

W&DBKA Newsletter, February 2016

Welcome to the New Year, let's hope that the weather is kinder to the bees this season, and that it stops raining so much. On an optimistic note, all the hives at the Apiary were active during a sunny day in early January, when the bees were working the Mahonia flowers.



At our first committee meeting of 2016, Grahame Pinches has taken over the role of Secretary for Whitehaven and District Beekeepers from Val Sullivan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Val, on behalf of all our members, for all her hard work for our Association over many years.

Frame making

We are holding a frame-making evening at Lamplugh Village Hall, on **Monday 21st March** from 19.00 -21.00 pm, to make up frames for the hives at the apiary. Please come and help. It is a good opportunity for new bee-keepers to learn how to make up frames.

Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided. Please bring your own hammer and craft knife or similar.

Cumbria Beekeepers AGM

Cumbria Beekeepers AGM will be held on **Saturday 19th March**, at 2.00 at the Methodist rooms in Southey Street, Keswick. If anyone

has any propositions for the AGM, can they please send them to Grahame. His e-mail address is grahame.pinches@gmail.com.

One proposition to be discussed is that to fund the 2016 International Young Beekeepers' Forum, which is to be held in the UK, a levy of £1 be raised from each member of CBKA, ie ourselves. If you have strong feelings about whether or not this is appropriate, then you should attend this meeting to vote.

Furness Beekeepers Spring Convention

Furness Beekeepers are holding their 27th Spring Convention on **Saturday April 27th**. As last year, the venue will be "The Malt Kiln" at Bardsea, near Ulverston. Full details of the programme are available from their website, www.furnessbeekeepers.co.uk. Application forms may be downloaded from the website, or telephone the secretary at 01539 721501.

Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner will be held at the Parkside Hotel on **Friday 29th April**. Val Sullivan has agreed a menu for a three course meal with the hotel, at a cost of £19.95 per person.

I am sending the invitation and menu as separate attachments with this newsletter. Please send replies with menu choices and payment to Val Sullivan.

Apiary Meetings

The first meeting at the apiary at Westlakes Science Park will be held on **Sunday 17th April** starting at 13.00 as usual. Provided it is warm enough, this should provide an opportunity to see how the bees are at the start of the

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season. As previously, we will meet at the overspill car-park.

After this, there will be an apiary meeting every fortnight, alternating between Saturdays and Sundays. All the meetings will start at 13.00

The dates, up to the end of June are as follows;

Saturday 30 th April
Sunday 15 th May
Saturday 28 th May
Sunday 12 th June
Saturday 25 th June

Bee Auction

The Northern Bee Auction will be held at Houghton on Saturday 30th April. For further information, please see the link below.
<http://cumbriabeesupplies.co.uk/northern-bee-auction/>

Stocks of Ambrosia and fondant

The association still has stocks of Ambrosia and fondant available for members to buy. The price of a 5 litre container of Ambrosia is £16.00, and the price of the fondant is £2.60/slab, or £12.00 for a box of 5 slabs. Please contact Val Sullivan if you would like to buy some, as the stocks are being kept at Brackenwray.

Swarm Catching

The current list of beekeepers who are available to catch swarms is being re-written by Cumbria Beekeepers. If anyone feels competent to catch swarms, and has

sufficient equipment, and wishes to be included as a volunteer swarm-collector in the Whitehaven area, please can you let Grahame Pinches know (grahame.pinches@gmail.com)

Bee Thefts

Beecraft has circulated the news that three beehives and their bees have been stolen from an allotment in Middlesborough. This is a reminder that it is important to mark your equipment, so that it is clearly identifiable, and thus harder to sell on. Beecraft recommends branding wooden hive parts.

Subscription Reminder

Piers Manson, our new membership secretary had received subscriptions for 2016 from 22 members and 4 associate members by the end of January. If anyone has not yet renewed their membership, please can they do so as soon as possible.

Full Membership costs £27.00, Family Membership costs £32.00 and Associate Membership is £5.00.

Piers has been in contact with the BDI, who provide insurance to beekeepers, and has asked that the following information about the BDI be included in this newsletter.

Information about the BDI (Bee Diseases Insurance)

Purpose

The purpose of BDI is to help in the control of honey bee diseases by providing compensation to people who have their equipment destroyed by Defra. Destruction of equipment is a legal requirement in cases of colony infection by a notifiable disease under The Bees Act 1980 and Bee Diseases Control Order, 2006, such as Foul Brood, and

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it is aimed at preventing disease spread. An additional purpose of BDI is to sponsor research into the causes of bee health problems and help to educate beekeepers about the issues in bee health and management of bee diseases.

History

BDI was set up over seventy years ago and is owned by its member beekeeping associations of England and Wales. There are no premises or staff; it is run by beekeepers who work from their homes.

Your association is a member of BDI and it owns one share with a nominal value of £1 but no value other than an entitlement to vote at the BDI AGM.

BDI is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority and supervised by the Financial Conduct Authority. One of the requirements is that BDI has adequate reserves to meet claims even in a worse-case scenario. In addition it has to make sure that membership subscriptions, that is the colonies included in the basic subscription together with premiums for additional colonies, are sufficient to cover the claims and expenses for a normal year.

Rules

The rules of BDI require each member association to pay a subscription based on the number of association members, and to arrange insurance for all its beekeepers. This minimum (basic) subscription includes cover for up to three colonies. The basic subscription rate together with the rates for additional colonies is advised to treasurers in August, for the coming insurance year. BDI Insurance covers the calendar year from 1 January to 31 December, regardless of your association's financial year.

Spring and Autumn Returns

The BDI Treasurer will ask associations to make a spring return by 30 April and an autumn return by 1 September each year. You will be sent an e-mail/letter explaining the procedures.

It is the responsibility of the person who collects membership subscriptions to advise the association member of the need to be fully covered. If a member has underpaid for the number of colonies he/she is responsible for, any claim will be invalidated. More seriously, when members underpay they deny all members the opportunity for developing the education and research role, which is one of our most important objectives.

It is clear that asking members to confirm the full number of colonies for which they are responsible is sometimes a difficult task. If a member wilfully refuses to make the correct payment, you may need to consider whether they are in breach of your association's membership rules. In this instance it may be helpful to reflect that it is the association that is the owner of BDI Ltd and underpayment means that the compensation scheme is weakened and with it the work that BDI was established to undertake. If all members pay their dues correctly, and subscription income rises, we hope that it will be possible to limit subscription increases in the future, whilst at the same time sponsoring research and education in order to minimise or even eradicate the honey bee diseases.

BDI Certificates

The BDI certificate is intended to be used as a receipt not only for BDI subscriptions, but also for association membership subscriptions, capitation fees, donations and any other charges your association makes. It also gives details of the cover provided by BDI and it is a

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vital document should any member's colonies suffer from one of the foul brood diseases and they need to claim compensation.

Member associations can choose whether to use paper BDI certificates or eReturn, which includes the facility to e-mail receipts or print them for posting.