

# Preserving the native Honeybees in Northern Ireland

Low Country Native Irish Honey Association

Chairperson Jelmer Hania

# Bees

solitary / bumble / honeybees





# Honeybees



# Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association

Ambition to encourage the native Irish honeybee by breeding and conservation.

- Breeding honeybee queens; her offspring is the honeybee colony
- Conservation by promoting the use of the native Irish honeybee in Mid Ulster

# Problem with importation of bees

Risk of importing pests and diseases

- Pests
  - Varroa mite - since 1990's in Northern Ireland
  - Small hive beetle – established in Italy
  - Asian hornet – established in France
- Diseases
  - Brood diseases
  - Viruses



# Small hive beetle



# BREXIT and the risk of bringing in the small hive beetle

- New regulation since 1<sup>st</sup> of January, restricts free movement of bees from the EU to GB
- Large honeybee importers now looking to use the NI protocol to **import Italian honeybees** through NI into GB
- The small hive beetle pest is established in Italy
- The small hive is causing havoc in honeybee hives

# How to support our campaign

- Prevent the importation of honeybees
  - Prevent using NI for large scale importing Italian honeybees into UK
  - Preventing every possibility of bringing in the small hive beetle

AND

- Our organisation's aim is to conserve the Native Irish Honeybee
  - Italian bees are a variant of bees which interbreeds with the Native Irish variant
  - Uniquely the native Irish Honeybee is still the dominant honeybee variant in Northern Ireland



# Native Irish crossbred with Italian Honeybee





# Native Irish queen and workerbees





# Habitat





# Hedge of mixed trees





# Hawthorne hedge





# Hedge of mix trees



# Essential spring forage - pollen





# Essential spring forage





# Low Country Native Irish Honeybee association

We invite the Mid Ulster council to work with us to preserve the Native Irish Honeybee and it's habitat

Thank you

Jelmer Hania

[jelmerhania@hotmail.com](mailto:jelmerhania@hotmail.com)

Chairperson LCNIHA