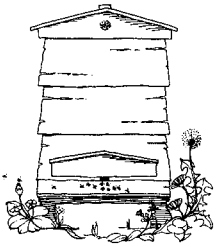

# Bee Talk

Newsletter of The Blackburn and East Lancashire Branch of
The Lancashire & North West Beekeepers Association
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## What's in this issue of Bee Talk



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# EDITORIAL
## SEPTEMBER 2003

### EDITORIAL
What a wonderful year this has been, weather wise. Never in my memory, have we had a beekeeping year like this one. OK it has been a 'swarmy' one and it has been difficult keeping up with the bee's performance. Despite these difficulties, we should have the best harvest for many a year. Hopefully even the very newest of beginners will have a bit of something to show for all the hard work. Anyway it has been great fun and certainly it has been very interesting.

### EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS
Many of you will remember Michael Costello, the chap who did the splendid exhibition of skep making at Towneley.

I discover from outside sources, that Michael has achieved a credit in modules 5 & 6 in BBKA's Proficiency in Agriculture (Beekeeping). He has passed Parts 1 2 & 3 some time ago, so now he has the Intermediate Certificate in Beekeeping

He tells me he intends to take parts 7 & 8 next year .Well done Michael, We are not all dummies then!

### VISIT TO THORNS
The visit was a success despite the fact that when we got there at approximately eleven o'clock, the warehouse was just about empty.

It transpires that there had been a queue of people there at six o'clock in the morning, Most of them traders, taking away wagon loads of gear. So the place was empty in a matter of hours. Nevertheless, as I say, we enjoyed the day, Any one who needed some thing particular I believe got it. Thorns did as much as they could for us under the difficult circumstances. Whether we go again next year is of course up to you.

### WE ARE BIGGER
You will notice that Bee Talk has an extra four pages this issue. The reason being that all our correspondents sent in very long items this time. They all did it *(Even the editor and his assistant! AB.)*. It must be something to do with the weather. But no complaints keep them coming. I also insisted in keeping in the little tale from Arthur, against his wishes (I'm the EDITOR here) It makes a change, I think it is just right. Can we have your opinions? We need more feed back if we are to improve our efforts.

### JAKE
We are sorry to hear that our Italian connection correspondent, Jake Windle has suffered a nerve complaint in his face, in the beginning he could not shut one eye at all. This necessitated him being in hospital for some time, and even now he has to visit hospital twice a week for treatment, and the hospital is not just round the corner, as you will know if you have been following his stories.

How on earth did his wife Jeni manage on here own with seventy hives swarming and her on her own.

### HOLDEN CLOUGH
There has been a fair amount of work done at Holden Clough. The commitee is very much beholden *(is that a pun?)* to the members who have made the effort to get some of the job compleated.

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

*This is the continuation of the article in the last issue of Bee Talk. It is from Bees Honey and Beekeeping from a 1938 edition published by the Scottish Beekeepers Association. These are not my views but the wordsof the original author.* *John Zamorski.*

## TOP OF THE CLASS

"The hive bee is at the top of its class, the most competent and most highly specialised of bees. The colonies of the wasp and the humble bee are "annual," lasting only for a season, but the "stock" of the hive bee is "perennial," surviving winter and summer, there being indeed no natural limit to it's continued existence. Barring accident, disease, or violence, the colony of hive bees can maintain it's youth forever, renewing as may be necessary it's queen, it's drones, it's workers, even it's combs.

## NATURAL URGE

New stocks of bees arise by "swarming" or "casting," and this process excites popular imagination more than any other bee phenomenon, but in reality swarming is due rather to the beekeeper than to any natural urge or necessity in the bee. Only when cramped for room in the tiny hives provided by most beekeepers do the bees weaken their colonies by the division known as casting or swarming.

The queen of the hive bee is a very specialised insect, set apart strictly for egg production, and incapable of undertaking any other duty. She is fed and tended by her sterile daughters, the so-called worker bees, and these also nurse the numerous "brood" produced by the queen. It is said she can lay as many as 3000 eggs per day, and keep up this rate for weeks in the height of the summer. Certainly no charge of indolence brought against the queen could ever be sustained.

On the other hand the drone or male bee has always been accused of laziness, even Shakespeare writing of the "lazy, yawning drone," but this entirely erroneous idea is due to ignorance. Those who call the drone lazy have been expecting him to perform the same duties as the worker bees, duties for which he is not equipped. Drones and queens have tongues too short to reach the nectary of any flower, they have not the glands for making wax, nor the baskets and combs for collecting pollen.

The sole duty of the drone is to be on the wing in fine weather, ready to mate with any queen requiring his services, for the mating takes place on the wing. Not one drone in a thousand ever has this opportunity, but the large number of available drones gives the queen a wide choice. For the queen, like other female animals, is frequently most fastidious in her choice, and we may safely discount all stories about the queen being seized forcibly by the swiftest drone.

## WISE GERMANS

The Germans, wiser than we, call the queen the Mother bee; she has no sovereign power, and is indeed the servant of all, laying eggs at the rate determined by the workers after due consideration of the circumstances; making way for a daughter when too old for good service; leaving the hive with a swarm when the old home has become too small for the teeming multitude of her daughters.

The generation of bees was for long a profound mystery, one theory indeed being that the new bees were pieced together in the hive from materials brought in by the foragers. Now we know that worker bees and queens have a father and mother like any other animals, and most plants: but the drone or male bee has no father! This astounding fact was discovered by a Catholic priest named Johan Dzieron when he prevented some young queens from mating by confining them to the hive. After a time those "virgin" queens began to lay eggs. That was not wonderful, because unmated birds will lay eggs also: but there is a difference, eggs laid by unmated birds are infertile, but eggs laid by virgin queens all develop into drones. It is indeed quite certain that mated queens still produce fatherless drones.

## NURSING

Eggs laid by the queen normally hatch in about three days, and from each egg emerges a tiny footless white worm, whose business for the next six days is to eat and grow. The nursing is all done by the sterile workers, who arrange to work in relays, visiting each cradle some 1,300 times a day – on the average. The babies are fed on a thin white jelly like corn-flower pudding, which is neither honey nor pollen – not even a mixture of the two, as often stated in popular works. It is a real bee-milk, a secretion produced by two glands found in the heads of nurse bees.

Under this treatment the growth of the larval bee is almost incredible; in six days it's weight increases some 1,580 times. Growing at a corresponding rate the human baby would be as large as an elephant in a week.

## LOVEMAKING

Everybody knows that bees sting and produce honey, and now we have learnt that they are the most assiduous nurses in the world. There is just one thing more that must not be omitted even from this very condensed account. The "chief end" of the bees is to preside at the lovemaking of the flowers. For mating in plants is just as essential as in animals, and how is that to be accomplished when male and female plants, as in the willow, grow on different roots that may be many yards apart. Nature has arranged that the fertilizing male cells of the willow – the botanist calls them pollen grains – may be carried from tree to tree on the hairy bodies of the bees.

## ESSENTIAL BEES

Even when plants are truly hermaphrodite, having the male and female organs on the same flower, as in clover, there is often "self-sterility," by which we mean that the plant cannot mate with itself. This is true of clover and many fruit trees, so that bees are essential for the production of clover seed and many fruits. In particular, the leguminous plants, that maintain the fertility of the soil, are entirely self-sterile, so the bee remains, and has been for ages, an essential factor in the scheme of creation, making life on this earth possible for plants and animals."

## NORTHERN BEE BOOKS

Over the past fifteen years or so we beekeepers have had tremendous support from Northern Bee Books. We would like to thank them by publicising their Website www.beedata.com
The postal address is:

NORTHERN BEE BOOKS
SCOUT BOTTOM FARM
MYTHOLMROYD
HEBDEN BRIDGE HX7 5JS
'PHONE 01422 882751

By the way, their publication BEEKEEPER'S QUARTERLY can be obtained from our treasurer at a concessionary rate

## CALLING ALL EXPERIENCED BEEKEEPERS.

**Are you prepared to help a beginner during their first couple of seasons?**

**The idea was mooted again at the AGM that it would be of great assistance to beginners to have a 'mentor' or someone more experienced to call upon for advice. Obviously it would be easier if both parties lived reasonably close to each other although often all that is wanted is simply someone to talk over problems on the telephone.**

**If you would like to assist new beekeepers in this way, please give your name and phone number. to Bill Ainsworth on 01282 614015. He can then flag it up in Bee Talk**

**This idea is not new, but it would be nice to get it up and running. If you are a beginner, here are one or two names for starters:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Michael Birt | 01706 222849 | (Rossendale area) |
| Bob Fulton | 01254 772780 | (Blackburn area) |
| John Zamorski | 01200 427661 | (Clitheroe area) |
| Ken Gaiger | 01282 778887 | (Burnley area) |
| Bill Ainsworth | 01282 614015 | (Nelson area) |

# PORTRAIT OF A BEEKEEPER - and his wife

## FROM A BEEKEEPERS WIFE

I'm a Southerner, born and brought up in Sussex by the sea. We only lived a mile or so from the sea, but sea-side never interested me much, the surrounding countryside was my playground. Our house and garden was always full of little animals, often sick or injured, to be made better and let go in to the wild again. My favourite pass-time was helping out at a riding stable and on local farms where there were horses. I always wanted to be a vet but sadly lacked the academic skills, the school I attended turned out very good nurses and typists - not my cup of tea.

## ITLIAN GRANDFATHER

Before going to Maidstone Art College to do a our diploma course, my brother and I hitch hiked to Italy to look up some of our long lost relatives. My Italian Grandfather often talked of the village he'd left as a young man and never been able to return to for one reason or another. I promised myself that one day I'd come back and have a farm here, but before I did that there were a lot of years in between.

First to Bradford to work for the Yorkshire Electricity Board in their drawing office. This spell in Bradford was mainly to help my brother who was doing a second degree in Earth Sciences at Leeds University. We lived in a Victorian house close to the city centre which in some ways was very educating for me. After three years I was happy to get out and find a house on the edge of Colne and the countryside.

## BONNY COLNE

In Colne I met Jake and also started to get into growing organic vegetables on our allotment. I was warned about the amount of chemicals in our daily diet from purchased food and even our north facing slope of an allotment provided some of our food.

The bees seemed a very good idea to me as they would help with pollination but I was in for a sting or two. Thank goodness for Jake Armistead, I don't know how we would have managed without his help. Our two hives full of natural comb and very angry bees had to be cut up into sections so they could be wired on to frames and it took quite a few sessions with bees, the angriest I've ever seen. I can remember to this day thinking the first thing I'm going to buy is a proper veil and get rid of the home made one.

Once or twice those angry bees had Jack worried. He would say "If you've had enough, you can go if you want". I thought he was wonderful as he would sit getting the stings out of his head over a cup of tea in our kitchen . He also encouraged us to join the association and I managed to attend many of the meetings which I always found informative,

## SOLD FROM UNDER US

In Colne we increased our hives to about ten before we had a few quite serous set backs, The first being our rented allotment was sold from under us to a property speculator.

The second blow was Chernobyl - our local health department took honey for analysis after the accident, as fall out was a serious problem in our area. Not only did they find cesium in it but pollutants such as dyisocyanates and phenol formaldyde from a local factory. It was a serious knock as I realized our honey and garden produce was all probably worse than the commercial stuff, in some ways.

## TAKING THE PLUNGE

On top of all that a recession and a huge increase in taxation and rates gave us the push needed. We took the plunge and moved to Italy. Firstly we rented a house for two years while we found a property that would be suitable for beekeeping, it had to face South-East.

Beekeeping here is very different, bigger hives, bigger stocks and every thing moving at a faster pace. I have had to become chief swarm collector as I'm around the place more during in the day.

We are very fortunate here that the surrounding land is not in any way chemically treated, as the fields are mainly only used for hay. The surrounding woods provide much variation all for bees. We now have seventy hives, and doing something we both enjoy. The next step probably out apiaries.

*Best wishes from a beekeepers wife.*
*Jeni.*

# Kickin' up'ill wi a brokken clog

Let me try to tell you about my very limited experiences with bee keeping.

But first, why do I say "Let me try to tell you?" Well, I have a problem and this problem is a tendency to wander off the subject. No matter if I am talking or writing, I find myself straying down side tracks and then have the greatest difficulty finding my way back to the original thread.

This tendency makes writing even this short article about bees, like "Kickin' up'ill wi' a brokken clog". For the benefit of any Southerners who might have crept in, this is Lancashire dialect for trying to kick uphill with a broken clog or, working under a disadvantage.

You see, when we were lads we used to play football in the back street. Two of the big lads would pick teams from a group of scruffy kids by doing one of the street rhymes - you know "One potato, two potato, three potato four and so on". The winner would have first choice of the gang of us for his team.

There used to be a chap in Leyland who collected children's street songs. I think he was a solicitor or a vicar. He used to go round collecting them on a posh tape recorder . . . . come to think of it, that might have been the chap who collected dialect swear words; it might have been that tackler from Pickup Street who collected street songs.

Anyway, when the two teams were picked, these two big lads would go through the ritual again "Eanie, meanie, mynie, mo. Put the baby on the . . . ." I think that one might have been a bit rude. I hope the vicar didn't record that one - - - or then again if he was collecting swear words it might be all right.

Where were we? Oh yes. This last ritual was to decide which team faced downhill and which kicked uphill. You can see what I mean, can't you? If you were kicking uphill in a pair of clogs with an old tennis ball as a football then you were at a disadvantage. And, if you had three nails missing from one of your clog irons or, even worse, if the wooden sole of you clog was split -well!!

When times were hard my dad would repair our clogs rather than take them to the cloggers. We always had a tin box in the pantry full of old clog irons of various sizes just in case. Clog irons were nailed to the wooden clog sole and were something akin to horseshoes in that they occasionally fell off in the street. The thrifty ones amongst us would never walk past a discarded clog iron and my dad was very thrifty. In fact I once heard Mister Hardacre describe my dad as being as tight as a duck's beak. He then added "And that's water tight!". I think he said beak.

Dad was a Tackler. Again for the benefit of any from down South, he was a sort of overlooker or loom fitter in the cotton mill. Tacklers were always men whereas most of the weavers were women and there was a sort of 'Love - hate' relationship between tacklers and weavers. On the one hand, weavers tried to keep on the right side of the tacklers as they were usually on piece work and it was essential that the eight, twelve or sixteen looms they ran were kept in good order and on the go all the time. On the other hand Tacklers were not only in a minority but also one up on the factory social ladder so they came in for a lot of stick. There was a whole tradition of tacklers tales which portrayed them as lazy, stupid, forgetful or a combination of all three. The stories about them were legion.

I always remember a tackler called Fred who was going back to work after breakfast (Millworkers used to start work about 6 am and have a half hours break at about 7.30). The rows of weaver's terraced houses were always clustered round the mill and everyone was within easy walking distance of their mill. Where was I? Oh yes. Fred was going back to work when he saw Jim, a tackler at the same mill, kneeling in front of his own house, scraping under the front door with his steel ruler "Eigh up! Jim" said Fred "What tha doin'?". "Eee! I'm in a reight mess" Said Jim "Wife went out before me and said 'When that goes, lock front door and drop t'key through't letter box'. Well I've dropped key through't letter box but I've forgetten to lock t'ruddy door".

Even though my dad was only a tackler. my two best friends when I was a little lad were sons of a millowner. They had a big Lanchester motor car and used to go to Blackpool or Fleetwood every weekend and they wore shoes all the time and not just on Sundays. It was dream of mine to have shoes - real shoes of my own and not old ones passed down from my older brother or, even worse, from my older sister! It was years afterwards that I discovered that my two pals envied me my clogss, so they could kick sparks of the flag stones or in Winter, join in the competition to see whom could collect the biggest snow pad on the sole of their clogs. Douglas won it one year. His dad had a grocer's shop but he still had to wear clogs. It didn't do him much good. He got his snow pads up to about eight inches and then his ankle went over and he had to have a vinegar bandage round his ankle for about a fortnight. You could smell him coming a mile away.

I can still remember those Summer Sundays when my two pals were off in their Dad's Lanchester to play on the beach and have ice creams and catch crabs whilst I squatted in the dusty back street playing solitary games of marbles. Again, it's only recently that I've discovered how much they envied me. I was allowed to play out whereas every weekend they had to sit in a stuffy car and go to the flipping seaside. This was a particular burden to Michael who was always car sick

Come to think of it, our back street wasn't dusty. It was cobbled and had a groove down the middle for the water to run away. Every backyard had a square hole in the outside wall covered by an iron door. They used to come and empty the ashes out of this hole before we had dustbins. From some of the older streets they used empty worse than ashes and that was collected in a pink cart pulled by a horse and when they'd emptied it they used to sprinkle pink disinfectant powder round the door and the pavement.

That was before they had tippler toilets or "Long drops". We weren't allowed to call it 'The Petty' as it was considered rude. Nevertheless, the rag and bone man would offer 'Petty door snecks' in exchange for a few old rags. They also used to give out yellow and grey stones which my mother used to decorate the front step when she'd scrubbed it.

The 'Petty' was in a little brick room down the backyard. It had a pine door and was always whitewashed and very clean. There was a an earthenware toilet surmounted by a scrubbed wooden seat and many a youngster has learned to read whilst sitting there, taking the squares of newspaper of the nail behind the door and trying to decipher disjointed stories from the Daily Mail.

This little backyard, room used to be a sort of localised post box. Parcels were left in there; the key for the back door was always left in there and packages would be placed in the petty for the neighbours to collect. Occasionally things would be dropped down this 'long drop' toilet and my dad, being a tackler and hence the local handyman, would be called upon to retrieve the back door key, purse or kitten from the depths. He used an old baked bean tin on the end of a clothes prop and on one memorable occasion successfully recovered Mrs Wade's false teeth. He was the talk of the street for weeks.

**THE 'ASH PIT' DOOR**

Anyway, about beekeeping - - but just before I start, could you just hang on a for a second. I want to see if I can fit one of these old irons on my clog.

It fell off when I caught it in the tram track on Accrington Road. I had just been to see Ronnie Ainsworth about buying one of his pigeons. They reckon his are the best between here and Wigan. His mother worked in the same mill as my Dad and she was a real character. Someone once told me that she . . . . . .

# APIS MELLIFERA--WHICH SUB-SPECIES

Apis Mellifera, the western honey-bee has evolved into 24 geographic races, but only a few of these groups are suitable for beekeeping within Britain. This group reduces further with a combination of latitude and altitude. From a recent article in Bee lmprovement magazine by Ashleigh Milner only four of these races need consideration in Britain. Below is a breakdown of the main characteristics of each of the four.

**ITALIAN HONEY BEE**
**APIS MELLIFERA LINGUSTICA**

1 Over wintering, can be poor due to loose winter clustering. This leads to high heat loss and a corresponding greater consumption of stores. This in turn results in more frequent cleansing flights.

2 Hardiness, not so good, unlikely to forage in marginal conditions.

3 Brood rearing, very prolific, starts late, but continues into autumn irrespective of nectar flows. Good bee where weather is consistently good and nectar yields continues over long periods.

4 Swarming, tends to be low, provide brood expansion is unimpaired. Note, National brood box too small.

5 Honey yields, can be high, provided weather conditions are good and nectar flows long. Foraging range tends to be less than other races. However, in areas where weather conditions and flows are marginal, the prolific breeding rates result in all surpluses being consumed and mid-season emergency feeding becomes necessary.

6 Propolis, reported to be light users.

7 Colour, yellow, small in size, with less over-hairs than darker bees.

8 Temperament, good when pure, however, crosses with darker bees are reputed to be vicious.

9 Homing instinct, poor, prone to drifting, plus have a reputation for robbing. 10 Diseases, no particular short-comings in this area.

**CARNIOLAN HONEY BEE**
**APIS MELLIFERA CARNICA**

1 Over-wintering, good, with small tight clusters, economic with stores etc.

2 Hardiness, good, manages poor weather well.

3 Brood rearing, rapid build up in spring, followed by a slow decline and cessation in early autumn.

4 Swarming, tendency higher than Italian bees, but it can be reduced by selective breeding. Also, the number of queen cells higher than with ltalian and Caucasian bees.

5 Honey yields, above average, especially in areas where early nectar flows occur.

6 Propolis, low use.

7 Colour, brown-grey, similar size to Italian bee with over-hairs still fairly short tend to be vicious.

9 Homing instinct, very good, little drifting and virtually no robbing.

10 Diseases, again no particular problems.

**CAUCASIAN HONEY BEE**
**APIS MELLIFERA CAUCASICA**

1 Over-wintering, poor record, caused mainly to their susceptibility to nosema

2 Hardiness, good.

3 Brood rearing, Generally starts late, with a slow build-up, resulting in medium size stocks in late summer.

4 Swarming, tendency low, with moderate numbers of queen cells.

5 Honey yields, erratic, best at moderate nectar flows over long periods in summer. Unable to react quickly to short heavy nectar flows. Furthermore, have tendency to store honey in brood box rather than supers. Honey cells wet, i.e. no air gap between honey and capping.

6 Propolis, very heavy users, almost closing their entrances in autumn with a wall of propolis.

7 Colour, lead-grey, size and over-hairs similar to Carniolan bee. Note, the Caucasian and Carniolan honey-bee look similar.

8 Temperament, good with gentleness and calm ness on comb being emphasized. Crosses in Europe reported OK, but crosses here have a reputation for aggressive behaviour.

9 Homing instinct, poor, both drifting and robbing being problem areas.

10 Diseases, susceptible to nosema, particularly in Northen Europe, which often leads to winter losses.

## DARK HONEY BEE

### APIS MELLIFERA MELLIFERA

1 Over-wintering, very good, adapted to survive in harsh climates, winter cluster small and tight resulting in good heat conservation. Consumption of Winter stores low, very thrifty bee with little danger of starvation. Winter bees can retain their faeces for longer periods, therefore needing less cleansing flights.

2 Hardiness, very good. Fly at low temperatures, even in dull and drizzly weather. Furthermore, they forage over longer distances, particularly when compared with ltalian bees.

3 Brood rearing, steady rather than a rapid build-up in spring. Colony size very rarely large, rather egg laying goes up and down with nectar flows. Though less prolific than ltalian bees, the workers live longer and a higher proportion are foragers.

4 Swarming, tendency varies between areas and appears to be associated with the nectar flow times. Where tendency low, supersedure is common.

5 Honey yields, steady, rarely outstanding. In poor territories, other races can consume all their honey, but not the dark bee, it will probably produce a surplus. Wax capping pure white, due to air gap between honey and cappings, reduces risk of weeping and possibly fermentation. Considered the best honey-bee for the heather.

6 Propolis, can be a heavy user, but rarely anything like the Caucasian bee.

7 Colour, dark with little banding. Larger than other races with long overhairs.

8 Temperament, mainly docile, but can be nervous on the comb, hanging in clusters from frame bottom during inspections. Crosses though productive, can be difficult to handle and tend to follow.

9 Homing instinct, good.

10 Diseases, can be susceptible to brood diseases and wax moth invasion.

Summarizing, the best illustration I can give involves my own experiences. Before moving to Padiham, I kept bees on the Wirral. They were yellowish bees which required one an half brood boxes. the weather and nectar sources were good with excellent honey yields being the norm.

On the down side, They took large amounts of sugar syrup each autumn, which invariably was almost completely consumed by the spring. However these same bees in the East Lanc's area were useless. Honey surpluses fell away, emergency feeding started to occur and winter losses increased. I now operate with dark bees on a single brood box. My surpluses are not enormous, but I do get honey each year despite our erratic weather. Furthermore my winter losses are now low and take-up of autumn sugar syrup is much lower.

*Ken Gaiger July 2003*

## HONEY IN EARLY AMERICA

In early America, colonists considered honey a youth tonic and healer. Here are some of the remedies:
For insomnia: 1 tbsp honey in glass of warm water.
For stomach ulcers and nerves: Small amounts sipped frequently.
For insect bites, rashes, and wrinkles: Apply locally.
As a gargle: Honey with lemon juice and whiskey. *(Forget gargling-just drink it! Ed)*

# BEES HELP IN ATHLETICS

## SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ABUZZ

The National Honey Board is pleased to announce promising results from three clinical trials on honey for athletes. The studies were undertaken to evaluate honey compared to other popular forms of carbohydrates used by athletes. All three double-blind, placebo-controlled studies were conducted at the University of Memphis Exercise and Sport Nutrition Laboratory.

"We wanted to see if honey would be a good source of carbohydrate for athletes in comparison to other forms of carbohydrate. Honey did as well or better in several areas," stated Dr. Kreider.

The first trial involved 71 subjects who were given one of seven carbohydrate gels, including honey and placebo. Honey produced only mild increases in blood sugar and insulin, prevailing over dextrose (glucose) and maltodextrin, and was similar to a popular commercial carbohydrate gel. This indicates that honey could be an effective pre-workout energy source that does not induce hypoglycemia.

The second trial studied 39 weight-trained women and men. Following an intensive workout, each subject immediately consumed a protein shake blended with sucrose, maltodextrin, powdered honey or placebo as a carbohydrate. The honey sweetened "muscle shake" was the only one to sustain blood sugar over the two hours following the exercise.

The final trial focused on nine competitive cyclists who were given a honey, glucose or placebo gel prior to and at 10-mile intervals of a simulated 40-mile race. Honey significantly increased power and speed over placebo, equaling the performance of dextrose. This exciting study is the first to show that honey is an effective carbohydrate for endurance athletes and resulted in media attention from around the world.

"Our first study suggested honey could operate as a 'time released' muscle fuel for exercising muscles. Our second experiment suggested that honey would be a good carbohydrate source to replenish muscles. However, our last study convinced us that honey can improve endurance exercise capacity," concluded Dr. Kreider.

This research demonstrates that honey is a carbohydrate option for athletes based on its low glycemic index, positive metabolic response, and effective energy production. These results are great news for athletes or anyone looking for a natural, convenient energy boost. The taste of honey has broad appeal, and honey is readily available in a variety of forms and flavors.

## WE HAD ONE OF THOSE!

About two inches long and made of wood. What do you reckon? German thumb screw? Clamp for split cane fishing rods? Opium pill crusher? Go on ! You tell me. OK ! So you know what it is BUT how much do you think it sold for in an Internet Auction ? See Page 13

# THE ITALIAN CONNECTION

*Cari Saluti to you all from a very hot Geminiano*
Early August

Yes we are now into our fourth month of this heat and the average for the last three has been 30˚ in the shade. A lack of rain - only a couple of thunder storms and once or twice a dozen drops of drizzle has prompted the local community to ban the use of water for everything except animals and domestic jobs - no outdoor watering of gardens- crops or meadows. Now even power cuts are expected as most of Italy generates electricity from hydro plants on the large rivers that are now empty and talk of draining the large lakes in the North into these rivers will only resolve the problem for a short while.

But good for the bees.

Late April and early may our stocks built up strongly and 18 swarms, all of them sorted by Jeni as I was in hospital with a swollen nerve in my face.

With so many hives together, we noticed one or two interesting things over the last few years with our swarms. Normally a prime swarm hived and alowed to builed up, brought in enough stores to get through Winter and produce honey for us the next year. Then quite often for some reason, we had three or four and even five hives all swarming together, and two or even three on the same spot clustering together, impossible to do anything but put them all into one of our large 12 frame hives and with so many bees we had a super or two of honey the same year! Now do we do this with every swarm? This year with 18 of them Jeni got them into six large hives and in only five weeks she had full supers on the all.

We had what we call our Spring extraction at the end of May. A surprise as over 600 lbs of spring flower honey ended up in jars, our best ever early honey. Now another problem, we need more supers next year as the ones on the hives are full with summer honey mainly herba medica (alfalfa) that flowers again after every cut of hay, three times in fact over the Summer, not to mention the vast areas of clover and mixed flower that we sow when redoing a meadow every year.

With such a long period of hot weather most of our crops have suffered except the onions, shallots and garlic that were sawn in October. All the salad stuff has died in the heat and we have yet to see how the main crop potatoes have done. We all so notice lots of large trees in the forest ,starting to turn brown and the loss of leave on the big sweet chestnut- another good honey tree- but will have to wait for next year to see if they have died.

We hear that GB is getting some good warm weeks, so expect that your bees are also bringing it in for once, a reward for all your hard work and perhaps the heather honey will be good. With all this in mind once again saluti from us both who are keeping in the shade as much as possible

*Jake & Jeni*

## HONEY AND RELIGION

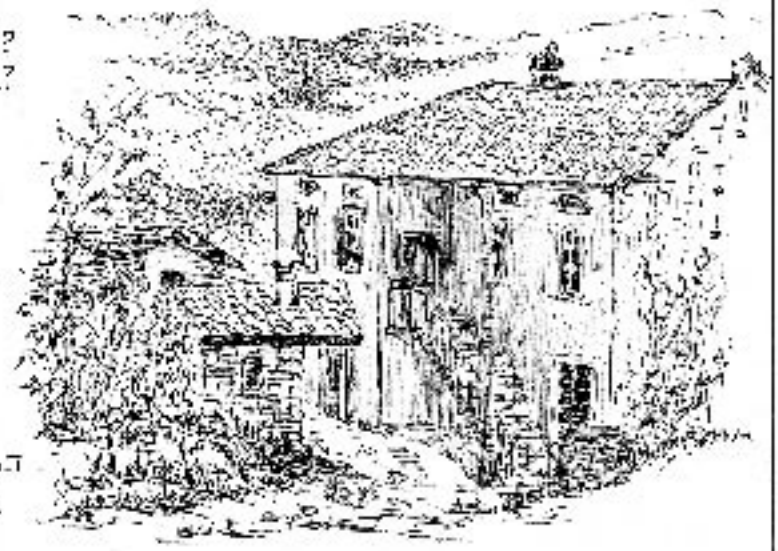
Honey is frequently mentioned in the Bible. Solomon in Proverbs 24:13 advises "My son, eat thou honey for it is good."

The Jews advocated honey as a producer of wit and intellect; it was supposed to make one "mentally keen".

Jonathan, the son of Saul, had his eyes enlightened with the aid of honey, after which he had a better understanding of the people than did his father.

Honey was referred to in most ancient writings as a gift of God. St Ambrose said "The fruit of the bees is desired of all and is equally sweet to kings and beggars and is not only pleasing but profitable and healthful, it sweetens their mouths, cures their wounds, and conveys remedies to inward ulcers."

TIRED WITH NOISE, POLLUTION.
AND THE SAME OLD COSTA HOLIDAY?
WHY NOT TRY A DIFFERENT COSTA?
COME TO COSTA GEMINIANO.



AN ITALIAN RUSTIC FARMHOUSE
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THE PROPERTY IS SITUATED AT
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BARDI IS 12 Kms.

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(COCKEREL ALARM CALLS) AND BEES (PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN VEIL)
WALKING BOOTS A MUST FOR EXPLORING THE COUNTRY-SIDE.
PRICE PER WEEK 650 EUROS. SHORT STAY B&B ALSO AVAILABLE AT 30 EUROS PER
PERSON A NIGHT. INTERESTED? NEED TO KNOW MORE? RING 0039 0525 7616?.


# SWARMING PART 2

## THE ISSUING SWARM

The swarm will usually issue from the parent colony when the oldest queen cell is within two days of emerging. The swarm normally leaves the hive in the middle of the day between 1100 and 1400 hrs. However, the range can be from 0900 and 1600 hrs.

Very few beekeepers have observed the inside of a colony in the process of swarming. Those who have, describe an excited mass of bees sucking honey from exposed cells, running around the hive and falling to the floor where they set up a furious fanning behaviour. On the other hand most beekeepers have observed the frantic exodus of the swarm from the entrance and apparently heading away from the hive in an aimless procession.

Contrary to popular opinion the swarm is NOT led by the queen. She is often among the last half to leave the hive.

## TEMPORARY RESTING PLACE

Within three to five minutes the swarm will settle on a temporary (resting) place which can be a tree, branch, post, stump or whatever is convenient. The place is usually up to 200 m from the parent hive. The temporary place is precisely that. Its role is to serve as a point to which straggling swarmers can catch up and from which the scout bees can go and search for a permanent home. It is also thought that this is the point where the swarm, having identified the presence of the queen, combines itself into a colony. The occupancy of the new hive / nest is open to two schools of thought;

## SCOUT BEES

The traditional view is that at the temporary place, scout bees go out to find a new hive and return to communicate this to the swarm. Hence the swarm will often remain at the temporary place for up to 2-3 hours. This poses a question which is often asked, “What happens if two or more scouts return and communicate different new hive sights. There is no real answer.

More recently observations of potential nests / hives have revealed “scout” bees “investigating” the nest several days prior to the departure of the swarm. If this is the case then the temporary place becomes only a place where the unity of the colony is confirmed.

Sometimes the swarm fails to find a new nest and starts to build comb at the temporary place. Many examples of this situation have been described and photographed.

## IDEAL HOME

The swarm moves to the new nest at a fast walking pace. It is in a loose cloud formation and every bee seems to be following an independent set of signals but at the same time keeping contact with the rest of the swarm.

The specifications for a nest, (hollow tree, rock cavity, or whatever) which is really what the swarm is looking for, not a hive as is popularly thought, are approximations only. Ideally it should be as far above ground level as possible, be at least 35 litres large and have an entrance no more than 10 mm wide and as narrow as possible (a hole 10 mm across is satisfactory). Because these specifications are so very rarely found all sorts of hollows end up being occupied.

## A SHORT LIFE

Only one problem will arise. If the hollow is too small it may well accommodate the swarm but it will not allow sufficient volume for the storage of reserve food (honey). Consequently these small colonies have a short life and die off in the winter.

## A DISORDERLY FASHION

On arrival at the entrance the swarm "parades" inside in a somewhat disorderly fashion with much fanning of wings. The queen and drones behave in a similar manner and get no special concessions of place or space.

Within minutes of taking over a new hive, comb-building bees align themselves to create comb, often following a north / south magnetic orientation and within 6-12 hours the queen will be laying eggs in the new short cells. In adjacent cells some of the honey brought with the swarm will be deposited and foragers will immediately go on orientation and foraging flights.

As a general rule the swarm is a cohesive colony before entering the new hive. Therefore, there is no question of it returning to the parent hive once it has left the resting place.

## WHAT CAN'T GO WRONG!

Any number of things can go wrong, but they mostly fall into one of the following categories:

- Poor weather conditions can delay the departure. This can be prolonged and the new queen emerges while the old queen is still in the hive. This is an uncommon occurrence but in the cases observed it appears that the new queen will carry on with her normal activities while the old queen will also move around the hive awaiting her time to leave.
- Very rarely a swarm will overnight at the temporary place and even more rarely it will actually establish its colony there.
- The queen may be lost.
- The queen, being clipped or caged, cannot leave the hive or is lost in the grass,
- The queen becomes lost or taken by predators. If the queen is lost at the temporary place the swarm will often attempt to return to the parent hive. The success rate is low. If the loss occurs on the way to the new home the swarm will usually establish its nest and laying workers will take over ensuring that the colony is doomed.
- The new hive is untenable. Observed cases of this problem indicate that the colony will swarm again, going through precisely the same process, but this time as a "despair swarm".

## WHAT ABOUT THE PARENT COLONY

After the departure of the swarm the parent colony settles down within a very short time. It now has to await the emerging of the first queen from the swarm cells. This will usually take about 2 days. This queen proceeds to establish her supremacy over the colony by first tearing down aII the other queen cells and killing the developing queens. If another queen emerges at the same time the two will fight until one is killed. The queen then mates at about 4-6 days of age and commences to lay about the same period afterwards.

## TYPES OF SWARMS

**Prime Swarms**. As indicated at the outset all the above is relative to "prime swarms". A prime swarm is so named because it is the first or main swarm to issue from the colony for that season. Often it is the only swarm. It has a good chance of survival having everything it needs to make a success of establishing a new colony.

**After-swarms**. Are swarms that leaves the hive with a virgin queen soon after the departure of the prime swarm. After-swarms occur when there is a very high innate factor for swarming in the strain and / or unusual environmental conditions prevail. Its often claimed that after-swarms are more common with certain types of flora. This is more likely due to the rich and abundant nature of the nectar /pollen and the time when it appears, co-inciding with swarming season.

After-swarms are generally poor due to low population and the presence of the virgin queen that they seldom make a successful hive. Further, the parent hive is left in a similar state including low survival prospects.

*To be concluded in December Bee Talk*

**WE HAD ONE OF THOSE . . .**

Yes you're right - it's a nut cracker designed for Hazel nuts or something similar. Probably dates from the 9th century.

Price? Well this one sold recently for £85 in an on-line auction.

# WHERE AND WITH WHOM DO YOUR QUEENS MATE

All the latest research indicates that drone assembly points exist and queens invariably seek out these assembly points when mating.

We know that numerous drones mate with the queen in fairly quick succession, but it is not always appreciated that the queens could make several mating flights. Drones tend to assemble at points around 2 miles plus from their own apiary, though some go as far as 4 miles.

Queens look for drone assembly points one to three miles from their hive, tending to shun nearer drone congregations. To illustrate the area involved, I give two examples below.

From my apiary at Padiham, queen mating could occur as far as Wheatley Lane, Central Burnley, Whalley Golf Course, and the edge of Great Harwood. The drones could be coming from Whalley, Great Harwood, Rishton, Huncoat, Barrowford, Nelson and the whole of Burnley.

From the Holden Clough apiary queen mating could occur as far as Gisburn, Rimington, Downham, Chatbum and the edge of West Bradford. The drones could be coming from Waddington, Clitheroe, Worston, Twiston and Paythorne.

From these two examples, the effect we can have on each others bees is far greater than most of us imagined.

To determine the probable areas where you queens mate, draw two circles on a O.S. Map around your apiary position. One equivalent to a 1mile radius, the other 3 miles. The area between being the probable mating area. If you draw another circle equivalent to a 5 mile radius, this circle is the potential area where the majority of drones could come from.

I have had problems with difficult bees from queens mated from my apiary at Padiham. I assume they are mating with drones from colonies with aggressive tendencies, but their base could be up to 7 miles away, though more probably 5 miles. Sod's Law says that drones from aggressive stocks are the ones most likely to mate with virgin queens. If we are to avoid a steady deterioration in the gentleness of our bees, colonies exhibiting bad characteristics must be re-queened or destroyed depending on the situation. Remember, drones from a first generation bad tempered stock should not be carrying the bad characteristic, so re-queening or destruction before they swarm should save the day.

*Ken Gaiger July 2003*

**THE HONEY SHOW**

**SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER START ASSEMBLING**

**YOUR ENTRIES NOW! GUEST JUDGE MRS J ZAMORSKI.**

**JUDGE MR D ATKINSON WHO JUDGED LAST YEAR**

**LET'S SHOW HIM HOW MUCH**

**WE HAVE IMPROVED**

# KEEPING IN TOUCH *BY ALBERT J MORRIS*

I wrote in the last issue of Bee Talk about the discovery of a colony of the Old English Bees in a wall at Fountains Abbey some few years ago. .

There was great excitement in the bee press. The British Bee Journal in particular, was filled with argument for and against this being a correct identification but it soon became apparent through morphometric measurements, that these were, indeed, Old English Bees. In the British Bee Journal, I had previously written about them from what a much older beekeepers had told me, describing their characteristics- one in particular- their docility, bringing complete joy and safety when handling them. In my early years of beekeeping, one rarely saw a beekeeper with veil and protective clothing and throughout my bee-handling, I have never worn any, unless I were handling someone else's bees of doubtful behaviour.

The Rev. Eric Milner corresponded in the British Bee Journal regularly, he wrote commenting on an article of mine published previously. This is what he had to say. *Regards to all Albert Morris*

## THE DARK BRITISH H0NEY BEE

*After many years of baseless propaganda that the Dark Native British Honeybee was exterminated by the "Isle of Wight Disease" the news that it is "alive and kicking" must come as a surprise to many beekeepers, who may welcome a more detailed account.*

*With the continuance of imports of foreign bees it might be better to say it is an existing but endangered species.*

*First: How do we know that it still exists in a pure, unhybridized form after nearly a century and a half of imports? The scientific identification of plants and animals was begun by Linnaeus over two centuries ago, by the observation and measurement of their forms. This discipline, now known as morphometry, began to be applied to bees by Russian scientists about 1916, with the practical aim of improving the quality and performance of the bees they kept.*

*From about 1930 till his death in 1964 the German, Dr. Goetze, developed this work so that by means of nearly forty measurement of different parts of the body it is now possible to classify all the known honeybee races in the world.*

*For the bees of Europe the matter is fairly simple, five measurements being sufficient to identify the four principal races Caucasian, Carniolan. Italian and the Dark bee of northern Europe, to which race our native bee belongs. In this country two measurements of the wing veins and the length of the over hairs are usually adequate.*

**Bees, with enough measurable parts, had been discovered in the "Viking" excavation in York, dated between 975 and 1025 AD,**

*The objection was raised that these measurements were only discovered after there had been more than a century of imports into the natural habitat of the Dark bee. How could they be reliable? How could anyone know what the pure bee was like? We were fortunate to learn that remains of bees, with enough measurable parts, had been discovered in the "Viking" excavation in York, dated between 975 and 1025 AD,*

*The oldest known to us are in London, dating from before 1696. The bees collected by Linnaeus himself, now in London, were examined. All these showed that the standards already accepted were reliable. We found that samples from the Viking settlement of 1000 AD and modern bees in Yorkshire were indistinguishable. Further, the descendants of bees taken from Thirsk (about 45 miles from Mr. Morris' home) have the same measurements.*

*During the last ten years, since we learnt the methods of morphometry, we have found bees that conform to the standards of the Dark bee in various parts of the country, more frequently in the north of England than in the south, much more frequently in Scotland and the west of Ireland. Even in Kent colonies have been found in the wild which seem to show the characters of the native bee.*

*To Be Continued.*

## SUMS & BEEKEEPING

The bees' summer starts when the swarming season really gets going and ends with the flowering of the lime trees or sweet chestnuts, if you are so lucky. Nevertheless the bee colonies naturally reach their peak fairly early in this month, their development having followed the advancing daylight period, and quite distinctly begin to show the signs of slackening the pace of brood rearing.

If we think about it, it takes twenty-one days (Three weeks) for an egg laid by the queen to become a worker bee. That worker is likely to be employed on household duties for at least two further weeks before taking up duties as a forager. In rough terms, an egg laid on the first day of June is unlikely to become a honey-gathering forager until the first week of July. Count back from the end of summer (limes or sweet chestnuts) and we can eonclude that eggs laid later than the first week of this month are not likely to be of much use to us as far as honey production is concerned.

## RULE OF THUMB

Now one can easily find fault with that argument since we know that in intense flows, even worker bees only a few days old will be recruited as foragers and the colony stops brood rearing abruptly. However, it does form a useful 'rule of thumb' when it comes to dealing with the swarming colony. Sinee we ean argue that later than about the first week of June we are temporarily in no more need of eggs being laid, it provides us with the (almost) foolproof way of dealing with the colony preparing queen cells and that is to remove the queen. Swarming impossible!

## BRUTAL

The more brutal would just kill her, but it is much easier to house her in a very small nucleus (say two combs & some bees) for possible reinstatement at a later date. The other operation which must be done is to destroy all but one of the queen cells, an operation which is sometimes not as easy as it sounds.

## DO IT TWICE

This must be done within the first seven days (preferably within the first four) leaving an open cell (so that you know what you've got) otherwise the colony may send out casts. It is actually worth doing the operation twice, once at day four and again at day seven just in case the bees feel inclined to build further cells over the hatching larvae. If all goes well a new young queen should be beginning to lay towards the end of summer, ready to rejuvenate the colony with lots of young bees in preparation for winter. J*ohn Poweli.*
*(Courtesy of BEES)*

## A STING IN THE TALE!

Whilst in Winchester, Hampshire, researching Military History, I came across the following in the "WINCHESTER GAZETTE" for Saturday, 15th March, 1806. I am including the whole of the article so that comparisons may be drawn.

*Terry Cooper York*

At the Assizes for the county of Wilts. holden at Salisbury which being on Saturday last:

| | |
|---|---|
| Robert Baylay | for stealing three Devizes Bank Notes the property of R. Kyte of Marden |
| Richard Norris | for stealing a Brass Kettle, the property ofJ. Hooper of Box |
| John Martin | for stealing Two Stocks of BEES. the property of G. Froud of North Bradley |
| Charles Holister | for stealing eight quarters of Barley and a quantity of Potatoes, the property of J. Fennel of Highworth |

Sentenced to be transported for seven years

| | |
|---|---|
| John Howel | for stealing two Stocks of BEES, the property of E. Noore of North Bradley |

Sentenced to one year imprisonment

*Good Lord! Honest guv. it weren't me (Ed).*

# A STICKY END FOR GERMS

## BATTLE OF SHREWSBURY

For centuries honey was used as an antiseptic to treat wounds - the ancient Egyptians are known to have relied on its healing properties, and several millennia later honey saved the life of Prince Hal, later Henry V. At the Battle of Shrewsbury an arrow flew into the prince's face. The first challenge for the surgeon was to remove the arrowhead; equally important was to prevent life threatening infection. The surgeon's records show that honey was inserted into the wound, which was then dressed with barley and honey mixed in turpentine. After 20 days the wound was free of infection.

## HEALING WOUNDS

Honey's healing properties have recently been rediscovered. Four years ago Aaron Phipps, then aged 15, collapsed while getting ready for school; an hour later he was on a life support system in hospital.

He had meningitis C and meningococcai septicaemia, and within two months the infection had affected both legs so badly they had to be amputated. When his wounds failed to heal after nine months of using conventional dressings, his nurses resorted to using gauze impregnated with honey. He was home within ten weeks.

Many similar successes have been documented and although research is still at an early stage it has indicated that honey has considerable potential in treating scrapes and wounds that nothing else will heal. In a study reported in the European Journal of Medical Research, honey outperformed antiseptics and antibiotics in the treatment of infected post operative wounds after Caesarian sections and hysterectomies, healing 22 out of 26 wounds: routine treatment healed 50 per cent.

## HOSPITAL SUPERBUG

Perhaps most exciting is honey's potential to fight the deadly 'superbugs' afflicting hospitals. Laboratory studies have suggested that while conventional antibiotic drugs are ineffective against bacteria such as MRSA, honey appears to have some effect. Researchers at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, have eradicated MRSA bacteria from infected wounds using honey. They are also investigating evidence that honey hastens healing by stimulating the cells that promote new tissue formation.

## MANUKA BUSH

Honey works partly because the sugar content draws moisture from the wound, which then inhibits bacterial growth. Researchers have found that it also produces the sterilising compound hydrogen peroxide in constant amounts at small, non toxic levels. The type of honey that seems to be most effective is from the leptospermum species of plants, usually known as manuka or Jelly bush honey and is produced from the manuka bush in Austraila and New Zealand.

It has been postulated that it has something to do with a chemical derived from the plant from which the honey was made' says Dr Rose Cooper, a principal researcher at the University of Wales Institute. 'But nothing we have found so far accounts for the high levels of antibacterial activity in manoka honey.'

*Taken from an article by Simon Crompton which appeared in 'The Timest recently*

### HONEY IN ANCIENT HISTORY

Honey was the only source of sugar available to the ancients and was valued for medicinal benefits.Honey was used to make mead, a fermented beverage, and was mixed with wine and other alcoholic drinks.

In Egypt, it was used as an embalming material.In India and other Asian countries, it was used to preserve fruit and make cakes, sweetmeats, and other foods.Honey is mentioned in the Bible and Qur'an.

**ARE YOUR HIVES VARROA FREE?**

Scrapings from hive floors can be sent to :-
Diagnostic Services
National Bee Unit
Sand Hutton
YORK
North Yorkshire
YO4 1YW

They will send you a report and the service is free of charge

# From The Treasurer

At the County AGM in March it was agreed to increase capitation from £1.50 to £2.50 per member This is the first increase from County for many years and became necessary to ensure long term suvival. Income has fallen in recent years due to falling membership elsewhere in the County. Costs have been reduced, (particularly with the handbook) but even so, bank resources have steadily been eroded.

Providing our AGM agrees, the branch subscription will need to rise from £13 to £14 for the year beginning November 2003. Other rates should remain unchanged.

As stated previously, our branch subscriptions are the lowest in the County and probably in England, with all the basic subscription going to insurance, L&NWBKA and BBKA.

The branch's income is raised from gift aid donations, raffles etc. Hope the above news is not too distressing.

The rates for Bee Disease Insurance (B.D.I.) are;-
First 2 hives £1.50 covered by subscription
up to 5 hives £2,25
up to 10 hives £5.25
up to 15 hives £7.50
up to 20 hives £9.00
up to 25 hives £9.75
Above 25 hives see the Treasurer.

**CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO L. & N.W.B.K.A. AND SENT TO KEN GAIGER, 2 HIGHAM ROAD, PADIHAM, BURNLEY BB12 9AP**
**Telephone 01282 778887**

**MEMBERS SERVICES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bayvoral** | **£3.10 per pack** |
| **Thymol crystals** | **£2.20 per 100 g** |

**Beekeepers quarterly Annual subscription of £14.00 instead of normal £18.00.**

**Talk to Ken Gaiger phone. 01282 778887.**

**Library. There is an extensive range of bee books etc. that may be borrowed.**

**Our librarian, John Zamorski brings some with him to our meetings. Contact him on 01200 427661 for special requests.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Michael Birt | Chair | 01706 222849 |
| Bill Ainsworth | Vice Chair | 01282 614015 |
| Angela Moyle | Hon. Sec. | 01200 445398 |
| Ken Gaiger | Hon. Treas. | 01282 778887 |
| Pauline Roberts | Honey Show Sec | |
| | Home No. | 01282 438615 |
| | Work No | 01282 698119 |
| John Zamorski | Librarian | 01200 427661 |
| Robert Bradshaw | Member | 01254 261216 |
| David Bush | Member | 01200 428152 |
| Barry Mellers | Member | 01282 612985 |
| Joe Wrigley | Member | 01200 447621 |
| John Tracy | Member | 01204 888650 |

## *IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE !!*

Place an advert in BeeTalk and contact beekeepers World Wide (Well!, Jake's in Italy, Bridget's in Montserat and Albert's somewhere off Manchester Road)

Full Page £14 Half Page £8 Quarter Page £5

**(It helps to pay the postage on BeeTalk)**

**INFORMATION ABOUT 'BEETALK'**

Planned Publication Dates: December 2003 March 2003 June 2004

**LATEST TIME FOR COPY - 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION.**

Please contact Bill Ainsworth, 296 Scotland Road Nelson BB9 7YS Telephone 01282 614015 .
Good, crisp photographs or line drawings are always welcome

| PROGRAMME OF EVENTS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DATE | TIME | VENUE | ORGANISER | SUBJECT |
| Sun 21st Sept | 2.30pm | Angela Moyle | Angela & John | Barbecue |
| Sun 5th Oct | 2.30pm | Castle Cement | Pauline Roberts | The Honey Show |
| Wed 12th Nov | 7.30pm | Whitbread Brewery Samlesbury | Michael Birt | The AGM and general discussion |

# NOTES ABOUT THE EVENTS.

The barbecue on September 21st is at Angela Moyle's at Twiston. The barbecue should be held outside and will be unless September weather tells us different. in which case there we will eat inside. So don't worry about the weather.

Again numbers will need to be known by Angela and John so ring John on 01200 427661 as soon as you can. He has to arrange the food! John thinks there will be a small charge this year to help with costs, probably 50p. per person. Kids will go free.

***We make no apologies for again mentioning the Honey Show. Pauline Roberts puts a lot of effort into arranging things at Castle Cement. The date is Sunday 5th October and with the different products and classes, everyone should be able to enter something.***

***If you want any more details please ring Pauline on 01282 438615 she will be delighted to help you all she can.***

# Scrapings

## THE WAGGLY BEE DANCE

***(Part of an IBM article in the Telegraph)***

Upon arriving back at the hive, a bee with pollen-coated legs does a waggly dance for her fellow bees. The thorax motions are actually a map drawn in the air, entomologists have suggested, indicating both the direction and the distance of the pollen source:

Most corporations only dream about this kind of behaviour: instant, automatict cross-enterprise communication that enables you to take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself. This is the kind of 'sense-and-respond behaviour that defines on demand business.

A sense-and-respond retail environment, for instance, would know every time its best customers entered the store. It would be able to respond to what each valued customer was shopping for that day and suggest appropriate up-sells.

Products would be in stock, promotions would be relevant, sales associates would be experts, check-out would be instantaneous.

*Get your workers waggling like the bees. (It's more money in your pocket) Ed.*

## FEEDING THE BEES

To make thing easier it's not a bad idea to mix syrup in the proportions of 1kg of sugar to one litre of water. This makes a 50% solution and can be used at all times.

## CHAT UP LINES!

Chat up any bee-keepers you meet. One of the them is sure to give you a helping hand. We all want to pass on our enthusiasm.

Buy a load of books and bone up on the subject before approaching any bee-keepers. This will give you some theoretical knowledge, but not the hands-on experience.

If you become too committed an armchair bee-keeper your first sting will probably clarify your thoughts.

## BEEKEEPING ISN'T JUST QUAINT

As new beekeepers take up the hobby (and there are some), it is with increasing frustration that I hear them trot out the old statements about acarine, nosema, dysentery etc, all of it from old texts (actually some fairly new texts as well) and some of it from more experienced beekeepers at lectures and on courses.

Surely, in the 21st century we are knowledgeable enough as beekeepers to be able to keep up with the essential basic knowledge of the craft and science of the subject. Beekeeping isn't just a quaint, old fashioned hobby for old timers. It's a dynamic and highly skilled form of livestock husbandry, essential to the well being of any agricultural nation, (why else does DEFRA spend good money on bee disease inspectors) and it is incumbent upon all of us to keep abreast as best we can of new knowledge and findings.

*From Apis*

## BEESWAX BALSAM (POLISH)

Put a pint of genuine turpentine into a jar and add 4 oz of shredded beeswax and 1 oz of shredded white candle wax. Cover and leave ina warm place for 48 hours.

Then dissolve 2 oz of grated Lux soap in $^{1}/_{4}$ pint of warm water and amalgamate with the dissolved waxes. Add two tablespoons of vinegar and mix well. Pour the resulting cream into jars and store. This cream provides a lasting polish that feeds the wood and will withstand damp.

## WHAT ARE BEES WORTH?

The value of pollination by honey bees to the USA agriculture is a staggering 14 billion dollars.

## MUSICAL BEES

Most bees buzz in the key of "A" while energetic. When tired, they buzz in the key of "E".