

HELENSBURGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER No. 175 SEPTEMBER 2012

FIRST MEETING OF WINTER SEASON
THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 7.15 pm: THE HALL AT RHU CHURCH

We get the winter series of talks and other activities started with a review of what has been a difficult season. This provides the opportunity to compare notes and ask questions on what has happened and what might have been. Possibly one of the most useful meetings of the year with lots of feedback.

TABLE DISPLAY WINS SILVER AWARD AT SBA CENTENARY.

Our table display will be on show for all to see at our first meeting when we also hope to put on a short presentation on the SBA Centenary Event. At the end of the meeting the display will be dismantled in order that all of you who have contributed to it can take back your items, so please be at the first meeting.

Many thanks to Dominic for the panorama, Neil for making up the box and frames and for supplying honey and equipment, Alastair and Lynne for the photos and honey, Ian for honey too, and David for the hive tool, Ben for the mead, wax and polish, Jim for the screens and mininuc and bee breeding information, Fi for baking a magnificent skep cake (which you can sample at the meeting) Barbara and Mast Architects for helping with the panels, and to all of you who provided photos of yourselves.

RICHARD BALL SPEAKS ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
AT PARTICK BURGH HALL ON TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER 7.30pm

We have the opportunity to attend a talk by Richard Ball on Integrated Pest Management to control various bee diseases including Varroa. Richard is this year's Scottish Beekeepers Association traveling speaker, visiting Associations throughout Scotland starting in Skye and finishing in Dumfries. We are fortunate to get him virtually on our doorstep under the auspices of CABA.

Richard started beekeeping in 1983 and in 1996 he was appointed as a seasonal Bee inspector for Surrey and Sussex. In 2006 he became National Bee Inspector having responsibility for the bee inspection service in England and Wales.

From past experience there will be a lively exchange of views. It is also a good opportunity to meet other beekeepers in the Greater Glasgow area and to compare notes on the season, particularly queen mating problems. The small room has been booked apparently so it would be advisable to get the early train.

HONEY CLASSES AT THE HORTICUTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

David Brown, the judge, noted the disappointingly low number of entrant this year. There were the three regulars (Messrs. Cameron, Sanderson and

Thornley) and new entrant Mike Appleton, and Graham Greenwell. The results were:

Set

1st Neil Sandison, 2nd Alastair Cameron, 3rd Mike Thornley

Clear 1st Mike Thornley, 2nd Mike Appleton, 3rd Alastair Cameron

A frame of honey ready for extraction

1st Neil Sandison

The Buchanan Cup for most points in the three classes went to Neil Sandison who managed to get one of his Manley frames capped and onto the show bench. Well done to everyone who participated and thanks to David for judging. Surely we can get a better turnout next year?

CLUB APIARY: REPORT FROM NEIL SANDISON

More on that hive No. 3. On 19 July there was no trace of the marked queen but there were 4 queen cells in the centre of 3 frames in the top deep box. Bearing in mind that I could not find any eggs on 10 July where did they come from? Despite it being late in the year for a new Queen I left one queen cell on a marked frame. I lost count of the other Queen cells, some complete, some being constructed in the bottom deep box. In any event all the other queen cells were removed. However early in August the remaining queen cell had not hatched. The hive was still strong and placid, so I decided to put one deep box and the shallow on top of hive on stance No.5 (split from Luss hive) amalgamating with paper below the deep box, leaving the queen cell on site No 3. I know a lot of the flying bees would return to original site but a percentage would remain in their new hive and this was helped by the poor weather that restricting the flying.

The deep box which was all that was left of hive No 3 was moved in small steps to the side and on the 13 August a hive which was moved from site No 6 to Keppoch was returned and put on stance No. 3 and the original deep box put on top with to amalgamate with paper below it. On the 21 August there was 5 frames of brood and plenty stores so this should see it through the winter. I would hate to loose it after all this mucking about. (Other hive reports are on our web site).

Unfortunately David Brown is having to give up beekeeping and I would like to thank him for the deep boxes and roofs he has given to the club.

VARROA WARNING FROM JIM MCCULLOCH

I monitored a number of colonies for Varroa. I treated with Apivar and so far have checked 4 colonies. The Varroa drop is very high for all the colonies: so high that I am having difficulty in counting the mites. These colonies had a low Varroa drop before treatment so members should be warned not to depend on the natural Varroa drop but to treat in the autumn as usual even if their natural drop count is low.

REMINDER OF DATES FOR WINTER PROGRAM

Just a reminder of the dates of the winter program – these are also on the association website. Note that the Nov. and Jan. meetings are on the *last* Thursday of the month and **not** the 4th Thursday of the month – the secretary's fault.

Date	Speaker
27/09/2012	Report on Season (Alastair to chair)
25/10/2012	Gavin Ramsay - Bee communication
29/11/2012	Charlie Irwin- Nuclei
31/01/2013	AGM, Quiz & Social Night
28/02/2013	Graham Sharpe - Diseases.
28/03/2013	Ian Craig - Producing Honey for Sale
25/04/2013	Jim McCulloch - Conservation of the Native Honeybees
30/05/2013	Members Evening