

## Liverpool and Merseyside Beekeepers

# Newsletter

November 2015.

Hello Beekeepers

To those of you who didn't manage to attend the AGM earlier this month, I would like to introduce myself as the new Branch Secretary. I am very grateful to the outgoing Secretary, Karyn Libecans, for her work over the last three years and for giving me such a helpful handover. I expect my job to be much easier than it was for Karyn or for Sheila Myron before her, as we now have a separate Membership Secretary. As you know, John Heath has taken up the latter role and has so far made heroic efforts to ensure we have up to date contact details for all members. This should be a great help to John McCann in collecting subscriptions, which are now due, so please pass payments to him if you haven't already. Hopefully, you will all now receive details of forthcoming events and training opportunities in good time and will be able to take advantage of what is on offer.

This is the whole Committee as voted in at the 73rd AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> November (amended 3<sup>rd</sup> December):

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Central Council Delegates</u>
Chairman:	Peter Wass	Sheila Myron
Vice Chairman:	Doug Jones	Andrew Stephenson
Treasurer:	John McCann	Stand-in: Rob Myron
Branch Secretary:	Tracey Seddon	
Membership Secretary:	John Heath	<u>Other Committee Members</u>
Education Secretary:	Cliff Porter	Arthur Gillett
Branch Apiary Managers:	Dave Harrison	Paul Hitchiner
	Eric Graham	Simon Kember
	Alec Hill	Karyn Libecans
Honey Show Secretary:	Rob Myron	David Thornton
Librarian:	John Mooney	

The 7<sup>th</sup> November was also the Liverpool and Merseyside Branch Honey Show and the judge seemed overall very impressed with the quality of

entries. The full results and Report are now on our website, [www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk).

Over the next couple of weeks the Committee will be formulating a programme of events for 2016 and we will post this on the website as well as emailing details to all members who have provided email addresses.

The Wirral Branch has made us welcome at several of their meetings this year and some of us went along to their last gathering of 2015 at Thornton Hough on 20<sup>th</sup> November. We were treated to festive sweet and savoury nibbles with a welcome tipple, followed by a Gardeners' and Beekeepers' Question Time supported by an able panel of experts and presided by Doug Jones. There was an abundance of great raffle prizes and to round off the evening we were regaled by the Curious Incident of Doug and the Dodgy Caravan! (ask him sometime...).

Our next event will be the annual Branch dinner, early in 2016. If you would like to suggest a venue do contact any of the Committee members.

Well our bees have finally quietened down and battened down the hatches, although right up to early November they were flying like things possessed and bringing in lots of pollen. The three colonies I manage with Cliff (Porter) are strong going into winter, but there is cause for concern about food stores. This has not been a good year for the bees; the weather in spring was too poor for them to get out much, and when the weather improved there was little forage. We have given our bees fondant as well as a part-full super of honey on each hive and have started weighing the hives periodically (without removing the roof) with suitcase scales to assess changes in weight. Hopefully this will give us an indication of whether and when we ought to put more food on.

Fingers crossed we all start the 2016 season with thriving colonies. And remember, if you are new to beekeeping, it is well-worth asking to be matched up with a mentor. John Heath is collating details of members offering this assistance so just get in touch with him.

*Tracey Seddon*  
*Branch Secretary*