

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)
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Cumbria Beekeepers Annual Conference and Honey Show

Took place on November 5th at Newbiggin near Penrith. Lack of entries in some of the classes was more than made up for by some fine exhibits in others.

The morning Speakers, Dr A. Rowbotham and Dr Vijayadurai (VJ for short) Consultants from the Allergy and Immunology Centres at Preston Royal Infirmary gave talks on bee venom, stings, allergic and anaphylactic reactions.

They explained the mechanisms of reactions to bee-stings, the difference between local and systemic effects, and who is at greatest risk of serious anaphylaxis. They went through the symptoms of all types of reaction and then gave a very useful demonstration of the measures to take when someone has a serious life threatening reaction, including showing the audience how to use an EpiPen, and its more modern successors (Jext and Emerade) both safely, and effectively.

For the more common reactions to bee-stings they explained that Chlorpheniramine tablets (Piriton) are not useful, but the modern antihistamines (Loratidine, Cetirizine) should be offered.

The new Seasonal Bee Inspector, Julia Hoggard, introduced herself after lunch and then Dr F. Ayres gave a talk on his style of non-interventionist Beekeeping. He extolled the advantages of bait hives for swarm capture, and made a strong case for top bar hives for easier management.

Peter Matthews, National Honey Judge expressed his concern that so few new beekeepers had put their honey products up for judging but commended the entries which had been staged, before announcing the class and cup winners.

Northern Beekeepers Convention 2017

This is a special event as it marks our 60th anniversary. We are taking as our title for the convention, 'Beekeeping Past, Present and Future' and have some superb speakers lined up. The Convention will take place on 1st April 2017 and will be held at The Beacon, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. We would be grateful if you could support the Convention and would like to extend an invitation to your members to attend. Information about applying to attend the conference will be posted on our webpage <http://neebes.btck.co.uk>

3 Beekeeping awards will be presented as part of the celebrations:

Diamond Beekeeper

Beekeeping star of the future under 18

Beekeeping star of the future over 18

All associations are invited to nominate individuals for these awards. There will also be an exhibition of old beekeeping memorabilia and old photographs. If any members have items which they are willing to lend, the Convention organisers will take extreme care of these. For further details on this go:

Derek Smith,

20 Northumberland Gardens,

North Walbottle,

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE5 1PT

Next CBKA Committee meeting

Saturday 3rd December 2016

All at Southey Street Methodist Rooms at 2.00pm
Please make sure a Branch Rep comes to this meeting to guide our Delegate for the ADM at BBKA on how you wish to vote on the propositions (see BBKA News)

CONTACTS FOR BRANCHES

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Full details of CBKA events and Officers contacts can be found on the Cumbria Beekeepers website Cumbriabeekeepers.co.uk

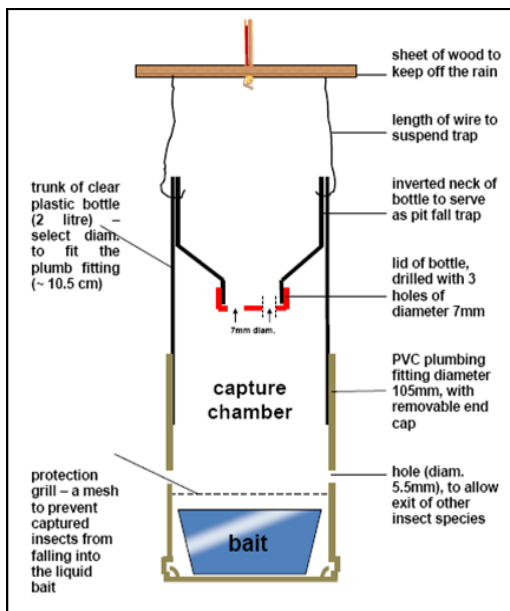
Keswick

Stephen Barnes
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01900 824972
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There are several other non-affiliated Associations in the North West

Vespa velutina (again)

All beekeepers should consider hanging Hornet traps in and around their apiaries in springtime, as well as during the season. Queen hornets as they emerge from hibernation are the critical life stage to capture, and this is likely to be in late February - March. Spring trapping is a very effective means of reducing the number of Asian hornet nests in an affected area. Although we are not yet affected, in Cumbria it may be prudent to get into a trapping habit. There are details on line(from many sources including the National Bee Unit Animal and Plant Health Agency), and in Beecraft magazine, and BBKA News.



Insurance for Beekeepers

By The Membership Secretary of CBKA

With our full membership of the BBKA we obtain third party and product liability insurance. This covers you if, while carrying out your beekeeping activities, you are found liable and suffer financial loss due to a claim against you by a third persons for injury or financial loss.

If you have been keeping bees for a few years you will have heard of incidents where beekeepers bees have got aggressive and stung neighbours and members of the public. I know of one incident where in Cumbria a beekeeper, lighting his smoker with a gas torch accidently set fire to a garden shed and neighbours fencing. You will often hear on the radio an advertisement saying “ if you have had an accident and is was not your fault call us” If you cause injury or financial loss (like burning down a fence) there is now an increase chance you could find a solicitors letter arriving in your post making a claim against you!

When you keep you colonies in your garden and provided the bees are not aggressive, perhaps the risk to others is minimal. If you have had complaints from neighbours about stinging or swarms you may need to look at your beekeeping activities.

Branch Apiaries: If your beekeeping group runs a branch apiary the risk to others increases. The insurance covers full BBKA members with less than forty colonies. A claim for an incident at your branch apiary could be made against a beekeeper working bees at the time of say a member of public being badly stung. The apiary manager has responsibility. If an accident occurs due to the manager’s negligence in not fixing a problem he could be the target of any claim.

A method to reduce the chances of an accident leading to a claim is for the branch to run what’s called a risk assessment for the branch apiary. It’s a group for the apiary looking at the risks and putting into place a safety/ improvement plan. Google “Beekeeping risk assessment” to see what others have done.

Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) The beekeeper has to ensure he has paid for cover for all of his colonies otherwise the insurance will not pay out when a claim is made. With a shared apiary all colonies of each beekeeper need to be insured or the insurance will not pay out. If you run a branch apiary again all colonies need to be insured. If the colonies belong to the branch the apiary needs to be named with BDI and insurance paid to cover the maximum number of colonies expected on the branch apiary site.

I am not an insurance advisor, therefore would recommend you look on the members page of the BBKA web site to obtain the full documents.
S. Beattie