



## CHRISTMAS ISSUE 2015

### **NEXT MEETING**

AGM, Thursday 28 January 7.15 pm at Rhu Church Hall

Notices, papers etc will be sent out in due course.

Jim McCulloch will be giving a talk entitled "50 Shades of Grey" and there will be a social side too with eats and drink.

### **WHY WE NEED HDBA - PART 2**

#### **THANKS AND ONE MORE VOLUNTEER PLEASE**

In the last Newsletter I emphasised the inter-related issues of conserving honey bees and recruiting and supporting beekeepers, pointing out that to do this we needed assistance in running the association. So many thanks to Sandra Juster for offering to help with the Hall, to Jane Leach for taking on the job of looking after new beekeepers, and to the 2 members who have put their names forward as committee members for election at the AGM.

We need one more person: to take on the role of editing this newsletter and linking the association to our community, for instance by arranging for notices of our meetings to be printed in local newspapers, with the occasional editorial piece. This is an interesting and not difficult (all be it an important) job and I would be very pleased to hear from anybody who would like to take this on, initially with mentoring support if wanted. (Contact details immediately below).

### **LAST CALL FOR OXALIC ACID**

If anyone still needs oxalic acid in sugar solution for trickle treatment contact me at 01436 820493 or on [masthome@btinternet.com](mailto:masthome@btinternet.com). Guidance notes were issued by David Norton at the previous reminder.

### **WINTER FESTIVAL**

Despite horrific weather the beekeepers stuck it out and were rewarded with takings over one day of gales that compared favourably with the results over two sunny days last year. The amount and quality of the products were impressive, so well done to all involved.

### **SBA CONSULTATION MEETING 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

The first half of the day was for the secretaries' of the local beekeeping associations, now known as Affiliated Beekeeping Associations (ABAs) . Matters discussed included the re-writing of the Secretaries Manual, a useful document for secretaries and members alike. Insurance for association apiaries was also raised. Alan Riach, the education convenor, drew the associations'

attention to the availability of study notes on the website for the Basic Beemasters Certificate with a view to achieving some conformity of standards in beekeeping across the country

After lunch there was an open meeting for SBA members where various items of interest were discussed. A major topic was the appointment of the SBA Development Officer. The terms of reference for the part time post include "Developing a structured social media campaign to promote bees, beekeeping and the Scottish Beekeepers Association" and "Increasing membership through promotional activities". The full terms of reference can be viewed via the SBA web site. The appointee Michelle Berry, a management consultant, will take up her duties in the New Year. Michelle is from Helensburgh and we should invite her to one of our meetings. The day was rounded off by an interesting lecture from Professor David Evans of St Andrews University on "Deformed Wing Virus and Varroa."

The annual Consultation Meeting in November and the Annual General Meeting in March are open to all member of the SBA. The meetings are of interest and enable members to know how the SBA ticks and are an opportunity to meet all the people that appear in the Scottish Beekeeper magazine who work for all our members, as well as meeting with fellow beekeepers from all parts of Scotland.

Thanks to Ben Bellamy for this report and to Ben and Neil Sandison for representing HDBA at the meeting.

## **FINALLY**

**Best wishes from the committee for Christmas and good beekeeping in 2016**

Mike Thornley