

Cumbria Bee Times

New issue 3

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

FERA and BBKA

As you are no doubt aware by now there are serious issues developing between the BBKA and FERA ,an acronym for a new wing of DEFRA – the Food and Environment Research Agency, concerning the method by which the government’s monies to fund research into Bee health are being allocated. The BBKA board are concerned that we (15,000 beekeeping members) only have one vote on any issues arising .The NBU and Central Science Laboratory are now part of FERA and therefore the £2.3 million allocated to NBU comes under the new umbrella organization. So far FERA have not discussed with the BBKA how this money is to be used. The BBKA have also not had any meetings since the publication of their paper “Honey bee Health Research Concepts”to discuss this with FERA.

On Sept 5th the BBKA Trustees put forward a resolution to leave the FERA Steering Group, now known as the Project Board and to “concentrate on education and training for members “, apparently therefore denying members any say on Government funding.

The CBKA committee is planning to meet with Martin Smith, Chairman of BBKA on Oct 3rd to hear the BBKA views and to put our views to him. It would be useful to hear from Cumbrian members before then – please e-mail your Exec member, or phone, write and let the Executive have your views on this important topic .

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:

Whitehaven:

Val Sullivan
Brackenwray Farm
Kinniside
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CA23 3AG
01946-862604

Websites of interest

<http://www.bkq.org.uk/>

will get you the latest Beekeepers Quarterly free for a few months if you are not already a subscriber to this publication.

<http://www.bee-craft.com/bee-craft-goes-digital.php>

will get you 3 free samples of the UK digital Beecraft journal. And Beemail comes free to any member who sends their e-mail address with Beemail in the subject field to secretary@bee-craft.com

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Integrated Pest Management

As Varroa is now Pyrethroid resistant throughout the County the preferred Autumn treatment has been Apiguard which has the great advantage of being easy to handle and pleasant smelling. Has anyone else found that the bees paddle down the Apiguard spread onto card from the large tubs much more rapidly than the ready prepared trays supplied by the manufacturer? Is it as effective spread more rapidly throughout the colony? Or perhaps it has a less sustained length of contact with the bees and therefore does not knock down the mites as effectively.

This year I am trying both types in my Apiary and I will monitor the effect on Varroa numbers when the time comes to apply Oxalic Acid in the depth of Winter, though there will be many other variables to contend with.

Brood Disease Insurance

With the threat of AFB now moving through the Borders the Committee would like members to consider rejoining the BDI scheme. The cost is £2.00/yr /member and covers the loss of hives or hive parts for up to 3 hives (more hives require increased premiums). Please give the option of joining the BDI some thought before the AGM next year. It would possibly increase membership subscriptions, but this may be an option well worth taking.



Whitehaven and District Branch
receiving a grant from local
Neighbourhood forums for the
purchase of children’s bee-suits