Helens on how bees make decisions was fascinating and very professionally presented. We certainly got our money's worth at that meeting as we also had Dr Latha Raly Vellaniparambil, who outlined her imminent research project (below) and recruited several more of our members to participate.

## **L&NWBKA Central Council Meeting and AGM**

Please note, the Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association AGM and Central Council Meeting will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> April, at 7.30pm at The Old School House, Ulnes Walton Lane, Leyland, Nr. Preston. All members are welcome to attend.

And good luck finding the venue! ... But I have a map should you need it.

## **Research into Honey Bee Forage and Health**

Quite a few of us now have enlisted to contribute to Dr Latha Varramparil's research into honey bee forage and health. She has recently emailed members who offered to take part to let them know what she expects of them and attached a set of questionnaires to look over. The questionnaires will be sent out soon as hard copies by Royal Mail, and should be completed as hard copies at various times throughout the season as indicated. If you had signed up to take part but have not had any communication from Latha, I would suggest you contact her to ensure she has you on her circulation list. If you do not have any contact details for her then please let me know and I will put you in touch with her.

## **Training and Qualifications**

### ***BBKA Basic Assessment***

Details of the Basic Examination and study leading to it have been sent out to those who have registered interest. If you are still considering taking the Basic this year please let Cliff know within the next week by emailing to [contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk).

*Cliff Porter*  
*Education Secretary*



## Swarm list

Please note, the BBKA has not updated our swarm collector details as yet. I do not know the reason for the delay, but I am making enquiries and will do what I can to ensure that up to date details will be published before swarming season arrives.

## Could you help manage a branch Apiary?

We are still looking for an Assistant Manager for our apiary in L34, off the East Lancashire Road. If you are interested in this role please contact the Committee via [contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk) for more details.

**See you on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2.30pm, St Anne's Millenium Centre!**

*Tracey Seddon, Branch Secretary*  
[contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk)  
[www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk)