

Newsletter November and December 2025

Hi everybody, welcome to my last newsletter for 2025. First, the Honey Show Results.

The 2025 Honey Show results were as follows:

Light Honey 1st -Richard Atkins, 2nd – Linda Robertson, 3rd – No Award

Medium Honey - 1st – Linda Robertson, 2nd – Richard Atkins, 3rd – Andrew Hedley

Creamed/soft set Honey - 1st – Andrew Hedley, 2nd – No Award, 3rd – No Award

Cut Comb Honey - 1st – Richard Atkins, 2nd – No Award, 3rd - No Award

Chunk Honey - 1st - Richard Atkins, 2nd- No Award, 3rd - No Award

Heather/Heather Blend Honey - 1st – John Rennie, 2nd – No Award, 3rd – No Award

Honey judged on taste alone - 1st – John Rennie, 2nd – Jim McColm, 3rd – Katherine Robertson

Frame of Honey - 1st – John Rennie, 2nd – Andrew Hedley, 3rd – No Award

Beeswax Blocks - 1st - Linda Robertson, 2nd – No Award, 3rd – No Award

4 Candles, Rolled Dipped or Moulded - 1st – Iain Sanderson, 2nd – Jenny Toms, 3rd – John Rennie

Honey Tablet - 1st -Jenny Toms, 2nd – Linda Roberson, 3rd – John Rennie

Photograph - 1st – John Rennie, 2nd – Jenny Toms, 3rd – Richard Atkins

Honey Jar Label - 1st – Richard Atkins, 2nd – John Rennie, 3rd – Jenny Toms

Craft Item Item - 1st – John Rennie, 2nd – Iain Sanderson, 3rd – Linda Robertson

Winner's Trophies

Points Cup - John Rennie

Novice Cup – Jenny Toms

Tonderghie Trophy (best wax entry) – Iain Sanderson

Jim McColm Trophy (best honey in show) – John Rennie

Hatcher Tankard - (best photo) – John Rennie

New Glenrazie Trophy (best entry in show) - John Rennie

Membership

A warm welcome to new members Amanda and Bill Jones, who have already attended a couple of meetings are signed up for the Beginners Course in March

Recent Events

These have been the AGM and the Honey Show

Members meetings.

Well apart from the Christmas Lunch there are no more meetings scheduled for December, but as a prelude to the 2026 Honey Show, which will have a Mead class and yes, I am going to keep on about it all year, I will be giving a talk on Mead Making, appropriately in some ways, on Burns Night 2026 well the afternoon anyway, which will include a practical demonstration

We have a good line up of meetings in the early part of 2026. In addition to mead making there will be a talk by the SBA president, we are co-hosting the SBA touring speaker who is from USA and we have our Beginners Course. For details check out our website

<https://wgba.co.uk/latest-news-2/>

where you will also find some interesting reading

Kevins Bee Blog, I have just read this and its like saying goodbye to an old friend. This was Kevins last blog and as always interesting, easy to read and informative. So, thank you Kevin for giving us insights on your last 12 months of beekeeping, I am sure we've all come away from it with at least one piece of knowledge that will help us in our beekeeping lives.

Things to do in December/January

Check the apiary periodically to ensure no hives have lost their roofs or got knocked over. Shade entrances if you expect snow, to discourage the bees from flying. Fit insulation to keep the colony warm. Use an empty super to support the inner cover and roof.

- Heft the hives to gauge the level of stores. If they are light, feed fondant on the top bars directly over the cluster on top of the crown boards.
- Review last year's records to plan for the coming year. Decide which colonies to re-queen and which to use for breeding. Buy any additional equipment you need. You can solve problems with "spare" equipment. Clean and prepare your equipment for the coming season.
- You may want to consider treating for Varroa with Apibioxal while there is no brood.

Well Christmas draws nearer and with it the shortest day, so can I wish to all of you and your families, a very merry Christmas, and a happy new year.

Dougie

Chair