

NEWSLETTER #222 – January 2017

Next meeting: 26 January 2017. Rhu Church hall, from 7.15pm:

The AGM. Please make an effort to come along. Members of the committee will be elected and now is the time to air anything and become more involved. Cameron will be sending relevant documents in due course. Following the AGM there will be a talk by **Michelle Berry** who is Development officer for the SBA.

CABA AGM

The CABA AGM is due to be held on **Tuesday 7th February 2017** at the Heart of Scotstoun Community Centre, Balmoral Street, Glasgow, G14 0BL.

What's happening in the hive?

Hopefully all of the oxalic acid treatments went without too many hitches. Given the risks of Varroa infestation it's worth doing what's necessary to keep it under control. Hopefully queens will soon be laying well as the colony begins to build up. Remember to keep checking for weather damage and ensure there are enough stores, particularly as the colony will increase its consumption as it grows. Also, winter is frequently when suppliers have their annual sales....
<http://www.thorne.co.uk/winter-sale>, <http://www.paynesbeefarm.co.uk/sale/> etc.

Club Apiary

Neil will no longer be manager of the club apiary this year. We have had interest from one member, but full management and running of this valuable resource needs to be resolved urgently and will be discussed at the AGM. Summaries of the hives are attached. In addition to all of those who helped out with weekly inspections throughout the swarming season, Neil would like to thank Tim Syddall (5 x stainless steel anchor cables), Robert Dalgleish (a hive stand) and Norrie Forster (supply and installation of 3 x 2 concrete slabs).

Archie Leitch

It is with great sadness that we became aware of the death of Archie Leitch. It is worth reprinting a message sent round previously by Mike Thornley describing Archie's life.

Archie read maths and science at Glasgow University and from there was called up in 1944 to work on torpedos at Coulport. After the war he went to Jordonhill for teacher training. He was a long serving teacher at Hermitage Academy, a former junior football player and enthusiastic keeper of pigeons.

From the Helensburgh and District Beekeepers Association perspective he was our senior member by a distance, having taken up beekeeping in the 1940s, learning the art from his father in law, a chauffeur gardener in Cove. In those days they worked without veil or gloves. At Hermitage Academy, in the old building, it was not unknown for Archie to have to interrupt his lesson to collect a swarm, at the instigation of the rector who was also a local beekeeper. Archie told me that he was interested in bees for what they were, always wanting to look at his bees and see what

was happening, disturbing them rather too much. As he admitted the best honey crop he ever had was when he went on holiday to Balachulish for two weeks: a lesson for us all. Archie's death breaks a link with the beekeeping community that existed around the Gareloch in the post war period, well before HDBA came into being. We have lost a part of our past.

Link of the month: http://barnsleybeekeepers.org.uk/beekeeping_year.html

This website from Barnsley beekeepers gives a nice overview of the beekeeping year.