



NEWSLETTER – April 2015

Next Meeting Thursday the 23rd April at 7:15pm at Rhu Parish Church. Graeme Sharpe, Scotland's "training supremo" will talk to us on Swarm Control. Definitely not to be missed as that time of year is rapidly approaching.

Extractor for Sale **Now in working perfectly!** A Dadant stainless steel tangential extractor will be auctioned at the next meeting. Proceeds to the club.

Beginners and Intermediate Courses

We are running our own "taster" course for beginners on Thursday the 16th April evening followed by a visit to the apiary on Saturday the 18th. We may need to borrow a few bee suits for that weekend if there is a big demand. Can you please contact Alastair Cameron if you can help. Please let any friends know who are interested in starting beekeeping. 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 Highly recommended!

Oxalic Acid Containers/Dispensers Last chance!

There is still £1 on offer for each container but please bring them to the next meeting anyway as we will reuse them for the club hives.

This months Tip

We opened our hives for the first time on Easter Monday. The bees were very busy, in some cases bringing in such heavy loads of pollen that they were crash landing at the hive entrances. We saw the old marked queens no bother, but only one of the three new queens we were wanting to mark. In that case she was so quick, diving from one side of the comb to the other, that we decided to leave it to another day in case we damaged her or put her to flight. As one of my mentors used to say to me : "Be patient". He was talking about queens getting mated not marked but it applies to a lot of other beekeeping matters. Stop worrying about our own deadlines and think about the bees and what drives them.

This month's tip (for next month) is swarm control, swarm control, swarm control - so we all will be well advised to turn out for Graeme Sharpes talk and demonstration on this cornerstone of beekeeping; and, by the way, are you sure you have enough kit to do swarm controls?

The committee

We have held two lengthy and useful meetings since the AGM, mapping out and initiating the work for the year. We have signed off the apiary Risk assessment (thanks to Alistair and Neil) which we will have to follow at apiary meetings for everyone's safety and benefit. We have also made considerable progress on reviewing our constitution (thanks to Tim, David and Donnie). It is clear for insurance purposes that that we need to know who in HDBA is a member of the SBA and the secretary will be contacting you on this.

Summer programme

The summer programme is to built round the association's apiary and its management through the coming season, following best practice. Notice will be given of tasks to be carried out (queen marking, inspections, swarm control, etc) and all members will be welcomed for the help that they can provide and also, we hope , for the experience that they can gain.

Library

Nikki will be bringing books for the new and not so new beekeepers to our next two meetings

Mike Thornley