



## **Newsletter**

**November 2019**

### **Membership / Finance**

With the bees tucked up for winter, it's now a good time to do a bit of admin and preparation for next year. As a matter of priority, please renew your membership if you haven't already (and avoid the £5 late payment penalty if fees are paid after 31st January). 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. This will also ensure that we have your correct contact details on file, should we need to contact you throughout the year.

### **Committee Officers**

The AGM saw one change - I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracey on behalf of our association for all her hard work over her 4 years as branch Secretary. Tracey intends to continue as an active committee member; however, both the Chairman and the Treasurer are looking to step down next year. These are important roles and crucial to a Branch being run successfully - we are always looking for new committee members.

#### Your current Committee is as follows:

Chairman - Peter Wass  
Vice Chairman - Doug Jones  
Treasurer - John McCann  
Secretary - John Mooney  
Membership Secretary - Geoff Todd  
Education Secretary - Cliff Porter  
Apiary Managers - Dave Harrison, Eric Graham  
Webmaster - Cliff Porter  
Librarian - John Mooney  
Tea Secretary - TBC

#### Ordinary Committee Members:

Arthur Gillett  
Tony Gordon (Asian Hornet Coordinator)  
Ray Hines  
Paul Hitchiner  
Rob Myron  
Sheila Myron  
David Thornton

## **Search for a New Branch Apiary**

It was proposed in the AGM that a sub-committee be set up to further develop this opportunity. It was agreed that all progress be made through this sub-committee; therefore if you wish to have any input, contact Ray Hines. Please continue to give this some thought - what works and what doesn't work with our current facility; and what you would like in a branch apiary in the future (location, parking, security, toilets, classroom, storage facility.... a bar?!)

### Sub-Committee Members:

Ray Hines  
Tony Gordon  
Alan McKenzie  
Geoff Todd  
Andrew Stephenson  
Brian Seddon

## **Branch Honey Show Results**

A list of results is attached with a comprehensive report. Massive thanks to Rob and Sheila for ensuring the smooth running of yet another show. They quietly go about their business with the minimum of fuss - and do a great job. Thanks also to Dave Harrison for acting as Judge's Steward - this is a great role and if anyone is interested in helping out next year it gives a real insight into how the Judge makes those difficult decisions. Thanks also to the Judge Mr Ivor Flatman who I am not related to, despite the rumours. Finally thanks to all those who entered - the show is only as good as the entries put on display. As the Judge pointed out, it's a bit of fun - but there is great satisfaction to be had from presenting the bees' hard worked for honey and wax in the best possible way. Even if you don't have any honey or wax, you can still take part by entering a cake or by entering the photographic competition. Let's see if we can get over 100 entries next year and please heed Rob's gentle reminder about registering entries in good time.



Joint winners of the inaugural 'Arthur Gillette' trophy - Dave Harrison, John Mooney and John McCann - watched by Chairman Peter Wass.

## Meetings

Our next 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 the cosy venue of St. Helen's Bowling Club (Post Code WA10 3HU) - let's make sure we have a good turn-out - it's a great opportunity for new and prospective beekeepers to speak with more experienced beekeepers - and get answers to their many questions.

## Results from the Lancashire Honey Show, Sunday 13th October at Brockholes Nature Reserve

A very good performance from the members of our Branch who took part - winning first prize in the Medium Honey, Dark Honey, Soft Set Honey, Heather Honey and a very impressive first prize in the Novice category for new member Simon Fowler. Thanks to those who contributed to the Branch cooperation entry which was a commendable second. Let's try and go one better next year. Brockholes has been the location for the Lancashire show for the last three years. It is well worth a visit for a day out - just off Junction 30 of the M6.

## Sugar Donation

A local company called BIDFOOD have very generously offered to give us any damaged sugar they can't use. Rather than go to waste, bags of sugar that are damaged will be put to one side and when there is enough we will be informed and can collect and distribute it as we see fit. We have already had our first load - 45kg - they are based in Speke. Great to see local companies doing their bit for the bees. Have a look at what they do ([www.bidfood.co.uk](http://www.bidfood.co.uk)). Watch this space for further details and a workable distribution system.

## Lancashire & NW BKA Spring Convention 2020

Saturday 7th March 2020 (9.00am - 4.45pm)

Venue: Archbishop Temple School, St Vincent's Road, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 8RA

Follow the link to Lancashire beekeepers at the bottom of this newsletter to book your place: Early bird fee of £16 if you book before 15th February, £21 thereafter.

### The Speakers

Clive de Bruyn - author of several books, including "Practical Beekeeping", a beekeeper for many years.

Northumberland Honey - Luke and Suzie Hutchinson run a many faceted Bee Business, which includes beekeeping, mead making, and bee related courses.

Alpha Pest Control - Clive Flynn is an experienced member of a company providing pest control services which includes "Cutting Out" bee colonies from unwanted spaces.

## You tube Videos

If you are looking for an excuse to avoid Christmas shopping on these cold winter evenings, I can recommend having a look at some of the videos from the last few years of the National Honey show - really good stuff. The advice in the past was to use the winter to broaden your knowledge by reading. We also have lots of great books in our library - you can see listings on the Website (also contact me through the website if you wish to borrow a book).

Useful links:

<http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/lecture-videos.php>

<https://youtu.be/CR6MUekAjMo> (How to make and Asian Hornet Trap)

<https://www.bidfood.co.uk>

<https://www.brockholes.org>

<https://www.lancashirebeekeepers.org.uk/spring-convention>

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