

CBKA Newsletter

October 2008

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www.teesbees.co.uk

By now all our colonies should be home from the moors, the honey removed, the bees treated for Varroa, fed and tucked up for the winter. I gather that the heather crop has been a disappointment for most folks, due once more, in the main, to the poor weather at heather time. In spite of the weather the moors were once again a grand sight, an incredible shimmering palette of purple, causing every beekeeper to believe that his hives would be overflowing with honey, only to have his hopes dashed in the end. There can be little doubt that the shortage of fresh honey was reflected in the poor turnout at the local honey shows this year. We must hope, as all beekeepers do, for better weather and hence more honey next year.

But it is said that the British are obsessed with the weather and in a year like this one it's not altogether surprising. I look out of this window beside me to see pools of water in the field, pools that have not drained away for many weeks, and just to add to it all it's raining again right now. We're told that even the salt water in the sea is being diluted so killing the local shrimps (it's true and it's not April 1st). It's a certain fact that the local farmers can't get on to their fields, so that crops can't be harvested and many have gone to waste and, what's more, next years crops cannot be sown either. Yes, next years crops can't be sown, with all that that means for the food supply next year too. We are told that the beekeeping year starts in the autumn - so does the farmers. Beekeepers, like farmers are food producers, and if we can't get things right at this time of the year then there's every possibility that things won't be right next year either. So it's a testing time for everyone, and only those who have the knowledge, the expertise and the determination will be wholly successful. I recently had a 'phone call from a new beekeeper who told me that he had Varroa mites dropping down in large numbers, and that was in late September. "Should I be treating them or should I wait till the spring" says he. He seemed to be concerned about the possibility of wasting his money "by treating at this time of the year". If such bees are not treated there's every possibility that

they will be dead by the spring, and which is the most costly, to lose a colony or the cost of treatment - I have no doubts. The knowledge of when to treat and the expertise of knowing how to treat only then requires the determination to get on with it for ultimate success. Such knowledge, expertise and determination can only be obtained by a long term programme of learning. Being prepared to learn from others who have had years of experience must be the first goal. Learning from others, watching what they do and asking questions, is the first step and the rest is then up to you.

This is the time of the year to settle down with a store of good beekeeping books, a copy of the Basic Syllabus and to study. Study what is needed to pass that Basic Exam, for that is truly the basic requirement for successful beekeeping. (To drive a car you must pass a Driving Test, the Basic Examination should be seen as the beekeepers Driving Test). That basic knowledge is essential for better beekeeping and as before ask questions if there's any detail you do not understand. Success is in your hands, there's lots of knowledge out there but it can only be obtained by individual effort - your very own effort.

The turnout for the Stokesley Show was poor to say the least, but as I said earlier



not surprising in view of this years weather.

Nevertheless we must congratulate all who entered and with so few entries almost everyone was a

winner. The overall winner was Rob Andrews with some excellent honey on show.

The results were:-

Comb Honey,	1st, Rob Andrews
Light Honey,	1st, Rob Andrews
	2nd, Ian Brown
Heather Honey,	1st, Clive Wood
Granulated Honey,	1st, Richie Costello
Medium or Dark Honey,	1st, Rob Andrews
	2nd, Clive Wood
	3rd, Ian Brown
Cut Comb Honey,	1st, Rob Andrews



Rob also won the 'Best in Show' award for an excellent entry of Medium Honey. Congratulations Rob, I feel sure people will look forward to seeing your entries in the future.

ing your entries in the future.

Your Committee met at the end of September and the following is a brief list of their deliberations;

1, Due to the sharp increase in capitation demanded by BBKA our annual subscription must rise to £21-00; £20-00 if paid before the end of December. (This must be agreed by the Membership at the AGM). Members are requested to pay early. If you can't pay on the night of the AGM please post your subscription to our Treasurer,

Philip Staniland,
Fir Tree house,
Westerdale.
YO21 2DQ

Please make cheques to made payable to CBKA.

2, The tea and coffee will be free on the meeting nights from now on.

3, Members are requested to let the Secretary know their Email addresses. This is to help speed up communication and to save postage. They will only be used on odd occasions.

4, Every paid up Member is to be issued annually with a Membership Card. This will confirm receipt of your subscription for the current year.

5, The December meeting this year will again take the form of an evening meal held in some local hostelry. Sal will search out the venue and advise folks shortly.

Tom Rettig is to be congratulated yet again for his success in this years examinations. He is now a Basic Examination Judge. The rules prevent him from examining people in our own Association, but I feel quite sure he will be only too pleased to help intending candidates if asked. Good work Tom.

Our friends in the Durham Association have moved house. They now meet at Finchale Training College just north of Durham City. That is where our annual friendly light hearted quiz will be

held on Wednesday the 3rd of December with beekeepers from Richmond, Hexham, Weardale, Newcastle and Durham. I am enclosing a map of how to get there, it's no more difficult to find than was Houghall. As we were the victors last year we have the task of setting the quiz for this year. Please, please set the evening aside, it is always a good night with plenty of laughs all round.

The following is an extract from the October issue of the Northern Farming Gazette:-

"£100,000 committed to research bees' health."

The major stakeholders in the beekeeping industry in the UK (BBKA, BFA, NFU and Rowse Honey Ltd) met to discuss the crisis of the declining bee population and Rowse Honey Ltd confirmed its commitment to invest £100,000 in honeybee health research over the next three years.

Discussion ranged across a number of issues.

The group has united in the view that:

1, Pests and diseases are a key priority;

2, There is an urgent need to fill the gaps in our knowledge and find solutions to the problem;

3, The importance of DEFRA prioritising research funding for disease control to support the sectors/industries own action and initiatives.

4 The group strongly endorsed the campaign of the BBKA for increased DEFRA funding for bee health research.

The NFU expressed its concern regarding the serious impact on the environment and agricultural output if the honeybee population continues to decline.

Rowse Honey is greatly concerned by the shortage of British honey, which will run out in the supermarkets by Christmas.

The group has agreed to meet regularly in the months ahead to campaign, monitor and act in concert in the face of critical declines in bee population. It calls on DEFRA to reconsider its position with urgency, and agree to fund the necessary research".

A rare and positive move by a private company, we just have to hope something comes of it. Does it mean too that the folks behind DEFRA will now have red faces?

Kindest regards to you all,

bryan@hateley.me.uk

The cheapest facelift is a laugh.

Secretary; Ian Brown, 48, Thames Avenue, Guisborough, TS14 8AF. Tel: 01287 632851

Meetings held, from September to April, in Lingfield Farm, Countryside Centre, Middlesbrough, on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.15pm
Newcomer's are welcome.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Allan, Tony & Richard Jefferson;
Tel. 01947 840723 or Tel/Fax 01947 893811
Email:- tony@stoneleabees.wanadoo.co.uk
Stonelea Apiaries, 1, Dalehouse Bank, Staithes,
Cleveland. TS13 5AN.
Suppliers of all beekeeping equipment.
Honey bought and sold.

John R. Allen

LONGNEWTON GRANGE BEEKEEPERS SUPPLIES

THE GRANGE, Phone: 01642 585896
BACK LANE, Fax: 01642 585896
LONGNEWTON, Home: 01642582460
STOCKTON-ON-TEES. TS21 1BN Mobile: 07814 576785
EMAIL: beekeepingsupplies@longnewton.fsworld.co.uk

Bee Facts/Did you know?

Braula (Braula coeca), (Pronounced Browler Seeker) Is a wingless fly that lives in the hive with the bees.

It has six legs, rides on the back of bees, is harmless but its larvae burrows through the honey cappings and spoils any chance of infected honeycomb winning a show prize.



FINCHALE
TRAINING COLLEGE

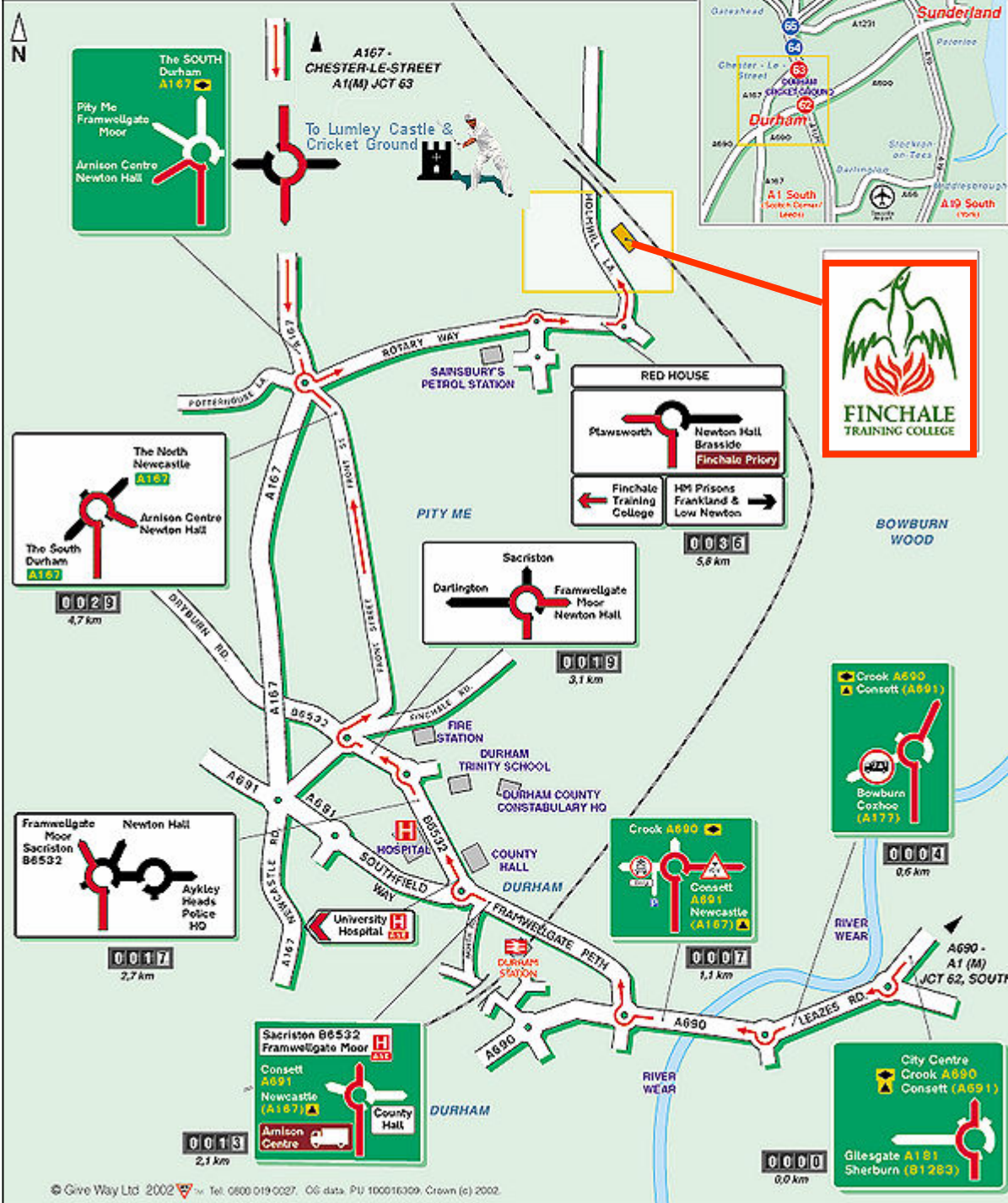
Finchale Training College
Durham DH1 5RX

Tel: 0191 386 2634 Fax: 0191 386 4962

Public Transport



By Rail
Durham Rail & Bus Station are both
approximately 10 minutes by taxi.



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The old A1 is now the A167.

Follow the A167 northwards past Durham centre to the junction for the 'ARNISON CENTRE' retail park and turn right into Rotary Way.

Cross one island and at the second island turn left.

Finchale College entrance is immediately on your right.

The meeting will be held in the classroom behind the greenhouse at the northern end of the buildings.

There's lots of car parking spaces.