



CARLISLE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter March 2015



Chairman's muses

Well, here we are again! A new bee-keeping year.

So far, winter has been mild for the gals and our colonies seem to be coming through the winter well. The main thing at the moment is to have patience – something in short supply as far as I'm concerned.

I haven't been idle though. Apart from taking a couple of winter skiing breaks, I have added fondant and pollen substitute to those hives that seemed on the lightish side, I've thoroughly cleaned and refreshed all the equipment in the shed and I've cleaned (well, Jenny has!) my bee suit and gloves, all in excited anticipation of Spring and what the year might hold.

..... and the year has got off to a great start!

Our annual dinner this year was once again held at the Eden Golf club with more than twenty of us having a really great evening. The venue, food and chat were extremely good and the Magic Show put on by our very own Stuart Bowie was magic! Many thanks to Peter Nanson for once again organising a great event.

Our first meeting has been held – very well attended, with the Houghton Village Hall buzzing (good eh?!). Our speaker was Julia Hoggard talking about wax production and its uses but, in fact, was far more wide ranging and included advice on maximising bee production, the pros and cons of new versus old comb/foundation etc. A very professional presentation.

Our next speaker on 30th March will be Fred Ayres with the topic of "Alternative Approaches to Beekeeping". Now that's something I can relate to!

At our AGM we discussed the future of the apiary and how we would look to get back to our teaching roots and we have already made great strides. All the old, no longer sensibly serviceable equipment has been ditched and new equipment purchased and now delivered. At the apiary we will be concentrating over the year on explaining all the comings and goings in the hives as we go through them, with different, experienced beekeepers taking the lead each month and with short talks afterwards on topical, seasonal subjects such as swarm prevention, queen rearing etc.

Another big step forward (or more of a recovery really) is the regular updating of our website, which now covers updates on our activities, copies of our newsletters, how to contact us and how to join the association.

On that point – and my last of this muse – **can I remind everyone that our annual sub of £25 is now overdue and I would ask everyone to take steps to pay up. Membership forms are on the website and subs can be sent to Dieter Gringinger at The Croft, Aglionby, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 8AQ. To avoid the embarrassment of being "chivvied" – as I have just experienced! – why not download and complete a direct debit?**

That's all for now folks and here's to a good beekeeping year.

Robin

2015 Programme

Winter meetings

at Houghton Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m

January 23rd Annual Dinner Eden Golf Club

February 23rd Julia Pigott Bees' wax: history, biology, economics

March 30th Fred Ayres Alternative Approaches to Beekeeping

April 27th David Walmsley What to Do When Queen Cells are Spotted

September 28th Lorraine Priestly Creativity with Wax

October 26th Honey Show

November 30th AGM

May: visit to an out apiary TBC

Apiary Meetings

at the Association's Walby Apiary at 2.p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays

11th April Clean up day

26th April

9th May 24th May

6th June 21st June

4th July 19th July

1st August 16th August

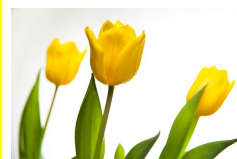
29th August 13th September

26th September Clean up day.

At **Saturday** meetings there will be **short talks** on apiary management by a branch member.

The topics suggested, although these may be varied, are (beginning in May) - queen rearing, hygiene routine, disease control options, record keeping and feeding

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL MEMBERS



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STOP PRESS

NEW BEGINNERS COURSE STARTING

6 Sessions to be held on Saturdays 10.00-1215.

Commencing 11th April, then 18th April and further dates to be agreed.

Cost £60 per person payable at first session.

Venue will be Gosling Syke Farm, Houghton.

No Equipment necessary.

For further details and to enrol etc .please contact Christine Matthews:

silverhive@hotmail.com

CUMBRIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Carlisle Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014.

Monday November 24th, at 7.30 p.m. in the Houghton Village Hall.

MINUTES

1. Welcome: Robin welcomed everyone to the Annual General meeting

2. Attending: Jade Barrett, Allan Beattie, John Beattie, Stuart Bowie, Harold J. Bowron, Paul Carruthers, Malcolm Cotter, Mick Cottingham, Dieter Gringinger, Peter Harris, Gerald Hepplewhite, Peter and Christine Matthews, Nick Mills, Robin MacLeod, Walter McPhee, Pete Nanson, Syd & Monica Parker, Lorraine Priestley, John Quinn, Louise Smith, Norman Toppin and Ray White

Apologies for absence: Fiona Roebuck and Joe Glaister

3. Minutes of AGM, Nov. 2013 were circulated. No amendments were noted and minutes were approved by the membership in attendance.

4. Matters arising from minutes- No items were raised.

5. Reports

- a) **Chairman** – Robin reported on what he had felt to be a fairly successful year because of the better weather. He had heard of a number of swarms locally.
- b) **Apiary meetings** had changed in format in that after inspection of the hives, there were short

talks on certain aspects of beekeeping and these had gone well.

Robin thanked the office bearers and committee for their support during the year and issued a plea for some of the less experienced bee-keepers to consider joining the committee and putting forward their thoughts on how the Association could be improved. He advised that the apiary management is to be changed and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

b) Treasurer – see separate report. Dieter reported that the number of members has reduced considerably and there were currently 60 members, including honorary and life members, as opposed to 73 the previous year. He noted that he still has some difficulty getting membership money from some members, but the emailing of receipts has cut down on the cost of postage. He suggested that the minimum balance in the Bank Account should be £500 and this was agreed. It was also noted that there had been no income from the hire of the extractors. It was proposed and agreed by the members that there should be a deposit of £20 paid which will be returned on receipt of the clean extractor and there should be a daily charge of £5 for use of same.

Membership last year was £25 and it was proposed that there is no increase this year as there is a healthy balance in the 2 accounts. It was noted that the increase in the Community Account was thanks to the charge for the beginners/improvers courses and the raffle income. Dieter thanks Christine for organising the courses and Lorraine and co for organising the raffles.

Discussion on difficulties with membership payments

Dieter advised that the list of members he holds appears to be different to the list that is held by the secretary. It was agreed that these lists need to be merged and regularly updated. Dieter expressed difficulty in his role as treasurer as it also involved acting as a membership secretary. Malcolm proposed that there needs to be a separate job of membership secretary and this was agreed.

Peter Matthews said that there is a need to hand out membership forms at meetings when there are new people attending. Dieter feels that people need to be reminded to renew membership and this will be in the newsletter. Norman Toppin advised that the website information is out of date for people interested in joining and that if this was up to date it would help.

Survey of membership: Robin advised that Stuart Bowie had carried out an analysis of the last 3 years membership. Stuart advised that 44 people did not renewed membership. There had been new members joining at a rate of 15, 5 and 10 over the period, with 50% still members 3 years on. Over 50% who did not renew had been members for 3 years or more.

Dieter now has a list of people prepared to share their email address, post-codes and phone numbers with other members and this will be circulated.

Robin suggested that there is a meeting to draw the membership list with who is a paid up member together and will organise this.

c Raffle report – separate sheet. Lorraine reported the sum of £150 was to be handed over to Dieter to put in the bank and cash in hand stood at £123.78

.6. Election of officers and Committee:

Robin reiterated that it would be helpful if any new members who wished to assist the club either as an office bearer or committee member put themselves forward. Robin felt it would be helpful to have new blood on the committee.

Chairman – Robin MacLeod was proposed by Lorraine + seconded by Walter. In the absence of any other nominees, Robin was elected.

Vice Chairman – No nominations were received and Robin advised he would approach one or two people outside of the meeting to see whether they would be willing to be nominated.

Treasurer - Dieter Gringinger was willing to continue. Proposed by Robin + seconded by Syd.

Secretary – Fiona Roebuck had indicated that she was prepared to continue. Proposed by Robin + seconded by Lorraine.

Minute Secretary- Lorraine Priestley was willing to continue. Proposed by Robin + seconded by Malcolm

Apiary Manager- This was discussed as a separate item.

Membership Secretary- Walter indicated that since he already prepares a return of members for Cumbria Beekeepers he is willing to take on this role.

Newsletter Editor- Malcolm Cotter was prepared to continue in this role but advised he needed members to send him articles. Proposed by Lorraine + seconded by Robin MacLeod.

Committee- Nominations were sought and the following approved: Louise Smith, Harold Bowron, Nick Mills, Peter Harris, Syd and Monica Parker, Pete Nanson, Christine Mathews, Norman Toppin, Lorraine Priestley and Stuart Bowie plus the office bearers.

Auditor - Stella Bell was willing to continue in 2015 and this was approved.

Robin indicated that he will undertake the cutting of the grass at the apiary.

7. Membership issues and setting of Branch Subscriptions-

It was agreed that there would be no increase to the membership fee this year and it will remain at £25. Peter Matthews suggested that if we are able to attract good speakers he thought it would be appropriate to ask members to give a donation on the night towards the cost of the speaker.

8. Website- All agreed that the Website for Cumbria and Carlisle needed to be updated and kept simple. Stuart advised he has contacted numerous people about the Carlisle page of the website and it appears that the difficulty is not the website but that the person who updates the Carlisle site has not got the information from Carlisle BKA. Richard Robinson will update the site if he gets the information. Malcolm advised that he sends Richard Robinson the newsletters but they are not uploaded. Robin will send a generic welcome page to Stuart and Stuart will coordinate with Richard Robinson.

9. Education and Training

Beginners Course- Christine indicated that on the beginners course last year she had 7 paid and 6 attended. She thought it may be better to not run a course this year.

Training

Dieter asked if it would be possible for members to be trained as trainers for the beginners and improvers courses. Peter said that the BBKA ran a course but nobody from the local associations attended. Christine thought the best people to act as the apprentices for training others would be the ones who have undertaken the beginners course. She would be prepared to help with running this training. Robin will send Christine memory sticks so she can upload information. Robin will ask for interested members who wish to take the training.

10. Annual Dinner- Pete Nanson was thanked for organizing the dinner last year which had been a success. He has organized the dinner at the Eden Golf Club for 23rd January 2015. 2 courses cost £22, 3 courses £27.50 or £28.50 all including a tip. Menus and cost would be sent out in the Newsletter and Pete would require numbers at the latest 1 week before the dinner. Stuart will entertain us.

AGM continued

11. Programme for 2015

The following was discussed and agreed subject to availability

January: Annual Dinner

February: ?Ian Molyneux – Possibly Bee Health

March: ?Martin Smith or David Walmsley- Maximizing Honey Production

April: Beekeepers Question time

Apiary meetings every fortnight

May: Visit to Rose Castle

September: Lorraine Priestley- Beeswax products and encaustic art

October: Honey Show

November: AGM

Talks at apiary to include: Queen rearing, Swarm control, Frame making, Hygiene, Record keeping and Feeding.

Peter Mathews suggested Graham Sharpe or Phil McAnsepie would be prepared to come to talk on swarm control.

12. Any other business

Apiary meetings: It was generally agreed that the state of the apiary is poor. Robin advised that it was agreed at the last committee meeting that all the equipment needs to be reviewed and a lot needs to be replaced, with old frames and wax being disposed of and in the spring the bees are to be "shook swarmed" to get them in better shape. A number of worthy members have already undertaken the clean up of the equipment and sheds and Robin thanked them for the great effort. It is proposed that new frames and equipment are purchased for the new season.

Norman Toppin offered the association 50 national frames which are surplus to his needs and he was thanked for this generous donation. Robin advised that it had been agreed at the committee meeting that a proposal be made to the membership that there be a group of experienced people responsible for the hive on a rota system for a month each. (for the in between weekends) Good record keeping will be vital.

Dobies Garden Centre: Lorraine advised that Dobies Garden Centre loaned us some lovely planters for the Dalston show stand and Fiona will be asking for volunteers to help stage a stand in the spring at the garden centre.

Cumbria Beekeeper Executive meeting: Walter advised that delegates are required for meetings of the Executive of Cumbria beekeepers. 2 people (or substitutes) are required to attend each meeting (4 in total a year). Stuart Bowie indicated he will attend the meeting this Saturday but does not wish to be a delegate. Peter Harris indicated he will also attend. Carlisle secretary needs to pass on information to the membership of the meetings.

Cumbria Honey Show: Peter Matthews congratulated Joe Glaister, Walter and Mary McPhee on their success at the recent Honey Show.

The meeting was closed at 9.25pm.

5th NORTHERN BEE AUCTION

This years Bee Auction will be held on
Saturday 25th April 2015 at
HOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Indications at this time are
that there will be Bees for
sale



(obviously weather dependent.)

Items for sale need to be registered
before the day.

Peter is also taking pre-orders for Hive
parts, frames, foundation, syrup and
hive clean etc. which will be available
for collection on the day at the auc-
tion.

To submit items for sale, or for any
further information please visit the
website or contact Peter Harris.

BEEHIVEMAKER

Beehives made to order at our joinery
workshop

- www.beehivemaker.co.uk
- sell@northernbeeauctions.co.uk
Enquiries:
peter@northernbeeauctions.co.uk

Peter Harris

Tel 078304 32014

An easier beekeeping life?

Beekeepers' lives are set to become much easier if an invention by two Australians beekeepers takes off. For those of you who are "internet savvy" type "Telegraph Australian hives" into Google to see the invention in action. Two Australian self-styled "backyard engineers" have invented a way to extract honey while it is still in the hive, avoiding the need to prise open the hive to extract the golden prize. They have designed a special, plastic honeycomb which can be opened from outside the hive and which allows the honey to flow down and be collected straight into jars. The comb allows the honey to flow from underneath the capping so the bees are not aware of what is happening. The inventors, having borrowed money from friends and family to follow through their invention, are now at the marketing stage and believe this new, clean, safe method will take off. They may be right!

These hives have been named 'flow hives' are also covered in the current CBT where one or two considerations are highlighted:

'There may be a few things to consider before you rush to buy this new equipment. For example; what happens to honey which has granulated in the cells, and what about the generally perceived antipathy of bees to plastic foundation? Costs may be high and finally is the honey flow ever good enough for bees in the wet and cool North of England to make this an option for honey gathering?'

