

# Cumbria Bee Times

Editor: Val Sullivan, Brackenwray Farm, Kinniside, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AG

Telephone: 01946 862604, e-mail:brackenwray@aol.com

(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of the CBKA)

New Issue no:30

Date: March 2014

## **RADIATION AND BEES**



Having decided to try Queen rearing this year, I purchased the third edition(1966) of Queen Rearing by L.E. Snelgrove. I have read it in full and placed numerous page markers in the bits that I found most interesting and instructive. While taking on board most of what Snelgrove said as gospel, I did come across one item that may have been considered appropriate in 1966, but would definitely be inappropriate in 2014. It relates to applying a new method to assist the finding of your queen in the hive

I quote:- "Early in the Queen's life a double disc of metallic foil, enclosed within it a minute quantity of radium salt, is attached by adhesive to the thorax of the queen. She carries this throughout her life, and so constantly functions as a miniature transmitting set.

A special form of ionisation discharge tube, which is held in the hand, and which is sensitive to the radioactive emanations from the radium, is connected to a loud speaker.....Hence you are always able to locate your queen within the hive."

I also remember as a young boy going for a new pair of shoes to the Co-op in Edinburgh. They had an instrument to check your foot size. You put your feet in a box and looked down a viewer where ionisation radiation gave a view of your feet on a green background.

Our improved understanding of radiation and it's potential negative effects on our genes and cells, means that such techniques are no longer considered.

I reflect that what we think is the right way to keep bees now, may be considered inappropriate and potentially harmful at some future date. Food for thought . M.Fitzgerald

## **NATIONAL POLLINATOR STRATEGY**

The government has launched a public consultation on the National Pollinator Strategy which sets out proposals to safeguard pollinators.

There are 3 elements: Evidence gathering on pollinator status, priority policy actions, and a commitment to review and refresh the aims of the strategy as new evidence becomes available.

This consultation document is rather wordy-48 pages, but as Beekeepers will be playing an important role in maintaining a healthy Bee population, the BBKA will be responding on our behalf. However there is a need for each of us; individually, as a Branch Association, or through the CBKA Executive to send in responses to the questions outlined. The closing date for the consultation is 2nd May 2014. Please download and respond by then. Dr D. Aston, Chair BBKA Technical and Environmental Committee would be grateful to learn that you have done this.

The link to the document is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-pollinator-strategy-for-bees-and-other-pollinators-in-england>



**Participants at W&DBKA Beginners' Course on 8th March**

## **CUMBRIA BEEKEEPERS AGM SAT 15TH MARCH**

Annual General Meetings are a necessary part of any organisation and although there was a poor turnout ( approximately 10% of the membership) those who did attend had time for tea and a chat before the meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM and the accounts were accepted.

Nick Mills stepped down as President because of an overseas lifestyle which leaves him unable to attend as many CBKA functions as he would wish. We thank him for his past service as President and are pleased to retain him as a Committee member.

Officers:

President Val.Sullivan Vice President John Harris  
Treasurer Christine Matthews Secretary Stephen Barnes  
Chairman To be elected at next Exec meeting.

Other members of the committee agreed to continue and two new members Martin Gerrlich and Melanie Vincent were also elected.

Proposition1: that Capitation Fees to the CBKA from the Branches remains at £3.00/member was accepted, and Proposition2: That the capitation to BBKA will rise by £1.00 in line with the increase approved by the BBKA for Jan 2016; this rise to take effect from 2015, was also approved.

Proposition3: That Executive Meetings take place at venues around the Branches was defeated after discussion about the practicalities. Executive meetings will continue in Keswick. Refunding of both Basic Exam and Module 3 will continue for successful candidates.

There followed a full discussion about the problems of communication between the Executive, the Branches and Members. There was agreement that Secretaries must ensure that information for the website is regularly updated, CBT should continue to carry information about forthcoming events and that more fliers should be distributed to members .

**Date for next AGM 12th March 2015**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **BBKA SPRING CONVENTION**

**Harper Adams April 4th –6th**

Trade Show open on 4th and 5th .Contact BBKA for more details

Penrith BKA may run a bus to the convention on Saturday 5th.

### **BEE AUCTION**

**Houghton Village Hall 26<sup>th</sup> April**

(if the Spring weather is bad again the date may be changed to 24<sup>th</sup> May)

Contact Peter Harris for more details. 07830432014

### **COCKERMOUTH CONVENTION**

**Embleton Village Hall Sept 13th**

More details will be posted soon on the CBKA website or from the Cockermonth Secretary.

### **DISEASE -GOOD HUSBANDRY DAY**

**Penrith Saturday July 12th**

This event will focus on:

- 1.Varroa control/management
- 2.Good husbandry/hygiene/barrier management
- 3.Diseased and “confusion” comb recognition
- 4.Nosema diagnosis and management
- 5.Practical hands on examination of honeybee colonies for disease

Further information of timing and location will be available from your Association which is being asked to encourage 1st and 2nd year beekeepers on the course and particularly beekeepers who have not attended this type of training course before. Pre-booking to reserve a course will be necessary

Contact Dr Margaret Riches on 01768894404 or 07957867324;

e-mail [mr4cnr@gmail.com](mailto:mr4cnr@gmail.com)

My name is David Marshall and I am opening a new gift shop in beautiful Grasmere in April. The shop will be specialising in honey and gifts related to bees.

I will stock a wide range of bee related products, both local and from other areas. So if you are a Cumbrian Beekeeper and would be happy for me to sell your honey or other hive products at the shop: Honeybee Meadow, please contact me. [david@honeybeemeadow.co.uk](mailto:david@honeybeemeadow.co.uk)  
tel 07710 198948



## **CONTACTS FOR BRANCHES**

### **Carlisle**

Fiona Roebuck  
Old Town House  
High Hesket  
CA4 0JE  
01697 473741  
[froebuck@btinternet.com](mailto:froebuck@btinternet.com)

### **Cockermouth**

Bill Mackereth  
6 Whiteside Avenue  
Cockermouth  
CA13 9AR  
01900 825188  
[linda\\_fitzgerald@btinternet.com](mailto:linda_fitzgerald@btinternet.com)

### **Keswick**

Stephen Barnes  
Albemarle St,  
Cockermouth,  
CA13 0BG  
01900 824972  
[braithwaitebees@sky.com](mailto:braithwaitebees@sky.com)

### **Penrith**

Secretary TBA  
[penrithbka@gmail.com](mailto:penrithbka@gmail.com)

### **Whitehaven**

Val Sullivan  
Brackenwray Farm  
Kinniside  
Cleator  
CA23 3AG  
01946 862604  
[brackenwray@aol.com](mailto:brackenwray@aol.com)

### **Other Associations**

#### **Furness**

David Walmsley  
36 Oxenholme Road  
Kendal  
[djwalmsley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:djwalmsley@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Kendal and Westmorland**

Judith Bayne  
Helm End Farm  
Barrows Green  
Kendal Cumbria LA8 0AA  
[judith.kswba@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judith.kswba@yahoo.co.uk)

## **MAFIA STING. GANG DESTROYS BEE HIVES**

An Italian honey making business has been stung for more than £100,000 after two million prize bees were killed in a suspected Mafia hit. The gang used canisters of insecticide to wipe out the colonies in what police believe was an extortion racket against the Apiary owner. He has denied intimidation or demands for money.

The specialist hives at Titignano near Pisa are owned by Sergio D'Agostino and are used to make the popular Italian Millefiori brand. Detectives said the gang wore protective clothing against stings and used wire cutters to get through the fence during the night. They sprayed more than a dozen hives before escaping. Mr D'Agostino said "I have no idea why someone would want to do something like this. I have lost more than 2 million bees and the financial costs will be huge. We are talking tens of thousands of euros. This is the prime time for the bees and whoever did this knew what they were doing. It is going to take me months to get back to where I was before the attack. It is a slaughter and they came at night so that they would not be seen" From Daily Express 8/3/14