

# 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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## Braithwaite Convention

After a break of a year the very popular Braithwaite Convention is back

**Cost: £12.50**

**Date 15th October**

**Venue: Braithwaite Hall**

9.00: am Coffee and Registration

9.25: Introduction by

President of Cumbria BKA Nick Mills.

9.30: Margaret Thomas "Experiences with the Varroa mite, from Tobacco to Pyrethroids and softer options"

10.45: Coffee

11.00: Ian Craig "Listen to the Bees"

12.15: Lunch Bring your own or Middle Ruddings

14.00: Margaret Thomas "Swarm prevention and control mid season"

15.15: Tea

15.30: Ian Craig "Autumn into Spring A critical Time"

16.45: Closing words from Nick Mills

**To book your place**

Ring Bill Mackereth on 01900 825188

## BANKHEAD BEE SUPPLIES

For all your Beekeeping Requirements

Bankhead Farm, Newby East, Carlisle,  
CA4 8RA

Telephone: 01228 573289

Your local agent for Thorne and Sherriff

## The flight of the Honey bee

Passengers on an internal flight in Russia got an unpleasant surprise when two hives of bees smuggled onto the plane escaped - mid-air. The bees - which were carried on in cardboard boxes are thought to have become agitated in the pressurised cabin on the 10-hour Yakutia Airline flight to Moscow from Blagoveshchensk, and managed to break free. Quick-thinking air hostesses on the flight managed to round the bees up in a wardrobe in Business class by sealing it with sticky tape.

Unfortunately, when the plane then arrived at its' next destination, Barcelona, the new crew discovered there were still several bees on board.

Now Yakutia Airlines could be 'stung' with a massive £100,000 bill for fumigation of the Boeing 757, and compensation for delays caused to the plane's forwarding destination, Spain. The trafficker has since made a claim that an airport official at Blagoveshchensk asked him to carry the boxes to Moscow, where he would then be met at the airport. This has reignited issues surrounding the integrity of Russian internal flight airport officials, who are historically known for being rather lax when vetting on-board luggage

**W&DBK "Microscopy for Beekeepers" Day**  
**Saturday 17th Sept.** Ring the editor for details.

## Pennine Bee Supplies

Agents for Thorne.

Honey jars at competitive prices

Reasonable price paid for surplus honey  
(in plastic buckets)

**Stoney Lane, Galgate, Lancaster, LA2 0OY**

Tel: 01524 751347 daytime

01524 791328 evening

## **Cumbria Beekeepers Annual Honey Show and Conference**

November 12th at Threlkeld

Further details from your Branch Secretary or on the CBKA Website

## Richard & Anne Kenyon

**Burnsmead Farm**

**Little Urswick, Ulverston**

Tel 01229 869363

A hive for all your Apiary equipment

Agents for Thorne

**BeeHiveMaker.co.uk**

Quality hand made beehives



**Northern  
Bee Auctions**  
2ND ANNUAL  
BEE AUCTION  
ON THE 14TH  
OF APRIL 2012  
AT HOUGHTON  
VILLAGE HALL,  
CARLISLE  
Map available on  
NBA homepage

TOOLS  
BEE FOOD  
HIVE PACKAGES  
COMPONENT PARTS  
BEE KEEPERS CLOTHING

BEEBS FOR SALE  
NUCLEUS BOXES  
MEDICINES  
BEE HIVES / APIARIES  
HIVE COMPONENT PARTS

**WE ARE ALSO AGENTS FOR AMBROSIA BEE FOOD PRODUCTS  
BEEVITAL HIVE CLEAN / VITAFEED PRODUCTS**

80 Ennerdale Avenue, Boltonby, Carlisle, Cumbria

Tel: 078304 32014 E-mail: herts822@btinternet.com

www.beehive-maker.co.uk www.northernbeeauctions.co.uk

### 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**

Joy Rich  
Holly House  
Newbiggin

Penrith  
CA11 0HT  
017684 83910

#### **Whitehaven**

Val Sullivan  
Brackenwray Farm  
Kinniside  
Cleator  
CA23 3AG  
01946 862604  
brackenwray@aol.com

#### Other Associations

Kendal and South  
Westmorland  
Peter Llewellyn  
1 Greenside House,  
Hincaster,  
Milnthorpe,  
LA7 7NA  
01539 562369  
pdwlllewellyn@yahoo.co.uk

Furness  
David Walmsley  
36 Oxenholme Road  
Kendal  
djwalmsley@hotmail.co.uk

### GM Honey

A recent ruling by the European Court of Justice could have wide ranging implications for the Food Industry and in particular Beekeepers.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> September the European Court of Justice reached a decision on a dispute raised by Karl Henz Bablok a German Beekeeper against Monsanto Technology LLC. The dispute was raised concerning the presence of trace amounts of genetically modified organisms in his honey, namely pollen from a local field of GM maize. The ground-breaking ruling was that honey contaminated by pollen from a GM maize variety (MON810) cannot be sold. If Karl Bablok had sold or even given away his honey for free, this would have been an offence against the law and could have resulted in charges being brought against him.

MEP Bart Staes stated that:

"Beekeepers in the EU need their honey to be of as high quality as possible, so they have an economic interest that GMOs and other kinds of contamination do not end up as traces in their honey. Today's outcome could have far-reaching implications for the honey market, with EU countries importing honey from GM producing countries and two of the main EU honey-producing member states (Spain and Romania) having authorised the production of this GM maize. Clearly, EU beekeepers should not be held responsible for the negative implications of the contamination of their honey."

The original dispute concerned GM maize variety (MON810) but the ruling affects all GM crops and means that honey which contains trace amounts of pollen from any GM crop must be labelled as such and undergo full safety authorisation before it can be sold as food. The problem in the UK is that due to campaigns against the growing of GM crops the location of these crops is closely guarded and as such it may be impossible to know if our honey may contain any pollen from GM crops, a problem we are unlikely to experience in Cumbria where the growing of crops is limited. The ruling opens the way for beekeepers to claim compensation from the producers of GM crops for the loss of revenue from sales of honey and other apiary products.

The judgment could cause many imported honeys and other food stuffs to disappear from the shelves in European supermarkets. Whether this is just the start which could result in all honey containing pollen from any GM crop becoming unsalable or just another kink in the road for the long running saga of GM food is yet to be seen.

If you are having trouble sleeping you can always check out the full ruling at:

[http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/j\\_6/](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/j_6/)

Case no. C-442/09

It makes interesting reading

Richard Robinson