

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)

New Issue no: 8

Date :July 2010

Diseases Day Houghton Village Hall

June 19th.

Some 90 beekeepers congregated at Houghton Village Hall on Saturday 19th June for the Bee diseases day. The morning was spent hearing from the Regional and Seasonal Bee Inspectors about American foul brood, European foul brood, treatments and recognition and updates on Varroa and Nosema ceranae. After lunch the beekeepers split into three groups. Apiary Hygiene was run by John Newton SBI for Durham, Tyne and Wear, his message being that clean beekeepers reduce the risk of spreading infection; clean suits, disposable gloves and the use of washing soda solution to clean hive tools should be standard practice. Stewart Beattie (SBI for our area) and Doug Jones (SBI Merseyside/Wirral) ran the Colony Inspection session in glorious sunshine on a field close to the hall. Ian Molyneux ran the practical session on recognising and testing suspicious looking brood for AFB and EFB*. After applying the "Matchstick test" kits were used to obtain definitive diagnoses for both the foul broods. We also had a demonstration run by Dominic Rhodes (W&DBK) of the new CBKA electronic equipment in the diagnosis of Nosema and the differences between the two types as seen under high power magnification.

The day was a great success and our thanks go to the RBI, SBIs and all the Beekeepers from Carlisle Branch who organised the day ran the raffle and supplied endless cups of tea and coffee.

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*What is it ?May 2010 CBT

This is an illustration of modern disease testing known as the Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), also known as Immunoenzyme assay. It has progressed from pregnancy testing to detecting many diseases particularly in Humans but now also in other animals including honey bees. Essentially each test uses an antibody specific to that disease already sealed onto a reagent strip in a little plastic holder. If testing for AFB a solution from the suspect brood is added to the plastic holder and this moves across the reagent strip by capillary action. The antibody in the strip will only combine with AFB protein (the antigen) if present and the combination causes a reagent to colour giving the +ve line. A similar test is available for EFB. Visual clues, smell of the infected brood, matchstick ropiness test and experience are still needed before the suspicious comb is tested by the NBU. If you have concerns ring your SBI immediately.

AFB and EFB are notifiable diseases. As they are highly infectious and costly to beekeepers early recognition and eradication are essential.

Branches and Secretaries

The Cumbria Beekeepers Association currently has five branches, whose contact details are:

Carlisle

Walter McPhee
Low Buildings
Castlesteads
Brampton
CA8 2AX
016977 41530

Cockermouth

Bill Mackereth
6 Whiteside Avenue
Cockermouth
CA13 9AR
01900 825188

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Other Associations

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Furness
David Walmsley
36 Oxenholme Road
Kendal
djwalmsley@hotmail.co.uk

Houghton Village Hall June 19th



Equipment News

Cumbria Beekeepers new laptop digital projector and Digimicroscope equipment are now available for loan to members for talks and demonstrations about beekeeping. It is hoped that gradually we can build up a collection of Powerpoint presentations on the laptop for members to use. Stephen Barnes, Secretary to CBKA is hoping to arrange a "Power point Day" in the near future for any members who would like to either learn to use (or brush up on their skills) Power point applications.

All the equipment is under the care of Ian Gregory who can be contacted by phone or e-mail to arrange to borrow it.

Tel : 01228 524054

E-mail: ian.marie@hotmail.com

The Association also now has a "Course in a box" for use by anyone running Beginners courses. This consists of a case containing Tutor's notes, power point illustrated talks DVDs feedback forms and many model hive parts as well as guides to frame construction. The course is intended to be run over several sessions. Contact Secretary Stephen Barnes.

Beehivemaker

Beehives made to order at our joinery
**90 Ennerdale Avenue, Botcherby,
Carlisle, CA1 2TR**
Beehivemaker.co.uk
Tel 078304 32014

Lakeland Rose Show 2010

Following a break in 2009, the honey section of the rose show returned in 2010. It was reasonably well supported with around 100 entries which were spread fairly evenly throughout all 15 classes.

One class, in which more entries would have been nice to see, was the novice class. This is not specifically for new beekeepers, but for any exhibitor who has not won a first prize in the honey section of L R S.

The weather played a major role in spoiling the show, and following an excellent period of good weather, the weekend turned out to be unsettled, which is putting it mildly. In spite of the low number of visitors, those that viewed the honey section seemed to be impressed with the exhibits. One exhibit in particular caught the eye, not only of the judge, but of most visitors, and was a single rose made from wax.

The trophy winners were as follows:--

The Baines Trophy, for the winner in H3, Dark Honey was won by Mrs C Matthews, Annan.

The Birthwaite Engineering Trophy, for best exhibit wax classes, was won by Mrs C Allen, Dalton.

The Iris Speight Trophy, for the lady winning most points in honey classes, was won by Mrs C Allen, Dalton.

The Becky Little Memorial Trophy, for the winner in the novice class, was won by Mr M Luke, Ulverston.

Hopefully, next year we will have more entries from Cumbria beekeepers.

R.Blocksidge

Richard & Anne Kenyon

Burnsmead Farm

Little Urswick, Ulverston

Tel 01229 869363

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Forthcoming events

August 8th Lamplugh Village Hall: Whitehaven and District Pollen Day. Apply to the Secretary for a place.

August 21st. Gosforth Show with Whitehaven and District Honey Show: Schedule from, and entries to (by 28th July)
A.McKenzie 01946725700

November 13th . Cumbria Beekeepers Annual Conference and Honey Show: Threlkeld Village Hall

Speakers:

Honey cookery John Crouch

Queen Rearing Margaret Thomas bbka exam board moderator

December 4th: Wax Day Braithwaite Hall

This will include Wax preparation ,

Foundation construction,

Wax flower modelling ,

Candle making

Pennine Bee Supplies

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(in plastic buckets)

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00Y**

Tel: 01524 751347 daytime 01524 791328
evening

Hygiene at the Apiary

John Newton SBI for Tyne and Wear, outlined the following regime for healthy hives at the Diseases Day (see page 1)

Bee suit: Clean - washed frequently

Boots: Stepped though a disinfectant tub before and after Apiary visits.

Gloves: Disposable, and preferably a new pair for each hive opened and inspected.

Hive tools: Scrupulous cleanliness by immersion in washing soda solution made up of 1kg crystals to 4.5 l water with a few drops of washing-up liquid added. A scouring pad can be used to clean propolis off the hive tools and spacers.

Smoker: bellows can be wiped with the washing soda solution to clean them.