

## Liverpool and Merseyside Beekeepers

# Newsletter

September 2018

### Asian Hornets!

You will know by now that Asian hornets have recently been found in Fowey, Cornwall where two nests have been found and destroyed, and in Hull. It is now imperative that we are vigilant and trap for hornets in or near our apiaries. You can use a simple trap made from a 2 litre plastic bottle and hung from a tree branch near to your apiary (see instructions here: <https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/>) or an Asian hornet floor under one of your hives. The latter will catch wasps and hornets as they attempt to get into the hive by the back door. The bottle trap will need a bait and at this time of year it should be a protein bait such as fish.

The Jersey beekeepers, who are now almost overwhelmed by Asian hornets, have found that a proprietary preparation is particularly successful in catching hornets if used hot. This is what they say in their Jersey Hornets Bulletin:

*"One potentially useful finding is that hornets are greatly attracted to **hot** Sutura liquid bait - in fact boiling a small amount brought in a lot. You can read about this new technique on the JBKA Facebook page - Nigel*

*Errington's post ... He and others have noted that the hornets generally do not come to attractant very close to the nest site eg bait stations immediately below or within about 30m from a tree have no hornets on them. One theory being suggested is that this is an evolved characteristic to avoid predator attention close to the nest site..."*

*"The cheapest supplier (that we have found so far) for a minimum of 4 x 5 litre bottles (for free postage) is Pest Control Direct in Hailsham, Kent. Each 5 litre bottle works out at £43.80 including VAT and free postage."*

It might be worth getting a group together to buy some of the bait.

**Can everyone please also make sure also that you are registered on BeeBase. Go to [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com) for details.**

## **Honey Shows**

You just have time to get yourself up to our regional AGM and Members' Show up in Brockholes this coming Sunday. Staging of exhibits 9.45 to 10.45, and the show will finish about 4.30pm.

Venue: **Brockholes Nature Reserve**, New Road, Salmesbury, Preston PR5 0AG (Use PR5 0UJ for satnav)

Our own **Liverpool Honey Show** and AGM is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November in St Anne's Millenium Centre, Rainhill. You should have received the schedule and entry form by email a few weeks ago but we will endeavour to have some hard copies at our October meeting.

As next year's subs are due on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the AGM will give you a good opportunity to renew your membership without having to send a cheque through the post or do an electronic transfer.

Please do let us know if you would be interested in being nominated for the Committee, particularly if you think you could take on an officer role - Branch Secretary anyone??

### **Meetings**

John McCann gave us a great demonstration of how to make mead and damson gin at our last meeting - within 24 hours I had my own latent damson gin on the go. Let's hope I can leave it alone until at least Christmas. After tea we got an added bonus from Cliff who gave us valuable instruction on how to make a 'simple' hornet trap and how to use an Asian hornet floor. We were sustained once again, by Izzy's delicious fruit cake and had a good range of raffle prizes, including three of Cliff's carefully constructed bottle traps. A big thank you is due to those members who very generously donate their home-made cakes and raffle prizes to make our meetings even more marvellous.

At our next meeting at St Michael's Church Hall in Blundellsands we hope to be joined by some of Southport Beekeepers. Frank Hilton of Cheshire Beekeepers will be talking to us about attempts to restore the British Black Bee.

### **Upcoming meetings in the wider area:**

- Saturday 29th September – Preston, Penwortham Autumn Fair at Penwortham United Reformed Church Hall. Details TBC
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Ormskirk, Branch Honey Show, Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane, Aughton L39 5DH
- Saturday 6th October – Preston, PBKA Honey Show, Guest Speaker and Show Judge Terry Ashley, 9am-4pm.
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Ormskirk, Branczyh meeting, 7.30pm, Church House, Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3<sup>RD</sup>
- Thursday 11th October – Southport, 7.30pm The Fleetwood Hesketh Social Club, Fylde Road PR9 9XH.
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October – East Lancs Association Honey Show, 12-5pm, North Valley Community Centre, 9RR, Birtwistle Ave, Colne BB8 7ET. Entries will be judged openly in front of the members by John Goodwin. This will give us a useful insight in to what Judges are looking for when we show.

### **Privacy Policy**

The new *General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)* came into force in May this year and the BBKA has been working to bring the organisation up to compliance. A e-membership database is in the process of being introduced and will be trialled by Lancashire BKA (our own county branch) from 1<sup>st</sup> November. The system should mean that personal details can be held more securely and confidentially. Meanwhile, a Privacy Policy has been drafted by BBKA for adoption by regional branches. Lancashire BKA has adapted the document to suit this branch and I will circulate this in an email separate from this Newsletter. We will also make the document

available on the website in the near future. Do let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

See you on 13<sup>th</sup> October...!

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