

Hi All Members

### News

Welcome to new member Lauchlan.

It took a while for the season to start in earnest – but we are there now!

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 14 members participated in our all-day Swarming Workshop. We covered all things swarming – why bees swarm, how they prepare to swarm, what effect swarming has on the colony, different methods of control/prevention, what equipment is required, bait hives and collecting swarms. We looked in some detail at 3 different methods of swarm control/prevention – Artificial Swarm, De Maree and walk away split – all three were demonstrated and questions answered. Many thanks to John and Kevin for their sage advice.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 8 members attended the monthly apiary visit, which was kindly hosted by our new member Dougie in Stranraer. The main theme was looking for the queen in Dougies 1 colony which is a brood and a half configuration – she was found and marked. FEDSS were all ok so weekly inspections will continue. After the beesuits came off we had a cuppa and a good chat about American Foul Brood – how to spot it, what do you if it is suspected and what is likely to happen if it is confirmed by the Bee Inspector. Thanks to Dougie for organising the visit – and for the cuppa.

### Bee jobs this month

Swarming season is well and truly upon us.

Weekly inspections should now be a routine.

FEDSS

F – Food

E – Eggs

D – Disease

S – Space – does the queen have space to lay and is there room for nectar to be stored? Add supers as required – they fill quickly in this weather and space is required to “hang out” the nectar to reduce moisture content.

S – Swarming – this is the biggy in May and June and the reason weekly inspections are so important. Be ready to take action if you see queen cells. If you’re not sure what to do when you find queen cells, refresh your memory by reading your favourite bee book, call your mentor or another beekeeper.

Some tips

Remember that an emergency queen cell can be made from a larvae up to 4 days old – or 7 days after the last eggs were laid. This is crucial in managing colonies made queenless.

Don't disturb a colony with a virgin queen or she may fly off. Once you are sure you have a single queen cell (or 2 depending on your views!), leave well alone for 3 weeks, then check to see if she has mated and is laying.

Consider bait hives and/or wing clipping.

Have your swarm collecting kit ready to lift at short notice.

Swarms collected can be treated with ApiBioxal (or similar) while there is no brood.

Be careful what you wish for – a swarm from an unknown source can spell trouble – disease and/ or aggressive bees!

No heroics – a swarm up a tree/in a chimney is not worth risking a nasty fall or damaging property.

### Committee activity

The committee will meet in June.

We will discuss new Glenrazie trophy (progress being made!), Wigtown Show stand and other events, summer workshops + apiary visits. We'll also start to think about the winter programme and getting speakers arranged

### Meetings over the summer

June – apiary visit at Heidi and Phil's at Drummore – details to follow

July ) apiary visit at Fiona's either July or August – details to follow

August) possible visit to an apiary outwith our area August or July – I'll see what I can organise

Pests and Diseases workshop – to be fitted in somewhere

Queen rearing group is now set up – John is running this small group and will keep in touch with the queen rearers

Happy Beekeeping!

Linda

Chair