

# 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:37

Date: May2015

## Future of the Cumbria Bee Times

With the growth of IT sources for up to date information on beekeeping, both local and national, the CBT is read by fewer and fewer people. However at the most recent Cumbria Beekeepers Executive meeting it was agreed that the publication should continue in order to bring information on forthcoming events to the attention of those members who do not use computers and therefore have no access to website.

All the suppliers of beekeeping equipment locally who wish to continue to be included will be given space to advertise by contacting the editor. As in the past, any articles sent to the editor for inclusion in the paper will be gratefully received. There will be updates on disease outbreaks within the county and alerts about perceived threats; for example an outbreak of AFB in a geographically close location.

A list of the Branch Officials with their contact details, including a phone number or address will be maintained. The Branch secretaries may be able to assist in keeping this information up to date but at present the list is incomplete so is not included in this edition.

It has been agreed to put a synopsis of the CBKA Executive meetings on the website, information from which it is hoped will then be distributed by the Branch Secretaries to their computer-less members. The report from each Executive meeting will be the unaccepted record which has to wait until the following Executive meeting for signing. However this is considered a way of keeping all local members informed of Association business.

## **Introducing Beekeeping**

### **Penrith BKA Courses**

Penrith Beekeepers Association (PBKA) has now established its training apiary at Acorn Bank, a National Trust property near Penrith. This year we have arranged for Julia & Martin Hoggard to run a course for us:

**Introducing Beekeeping**. It will be of interest to anyone **who would like to become a beekeeper** as well as those who have started beekeeping, but consider themselves to be **beginners**.

Julia is a highly experienced beekeeper and trainer. She and Martin run the Brigsteer Bee Reserve, just outside Kendal.

More information about Julia, the Bee Reserve and her training programmes, along with course feedback, can be found at

[www.BeeEd.org.uk](http://www.BeeEd.org.uk)

**Introducing Beekeeping** is a two day course.

It will run twice on the following weekends:

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**Fee: £80** This includes: tuition; loan of kit; information to take home; refreshments.

**Concessions: £ 70** PBKA Members **£50** Students

*N.B Minimum age 12 years. Students U.18 must be accompanied by an adult who is parent/guardian also attending the course.*

Places are limited.

*Closing date for applications:*

*Course1: 15/6/15.*

*Course2: 13/7/15*

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**'Introducing Beekeeping' : 4-5<sup>th</sup> July/ 25-26<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Acorn Bank, Penrith.**

**FOR AN APPLICATION FORM & COPY OF THE PROGRAMME**

Contact Sue Hannon PBKA Secretary

TEL:01768341489

**E mail:**suehannon782@yahoo.co.uk

## Dates for your Diary

Next Cumbria Beekeepers Executive Meeting: Sat July 4th 14.00 at Southey St Methodist Church, Keswick.

Please make sure at least 1 member attends from your Branch. If in doubt contact your Branch Secretary for more details.

July 4th/5th and July 24th/25th  
Beginners courses Penrith Branch

Saturday August 15th Annual Whitehaven Honey Show at the Gosforth Agricultural Show

Saturday September 5th Cockermouth Convention Embleton Village Hall

Saturday 7th November Annual Cumbria Beekeepers Honey Show Newbiggin, Penrith

## Varroa Gates

Scientists at the Martin-Luther University in Halle, Germany together with the Animal Health division of Bayer are working on the concept of a "Varroa gate" to kill mites on bees as they pass both into and out of the hive( the phoretic stage of the mite). The gate has to allow unhindered movement of the honey bees and must not cause the loss of pollen loads from the returning foragers.

The gates consist of strips impregnated with a pyrethroid, which cover the hive entrance. These have 30 perforations, each 7mm in diameter. The pyrethroid is constantly renewed around the holes. Mites are wiped with the miticide but bees are not affected. In all



Courtesy The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Crown Copyright

the colonies treated so far the efficacy ranged from 98% to 100%.

There are plans for 3 different mite gates to avoid resistance. If the gates work it is to be hoped that seeing bees diseased with Deformed Wing Virus; see photo will become a rarity. The Varroa gates are undergoing registration at present. For more information <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BopnuGffDpk>

## Unlucky 13- Observations in the hive

### UNLUCKY THIRTEEN

CHARACTERISTICS/SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE CAUSE
Few or no adult bees left in hive either on combs or on the bottom board	Colony Collapse Disorder
Pupal mass under cappings is brownish in colour and has a ropey or elastic viscosity. Sunken brood cell cappings that are dark brown or black in colour and have a greasy appearance. Some cappings may also contain small pinholes. Comb has a distinct foul smell.	American Foulbrood (AFB) ( <i>Paenibacillus larvae</i> )
Small pinholes in brood cell cappings. Numerous dead bees with deformed wings and/or short abdomens. Numerous dead Varroa mites found on bees, in sealed brood cells or on the bottom board	Varroa mites ( <i>Varroa destructor</i> ) and associated parasitic mite syndrome (PMS)
Remains of dead cluster contain bees that are positioned head-first in cells. Any honey left in the hive is usually located two or more inches away from the remains of the cluster	Starvation
Remains of numerous drone cells sometimes scattered within worker brood on the same comb	Old or failed queen/Drone layer
Combs, brood, or dead bees covered with mould or mildew.	Indicates that the hive died out a while ago or was too weak to maintain combs.
No honey left in hive. Wax cappings that covered areas where honey was stored have been ripped open – jagged capping pieces litter the bottom board	Hive died out or was too weak to defend honey stores from other bees, wasps and/or hornets.
Significant brown spotting or large patches of brown staining on frames, comb, or in front of the hive.	<i>Nosema</i> or dysentery
Numerous dead bees lying in front of the hive maybe combined with brown spotting on inside or outside of hive entrance. Bees that have disconnected their two pair of wings and rotated them into an orientation that resembles the letter K	Tracheal mites ( <i>Acarapis woodii</i> )
Build-up of webbing on combs containing small black pieces of debris. Remains of old cocoons and rounded elongated indentations in wooden ware. Damaged/disintegrated combs. Grey moths either dead or alive	Greater or lesser wax moths ( <i>Galleria mellonella</i> , <i>Achroa grisella</i> ) moved in once the hive became too weak to defend itself or died out.
Sudden collapse of hive. Numerous dead bees lying around in front of the hive with their tongues sticking out	Pesticide/Chemical poisoning
Small hard larval remains that are white, grey or black within the brood comb or on the bottom board.	Chalk brood ( <i>Ascosphaera apis</i> )
Combs are riddled with holes (but no webbing is evident). Inside of hive is covered with slime and any honey left in the hive is fermented and runny. Some SHB larvae may still be present.	Small Hive Beetle SHB ( <i>Aethina tumida</i> ) moved in once the hive died out or became too weak to protect all areas of the comb.

With thanks to Beemaster, the Notts BKA newsletter