

Newsletter August 2025

As Dougie has been a bit busy this month with a family wedding, here is a quick update

Membership

1 new member to welcome this month – Gary, who is already a regular at our meetings

July Events

8 members visited BeeSpace, the association apiary of South of Scotland beekeepers. Phil was the perfect host with lots to show us and chat about in the training apiary. We also had a demonstration of how to do a disease inspection - notes are attached along with some notes on the different solutions to effectively clean tools and poly hives.

Our hosts were thanked with gifts of wine, plants and a big box of home produce from the members and these were gratefully received.

Kevins Bee Blog

The blog has been sent - it's heather time for Kevin

August events

Wednesday 6th - Wigtown Show – Heather, Gary B, Jenny and I will be on the WGBA stand

Sunday 31st – Preparing for the Winter - venue tbc

Honey Show – November 2025

Our honey show schedule will be with you presently, but you can be sure that the usual classes will appear – light, medium, heather, chunk, soft set, cut comb, frame – so please bear that in mind when jarring up your honey harvest. Pound jars are required for showing so if you need some for your prize honey let us know. There are some show frame holders available if you want to set aside a perfect frame.

Things to do in August

- Take off capped honey and/or use a refractometer to ensure honey is less than 20% water content before removing it. WGBA has a spinner and refractometer for use by the members – just let us know if you would like to use them
- Return the empty supers to the hive they came from, above the crown board, for the bees to clean them up. Once clean they can be removed safely stored for the winter
- Cappings can also be fed back to the bees for cleaning up – put them in a rapid feeder without the cup – you'll be amazed how clean they become. This wax is great for candles/show blocks
- **Wasps are already a big problem this year and colonies will be lost if wasps get inside and then spread the word.** See Dave Cushman's website for hints and tips (always a good "go to")
- http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/robber_screen.html
- Reduce entrances to ensure the bees can defend their stores from robber bees and/or wasps, watch out especially for weak colonies who can't defend their stores and small nucs – entrances can be reduced to 1 or 2 bee space – better to have a queue to get in than letting wasps/robbers have access.
- Keep inspection times to a minimum so that the hives are not exposed to wasps/robbers
- Put out wasp traps – a jam jar with a hole in the lid, containing some water, jam and a touch of vinegar (bees will not be attracted to the vinegar but wasps will)

- Watch stores – August could be a sparse month for forage given the RBW is already going over, unless you have Himalayan Balsam close by (you'll know if you have, as the bees will be "ghosty" – covered in white pollen). If you do need to feed – use fondant rather than syrup, as wasps prefer syrup, and take care not to spill syrup around the hive
- Order varroa treatments for winter preparation.

Happy Beekeeping

Linda, Secretary