

NEWSLETTER 31

WINTER 2010

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PHOTO GALLERY	1
IBRA VARROA	2
BEE NEWS	2
BDI INSURANCE	3
SHRILL CARDER BEE	4
AGM AGENDA	5
SECRETARY'S RAMBLINGS	6
DISCLAIMER	6



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION QUIZ TEAM 2010
SANDRA ELPHICK, CHRIS PHILLIPS, STEVE COX, BRIAN JONES.

NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting
Monday 3rd January
7.30 p.m.
At The
New Stags Head,
Red Street,
Carmarthen



EAST CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION QUIZ TEAM
MARK TUSON, NIKKI GRANT, JOHN BURGESS, ALAN SURMAN.



*SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE
CARMARTHENSHIRE
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION*

IBRA CONFERENCE

Varroa - still a problem in the 21st century? 29th January 2011 - Universtiy of Worcester Time - 10.00 - 16.30
REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 23:59 GMT 14th JANUARY 2011 [IBRA Members £20.00](#) [NonIBRA Members £25.00](#)

In recent years, the world's headlines have been full of accounts of mass deaths of honey bee colonies, and in the USA, where almond pollination is a multi billion dollar industry, the term Colony Collapse Disorder has been coined. Many possible explanations for these colony losses have been suggested. Some such as mobile phones and genetically modified crops have been swiftly dismissed by scientists, but pests and diseases, and potential interactions with pesticides and loss of bee forage, have received more serious attention. Much research is being carried out worldwide, including through the international COLOSS Network, and scientific consensus suggests that there is no single cause, and different interacting factors may be occurring in different regions. It is inescapable, however, that the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*, is present in all regions where recent colony losses have occurred, and the mite is known to interact with other pests and diseases, principally viruses.

Varroa is, however, not a new problem. It was first identified as a serious pest more than half a century ago, and chemical and other control methods have been available for decades. Why therefore is it still a problem? This major conference will bring together international authorities, who will outline our current knowledge about the biology of the mite and its interaction with other diseases, discuss the problems of chemical resistance, and suggest control methods, whether chemical, biological, biotechnical or by bee breeding, and suggest practical solutions for the practical beekeeper to enable us to live with the mite in the 21st century.

Preliminary programme of topics and speakers.

Varroa Biology — Dr Stephen Martin - Universtiy of Sheffield

Varroa and viruses — Dr Joachim de Miranda (Queens University Belfast / Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala).

Chemical control of Varroa — Dr Max Watkins (Vita Europe)

Biological control of Varroa — Dr David Chandler, (Warwick H R I), Dr Judy Pell (Rothamstead Research)

Breeding honey bees for Varroa tolerance — Norman Carreck (University of Sussex / IBBRA)

Varroa - the way forward - Dr Jochen Plugfelder (Agroscope, Switzerland).

For further information Email: mail@ibra.org.uk

Tel: (0)29 2037 2409 (0)29 2037 2409

Flintshire beekeeper dies after she was stung at hive

BBC - November 17, 2010 (From Devon Beekeepers)

A 47-year-old beekeeper died after she was stung while tending a hive, an inquest has been told. Alison Piercy, from Hawarden, Flintshire, kept bees in her spare time with her nephew Max Howe, 12. She died after being stung below the eye while checking a hive in Connah's Quay, Flintshire. The Flint inquest heard she had been stung before, but this could have been a different type of bee. The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

British Beekeepers' Association to stop endorsing bee-killing pesticides

By Alison Benjamin

Guardian - November 16, 2010 (From Devon Beekeepers)

The BBKA is to end its commercial relationship with a pesticide manufacturer whose products killed bees. The British Beekeepers' Association has today announced plans to end its controversial practice of endorsing pesticides in return for cash from leading chemical manufacturers. The endorsement of four products as "bee-friendly" in return for £17,500 a year caused outrage among many beekeepers because one of the companies, Bayer Crop Science, makes pesticides that are widely implicated in the deaths of honeybees worldwide. But the BBKA denies that it has bowed to pressure from members who have been increasingly critical of the its stance. Bayer's clothianidin was identified as causing the death of two-thirds of honeybees in southern Germany in 2008. In a statement sent out today to the secretaries of local beekeeping associations across the UK, the BBKA's president, Martin Smith, said: "Following discussion with the companies involved, the BBKA trustees have decided that endorsement and related product-specific payments will cease as soon as practically possible."

BEE DISEASE INSURANCE

This information was not included with the renewal forms for membership to Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association for 2011. If you have more than three colonies and wish to insure them for Bee Disease Insurance calculate the extra premium on the chart and add to your application form. To be received as soon as possible in the New Year. Many Thanks. Editor.

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 2011 (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 31ST 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.

From BBC News 29 November 2010 Bumblebees protected on new Pembrokeshire path



The shrill carder bee is one of the rarest UK bee species

A path that runs near a Ministry of Defence (MoD) firing range in Pembrokeshire is being opened with the conservation of bumblebees a priority.

As well as improving the habitat for the rare shrill carder bees the project also plugs what has previously been a gap in the county's coastal path.

The site near Castlemartin is one of just six in the UK where the species can be found.

Changes will be made to the management of the land so it is more bee friendly.

The firing range covers around 6,000 acres of relatively untouched coastal grassland.

Local ranger Lynne Houlston: "Castlemartin range is an extremely busy live firing range so when the troops are training the coast path is actually closed to the public.

"This new trail will provide a 10K (6.2 mile) trail with the majority off road and it's not just for walkers, it's for horse riders and for cyclists as well."

The Castlemartin Range Trail has been funded by the Welsh Assembly Partnership, working in partnership with Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) and Defence Estates (DE).

Earlier this year the Bumblebee Conservation Trust won £25,000 in an internet vote to improve the habitat for bumblebees on the land surrounding the path.

Ms Houlston said the way the land was managed was being changed to encourage wild flowers that are so important to the bees.

"Hopefully in the summer there will be increased bees and hopefully a flush of flowers.

"We have been working with the MoD to identify land close to the path that could be managed in a more sensitive way to help improve the habitat for the bumblebees.

"It's taken three years to get to this and it's really stunning. We can't wait."

The path was opened by Wales' Environment Minister Jane Davidson.

She said it brought the assembly government a step closer to achieving its goal of creating a coastal path that spans the entire Welsh coast by 2012.

"The Castlemartin Range Trail allows us to balance the pressing need for military training with the desire of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and others to enjoy this area of spectacular beauty," she said.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

TO BE HELD AT THE NEW STAGS HEAD, CARMARTHEN. 7.30 P.M. MONDAY 3RD JANUARY

AGENDA Bring this along to the AGM

1. CHAIRMANS WELCOME
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS
4. MINUTES OF 2009 AGM
5. APPROVAL OF 2009 MINUTES Proposed.....Seconded.....
6. MATTERS ARISING.....
7. REPORTS:
 CHAIRMAN (Andrew Bowering)
 TREASURER ACCOUNTS (William Bradley)
 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS Proposed.....Seconded.....
 SECRETARY (Brian Jones)
8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 PRESIDENT.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 VICE PRESIDENT.....Proposed..... Seconded.....
 CHAIRMANProposed..... Seconded.....
 VICE CHAIRMAN.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 TREASURER.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 SECRETARY.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 LIBRARIAN.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 W B K A REPRESENTATIVE.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
 SWARM CO-ORDINATOR.....Proposed.....Seconded.....
9. PROGRAMME FOR 2010 DISCUSSION and SUGGESTIONS.....
.....
.....
10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

If there are nominations for any of the positions of the officers please make sure they arrive a week prior to the AGM to the secretary. Brian Jones Cwmburry Honey Farm, Ferryside, Carmarthenshire. SA17 5TW Tel:01267267318 email: beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk.

Save Europe's bees

EU Commerz - November 8, 2010 (From Devon Beekeepers)

Bee mortality is rising while the number of beekeepers in Europe is declining, all of which could have a serious impact on food production since most plants and crops are pollinated by bees.

The EP Agriculture Committee therefore wants the EU to step up support to the beekeeping industry when the common agricultural policy is next revamped. With 76% of food production and 84% of plant species dependent on pollination by bees, the committee approved a draft resolution on Wednesday calling on the Commission to increase aid to the bee-keeping sector in the common agricultural policy (CAP) after 2013, by reviewing legislation and increasing financial

Database shows how bees see world in UV

By Neil Bowdler

BBC - December 11, 2010 (From Devon Beekeepers)

Researchers are being offered a glimpse of how bees may see flowers in all their ultra-violet (UV) glory. The [Floral Reflectance Database](http://www.reflectance.co.uk) (FReD) <http://www.reflectance.co.uk> was created by researchers at Imperial College London and Queen Mary, University of London. It enables researchers to "see" plant colours through the eyes of bees and other pollinating insects. Bees have different colour detection systems from humans, and can see in the UV spectrum. Details of the free database are published in the open-access journal [PLoS ONE](http://www.plosone.org).

SECRETARY'S RAMBLINGS

Christmas nearly here and the Honey show, Quiz and Inter club dinner have all passed. All rather poorly attended. Is it the dark evenings and bad weather or are there just too many other things taking up beekeepers valuable time ?

The Quiz against East Carmarthenshire Beekeepers was lost by one point this year. Our excuse was that it was their turn to win anyway. But top marks to our team especially Sandra who obviously had been paying attention at Maureen's summer classes as she got all her questions right. But where were our team supporters.?

The Dinner also held at The Emlyn Arms, Llanarthney. Was a cosy one with eight in total. We used to have three times as many a few years ago. But a great time was had by all. Thanks to Meleri for looking after us.

For the last Club meeting I thought I would make a change from the usual presentations and talks for beginners. So I spent a few hours doing a visual quiz which seemed to be appreciated by everyone. Even if a couple of the questions sparked off some interesting discussions.

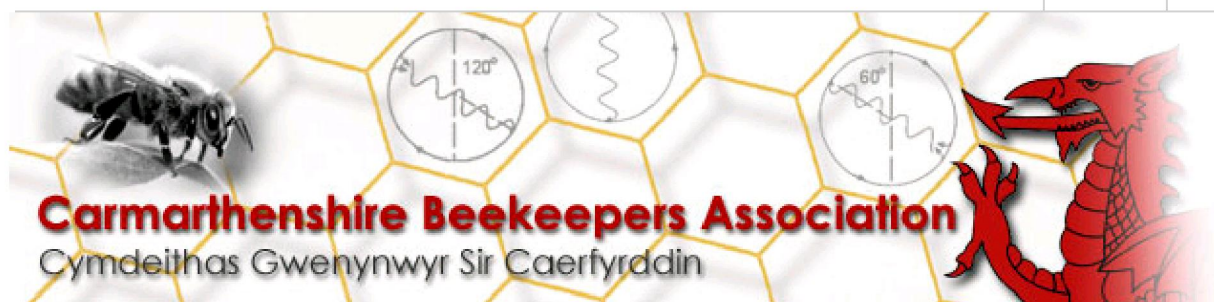
One question was which is the main honey producing plant in the UK. Answer clover. Well it was up to a few years ago. But with the recent changes in agriculture and the loss of hay meadows. Most grass gets cut for Haylage or Silage so it may well be that Oil seed Rape or something else has taken over. I could find no recent information on the internet and have even contacted FERA to see if they have any information.

Then there was the question do bees get nectar from Red Clover. Well there is a lot of information on this one. In the States they have to put honeybees in their clover fields or the red clover does not set seed. I read an article recently that the nectar is produced by capillary action and at certain times and temperatures make it available to honeybees. I always thought it was only the second flowers after the first harvest that produced shorter florets, but apparently this is not true.

Anyway we can research this a bit more and we even have one of our members going to sow some red clover in his garden to see if he can get some photos of bees feeding.

If you do treat your bees in winter with Oxalic Acid (Not all agree with this method) Do remember the rules when handling any acids Goggles gloves and masks. Also warm up the solution slightly . We don't want frozen bee lollipops. Pick a day when it is not freezing and do the job quickly. So Best Wishes to you all for Christmas and lets hope we have some better weather in 2011.

Brian.



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS WEBSITE 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,