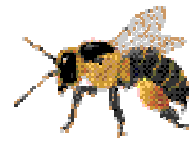




# Newsletter 27



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

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2009 PROGRAMME

Frame  
Groove  
Cleaner



## CLEANING UP DIRTY BEEHIVE PARTS by Maureen Macleod

Take your dirty beehive apart, tip out the frames, choose those that could perhaps be cleaned up for re-use. Dry the boxes and floor out inside somewhere and when dry scrape off all the dirt, brace comb and propolis. Then with a blow-torch, flame all the seams and cracks, try not to char the wood too much. Then get a bucket of warm water, add a spoon or two of washing soda, and scrub everything inside and out.



Leave to dry out thoroughly. Treat only the outside of your hive with some long lasting fence treatment. I use Cuprinol ducks back, you can get it in various colours, to brighten up your bee garden. Make quite sure it doesn't contain any insecticides. Leave to dry out thoroughly and then it is ready for use again. If the old frames have not gone black (if they have throw them away) cut out all the old wax (makes wonderful bonfire starters) not much wax can

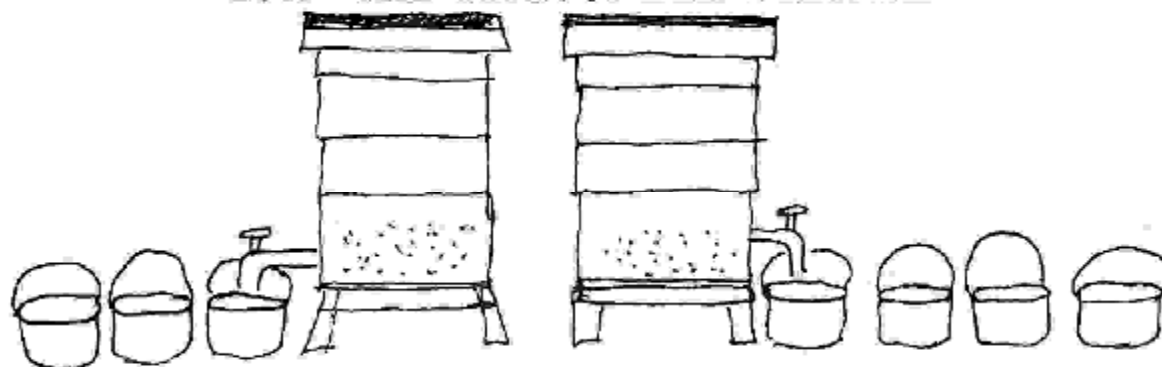
be reclaimed from old combs. Then carefully scrape the frames as clean as possible, especially the cracks (grooves) down the sides, and again wash in water and soda and dry out. These frames can then be fitted with new foundation for re-use. Happy Beekeeping in 2009



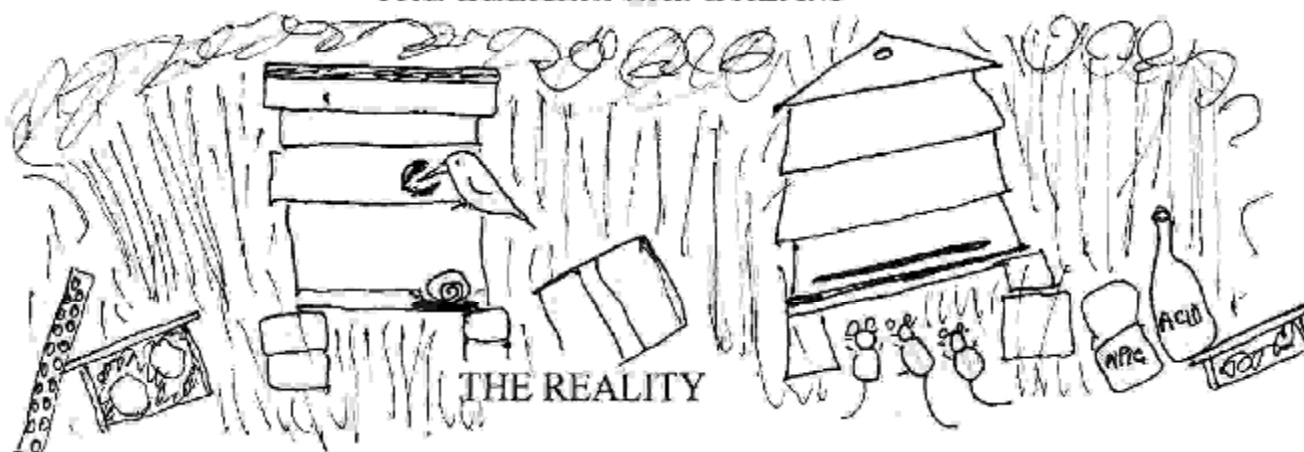
Brian Jones cleaning someone's neglected WBC hive. Not his own he added.

**THE NEXT MEETING MONDAY on FEBRUARY 2ND at 7.30 p.m. at the New Stags Head, Red Street, Carmarthen. As part of the beginners classes there will be**  
**A PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORY OF BEEKEEPING**  
**FOLLOWED BY IMPROVERS TIPS FEEDING BEES BY MAUREEN AND TIME PERMITTING**  
**A FEW QUIZ QUESTIONS AS TRAINING FOR THE INTER CLUB QUIZ IN NOVEMBER**

## 2009 THE YEAR OF BEE WELFARE



THE BEEKEEPERS DREAM



THE REALITY

60% of all bees died in Wales in 2008....40% at least died from neglect  
But who cares...

Bee Inspectors..... no, its not their remit

RSPCA.....no, they don't deal with bees

Vets.....no, not their field

Beekeepers....should but don't, you should wonder why?

**DID YOU KNOW** a beehive out on its stand for five years or more is no longer waterproof and begins to moulder and has more than 80% chance of dieing, under 5 years has a much greater chance of survival

Comb over 3 years of age goes black, the cells get smaller, the bees get smaller and stunted, less resistant to viruses and diseases, die out as a result.

**WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?**

Those that make it through, god bless them, will survive by swarming!!!

**Maureen Macleod President and Swarm Co-ordinator CBKA 2009**



## SEASONAL BEE INSPECTOR from £18,975pa pro rata

Home based roles in the Eastern, South Eastern, Western, South Western, Wales, Northern, North Eastern and Southern regions

BAND 3

REF: CSP 3341

Part-Time Permanent (Seasonal)

Appointments will be for 5-6 months (approx.) each year, throughout the bee season.

The purpose of this job is to implement a Bee Health Inspection programme on behalf of the Department for Environment,

Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Plant Health Division, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the Welsh Assembly

Government Department for the Environment, Planning and the Countryside (DEPC) for specific inspection areas.

Reporting to the Regional Bee Inspector, duties include organising and conducting the inspection of honey bee colonies for diseases currently the subject of EU or UK statutory regulations, e.g. foul brood and small hive beetle; assisting the work of the

National Bee Unit (NBU) for the DEFRA Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (bee poisoning incidents); forwarding samples

of hive material from suspect diseased colonies to the NBU laboratory for diagnosis and issuing standstill notices on apiary sites from which suspect diseased material has been removed. The Seasonal Bee Inspector will also treat or destroy diseased colonies in accordance with the recommendations of the NBU Laboratory and maintain accurate and up-to-date apiary inspection records.

Candidates will need relevant experience in the field of beekeeping as well as evidence of strong practical beekeeping skills, an in-depth knowledge of bee diseases and their control, including exotic bee pests and effective communication skills.

Alternatively a degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject will be considered.

For an application pack call 01904 462302, quoting reference 3341 or email [jobs@csl.gov.uk](mailto:jobs@csl.gov.uk).

Further information and an application form are also available on the CSL Internet site at [www.csl.gov.uk](http://www.csl.gov.uk)

and at: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/>

CSL is an Equal Opportunities Employer and we operate flexible working practices.

Closing date for applications is 3rd February 2009



Paul Key Bee Inspector for this area for a number of years has now taken up permanent residence in Tasmania.



## BEE DISEASE INSURANCE

BDI is an independent company run by beekeepers for beekeepers in England & Wales. BDI is an insurance policy that gives you payment should your bees need to be destroyed due to severe disease specifically European Foulbrood or American Foulbrood. It has a sliding scale of charges dependant on the maximum number of colonies that you run in the season.

It is not normal for hobby beekeepers to deal directly with the BDI company and your local association secretary can advise you on how to proceed. Most associations provide this service and with some it is compulsory to be in BDI to be in the local association, others in lower risk areas may not provide this service at all.

Should you ever expand to over 40 colonies of bees then you qualify to join the Bee Farmers Association. The Bee Farmers Association is affiliated to the NFU (National Farmers Union) and exists to:

To further the interests of Bee Farmers in the United Kingdom.

To promote the maximum national use of the honey bee for the pollination of crops and production of honey.

To maintain high standards in the production, packing and selling of honey in the United Kingdom.

### ***BDI EXTRA COLONIES CALCULATION CHART 2009***

***(YOUR FIRST THREE COLONIES ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS)***

Additional colonies	BDI premium	Additional colonies	BDI premium	Additional colonies	BDI premium	Additional colonies	BDI premium
1	£2.00	12	£7.75	23	£11.60	34	£17.10
2	£2.00	13	£9.50	24	£12.10	35	£17.60
3	£5.25	14	£9.50	25	£12.60	36	£18.10
4	£5.25	15	£9.50	26	£13.10	37	£18.60
5	£5.25	16	£9.50	27	£13.60	38	£19.10
6	£5.25	17	£9.50	28	£14.10	39	£19.60
7	£5.25	18	£11.10	29	£14.60	40 +	Scheme B
8	£7.75	19	£11.10	30	£15.10		
9	£7.75	20	£11.10	31	£15.60		
10	£7.75	21	£11.10	32	£16.10		
11	£7.75	22	£11.10	33	£16.60		

UNDER INSURANCE OF YOUR COLONIES MAY LEAD TO NON-PAYMENT IF A CLAIM ARISES.  
 PREMIUMS MUST REACH BDI BEFORE 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH OR THERE IS A FORTY DAY WAITING PERIOD BEFORE CLAIMS ARE VALID THEREFORE PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBS AND BDI FEES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE.  
 IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN 39 COLONIES BDI OPERATE SCHEME "B" APPLY FOR DETAILS.

**NEW STAGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE CARMARTHEN. AGM 2008 5/01/2009 7.30PM.**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.35pm; he wished the members and Committee a Happy New Year and a warm welcome to all. The meeting then proceeded with the agenda:

- 1 Apologies for absence – G Rees, P & C Clifford, B & L Bradley, Doreen and Dave Smith, R Jones.
- 2 Minutes of 2008 AGM – was announced by the Chairman, read by the minute secretary Lynda Christie, signed and dated.
- 3 Matters arising – Nothing major to discuss.
- 4 Chairman's Report – Read by Keith Thomas.
- 5 Treasurer – Announced to members the financial status for the year ending 2008. There are a few more expenses to come, such as the cost of fencing at the new apiary and £35 for the new gate, therefore the balance will reduce.
- 10 more Ted Hooper books are also going to be ordered.

6 Secretary – Brian Jones read out his report.

7 Election of officers;

President - Maureen Mcleod elected unanimously.

Vice President – Keith Thomas elected unanimously.

Chairman – Geoff Bazin elected unanimously.

Vice Chairman – Chris Phillips.

Treasurer – Marie Gardiner was re-elected by members present.

Secretary – Brian Jones was re-elected unanimously.

Minutes Secretaries – Lynda Christie was re-elected by members present.

Apiary Manager – It was decided to not have an apiary manager this year and to have a rota of members to look after the new apiary. This will be organised by Maureen Mcleod.

Librarian – Ricky Christie was re-elected by members.

Committee members – Two were required and offered to members present, Bill Bradley will continue and one other.

WBKA representative – Pat Jones volunteered.

8 A.O.B.

i) The membership Fees will go up to £25 pa.

Students will be £15 and junior members Free.

ii) Introductory packs will be given to new members. Examples put together by Brian Jones were shown to and approved by the members present.

iii) Bee disease insurance was mentioned and it was assumed the fee will remain the same.

iv) Beginners classes and exams were discussed. There will be practical classes at the new apiary for the beginners from march. Improvers' classes at the monthly meetings.

The Secretary will submit an advert to the Journal about new members.

v) New Apiary Maureen has bought a new shed to be erected at the new site.

It was thought that a written agreement/contract with the owner of the apiary site might be advisable.

Proposed expenditure to cover costs was discussed i.e. for new shed and new hives.

Other items available are 4 Apimondias (Brian), Queen rearing skyscraper hive (Brian), Nuc Box (Brian) and 3 Cedar hives (Steve)

vi) 2009 Program of events, Venues were discusse. Quiz night in November with ECBA

Suggestions for speakers such as having a Honey Judge or Bee inspector to give a talk were given.

vii) Marie suggested that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Museum for use of their grounds.

viii) Queen colour for 2009 is Green.

9 Raffle was drawn.

Chairman Closes meeting

Chairman thanked all those present for their support and help throughout the year and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Lynda Christie 12/01/2009

## SECRETARY BRIAN JONES REPORT TO AGM 05/01/2009

Membership of the association stayed about the same and by the end of the year stood at 47. One of those was an Honary member.

The association was saddened by the passing of our president Gwyn Davies. I am glad to say that representatives of the CBKA attended his funeral. However there was no mention of his beekeeping during the funeral service.

There are several prospective members to whom I am sending information and I hope some of them join us this season.

I managed to compile four newsletters in 2008. I hope this gives some useful information. It is hard not to duplicate articles that I know will be in the WBKA Bee news. Articles are very few from members and I would appreciate something from you in 2009. Some local news would be nice.

As most of you know the association bees are no longer with us and I hope the newly acquired site and the enthusiasm to start afresh with new bees and equipment will continue. The offer of the site from Penny Reynolds is greatly appreciated and I hope we can return her kindness in the future.

Meetings throughout the year have been successful and well attended. The beginning of the year was a number of classes for beginners.

Members' fees, with postage increases and the need for more equipment at the CBKA apiary, I feel the need even in the credit crunch for an increase in membership fees. Present £20 to £25 p.a. this is still low compared with most other associations.

Introductory packs for new members, examples shown.

2009 programme to be discussed later together with the suggestion for application for a grant from Carmarthen County Council and the lottery fund.

I was sad to hear by e-mail that John Burgess was not going to renew his membership to CBKA. He will be with ECBKA. His health has not been too good last year but this in no way reflects his not joining. I am assured he is well. Perhaps we can mark his services to CBKA over the years in some way.

Similarly for Steve Medland.

My thanks to the committee for their help last year. Also the fencing party.

Keep up the good work and may 2009 give us a bumper honey crop.

## SECRETARIES RAMBLINGS

Greetings beekeepers and a happy and prosperous new year to you all. I hope that you have done your winter treatment of your bees with Oxalic acid syrup solution. If not do it soon before those queens start to lay up too many eggs. Remember that the Oxalic acid solution will kill eggs and larvae, but not adult bees. I treated on 1st January it was my one and only new years resolution. A bit on the frosty side but even then three of the colonies woke up rapidly and came out quite strongly to see what all the fuss was, they soon went back when I dribbled the soln. on the seams of bees. I reckon it took me about two minutes to treat each hive not including the time to fill up the syringes.

I monitor one hive and the mite drop was averaging over 50 per day for the first week and has dropped to about 25 getting less all the time. Again I thought that the colony was clear of mites. How wrong can you be!

Don't forget to keep a check on the stores. Far to late to feed syrup, but candy will keep them going if they are short. Make sure that the candy is in close contact with the cluster and that you haven't left any queen excluders on.

During the occasional warm spell when the sun comes out and there is little wind the bees will emerge for cleansing flights. Check that there is no fouling on the front of the hives a sure sign of nosema. See previous Newsletters on treating Nosema with Fumagillin Fumidil B.

There will normally be a steady loss of dead bees in front of the hive throughout the winter this is normal. However if you see huge piles of dead bees have a quick check inside on a warm day. Mice may have taken over. The bees may have starved or some disease caused the problem.

Later on in late February early March you could start Spring feeding to build up breeder colonies. One pound of sugar to two pints of water or if you are metric one kilo of sugar to two litre of water. No need to give pollen supplements in Wales we have plenty of Gorse and Willow which will give more than enough. Bees do require a supply of water especially in early Spring. Not usually a problem with our changing climate.

The AGM saw a few changes of officials and I am sure you will join me in thanking our two new Life members nominated for their hard work over a considerable number of years, namely John Burgess past Treasurer and Steven Medland Apiary manager.

The new apiary is being organised we are buying some new equipment. Maureen has already purchased a shed to store equipment. Details of working parties and weekend practical classes will appear in the programme and newsletters. The apiary will now be managed by association officials on a rota system.

Do take heed of our Presidents campaign to look after you bees in 2009 and I am sure they will reward you providing the weather is kind this season. Henry Ferguson Thomas WBKA has kept records for many years and according to him years ending with a nine have nearly always resulted in a bumper honey crop. We shall see. Don't forget our beekeeping classes and meetings. Hope to see you there. Brian.



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS WEBSITE ADDRESS IS

[www.carmarthenshirebeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.carmarthenshirebeekeepers.org.uk)

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association's committee. Whilst every effort is taken in compiling the contents to ensure they are correct and accurate the club assumes no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions. Editor / Hon. Sec. Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association BRIAN JONES. CWMBURRY HONEY FARM, FERRYSIDE, CARMARTHENSHIRE TEL: 01267 267318 Email: [beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk)