

Borders Beekeepers Training

Beginners Course

We are running two beginners courses again. These are both fully subscribed (12 people). One course began in November and the second starts in February. Justin Lanyon Olver and I are leading course A, and Kate Atchley and Julie Macdiarmid are leading course B.

Demand has again exceeded supply. There has been some debate in the committee about the price of the course which is £150. For the first time last year we made an honorary payment to tutors. There has also been some debate about accepting people on the course from outside the Scottish Borders. This is not straightforward as we already have members outside our area, and some when applying have indicated they are moving to the borders in the coming year.

Views of members are invited on both these topics.

Other educational events

We have had a number of apiary meetings, the last was held in December when the subject was oxalic acid treatment.

There remains a reluctance amongst members to be involved in the Scottish Beekeepers Examination system, we have very few participants and have raised this as a matter of concern with the new SRUC bee adviser Lorraine Johnston, who is keen to develop more practical based training at an intermediate level for beekeepers.

This will be my last year being involved in the training programme which I have greatly enjoyed. Seeing new beekeepers develop is a great pleasure.

John Wilkinson