



## Newsletter

August 2016

### Our bees

Well we no sooner got all the drone-layers sorted out in our apiary than we had a colony thinking about swarming. So we initiated a Snelgrove swarm control manipulation and ended up starving half of the colony! It was actually my bright-eyed seven year old nephew who first noticed the dead and dying bees on the ground! I'll be interested to get some thoughts about this tragedy and looking forward picking the brains of some of our experts. Meanwhile we thought we could finally extract some honey, took two supers home and found only six frames ready. It's the lightest we've had in both colour and texture, but everyone seems to like it! I'll be very miffed if we don't get more in the next few weeks.

### Meetings

The bad news is our summer open hive meetings have now finished for the year. The good news is we will be spoilt at our next indoor meeting with two speakers from Liverpool University. Dr Jennifer Rowntree will be discussing plant diversity and honey bees. This will be followed by her colleague, Dr William Fletcher, who will give us a very different angle on the subject, with "Lakes, bogs, mud and honey - exploring the diverse applications of pollen analysis". The meeting takes place on 24<sup>th</sup> September at the Millenium Centre, View Rd, Rainhill L35 0LE from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Congratulations to everyone that found their way to Sandy Lane Nurseries for our last open hive meeting of the year on 13<sup>th</sup> August. I was particularly impressed with the commitment of our newest members, John Rolfe and Philip Wade, who walked there! Ian McLean's advice about how to handle our bees was an inspiring return to the basics for all of us. Several members took advantage of the shopping opportunity at the Nursery and left with cars sprouting large plants.

Our meeting in July with Cliff Porter's challenging quiz on diseases was surprisingly well-attended despite me confusing everyone with times and dates. The quiz was a great way to get everyone thinking and participating. Are you up to speed on this important area? There is a good e-learning resource on the Bee Unit website with an information pack on distinct areas and a multiple-choice questionnaire for each area to test yourself afterwards. Well worth a look.

### **Next Taster Session**

Cliff and Eric Graham will be running another Taster Session on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Rice Lane City Farm. We have ten people booked on to it.

### **Education**

#### **BBKA Module examinations**

The BBKA have a series of courses, referred to as the 'modules', to help members increase their understanding of bees and beekeeping. There are distance-learning options or a study group could be set up if enough members are interested. Each module has an examination, although courses can be taken without sitting the exams. More details can be found at: [http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations\\_\\_assessments/modules](http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations__assessments/modules)

The next set of examinations take place on Saturday 12th November and entries must reach the Lancashire Education Secretary by Friday 23rd of September. If you are interested in taking any module examinations please contact Cliff Porter, the branch education secretary, using [contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk)

### **News from BIBBA**

The Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association three day conference opens on the Isle of Man on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> September. With a diverse selection of nearly 30 stimulating lectures on beekeeping for all levels of experience we intend to repeat the quality and buzz of Llangollen conference, 2014. The lecture schedule, other information, and bookings link are all available at [www.BIBBA.com](http://www.BIBBA.com)

Trisha Marlow  
Publicity, BIBBA

## Honey Shows

You will know by now that the Lancashire Honey Show has been cancelled. The Southport Show has run over this weekend however. Several of our members responded to volunteer as stewards and helpers at the Show and although not all offers were taken up I believe the organisers appreciated all the offers received.

We went to the Knowsley Flower Show at Court Hey Park on a few weeks ago and who should we bump into but our own Dave Harrison who had a stall with a lively observation hive, info on beekeeping, and lots of honey for sale. The bees at the National Wildflower Centre had smelt out his honey and were creating a very lively atmosphere at the stall. I have to say they were very well-behaved and didn't stop folks queuing up for the honey.

**[www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk)**

Just a reminder that our website is kept up to date by Cliff and if you want to check what events are coming up, dates, times etc, it might be the quickest way to find what you need. Details of the next meeting will be on the home page or you can go to the calendar on the right and hovering the mouse over any given date will highlight details of any events on that day. Sometimes you get a map too!

**See you on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September in Rainhill.**

**Oh, and Good Luck to the three members who took the Basic Exam last week!**

*Tracey Seddon, Branch Secretary*  
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