



## **Newsletter**

**December 2019**

### **Membership / Finance**

Another reminder for those who have yet to pay their membership to re-join and avoid the £5 late payment penalty if fees are paid after 31st January. If you haven't already, you will be receiving a reminder email soon. It couldn't be easier - you should have already received an email with a link to the eR2 site, all you need to do is complete your details and make payment.

\*A small number of members have completed the eR2 form but not followed it up with payment - if this is you, please make your payment as soon as possible.

### **Annual Branch Meal**

Following the success of the meal last year at West Lancs Golf club, we will be returning again for our Annual Branch meal on Friday 31st of January. The Golf Club is at Hall Road West, Blundellsands, L23 8SZ and the dinner will be a Carvery (plus a non-meat option) with three courses for £25. The menu is below. You will be able to help yourself to all three meats at the Carvery.

#### Starters

Soup of the day: Vegetable

Fresh melon

#### Three-meat Carvery

Honey roasted ham, Roast turkey and Sirloin of beef

*Served with all the trimmings: roast potatoes, Yorkshire puds, veg, gravy, sauces*

#### Or

Non-meat or vegetarian option – details on request

#### Desserts

Sticky Toffee Pudding with ice cream

Fresh fruit meringue

Places are limited so get back in touch with me ASAP to book your place, including your starter and dessert options and any other dietary requirements.

### **Sugar Donation**

As mentioned in the November newsletter BIDFOOD have very generously offered to give us any damaged sugar they can't use. Sugar will be available at the January Branch meeting - anyone wishing to take some could perhaps make an appropriate financial donation to the Branch or donate a good raffle prize. If you are interested, make sure you bring your own bucket to put the sugar in!

## Notes for the diary for 2020

Although not quite complete, the following is our exciting, action-packed programme of Branch meetings for next year. Please support your Branch by attending as many of these meetings as you can. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th January (7.30pm) when Mark McLoughlin, our Regional Bee Inspector, will be giving a talk on Bee diseases and pests. This will be held at St. Helen's Bowling Club (Post Code WA10 3HU) See you all there!

January 13th (7.30pm)	Bee Diseases Mark Mcloughlin	St Helen's Bowling Club
January 31st (7.30pm)	Branch Annual Meal	West Lancs Golf Club
February 29th (2pm)	'From Bee to Bottle' Northumberland Mead	Venue TBC
	Mead tasting after the talk	
March 14th (2pm)	Planting for Bees Stuart Hatton	St Anne's Millenium
April 25th (2pm)	Prep Queens for Nuc John McCann	Methodist Church
May 9th (2pm)	Branch Nuc John McCann	Woolton Apiary
June 13th (2pm)	Shook swarm Ian Molyneux	Woolton Apiary
July 11th (2pm)	TBC	Tony Gordon's Garden
August 22nd (2pm)	Selecting Queens to Breed Karl Colyer	Woolton Apiary
September 19th (2pm)	TBC	TBC
October 17th (2pm)	Wax John Zamorski (TBC)	TBC
November 7th (2pm)	Branch Honey Show & AGM	St Anne's Millenium

## Education

The 2020 Beginners' course is fully subscribed! However if you are interested in taking any Modules this year, please contact Cliff Porter, our Education Secretary at the address below. You don't have to have taken the Basic Assessment first. If you haven't taken the Basic Assessment then why not have a go!

## Branch History

I made a huge mistake in saying I would try and put something together to celebrate the recent 75th Anniversary of the Liverpool Branch! It is a massive undertaking but really interesting. I have made some progress and will probably be finished in time for the 100th anniversary! In the meantime I'll release a few select snippets to wet your appetite - let's start at the very beginning...

The L.B.K.A. originated in the Lancashire and Cheshire B.K.A which was inaugurated on 27th July 1882. The first reference of a Committee was in 1882, when a provisional committee consisted of:

President: The Rt. Hon, Earl of Latham  
Chairman: The Rev. T.B.H. Blundell of Halsall Rectory  
Secretary: J. P. Jackson of Liverpool  
Treasurer: W.Watkin of Roby  
Expert: Fred H. Carr of Bebbington

Liverpool seemed to be the centre of the Association's activities. Subscriptions were 5/- for an ordinary member and 1/- for 'Cottage' members. Unfortunately no definitions of these two types of memberships is recorded!

I would like to draw your attention to the Expert - Fred Carr who was the son of William Broughton Carr (WBC). William Broughton Carr is associated with developing the double walled classic WBC hive in 1890. He was living in Liverpool at the time and was a copper plate engraver by trade. However, beekeeping was his passion and he became an editor on the 'Bee Journal' moving first to Bebington and then down to London. Fred stayed in Liverpool after a brief trip to America. He was also a keen beekeeper and importantly, a joiner. I think it is safe to say that although the WBC hive was the brain child of William, it would have been Fred who actually made the hives! As branch 'Expert' Fred kept records and in his first branch report noted that there were 161 skeps and 278 Bar Frame Hives in use by members and that the practice of Sulphuring the bees was still being widely practiced. The Branch bought a show tent and toured the various local shows with Fred demonstrating beekeeping techniques and convincing beekeepers to convert from skeps to wooden hives.

**And Finally.....**



I saw this cartoon recently and it immediately reminded me of one of our very own celebrity beekeepers who shall remain nameless - but is an old romantic at heart. On a hot summer's day several years ago he was only wearing his new state of the art lightweight bee suite. He was showing off his bee keeping skills to the new lady in his life - but he was a little careless with his smoker and unbeknown to him melted a section of his bee suit at waist height. The bees soon discovered this dark entrance and gathered in large numbers! By the time our beekeeper realised and tried to evict the intruders it was too late and resulted in a very painful experience. However, his new date was not put off and very carefully helped remove the numerous stings as he pleaded with her to relieve the pain but leave the swelling!

***Wishing you and your bees a happy and healthy Christmas and a Honey Laden 2020!***

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