

Moray Beekeepers Association **Secretary's Report 2012 Season**

2012 was a strange year for beekeepers!

With the relatively mild winter into 2012, colony losses were low compared with previous years and it was pleasing that all our colonies at the **Association Apiary** survived. Extreme variations in the weather in spring and into summer resulted in a 'swarming frenzy' in June when we had a mini heat wave and much fun was had chasing swarms around Moray.

52 members of the public attended our **Beekeeping Courses** in the summer and most of them joined MBA as members. This raised over £1,000 additional funding and has enabled us to purchase additional equipment for the apiary.

We also ran a course to prepare members for the Scottish Beekeepers' Association **Basic Beemaster Assessment** and all 14 members passed.

The Association had a **full summer programme** with meetings held at various locations throughout Moray – thank you to those members who offered their apiaries and homes for our use and to those volunteers who helped with refreshments and raffles etc.

It was again a mixed season with respect to the **honey harvest** with some members reporting decent crops whilst others struggled to gain any crop whatsoever. Problems with queen mating were reported and spring 2013 may bring some disappointments if queens didn't mate properly in 2012.

It is going to be a very busy year as we implement the Bee Aware in Moray (BEAM) Project. For those of you who don't know this is a £42,084 project funded by Moray Leader, Awards For All Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage aimed at honeybee conservation and education, and the promotion of beekeeping in Moray. We do need volunteers to ensure its success so please get involved – you will be very welcome!

Our Chairman for the last 4 years, Andrew Tassell is stepping down after tonight's meeting and on your behalf I would like to thank him for his contribution to Moray Beekeepers over many years.

Thanks are also due to Gerry Thomson and Don Vincent who have left the Committee.

I am standing down as Secretary after tonight's meeting to take up the Project Manager's position for the BEAM project so I will still be heavily involved in 2013 and hopefully beyond. I would like to say thank you for supporting me as Secretary over the last 4 years and ask you to give the same level of support to my successor, Yvonne Stuart whom I am sure will do a marvellous job!

Best wishes
Tony Harris
29th January 2013