



THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH WEST
BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Liverpool and
Merseyside
Branch

1942-2017

Newsletter August 2017

Well we have now taken off all our honey supers and have a reasonable harvest for once. Mind you, lots of the frames were only part sealed and the honey not fully ripened. However, we have successfully reduced the water content of the unsealed honey by enclosing the supers in large heavy duty bin liners and placing a rechargeable dehumidifier pouch in each for a couple of days. It might be cheating but the honey tastes great! We have given back to each colony an extracted super, placed under the brood boxes this year, as is Mr Gillett's wont, so hopefully the bees will stay upstairs for warmth during winter and we wont have supers full of brood next spring. We now have Apiguard varroa treatments in progress on all colonies, which feels a bit sad as it means the end of the season. Also sad, our little apidea (right), gamely primed with a queen cell by John McCann and Neil Dingley at the last meeting, has failed. The queen died in the cell before fully pupating. Don't know why. But it will be interesting to discuss and maybe we'll have another go earlier in the season next year. Do let us know if you took a queen cell and it has successfully hatched and mated.



75th Anniversary Book

To mark our 75th anniversary we plan to publish a booklet on the life, times and characters of our Branch and Jane Score has kindly offered to pull it together. She would be delighted to hear from you if you have any special memories, tales of derring do, amusing or amazing anecdotes, favourite honey recipes or secrets of your homespun gadgets that have honed your beekeeping prowess. Contributions from new members would be just as welcome as those from our veterans. Contact us via the webmail address: contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk and we will put you in touch with Jane.

Meetings and Events

Our next meeting will be on 9th September at 2.30pm in Rainhill with Cliff Porter going through honey extraction. We will not be able to actually extract any honey but there will be equipment to see and handle and no doubt there will be discussion about alternative procedures.

The venue for our meeting on 14th October has changed to Rainhill and will start at 2.30pm. Our guest speaker, Mike Saunders, will be delivering a lecture on the Black Bee. He lives in the green environs of Ludlow but he is very interested in urban beekeeping and I hope we can generate some discussion about this after tea. If you keep bees in the city centre it would be great if you are able to come along and share your experiences. I know Mike will appreciate it.

LANCASHIRE HONEY SHOW 2017

Sunday 1st October 2017, Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston

As you know, details have just been released for this event and it looks like it could be a great day out. Brockholes Nature Reserve, which is well worth a visit any time, is situated just off Junction 31 of the M6. Free parking is available if you register in advance.

See the email sent earlier this month for full details and if you are able to volunteer help or if you have any queries, please contact Elaine Hargreaves, Exhibitions Officer, Lancs & NW BKA:

elaine.hargreaves@lancashirebeekeepers.co.uk

With this Newsletter you will also get the schedule for our own
Liverpool Honey Show, 4th November 2017
Start preparing your entries now!

The following events are taking place in the wider area over the coming weeks:
(Please check times and dates with the relevant branches if you plan on attending any of these events as I can't be responsible for errors on the web pages)

Sunday 27th August, **Ormskirk** - Honey Extraction and Preparing for Winter, 2.00pm,
Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG

Saturday 9th September, **Wirral** – Heather Meeting on the heather moors, Llandegla, North Wales

Friday 15th September, **Wirral** - 7.30pm, Different Varroa Treatments, Peter Sutcliffe, 7.30pm, Thornton Hough Village Hall.

Friday 15th September, **Preston** – Getting ready for Winter, Janet Murray, 7.30pm, Longsands Lane PR2 9PS.

Saturday 16th September, **Ormskirk** – Branch Honey Show

Education

Information from BBKA

EDUCATION AND HUSBANDRY COMMITTEE GENERAL HUSBANDRY ASSESSMENT PREPARATION TRAINING

We are very pleased to announce that a successful bid to DEFRA under the Healthy Bees Plan will provide part of the funds for the local support to those who plan to take the General Husbandry assessment in the near future.

The programme of 20 hours will cover both practical and theoretical aspects of the General Husbandry assessment, aiming to give the participants an understanding of what the assessment entails and what they need to do in order to be successful.

The training is running between January and May 2018, and will be facilitated by a team of 14 Master Beekeepers who are also General Husbandry assessors in the following areas of the country:

North West, North East, South Wales, South West, Midlands, East Anglia and South East

The candidates are required to have taken the Basic certificate and be registered on BeeBase.
Enrolment fee £50

**For more information or to register interest, please contact Marin Anastasov
NDB on manastassov@aol.com**

BBKA Annual Delegate Meeting

The propositions for the BBKA Annual Delegate Meeting in January 2018 and nominations for the position of BBKA President, Trustees and Examination Board members will be discussed at the Lancs & NW BKA Central Council meeting to be held on 18th September 2017.

Any propositions and nominations may be reported to the Central Council meeting by your Branch Central Council Delegates.

Branch Apiary and Siting of Hives

The Committee would like to clarify that the Woolton Apiary is a training facility for branch use and bees and equipment kept there will generally be owned by the Branch for the benefit of its members. The Apiary manager may keep some of his own bees there in return for his work managing the site, helping beginners and organising branch events. Currently two other members also keep one colony each at the site and help with the running of the apiary. However, in accordance with the original grant of the use of the site as a branch apiary, in fairness to all of our members and in order to ensure proper management of the site, we can not offer any more space here for personally owned hives.

Anyone without their own bees or keen to get more supervised hands on experience are welcome to contact Dave Harrison or Eric Graham to arrange to assist with the management of the bees at the branch apiaries.

Branch Committee Changes

Our AGM will be held as usual in the first week in December. You can be nominated for any position on the Committee regardless of whether existing members are prepared to stand again or not. However, some of our most active officers have decided to stand down this year and will need to be replaced. These include:

- Peter Wass, Chair
- John Heath, Membership Secretary

I will myself be happy to stand down as Branch Secretary and give someone else a chance to get involved.

Please do consider if you could do a stint on the Committee and come and chat to any of us if you want to know more about the roles.

See you on 9th September!