

# 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)

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## Report on Cumbria BKA AGM Sat March 5th 2011

The Annual General Meeting was rather poorly attended despite the attraction of a good speaker and the contentious proposal to reward those beekeepers who attend AGMs with a small reimbursement !

The Speaker, Phil McAnespie, is President elect of the Scottish BKA. He gave a most entertaining talk illustrated with slides and video clips of bees and their yearly cycle. His talk was entitled "A man for all seasons" and he neatly compared the life of a bee colony with Sir Thomas More's work "Utopia"

There were no proposals for any new Officers and so the executive posts of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary remain as before. One new nomination was received for the post of member of the executive and John Lynch of Penrith was elected and welcomed.

**Proposition 1** That subs increase by £1 from 1st Oct ( to meet increased BBKA subs of £15/ member)

Passed 15/3

**Proposition 2** That CBKA remind the BBKA that there is a demand for training in the North .

Passed unanimously

**Proposition 3** That CBKA Capitation fee be put up to £4.00 and that those who attend AGMs receive a refund of £1.00

Defeated 16/2

**Proposition 4** That successful candidates for both the Basic and Module 3 exams receive a full refund of their exam fees

Passed unanimously.

It was agreed after some discussion that the secretary will send out a paper copy of the audited accounts of CBKA, as seen at the AGM, to each Branch secretary for them to copy for members who may be interested. Alternatively members may request a copy from the CBKA Secretary directly.

**The next AGM will be held on 3rd Mar 2012.**

## Annual General Meetings are Necessary events

The Executive would welcome suggestions concerning the format for CBKA AGMs. Shall we go for a straightforward AGM with no extras, accepting the fact that they are a necessary event for the Association but that no-one is very keen to attend or is there a different way to engender interest?

Views to the Editor please.

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### A Stethoscope for Listening to the Bees

After the prolonged freezing weather in December, I was anxious to know whether my bees had survived, especially as this is my first year of bee-keeping, and I only have one colony. In January there was no sign of the bees flying, so I resorted to trying to listen outside the hive. Initially I couldn't hear anything, so I knelt down beside the hive, & pressed one ear against the wall of the brood chamber. I thought I could hear a humming noise, but wasn't sure. How to confirm? I remembered that there was a stethoscope in the house, so had a listen with that, and sure enough, there was a definite "hum" from the hive.

I was reassured by this, & managed to stop myself lifting the roof & having a look inside. Finally, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, we had our first mild, sunny day and the bees were out in force, with some taking pollen into the hive, and others spring-cleaning by removing dead bees & dropping them outside the entrance.

I have found a use for my old stethoscope at last, though sadly, it isn't compatible with wearing a bee-suit, the hood gets in the way! S. Richards W&DBK

### 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

#### Keswick

Sandra Wallace  
Spooney Green  
Keswick  
CA12 4PJ  
017687 72601

#### Penrith

Joy Rich  
Holly House  
Newbiggin  
Penrith  
CA11 0HT  
017684 83910

#### Whitehaven

Val Sullivan  
Brackenwray Farm  
Kinniside  
Cleator  
CA23 3AG  
01946 862604  
brackenwray@aol.com

#### Other Associations

Kendal and South Westmorland  
Peter Llewellyn  
1 Greenside House,  
Hincaster,  
Milnthorpe,  
LA7 7NA  
01539 562369  
pdwlllewellyn@yahoo.co.uk

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

### Beehivemaker

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Carlisle, CA1 2TR**  
www.beehivemaker.co.uk  
Tel 078304 32014

### Richard & Anne Kenyon

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**Little Urswick, Ulverston**  
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### Eucryphia cordifolia

I read with interest the article in Cumbria Bee Times Issue 11 Jan 2011 at the end of which was the suggestion that it might be worth trying a planting in Cumbria. No need to try because Eucryphia grows well and thrives here.

A magnificent specimen of the tree stands on the right hand side of the lower car-park at the entrance to Holehird Estate, just off the A592 Patterdale to Windermere road, map ref NY 407 004.

When I last saw the tree( about 10 years ago) it stood some 60 ft high, was in full bloom with thick clusters of the most beautiful white flowers. Standing under the tree, watching and listening to the constant hum of bees going about their business on a warm sunny afternoon can leave no doubt as to it's attractiveness to honey bees and many other insects seeking it's pollen and nectar. N. Mills President CBKA

### Cumbria Bee Times Distribution

I hope that the CBT is useful for informing beekeepers of forthcoming events both within Cumbria and in the rest of the country. It is also hoped that you get a bit of feedback on the work of the Executive committee.

The publication does not cost the Cumbria BKA any money at all.; it is sent out by electronic mail to all the Branch Secretaries for them to send on or copy and give out. However several beekeepers miss out and have requested paper copies.

It would be possible to go back to the old system of issuing Secretaries with a sheaf of paper copies at the Executive meetings. These would not be printed in colour, nor necessarily be on time, but there might be more certainty about distribution. Please let me have your thoughts. Ed

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### Forthcoming events

#### **Northern Bee Auction**

April 9th Houghton Village Hall

#### **BBKA Spring Convention**

April 15,16,17 Stoneleigh Warwickshire

#### **Furness Spring Convention** May 7th

Bardsea To book your place apply to the  
Furness Secretary

#### **Lakeland Rose Show** July 9th 10th

**Gosforth Show/ W&D Honey Show**  
August 20th

**Wax Day** Dec 3rd !

### Bees get new strip to tackle varroa

BEEKEEPERS should soon have a new weapon in their armoury against Varroa destructor parasitic mites after Canadian firm NOD Apiary Products obtained US federal registration for its **Mite-Away Quick Strips**. The strips are impregnated with formic acid, an active component in bee/ant stings. Formic acid is already used to combat varroa, and is said to be particularly effective against the soft-shelled male mites which lurk inside sealed cells, but requires careful use as it is volatile in high temperatures and is potentially lethal to bees and humans. NOD, which already markets Mite-Away formic acid pads, claim the new gel strips are more stable and may be used in temperatures up to 93°F (34°C). The treatment period is seven days and can be implemented during a honey flow. NOD claims up to 95% mite kill. There is currently no date set for Quick Strips to go on sale in the UK, but NOD says the product will be gradually available over the next few months as production ramps up and pesticide registrations are obtained.