



Visit of Roger Patterson

29 APRIL – 3 MAY 2016

The programme is open to Beekeepers and Non-Beekeepers alike!

Friday 29 April 20, 2016

Afternoon – Isle of Man Gov., Bibba conference discussions, venues etc.

7pm – at Noa Bakehouse, Douglas.

Illustrated talk, Roger & Harry Owens : *The Honey Bee – their Value and Threats*

Followed by Question time and light refreshments,

Displays by Tanya- products of Lovely Greens and Norrie Mills of his encaustic art

Saturday 30 April, 2016

11am – Training Apiary at Shennharra

2pm - Knockaloe

Talk by Roger on Varroa. Also, the importance of Bee Improvement

Sunday 1 May, 2016

Colony visits (TBA)

Monday 2 May, 2016

Grafting & Shennharra

Tuesday 3 May, 2016

Colony visits & Shennharra

Organisation: Keith Osborn, phone 851192, is point man. Please call Keith if you can assist with transport, catering, communications or any of the 101 things necessary.

This programme is coordinated by the Manx Bee Improvement Group, a subcommittee of the Isle of Man Beekeepers Federation.

Note from Roger

Saturday beekeeping meeting at Knockaloe.

There will be two presentations by Roger Patterson that are highly relevant to all Manx beekeepers. Please attend if you can.

Varroa - A Great Threat to Manx Beekeeping.

There are few places in the world where there is no varroa. Where it is present it has changed beekeeping forever, making the craft very much more difficult than previously. Beekeepers have to resort to using hard or soft chemicals to keep infestation to manageable levels. There are a number of techniques that can be used without chemicals, but the beekeeper needs to be much more knowledgeable in order for them to be effective.

The Isle of Man still enjoys varroa free status, but for how long? Varroa are likely to be introduced on imported bees. One varroa mite, the size of a pin head, if introduced into a colony will mean the Island has varroa forever. This is why the importation of queens should be avoided at all costs.

What do you know about varroa? Could you detect it in a colony? Do you know the life cycle? Are you aware of the damage varroa does? Do you know how to treat a colony with varroa? Do you know where to find information?

This presentation should give you the answers to these and other questions you may have.

Improving Manx Bees.

The Isle of Man enjoys a varroa and foul brood free closed population of honey bees. I have inspected a reasonable number of colonies and assessed them for several characteristics. There are some very good bees, but there are some that are less desirable, often in the same apiary. There are two main issues, firstly the aggression of some colonies is undesirable, secondly there is evidence of past importations that may be contributing to the aggressive nature.

The Manx Bee Improvement Group was set up as a sub committee of the Fed in an attempt to help and encourage beekeepers to improve the temper of their bees and to select the bees on the Island to have a genuine "Manx Dark Honey Bee" the island's beekeepers can be proud of.

This presentation will discuss ways of achieving the aims, but it will need the co-operation and support of all beekeepers. Come and hear what is being done and how you may be able to help.

Roger,

20 April 2016

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