

# 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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**The Cumbria Honey Show** was held at the Braithwaite Institute on Sunday 3rd November 2019 and was attended by 38 enthusiastic beekeepers from around the county. Twenty four people entered the Honey Show and there were a total of 63 exhibits covering most of the classes in the show schedule. All these numbers were up from previous years which provided encouragement to the organisers with the hope that this will be a continuing trend in the future. Christine Matthews, an International Honey Judge, having just returned from judging at the Apimonda, was our judge for the day. As it is a County Honey Show, Christine expected a high standard and unfortunately there were one or two classes where the entries failed to comply. However, Christine was very fair with her judging and explained why some exhibits were not awarded a first prize. With a little extra care taken when preparing for the show, and after all it is a food product, all entries would have been eligible for a prize.



Christine Matthews

This year there were two extra trophies to be awarded, one donated, on the day, by Alan Tett, so that last minutes alterations had to be made to the Show Schedule to accommodate this generous donation. The new trophies are:- The Rose Bowl, donated by Stewart Beattie, which used to be awarded at the Lakeland Rose Show

in the Honey classes. This is now for the Best Exhibit in Class 2 for two jars of medium honey. The trophy donated by Alan Tett is a tankard and it was decided that this will be called the Alan Tett Cup, to be awarded to the Best Exhibit in the Beginners Class.

The W. Barton Cup which used to be awarded to the Best Exhibit in the Beginners Class will in the future be awarded to the Best in Classes 18-19 Mead.

Whilst the Honey Show was being judged Julia Hoggard, the regional Bee Inspector for Cumbria, gave an interesting talk on "Wasps and Hornets, Friend and Foe". This took the meeting up to lunch time when everyone enjoyed a light lunch of soup and rolls whilst having a good crack with fellow beekeepers. Many thanks to Val Sullivan, Marie Gregory and Sara Barnes for preparing the soup and rolls and all their hard work in the kitchen serving the food and washing up.

Following lunch the Conference Session, chaired by Walter McPhee, took place and Branch Reports were heard from, Carlisle, Cockermouth,

Keswick, Penrith and Whitehaven.

The Afternoon talk was presented by Dr Dorian Prichard from

Northumbria where he has kept bees for the past 40 years.

Dr Prichard gave an enlightening talk on "How Native Bees Resist Varroa". Among many favourable attributes, the native honey bee is

virtually completely resistant to varroa mites! The



Dr. Prichard

combination of ways by which it does so is unique in the bee world and took several years to unravel. The secrets being revealed by a hybrid colony that was uncharacteristically slow to react to mite infestation. The explanation required novel analysis of data, investigation of forgotten research reports and a bit of imagination, and offers new insights into the unexpected resources honey bees can call on when their colonies are threatened with imminent extinction. As a result Dr Prichard has never treated his colonies with chemicals and has found that by breeding Native Bees they can recognise cells that have varroa in them and clean them out. He has successfully used this method for many years and always has healthy colonies of bees. After this second talk there was the presentation of awards.

This years winners were:

**The Association Cup**                      **Ken Hodgson**  
For most points in Classes 1-12

**The Hendran Cup**                              **Heron Hill School**  
For Best Exhibit in                              **The Bee Team**  
Show

**John Dixon Cup**                              **Julia Hoggard**  
Best Exhibit in Wax  
Classes 13-16

**Scott-Just Trophy**                              **Heron Hill School**  
Best Exhibit in                              **The Bee Team**  
Classes 2 and 3

**W. Barton Cup**                              **Ian Robinson**  
Best Exhibit in Mead

**F. Hydes Cup**                              **Julia Hoggard**  
Most Points in  
Classes 20-22

**S. J. Wornham Trophy**                      **Sally Buckley**  
Best Exhibit in Class 1

**William Douglas Trophy**                      **Ian Robinson**  
Most points in Classes 13-16

**The Rose Bowl**                              **Heron Hill School**  
Best Exhibit in Class 2                              **The Bee Team**

**The Alan Tett Cup**                              **Les Nicholson**  
Best Beginners Class 23

## **The Following Beekeepers were successful in passing the Basic Beekeepers Examination.**

Penrith Branch

Mrs Alison Andreassen

Whitehaven Branch

Richard Robinson  
Sara Richards  
Karen James  
Peter Broadbent  
Debbie Keighley  
Derek Roberts  
Andrew Smith

## **Bee Health Certificate**

Stuart Bowie

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## **Dates for Exams and BBKA Modules for 2020**

The Exams for the BBKA Modules are to be held next year on 21st March 2020 and 14th November 2020, see BBKA web site for details.

Closing date for application for March Modules is 10th February.

Will candidates taking these modules please submit application forms to Stewart Beattie, The County Examination Secretary, preferably before 1st February 2020

The closing date for the November modules is 30th September 2020

## **See attachment for Examination and Assessments Dates and Fees for 2020.**

Stewart is asking each branch for a branch official who is willing to act as a The Exam Invigilator for the branch or local area. Please contact Stewart if you can assist.

Stewart can be contacted at  
cbkaexamsec@gmail.com  
or phone 07812 890 795

Please send your application forms to:- Stewart Beattie, Helensdale, Stainton, Barrow in Furness, LA13 0NH.

## Cumbria BKA Assets for Loan

Over the years Cumbria Beekeepers have collected or bought items for loan to the Branches, mainly from two sources. A grant from the CO-OP community fund and items from the amalgamation of "The Cumberland Show Group" with Cumbria BKA.

The items can be mostly categorised into three groups.

### 1. Mostly used for Agricultural Shows.

A Marquee 3x4.5M approx. in black and yellow, display materials including model hives, display boards, county banner, 5 frame nucs with observation hive extension, much more practical than the vertical brood frame and super as of old.

### 2. Items for Bee Analysis.

Two microscopes and a digital eye piece to transfer the microscope image onto a computer screen, really useful during a disease identification session or pollen search.

### 3. Miscellaneous Items.

Grading glasses for honey shows, a laptop, projector screen and mike.

We did have a projector but the bulb expired and was too expensive to replace, would a new LED projector be useful?, let us know if you would have use of such.

If you would like to use these items contact details are listed on the Cumbria Beekeepers web site, committee pages, asset list 2017.

### Please Note!

There is a missing set of high quality(A3) photographs of beekeeping subjects, hives, eggs and larvae, casts of bee, type of cell, marked queen etc; together in a plastic wallet with a red cardboard divider to keep them from getting bent. Most of the card backed photographs have round Velcro fixings on the back. If you have borrowed these in the past for a talk can you have a good look round and return them so other members can have the benefit of them.

## Dates for your Diary.

### Buzzing off to Slovenia?

Penrith Beekeepers Association invites you to join them on an excursion to Ljubljana, the 'beekeeping capital of Europe' 31<sup>st</sup> August - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Reservations closing date: 31 DECEMBER 2019

For further information E mail:

[mr4cnr@gmail.com](mailto:mr4cnr@gmail.com)

### Cumbria Beekeepers AGM

Saturday 7th March 2020, 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Braithwaite Institute, Keswick.

### BBKA Spring Convention 2020

3rd, 4th and 5th April 20120

Harper Adams University, Newport,  
Shropshire TF10 8NB

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**EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT DATES & FEES 2020**

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT	FEE	CLOSING DATE	NOTES (also see appropriate syllabus)
JUNIOR	£5	As Basic Certificate	Aged under 18 only, in small groups.
BASIC	£20	1 month prior to taking the assessment	May be held at any suitable apiary. Normally small group of candidates examined on same day <b>Last Assessment 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>
MODULES	£30.00 each	10 <sup>th</sup> February 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>ALL MODULES held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b> <b>ALL MODULES held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b> Future dates 2021 March 20th November 13th
BEE HEALTH CERTIFICATE	£40	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. May be held at any suitable apiary. Normally small group of candidates examined on same day <b>Last Assessment 31<sup>st</sup> July</b>
BEE BREEDING CERTIFICATE	£80	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Held at apiary of Candidate.
GENERAL CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£80	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Held at apiary of Candidate.
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£120	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry To be held at Stoneleigh on 29/30/31 May 2020 and 12/13/14 June 2020 depending on numbers
SHOW JUDGE	£40	N/A	Must hold Basic Certificate. See entry requirements in Prospectus
MICROSCOPY	£60	31 <sup>st</sup> August	Must hold Basic Certificate. To be held at various venues <b>21<sup>st</sup>/22nd November 2020</b> plus other dates as required
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES	£60each	N/A	Available for the Basic, all seven Modules and Microscopy theory