



## Newsletter

April 2019

### Apiary Envy

Cliff and I have just come back from a little visit to Northumberland where we experienced Hadrian's wall for the first time and were astounded by the extent of Roman remains, especially at Vindolanda. But en route we stopped off for a visit to the National Trust's Acorn Bank in Cumbria. It turned out they had hives there and this is what we found...!



This is Penrith Beekeepers teaching apiary on the National Trust property. On the right is a raised platform with corrugated plastic-covered roof, housing currently five hives including WBCs and Nationals in wood and polystyrene, two of which are fitted with Arnia remote monitoring kits. The shed on the left houses all of their equipment and supplies, loads of spare beesuits for visitors, information and teaching materials, while a set of locked lean-to extensions on the right of the shed houses spare hive parts. The branch holds meetings at the apiary every Sunday during the season and members of the public are welcome to don a beesuit and join in. Everything was financed through fund-raising, including the outright purchase of the Arnia equipment. This measures hive

weight, temperature, relative humidity and bee acoustics. The monitoring kit was installed at the end of last season but they are already seeing useful information, such as the big difference in temperature within the poly hives compared to the wooden ones and the correlation with the increased strength of the colonies coming through winter in these hives. We are not jealous at all of such fantastic facilities and in such a beautiful environment!

## Meetings

Well our facilities at Woolton might not compare with the Penrith 'des res' apiary but what a fantastic turnout we had for the April meeting, despite the freezing cold weather! We managed to get loads of members around the hives for Peter and Cliff's super-efficient demonstrations of hiving a nuc and (picking up on last month's talk) starting a Bailey comb change. It is always pot luck whether we manage to get a good supply of tea sorted out at the apiary and it wasn't completely successful this time but at least there was an abundance of home-made goodies.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm, again at Woolton Apiary, where John McCann will demonstrate making up nucleus colonies.

Did anyone get to the Spring Convention at Harper Adams? If so, let us know if you went to any particularly interesting talks or picked up useful tips, tools or books.

### Upcoming meetings in the Lancashire and North West Region:

- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April – Preston, Practical Sessions at Out Apiary, including Preparation for Queen Rearing, Patch Method, Making up a Nucleus, Speaker Paul Noblett, 11.30@ Club Apiary Myerscough College.
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Ormskirk, Branch Meeting: Queen Rearing Theory, Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May – Preston, Practical Sessions at Out Apiary, including Swarm Control, Marking and Clipping Queens, Speaker TBC, 11.30@ Club Apiary Myerscough College.
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm – Wirral, A demonstration of swarm control at Ness Gardens apiary, Marshall Pugh.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Ormskirk Beekeepers, Branch Meeting: Swarming and Bee Health Certificate; Out apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG

## Education

A course on Honey Bee Biology is due to begin next month in Bacup in Rossendale, Lancashire to be run by John Hewitt. The course will cover the complete syllabus for Module 5, including nutrition, disease, behaviour and reproduction, but you don't have to take the exam following the course,. The sessions will take place once a month with no definite end date but expected to go on until January or February 2020. For those who wish to take the Module 5 exam separate sessions can be offered looking at past papers and exam techniques.

The course will take place in Bacup starting on Monday 13th May, from 7pm to 9pm and will continue on the second Monday of each month, except in July. A fee of £2 is payable each session to contribute to the room costs. Attendees should have already had bees for at least one season.

Email the tuor at [john.hewitt3@talktalk.net](mailto:john.hewitt3@talktalk.net) for full details.

## Need a New Beesuit?

Doug Jones is ordering a batch of inexpensive beesuits in various colours, sizes extra large, large, medium and small, at £26 each.

Give him a call if you would like to order one: 0797 768 9657.

## Nucs for sale

Doug will also have some six-frame nucleus colonies for sale, with Buckfast Queens, at £220. He expects them to be ready at the end of April for collection from Heswall. Give him a call on the number above if you are interested.

*Tracey Seddon, Branch Secretary, [contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk)  
[www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk)*