



# HDBA Helensburgh & District Beekeepers Association

NEWSLETTER #201 – February 2015



**Next Meeting Steve Sunderland.** Regional Bee Inspector and much more! will be giving us a talk on ‘Bee health’ Come and find out about the the dreaded Small Hive Beetle which is threatening to invade our shores and may already have sneaked in! As usual we meet at 7:15 at Rhu Church hall **Thursday the 26th**. Hopefully we will have a few goodies to enjoy as well.



The Presidents Tips And Tricks for the month of February



## This Month's tip

March is all about worrying whether or not your bees have sufficient stores. After a few years you will get to know if you have provided enough stores in the autumn and also you can gauge the weight of supers when you do the oxalic acid treatment in December. But don't get complacent as a colony developing well will consume a lot of stores. The traditional method is to heft the hive, by lifting it from one side and then the other. If it feels light take action which involves laying on slabs of home made candy or commercial versions such as Ambrosia fondant (remembering with the latter to create an opening in the plastic wrapping and place this face down on top of the frames). Eric McArthur suggests that if you are unsure about the weight take off the crown board. If the bees are right up at the top they probably need feeding. (Eric would use sugar bags quickly dipped in a bucket of water again with a hole to provide access). If the hive is very light and no bees are showing at the top you may have a weak colony that is also starving which might be saved by spraying the occupied frames with a sugar syrup solution and placing a frame of stores immediately adjacent to the cluster.

The most important thing is not to loose your bees so if you are unsure about any of this phone your mentor or me (01436 820493)

Mike Thornley.

## HDBA members to receive awards at SBA AGM

It is hoped that we get good contingent of HDBA members going over to Perth for what should be an interesting SBA AGM.

## Beginners and Intermediate Courses

We will run our own “taster” course for beginners on Thursday the 16th April evening followed by a visit to the apiary on Saturday the 18th. Much more comprehensive courses for beginners and intermediates are available from Graeme Sharpe at the Agricultural College at Ayr Tel 01292 525375 [graeme.Sharpe@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:graeme.Sharpe@sruc.ac.uk) Highly recommended!