



ADBKA Conference 2017
Saturday 17th June
Kinnellar Hall, Blackburn AB21 0JQ
10am until 4pm

Programme

9:30 **Tea and coffee**

10:00 **Introduction**

10:15 **Session 1 -** Eoghan Mac Giolla Coda
The Native Black Bee: Its Evolution and Characteristics,.

What is meant by the black bee, where it came from, and how it evolved to live in northern climates, as well as its behavioural characteristics. This would also include its use for honey production.

11:00 **Short break**

11:30 **Session 2 -** Margaret Murdin
Understanding the Queen.

The queen and her characteristics and why some characteristics are very important.

12:30 **Lunch**

13:15 **Session 3 -** Margaret Murdin
Selecting the right qualities in your bees.

What exactly are we looking for in a good colony/ queen and how we select and record over a season.

Discussion

14:45 **Session 4 -** Eoghan Mac Giolla Coda
How you can improve your stocks.

Methods that can be used by small scale beekeepers to increase stocks and breed queens.

Discussion and questions

16:00 **Close**

BIOGRAPHIES

Margaret Murdin has been keeping bees for about 12 years and is a practical beekeeper who learnt her skills as a member of the Ormskirk and Croston Branch of the Lancashire Association. She is a member of BIBBA and keeps bees that are well adapted to the local area. She currently has 20 colonies across 3 apiaries and is interested in the bees themselves rather than the production of honey.

Margaret is a Master Beekeeper and holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping. She enjoys teaching all levels of beekeeping and gives talks and workshops all over the UK. She holds a degree in biological sciences and was principal of a Further and Higher Education College before retirement.

Margaret is an examiner and assessor for the British Beekeepers Association and is currently Chair of the BBKA Trustees.

Eoghan Mac Giolla Coda is a commercial beekeeper based on Ireland's east coast. As a fourth-generation beekeeper, he learned his craft through helping his father with the famous Galtee black bees of Co. Tipperary.

After settling in Co. Louth, he embarked on his own beekeeping enterprise using local strains of native Irish honey bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*). He is Education Officer for Co. Louth Beekeepers' Association, helping organise classes for beginners and improvers and lecture programmes for all members, and he also lectures to other beekeeping associations around Ireland. He is involved with Co. Louth BKA's native honey bee breeding programme and the maintenance of Co. Louth as a conservation area for the black bee. He serves on the national committee of the Native Irish Honey Bee Society, heading the society's research and conservation committee.

Eoghan currently manages over 150 colonies and rears native queens for his own use and that of local beekeepers. He has won the World Class competition at the London Honey Show in 2014 and 2015 with the famous bell heather honey of the Cooley Mountains of North Louth.