

Cumbria Bee Times

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

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Varroa treatment revisited

If Varroa is not controlled colonies will die out, a fact that we have all come to appreciate. Integrated pest management throughout the year is a necessity for all beekeepers and that includes treatment of broodless colonies when all the mites are on the adults and have nowhere to hide. Oxalic acid has been used for several years in the winter months by the trickle method and now only one preparation is licensed for use by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. The preparation comes from an Italian firm; Chemicals Laif.

Api-Bioxal claims an efficacy of 96% used in winter and also on Shook and natural swarms ie broodless colonies. It is now the only LEGAL oxalic acid treatment available. All other oxalic acid products previously marketed in the UK are illegal. Api-Bioxal is marketed in packs of 35gms for 10 colonies to 350gm for 100 colonies. Cost is a little over £1.00 per colony for the sachets but has to be dissolved in syrup and used by the trickle method, so additional expenditure will be involved. All remaining Oxalic acid stocks should be destroyed to comply with the VMD .

Bankhead Bee Supplies

For all your Beekeeping Requirements

Bankhead Farm, Newby East, Carlisle, CA4 8RA

Telephone:01228 573289

Your local agent for Thorne and Sherriff

Cumbria BKA Annual Honey Show and Conference November 7th

Our honey judge this year was Peter Lewis who also presented the cups and commented on his disappointment that so many classes had few or no entries at all.

Michael Badger gave the morning talk on managing and preparing bees to gather heather honey. He had many tips for us to try out starting with Spring manipulation to develop strong foraging colonies able to gather heather honey in the short (12 to 14 day) window when the ling nectar is flowing.

Branch reports reflected a poor season from all 5 Branches with poor crops ,and problems with drone layers, widespread. The expert panel were asked for their views on this problem among others, and postulated poor weather as the main cause.

The afternoon speaker was Graham Royle, who talked about winter preparation of the Apiary. He gave some excellent advice on Varroa control and Nosema detection and management.

Trophies: Association cup A.Tett

Hendren cup A.Tett

Scott Just cup A.Tett

SJ Wornham cup A.Tett

John Dixon cup I Gregory

William Douglas cup I Gregory

F.Hyde cup V. Sullivan

William Barton cup Joint winners:

E.Barr and M. Cottier

Dates for your Diary

**Next CBKA Exec meeting Sat 28th
Nov : Southey St Keswick 2.00pm**

Wax Day Sat 28th Nov at
Ravenbridge Mill Details from Sarah
Wilson sarahravenbridge@gmail.com
phone:01768870817

Beekeeping for Beginners Course
to be held at Houghton Carlisle in March
contact Peter Harris at Cumbria Bee
Supplies for more details.
Mobile:07830432014,
email :harris peter44@gmail.com.

**Free Beekeeping for Beginners
Courses**
in Dumfries Contact "the Bee man" at
<http://www.the-beeman.co.uk/> for further
details.

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Full details of CBKA events and
Officers contacts can be found
on the Cumbria Beekeepers
website
Cumbriabeekeepers.co.uk

There are several other non-
affiliated Associations in the
North West

Beehivemaker
Beehives made to order
Peter Harris
Unit 8A Port Road Business Park
Carlisle
CA2 7AF
Mobile no: 07830432014

Thoughts on CBKA Annual Honey Show and Conference

This year the annual Honey Show and
Conference was attended by just 30 people,
and the number of exhibits in the Honey Show
was woefully small.

Is this because Cumbria Beekeepers no longer
have any interest in the products of the hive
nor want to show how they have managed to
benefit from the work of their bees or do they
no longer want to learn about aspects of
beekeeping from top class speakers?

Now that our Seasonal Bee Inspector has
retired, and it is rumoured will not be replaced,
and our Regional Bee Inspector is away on
sick leave we can no longer look to them for
advice on bee diseases, colony management
and seasonal manipulation in the Apiary.

The cost of entry to the show (£10) was modest
for a day of talks, coffee, tea and a free lunch.
Has the internet taken over as a source of
information to such a degree that we no longer
need these sort of events?

It would be useful to have some feedback
from the 85% of Cumbria BKA members who
did not attend this year as to what they would
like to see the Association put it's energies into
for the betterment of local beekeeping.
Ed

Honey regulations update

Honey regulations were updated in June 2015
and now preclude any brood comb being
subsequently used for Honey collection if
such honey is for sale to the public.

The full regulations can be found at:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1348/made>

