



Newsletter

April 2018

Hello beekeepers!

The new season is nearly upon us and activity outside the hives suggests two of our colonies are bouncing, with loads of pollen going in. Sadly, our third colony has expired. The bees were all dead, either on the floor or in small clusters on the frames in the brood box. There were lots of stores plus fondant on top and the bees on the frames were all right next to or directly underneath the food. So I don't think they starved, but possibly got chilled from the sudden onslaught of the 'beast from the East' combined with the fact that they were a less strong colony than the other two. **This year's lesson:** if you have to question whether a colony is strong enough to go into winter, don't risk it, unite them with another colony. But right now, we are keen to see queen cells...



This year's queen-marking colour is -

Red

Will Yellow Roses Grow Best?

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

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

Meetings

At our March meeting Elaine Reeve-Jones gave us wonderful demonstrations of so many uses for our hive products, with lots of samples to see, touch, smell and even taste! She also treated us to her beautifully decorated honey fruit cake to go with our tea and we got three jars of Doug's honey to add our abundant raffle prizes. Our next meeting will be at Moor Lane Methodist church hall, Crosby on 7th April, 2.30 - 4.30pm. We will have microscopes on hand so that we can all look at bees close up and find out how to examine them for the presence of nosema spores. Remember to bring a sample of bees if you can.

Lancashire & NW BKA AGM and Committee Meeting

1pm Saturday 21st April,
The Old School House, Ulnes Walton, Preston

All members are welcome to attend the AGM and Central Committee Meeting of our regional body, Lancashire Beekeepers Association. This is an important meeting for our members. A new president will be voted in this year and this is your chance to vote, see who runs our regional association and how and meet folks from the wider group.

41st BBKA Spring Convention

Friday 13th - Sunday 15th April 2018

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB

In case you have managed not to see any details of this year's Convention you will have been sent a flyer with this Newsletter. The event is full on, with lectures, courses, workshops, event dinners and a vast trade show where you can pick up reduced price stock. There is reasonably priced accommodation on site if you fancy a couple of days there but it's close enough to get there and back in a day.

Upcoming meetings in the wider area:

- 12th April - Southport and Formby Beekeepers hold their monthly meeting at the Fleetwood Hesketh club, Fylde Road, PR9 9XH.
- Sunday 15th April – East Lancs, Willie Robson, renowned bee farmer and speaker, of Chain Bridge Honey farm, will talk about commercial bee farming. 2pm North Valley Community Centre, Birtwistle Avenue, Colne, BB8 9RR.
- Friday 20th April – Preston, Bees in the Wild, A broadcast of talks given by Nigel Sealey and Roger Patterson at the National Convention 2017, venue as above.
- 21st and 28th April – Preston, Demonstration of a Shook Swarm, 11.30am at the Club Apiary at Myerscough College.

- Saturday 28th April – Branch Meeting, Healthy Bees Day, Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG

BBKA Basic Assessment

If you have been keeping bees for a year, then you should be thinking of taking your BBKA Basic Assessment. It is carried out by a BBKA assessor at a suitable apiary (not your own) and has two parts: a practical assessment (colony inspection and making a frame) followed by answering some questions with the assessor. The fee for the assessment is £20.



It does need a reasonable amount of knowledge, so it is a very worthwhile undertaking. We will be running a course to prepare people for the assessment and this will consist of some correspondence-learning. We email you questions and then give feedback on your answers. So you can fit it in with your other commitments. We could also run a practical session if there is a demand.

For more information, please e-mail Cliff Porter (Education Officer) using contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk and we will get the ball rolling. A full syllabus for the Basic Assessment can be found on the BBKA web site at: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/learn>.

Message from BBKA

Asian Hornet Action Teams Plan

Devon beekeepers have provided the following information for circulation.

This week has been NNSS Invasive Species Week

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=132> This is a timely reminder that we need to be preparing for the next Asian Hornet incursion in the UK and beekeepers everywhere are advised to use this time to prepare themselves.

Asian Hornet Action Teams (AHATs) are being set up in BKAs across the UK, with the aim of fighting the establishment of Asian Hornets, by speeding up the identification and verification process, to enable the NBU to deal with any Asian Hornet incursion/s efficiently and cost effectively. Visit the AHAT website: <http://www.ahat.org.uk> for more information about the aims of the AHAT concept and register your BKA's Asian Hornet Action Team.

On the NNSS website, there is information about their Local Action Groups <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=13>

Here are the Devon Asian Hornet Guidance Protocols -
<http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/asianhornet/guidance-for-beekeepers/>
<http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/asianhornet/guidance-for-branches/>
<http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/asianhornet/how-to-obtain-a-sample/>

Bees and Kit for Sale

One of our beekeepers, Jeff Hughes, needs to give up his hobby for health reasons. As a result he has a couple of colonies of bees plus quite bit of equipment for sale, including roofs, brood box, lots of supers, frames, foundation and other bits of kit. The bees need to be rehomed fairly urgently. If you are interested please contact Jeff on jeff@box42.com. The bees are currently in St Helens and their new home should be at least three miles away.

That's it.

*Wishing you healthy and productive bees for the coming season.
Have a good Easter weekend!*

*Tracey Seddon, Secretary, contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk
www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk*