

Hi All Members

## News

A good turnout at the AGM in November, which was followed by Kevin talking about what he keeps in his toolbox and taking bees to the heather

Ex members Susan and Grant have made a donation of some equipment. The committee will discuss how best to distribute this

Our 2023 Honey Show has been postponed until early 2024. You now have the schedule, so keep a hold of those jars of honey/frames of honey/ wax creations etc. and think about what you can enter – we'll keep you posted.

December meeting will be a Christmas lunch at Craignelder Hotel on 10<sup>th</sup> December – numbers are now final

We hope to run a beginners course again in early 2024. Watch this space.

## Bee jobs this month

Regular checks - ensure hives are sounds, mouse guards haven't slipped, there is plenty fondant/stores. Heavy snowfalls can be a good insulator, but ensure hives still have ventilation.

Varroa treatment – autumn treatment should by now have been removed. December is a good month to treat with Apibioxal or a similar product, either by dribbling or sublimation. Why December? As we know Varroa mites breed in the capped brood. At this time of year there will be minimal brood as the queen laying has stopped or reduced to very little. The queen will start to lay again after the winter solstice. This treatment deals with adult mites which piggy back on the worker bees when there is no capped brood.

Clear hive floor of dead bees – bees will die over the winter – workers remove corpses if they can but mouseguards and weather can hinder this. I remove the entrance block each month and use a wire coat hanger to pull out dead bees. A carpet of dead bees on the varroa floor can result in reduced ventilation.

Prepare for the Honey Show

Watch the SBA regular webinars – as usual some interesting subjects

Have a look at the SBA exam syllabus -

<https://scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/exams>

Studying helped me a great deal in my beekeeping knowledge. There are written and practical exams each year – starting with the Beginners practical/oral exam and right through to the Advanced Practical Apiarian exam

Pay your WGBA annual subscription – details of how to pay will be sent to you soon

### Committee activity

The committee will meet in early January. We have a fair bit to discuss including rescheduled Honey Show, the Beginners course and items raised at the AGM

### Provisional meetings dates for your diary

28<sup>th</sup> January

25<sup>th</sup> February

31<sup>st</sup> March

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Beekeeping 2024!

This will be my final newsletter as I pass the baton to Dougie, our new Chair

Linda  
Secretary