



Newsletter

May 2018

Hello beekeepers!

Summer is looking good. We have made a successful increase to replace our lost colony and just collected a gift of a swarm which settled metres away from our apiary. This will give us a colony to populate the observation hive, which we will take to the 'Be Nice to Bees' Day at Merseyside Maritime Museum in July. Meanwhile the supers are already heavy. Let's just hope we don't get a major 'June gap' and starving bees.

There is good news for young beekeeping in Liverpool too. Cliff has been tutoring a couple of youngsters in Calderstones School, where they have a Bee Club. One of the pupils has been selected from ten candidates nationally to attend the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) which will take place in Nerac, South West France, 2nd-6th July this year. The event is a mix of fun and competition and teams are put together to be multi-national so good communication is essential. It should be a great experience for the young protégé and we look forward to hearing all about it.

Are you registered on Bee Base?

As you probably know by now, the National Bee Unit recently confirmed a sighting of a single Asian hornet in Bury. We also have American Foul Brood on the Wirral and the threat of small hive beetle entering the UK is a real concern. It is now more important than ever that all beekeepers are registered on Bee Base to give our bee inspectors a much better chance of containing any outbreaks of serious pests or disease.

If you have bees and haven't registered already please do so now by going to:

www.nationalbeeunit.com

or

contact our seasonal bee inspector, Mark McLoughlin, who can sign you up:

mark.mcloughlin@apha.gsi.gov.uk

mobile no: 07500 891425

More information on the recent sighting of the Asian hornet in Bury can be found in the Defra Press release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-identified-in-lancashire>

Meetings

Our next meeting will be at Tony Gordon's apiary in Crosby, on Saturday 9th June. Doug Jones, former Bee Inspector and very long-standing member of Wirral and Liverpool Beekeepers will be going through a hive inspection with Tony's bees.

Upcoming meetings in the wider area (loads this month!):

- Saturday 2nd June 11.00 am – Preston, Demonstration of Making up a Nucleus at the Club Apiary at Myerscough College.
- Saturday 9th June 11.00 am – Preston, Demonstration of Patching to Make New Queens at the Club Apiary at Myerscough College.
- Saturday & Sunday 9th and 10th June – Ormskirk Beekeepers, Queen Rearing with Roger Patterson, Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG.
- Sunday 10th June – Preston, Myerscough Open Day & Country Fair. Myerscough College, Complimentary Pitch Booked 10am to 5pm.
- 14th June, 7.30pm - Southport and Formby Beekeepers hold their monthly meeting at the Fleetwood Hesketh club, Fylde Road, PR9 9XH.
- Friday 15th June – Preston, Improving Your Honey Crop, Mr Ian Molyneaux, 7.30pm at The Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Ave, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YP
- Saturday 16th, 23rd, 30th June 11.00 am – Preston, Demonstration of Managing New Queens at the Club Apiary, Myerscough College.
- Saturday 16th June at 2pm – Ormskirk Beekeepers, *our own* **John McCann** - Making Increase and Showing plus Honey Judging, Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG.

News from BBKA and Central Council

GDPR

As the General Data Protection legislation came into force on 25th May we will shortly be circulating a permission form and information on how we use your data.

Vacancy - Lancs and NW Convention Officer

Our regional body is urgently seeking volunteers for this important position which needs to be filled by late summer. It has been suggested that a working party could be formed to spread the workload. If you are interested the previous Convention Officer, Janet Murray, would be happy to give you more details of what the role entails.

Honey Show

The Lancashire Honey Show will once again be held at Brockholes in Preston on 30th September 2018.

Risk Assessments

We have received the following useful documents produced by the BBKA:

- Display of Observation Hives Risk Assessment May 2018
- Use of Apiary for Training Risk Assessment May 2017
- Explanation of Risk Codes on Risk Assessment sheets

Let me know if you would like a copy of any.

Queen breeding

In the interest of preventing pests and disease BBKA has been asked if it can prevent importation of bees into the uk. This is difficult to achieve but more queen breeding would be a big step in the right direction and so the organisation is keen to encourage branches to get more involved in this.

Photo Competition

BBKA is again running a photography competition. Pictures should have a connection with your apiary, for example the opening of a hive, an inspection, bees on the landing board, bees on the frames. The pictures will be judged by a photographer and the winner will get a prize of £300, with a prize for the runner up of £150 and £50 for the third prize.

You will have to agree that BBKA can use the photographs and the intention is to enlarge them to poster size with the name of your branch under your photograph. BBKA will not be able to return the pictures. See the BBKA website for details.

The closing date for the photographs is the 31st August 2018. So get snapping!

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)

The CEH is running a Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) which beekeepers are encouraged to take part in. You can take part by agreeing to monitor a 1km survey square and logging the insects that visit it. Email poms@ceh.ac.uk to sign up or visit their website for more details - <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring>

The CEH is also setting up a National Honey Monitoring Scheme and they need 500 beekeepers to give them two samples of honey in specially provided pots - they will use advanced analytical techniques to identify plant DNA and measure environmental contaminants. You will get your own result back but it will be used anonymously in any research. They have 250 beekeepers signed up but need another 250 for the spring harvest to make the project viable.

<https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/national-honey-monitoring-scheme>

Beekeeping Kit for Sale

An ex-member has the following kit for sale:

5 hives (3 with 2 supers)
3 nucs (2 poly)
4 mating nucs
Solar wax extractor
Warming cabinet with heater
2 frame electric honey spinner (will take brood frames)
Plus lots of associated bits!!

Please contact Gaynor by email if you are interested -
info@clementevans.co.uk



Also, ex-East Lancs member, Robert Thompson, has equipment for sale. He says -
I kept bees for a number of years but gave up about 10 years ago. I was a member of ELBA at that time. I kept all my bee equipment in the hope that I would get started again but I am moving to Scotland later in the year and wish to sell off what I have. Everything has been stored in dry conditions. The list of what I have is:

12 Supers with assembled frames - no foundation	2 smokers
11 supers without frames	Clearing boards
4 brood boxes with assembled frames	Stainless steel honey strainer
3 brood boxes without frames	White plastic storage tank
6 floors	6 Queen excluders
5 roofs	2 Travelling screens/covers
5 Ashworth Feeders	1 Carrying box
3 Rapid feeders	13 Clearing boards
1 hive tool	

I am selling everything for about a third of the price of new equipment. As one would expect some of it has bits of old wax and propolis and would benefit from a bit of a clean.

I live in Barnoldswick and I shall post a short video of what I have on the Barlicktalk facebook site and also my own facebook which can be found under my name: Robert Thomson.

My mobile number is 07720760700.

*Regards,
Robert Thomson*

That's it

See you in Crosby!

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