



Newsletter

June 2016

Hello beekeepers!

I don't know how it was for you but May was mad with swarms around our colonies. Unpredictable weather and holidays effectively prevented us from keeping up with the divils this year and two of our three absconded with one also issuing a cast. There were also swarms galore from other folks' hives at the other end of the allotment site. Thanks to the vigilance of the allotmenters we didn't have a minute's peace for weeks but we managed to collect all of our bees. We now have three brand new marked and laying queens. Our other colony meanwhile has a four-year old queen, still laying, just, but will we get four white queens this year?

Meetings

Our next Branch meeting is next **Saturday 11th June** when Ian Molyneux will join us at the Branch Apiary in Woolton. Ian, our Regional Bee Inspector, will be demonstrating the shook swarm technique of disease control and conducting an open hive session. Following on from this we will hold a **BBQ** at the apiary. If you would like to stay for this pay £5 on the day and bring your own beer or wine if you like. Soft drinks will be provided.

We had another great summer meeting in Fulwood Park last month. We were all very grateful to Evelyn Hall and her husband, George, for their hospitality, which included a table full of gorgeous home-made cakes.

The weather was beautiful and John Zamorski as usual gave a fantastic talk with bang up to date information on bee diseases and pests. This was followed by his open hive session on disease inspection and hiving a swarm (helpfully provided in timely fashion by our bees the previous day). John reminded us of the importance of being registered on BeeBase and of contacting our local Bee Inspector if we have concerns about disease or serious pests (eg small hive beetle) in our colonies. Our inspector's are as follows:

North West Regional Bee Inspector:	Ian Molyneux	ian.molyneux@apha.gsi.gov.uk Tel No: 01204 381186 Mobile No: 07815 872604
Liverpool Seasonal Bee Inspector:	Mark McLoughlin	mark.mcloughlin@apha.gsi.gov.uk Mobile No: 07500 891425

I hear there was also a fantastic turnout for the May apiary session and these are becoming quite popular now that the evenings are lighter and warmer.

Taster Course

This month on 18th we will be holding, for the first time, a taster course in beekeeping at our Rice Lane apiary. This is aimed at people who are interested in beekeeping but who don't plan on taking up the hobby, or are undecided. The course consists of a lecture followed by an opportunity for participants to don a beesuit and go to an open hive session. The 18th is now fully subscribed but we might run further courses if there is sufficient interest. The session costs £10. If you know of anyone who might be interested they can contact Cliff Porter via our webmail address: contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk.

Date for Lancashire Show Announced

The Lancashire show this year will be held on the 10th and 11th of September. It will be at Brockholes wetland centre just off junction 31 of the m6.

The show will be open to the public (a bit like Southport flower show). Entrants will stage their exhibits on the Saturday morning and then the show will be open for Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday.

Hazel Smith, Lancashire Show Secretary, is after some volunteers to help at the show, talking to the public and keeping an eye on the exhibits. She is also asking for some volunteers for stewards as well. Parking will be free all weekend for anyone helping, stewarding, judging or exhibiting in the show.

Contact Hazel if you would like to help out: hazelsmith@hotmail.co.uk. She says any help will be greatly appreciated and thanks you in advance.

BIBBA (Bee Improvers and Bee Breeders Association)* Conference
20-22 September, Isle of Man

Disease occurrence and spread and future threats to our bees are high profile and now is the time to focus on breeding from the best, locally, for less defensive, robust stocks of honey bees. **The BIBBA Conference 2016** will address this need with three full days of international speakers with lectures on many aspects of beekeeping.

Speaker profiles, lecture content summaries and booking are all now available online, links below. **Don't miss the Early Bee prices, available now.** Large choice of accommodation, conference dinner, lots to see, so why not extend your visit?

"This weekend's conference was excellent and more than met expectations - I hope this sets the standard for future UK beekeeping events and look forward to the next one!" ~ *Delegate feedback, Llangollen 2014.*

bit.ly/ConferenceLinks for direct interactive links
bit.ly/Conf01 for the website, also with full details

Trisha Marlow, Publicity Officer, BIBBA

**BIBBA is a BBKA Specialist Member with focus on improving our bee stocks.*

Arnia

We had considered holding a meeting on this subject later this year, but due to the cost we have decided against it for now. However, it is a very interesting, state of the art system of remote hive monitoring which you might like to know more about. The system measures and records hive weight, temperature, humidity and acoustic signals, indicating colony activity, honey production and health, all in real time and accessible remotely from the hive. It is very expensive, costing from £459 for monitoring one single hive. There is also an annual license fee costing from £55 per apiary. The system can be hired at a reduced price via a partnership with the BBKA under the banner, Build the Buzz. Although prohibitively expensive this represents exciting progress in 21st century beekeeping. Have a look at these websites to see how it works:
<http://www.arnia.co.uk/product-beekeepers/>
www.buildthebuzz.com

Swarms and swarm collectors

Current swarm collectors' details are now on the BBKA website as well as on our own website. Please remember Eric Graham's request for unwanted swarms to re-establish colonies at Rice Lane City Farm. Please contact him on 07795 414 583.

International Insect Week

Did you know, 22-26th June is International Insect Week?

That's it for now folks. See you on 11th June, 2.30pm, in Woolton Apiary

Tracey Seddon, Branch Secretary
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