



#227 July 2017

### **A few words from Mike Thornley**

#### *Time to be patient*

This is a betwixt and between time, for the bees and the beekeeper. Hopefully we're past the worst of the June gap and things will pick up in July and give the bees (and beekeeper) a bumper crop of honey. At the same time there will be a lot of beekeepers (and colonies) nervously waiting to see if their new queens have got mated and are laying. Remember that you rarely see signs of laying until 4 weeks have elapsed from the time when the swarm control was carried out (or the colony swarmed out leaving queen cells behind). So be patient and note that a content colony probably has a queen. But if there is no evidence after 5 clear weeks, action is required or you run the risk of laying workers. Put in a frame of eggs from another colony to see if queen cells are drawn, if you are unsure there is no queen (which is why I have said before that beekeepers really need 3 colonies, rather than the minimum of two which leaves bees and beekeepers somewhat exposed).

#### *Apivar*

37 members plus the HDBA apiary took the opportunity to order Apivar through the association, to treat a total of 134 colonies. The Vet has placed the order and I will let you know as soon as it arrives. Sue and I did a Varroa check at the beginning of June and recorded a low mite count over 3 days. This may be the result of comprehensive and coordinated treatment in previous years but we know from experience that things can change quickly and a low count in early June does not necessarily mean a low count in late July. So keep checking on all your colonies.

#### *Honey show*

We have taken off a couple of supers of spring honey and judging from the reports from other members when ordering Apivar we were not alone. So there should be no excuses for not putting in an entry at the horticultural society show at the end of August. All you need is a 1lb traditional squat jar with a screw top lid. If you have ordered other ones and need a couple for showing get in touch with me.

### **CABA Summer Bus Trip 2017**

Here is information from CABA regarding the summer trip.

*Only 30 places available; first come first served!*

When: Sunday the 27th of August.

Where: a visit to Graham Ramsay's apiary near Newburgh.

Cost: Bus £20, dinner £15/£18 and £2.50 if you opt for tea/coffee. Paid on the day.

Booking Deadline: NEED to give the following information to Mhairi Neill (CABA Secretary) by **Sunday 13th of August**.

#### Itinerary

Leaving: Heart of Scotstoun Community Centre, Balmoral Street Glasgow G14 0BL, 10am

Returning: Heart of Scotstoun Community Centre, Balmoral Street Glasgow G14 0BL 8.30pm

Lunch: please provide your own Packed Lunch

Dinner: Kirkstyle Inn Dunning. The Kirkstyle Inn in Dunning has sent us a lovely menu. You can choose to have two or three courses. Tea/Coffee is extra at £2.50.

If you wish to book a place for this trip, send the following information directly to [glasgowbeeksec@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:glasgowbeeksec@hotmail.co.uk):

- 1) Your Name
- 2) the Local Association you belong to.
- 3) Your choices of two or three courses from the Kirkstyle Inn menu. (S- soup, pate, cheese) (M- fish, scampi, mushrooms, steak) (D- ice-cream, strawberries)
- 4) Whether you would like tea/coffee after the meal.



### Honeybee mural nominations

[The Good of the Hive](#) project is coming to Scotland! New York artist Matthew Willey created The Good of the Hive project to raise awareness of honeybees and their plight. His mission is to paint 50,000 honeybees on many sites across the world, and he's agreed to come to Scotland to create one of his masterpieces in August this year. To view some of his previous works please [click here](#).



### Joint beekeeping celebration

Ayr and District Beekeeper's Association and The SBA are joining forces for a celebration of beekeeping in light of Ayr and District's 100<sup>th</sup> year. Ayr Racecourse, 8-10<sup>th</sup> September. The event will include speakers as well as workshops. See [www.sbaconvention.co.uk](http://www.sbaconvention.co.uk) for more information.

### Survey concerning Wing Morphometry Project Summer 2017

The following came through to SBA members, but is worth collating here in case it's of interest. This new research project to study honey bee race in Scotland will collect samples of bees from apiaries across Scotland to examine these, using wing morphometry (recall Jim McCulloch's work) in the first instance in order to establish bee race. This may be followed up with DNA analysis if that can be arranged.

The aim is to get a geographically representative current picture of bee race in this country.

This is separate from, but complementary to, the work of the new Scottish Native Honey Bee Society.

*All that is required of a participating beekeeper is to collect a sample of their bees and send them to us according to some simple instructions.*

A random sample of beekeepers will be selected from those responding positively, in such a way

as to give good coverage of Scotland.

Those beekeepers selected will then be sent a pack of instructions and the means to collect and send back free of charge a sample of 50 or so worker bees collected from one of their colonies over the period 11th to 13th August 2017.

***Participants must be beekeepers with at least one colony, must have access to a domestic freezer to store the bees collected until they are posted back, and must be available to do the sample collection on either Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, or Sunday 13th August 2017, our chosen sampling weekend.***

Anyone who's interested should contact Alison Gray ([a.j.gray@strath.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.gray@strath.ac.uk))

**Link of the month:** The latest in the series of videos from the SBA shows the circle method of nucleus building, an important beekeeping practice for a variety of reasons, like queen rearing and introduction, swarm control or prevention, or raising to sell on. To watch the video [please click here](#).