



CBKA NEWSLETTER

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Year 31/5
January 2017

JOHN'S JOTTINGS

Another year comes round, once again with some strange weather. This month's newsletter includes an article from our BBKA link trustee. It may seem a bit dry, but the BBKA is our National Association, and is going through an interesting time at present. Next month we welcome the Chair of the Trustees to our meeting and I hope you will tell her what you think is good about the BBKA and what needs to change.

Our local Association wants to find out what we might need to do to better meet the needs of local Beekeepers and I recently emailed members with a brief survey. Thank you to those who have completed it. In fact over 20% of members responded in the first 24 hours. If you haven't had time yet, please do complete it by clicking [here](#), it only takes a few minutes and will be really useful to the committee. I will report the results next month.

Now to beekeeping. My bees have been flying at well below 10°, there are some clips of them on the [Association's Facebook](#) page, they obviously haven't read the text books... All this winter flying can rapidly consume stores and an NBU starvation warning was circulated at New Year reminding of the need to heft and consider adding fondant. In response Mike McCartney sent me a message saying his colonies had eaten through 500g and suggested that members need to be careful. Tony Jefferson emailed Whitby Beekeepers also advising care, but noted that his colonies hadn't used much fondant. My colonies haven't used theirs yet, but I have made up some more in case. The recipe can be found on our [website](#).

I want to learn more about Beekeeping in 2017, although I have to admit I won't be doing the Modules as I am still working and can't really find the time yet. I will, however, once more be going to the BBKA Spring Convention in April (see *Bee Informed* on the right). The full programme is being released on 16 January, but the list of speakers from around the world looks impressive. I plan to stay for the three nights and may be able to offer lift to a member although that may reduce the opportunity for any bulky purchases at the Trade Show! *John Canning, Chair*

VISIT TO NBU We have arranged to visit the National Bee Unit in York on the evening of Monday 15 May. The last visit was a few years ago and proved very informative. A coach leaves Middlesbrough Bowling Club promptly at 5 pm. There is a charge of £10 for the transport and numbers are limited. Places will be allocated in order of application (and payment). Reserve your place with [Ian Peacock](#). Payment is preferred by BACS with the reference *NBU* followed by your last name. *Ian Peacock, Programme Secretary*

MY APIARY One of the themes that has already emerged from the survey of members is an interest in reading about other member's experiences and their apiary. We have already had a couple of pieces on bees in Romania and the Tees Barrage. I know members are often wary about giving details of the location of their bees, but that doesn't mean you can't share your experiences. It would be good to have a something in each of the remaining newsletters this winter. Please consider letting me have a few words about your beekeeping, I won't add your name if you prefer it that way. newsletter@teesbees.co.uk

BEE INFORMED

The *at a glance* quick guide to local, regional and national beekeeping events and other important information.

The Future of the BBKA Monday 20 February. Margaret Murdin, Chair BBKA Trustees at Middlesbrough Bowling Club

Insect Photography Monday 20 March, Paul Forster at Middlesbrough Bowling Club

North East Beekeepers Convention 1 April, at The Beacon, Newcastle. Internationally recognised speaker. Cost £28—full details [here](#).

BBKA Spring Convention 7 to 9 April. includes Lectures, Workshops, Partner Programme and Beekeeping Trade Show at Harper Adams University, Shropshire. Booking now open on the [BBKA website](#)

From Combe to Candle Monday 10 April (NB 2nd Monday) Shirley Bond at Middlesbrough Bowling Club.

Asian Hornet Traps

We have bought Asian Hornet traps to enable us to let each member have one. Collect yours at the January or February meetings. Instructions for use can be found on the [articles page of the website](#). Additional traps will be available for 60p.

Swarm Collection List

Would you like to help by joining the swarm collectors list?

Members should have passed the Basic Assessment and be willing to attend swarms at reasonable locations in their area

Middlesbrough beekeepers are especially needed. Contact [Steve Jacklin](#), our swarm co-ordinator.

FROM THE BBKA

Here we are at the end of another year although at the start of the beekeeping year which as you know starts on the 1st October each year. I guess this is because the financial year end is September 30th for the BBKA so everything starts again from there.

This is the first time that we have actually made a surplus at the BBKA for several years, not a massive one, but if you measure that against the loss of last year there is an improvement of over £50K not taking into account the profit on investments. We are not complacent about the state of the accounts, we want to do better and I am sure that going forward we will be able to do that. There have been huge changes this last year, we have fought very hard to get to this position, please help us to continue to improve the running of the BBKA and give again that stability to the organisation.

Just before the National Honey Show, we had a small booklet printed about Anatomy, it costs £3.00 and it sold like hot cakes, it is a very good booklet with lots of information from experienced beekeepers. I have just been told that we have managed to pull out all the stops on the second book we planned called 'In the Apiary'. This booklet is aimed at newish beekeepers and again is on sale at £3.00. *Editor's note: These are available via the BBKA Website, but postage is payable. As they should be available for collection at the Spring Convention in April I will obtain them for members if they contact me at newsletter@teesbees.co.uk.*

Now to not such nice news. You will all have had the opportunity to read about 'The Court Case' where the BBKA was taken to task for not paying a bill for work completed. This all happened before my time as a Trustee, it is something that Margaret Murdin (Chair of the Trustees) and I tried to settle this year without all the legal costs of court etc, but the EC is a democracy and we lost on the vote, so the case went on. Thankfully the Insurers paid the costs of the case which was very expensive, both in money terms and in time and reputation. In my opinion it should never have been allowed to escalate as it did but the SDM's of previous years did not stop it so I guess there was little of hope of two Trustees stopping it this year. The letter by Frank Lenert has been published and Pete Sutcliffe was allowed to answer, there were notes from the President, the Chairman and the PR representative, so hopefully that will be an end to it and we can get on with the real task of running the BBKA in the way the members want, with openness and efficiency

George Brown as our new Fund Raiser, is working very well and getting to grips with new and existing ventures and moving them forward in an open and accountable way, this is great and he is supported by our new General Manager who is proving to be more than up to the task, she has not been long in post but there is a definite change in the atmosphere at HQ, it is much more vibrant, I am looking forward to the new year when we have the new Trustees in place who will hopefully add some valuable management experience to our team to help us to continue with the improvements.

Most of the current work for the Trustees is preparing for the ADM and for the Education committee preparing for the Modules, General Husbandry and Advanced Husbandry, these are spread across the country so if you are interested I hope you have managed to get a place. I know Margaret Murdin and others have also been travelling helping beekeepers who are trying for the NDB but that is what the BBKA is about, helping Beekeepers to improve their skills and pass on that knowledge to others. *Margaret Wilson -- Link Trustee*

Congratulations to those members who passed the Basic Assessment in 2016. Their certificates and beesuit badges were presented at the November meeting.

Passing the Basic Assessment is a great way to demonstrate competence at beekeeping and will reassure friends, family, potential apiary site owners and your neighbours that you know what you are doing. Having the Basic also means you can join the Swarm Collectors List and start taking the modules. It is also required if you want to keep bees on an allotment.

To take the Basic Assessment you should have managed at least one colony of bees for a minimum of 12 months. More details are [here](#). Applications should go to [Tom Rettig](#). When there are enough names



Jim Turnbull, Felicity Ashton, Mike McCartney, Kate Brennan and Lynn Taylor receive their Certificates

we will arrange a two session training event for the candidates.

In previous years the Association has offered a 50% refund to successful candidates, but for 2017 we are trialling the award of an Association T shirt.

Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1168761

Secretary: Steven Jacklin secretary@teesbees.co.uk

Full details of our meetings are shown on our website www.teesbees.co.uk.

All are welcome