

Newsletter

April 2012

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Auction
News!

Established 1910

Charity Number SCO31754

Beekeeping under the Hammer!

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The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association and the Moray Beekeepers' Association's joint **auction of bee stocks and beekeeping equipment** will take place at Bucharn Farm, Huntly, AB54 4PU*, on Saturday 5 May. This will be a great opportunity for members of both associations to buy and sell surplus equipment, nucs and colonies, as well as a chance to meet up with fellow north east beekeepers.

- ✚ Registration of Goods intake is from 10.00am until 12.30pm
- ✚ Given prior notice, live bee stocks will be accommodated on site from 8.30am
- ✚ Sale starts 2.30pm
- ✚ Goods purchased **must** be paid on the day of the sale by cash or cheque only (no credit card facility available). It is anticipated that administering and paying out sales income will be done subsequent to the sale day

✚ To cover incidental costs, a 5% commission will be charged to both the seller and purchaser of goods

✚ We hope to have mobile catering on site from 10.30am to around 4.30pm

The organisers would be very grateful for prior notification, where possible, from those intending to enter goods for sale, and the nature of their entry. If you are planning to enter items into the sale, please notify the Chair, Jock McGregor, or the Secretary, Rosie Crighton, by telephone or e-mail (contact details on this page).

We would also request volunteers from our membership to take on registration, stewarding and other duties on the day. If you are prepared to help make this event a success, please contact the Chair or Secretary.

* From the A96 roundabout, 1.8 miles south toward Rhynie. NB: sat-nav systems will usually take drivers to the cottages 200yds south of the steading we are using

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at Craibstone on Saturday 26 May 2012 at 3pm. Immediately prior to this, at 1.30pm, there will be a general inspection of the association apiary as part of our programme of members' events.

The official positions of President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as the 15 ordinary members of the Committee are elected each year at the AGM, which this year will be held at Craibstone on 26 May at 3 pm.

Nominations for all of the above positions are now invited.

Any member of the Association can nominate another member for any of the positions. The only proviso is that the person being nominated is asked and agrees to the nomination.

All nominations should be with the Secretary (see contact details on this page), either by post, telephone or email, at least one week prior to the AGM. The deadline this year is 19 May.

If there is more than one nomination for any of the official positions then a vote by a show of hands will be held at the AGM. If there are more than 15 nominations for ordinary committee membership, the vote will be by pre-prepared ballot forms, and the count will be conducted at the AGM. All Association members present at the AGM are eligible to vote.

Current Committee members and office holders will automatically be nominated for re-election alongside any new nominations. (Note for current Committee members: If you do not wish to be considered for re-election, please inform the secretary by 19 May, otherwise your nomination will automatically go forward. If you are resigning from an official position, but wish to have your nomination put forward as an ordinary member of the Committee please make that clear to the Secretary by the 19 May.)

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Members' Events

Practical Workshop* and Spring Inspection

Saturday 28 April at 10am

Association Apiary, SAC, Craibstone

ALL DAY EVENT**including assembly of flat pack kit, etc**Bring your own refreshments***Auction of Bee Stocks and Beekeeping Equipment**

Saturday 5 May at 10am

Bucharn Farm, Huntly

See front page for full details**Scottish Government Bee Diseases Training Day**

Saturday 19 May 10am-4pm

SAC, Craibstone

Cost: £25*As soon as more details are available, they will be posted on the association website***May Inspection and Demonstration**

Tuesday 15 May

*Time and venue to be confirmed***Call for members to assist landmark new research project**

Many ADBA members will have been present at our AGM last May to hear the fascinating presentation given by Dr Alan Bowman on the work of his team at the University of Aberdeen's Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with the National Bee Unit, to achieve "gene knockdown" in *Varroa destructor*. The scientists had found a way of using a technique called double-stranded RNA-interference (dsRNAi) as a method of silencing gene expression in the mite.

Thanks to major new sponsorship from Vita (Europe) Ltd and the government's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, this pioneering research is now entering a new phase. Dr Bowman explained: "Our new work, which begins in April this year, will use 'Next Generation Sequencing' to thoroughly describe all the genes expressed in *Varroa destructor*.....We know that we can successfully deliver dsRNA to a specific gene, but we now need to identify the right target."

Importantly, the researchers need significant numbers of *Varroa* mites to carry out their work, and this is where Aberdeen and District beekeepers come in. **Please help this critically important work by providing the University of Aberdeen team with brood comb infected with *Varroa*.**

To make it easy for beekeepers to forward *Varroa* infected brood comb frames, the research team will provide specialist packaging and cover postage costs, as well as covering the cost of replacement frames and foundation. If it is more convenient, collection can be arranged from beekeepers within a reasonable travel distance from Aberdeen.

A Member Asks.....are there any views on the optimum Varroacide to use this coming year?

I have been alternating with Apistan and Apivar and last year a mixture of both. I was wondering if there was any newer treatment around this year. I was considering Vitafeed GREEN but am not sure if this is a feed rather than a miticide. Is still considered good practice to mix treatments so that the mites are under a different attack each year?

If you can supply brood comb frames from *Varroa* infected colonies, contact Dr Bowman by e-mailing: varroa-project@abdn.ac.uk or by phone on 01224 272877



Notice Board

9-frame radial extractor (electric) –
FOR HIRE £10 per hire period

Steam wax melter – available ON
LOAN £10 deposit

Both items available from: Jock
McGregor, 11 Marcus Road,
Blackburn. Tel. 01224 790468

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor is the local agent for Thorne Beekeeping Equipment.
Contact him on 01224 790468 or e-mail:

AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

Hives for sale: 1 WBC, 3 double
walled hives, national inside, 4
national hives, all hives complete
and in excellent condition - no
bees. Also, 2 frame extractor for
sale.

Phone Eddie Lamb on 01358
742392

Bees for sale: 5 colonies, last year's
queens. NB: on frames - no hives.
Phone Charlie Robb on 01771 637515

Bees Wanted

Contact Claire Wilkie on 07904921848 or
e-mail clairewilkie@hotmail.com

The Scottish Beekeepers Association celebrates its centenary in 2012.

The main celebration will take place on 15th & 16th September 2012 at the Stirling Management Centre, University of Stirling. Over the two days, there will be a series of lectures by Prof Robert Paxton, Prof Keith Delaplane, Prof Robert Pickard, and Dan Basterfield NDB.

Accompanying the lectures will be trade stands, local associations' displays, workshops, demonstrations and beekeeping exhibits. The highlight of the celebration will be a centenary dinner and ceilidh. *Booking opens on 16 April.*

To download a booking form, visit
<http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/About/SBACentenary.aspx>

Hello,

I am a student at the University of Exeter who will be conducting a project on bee epidemiology for my final year project. The aim of the study is to investigate the prevalence of nosema, varroa and tracheal mites occurring in honey bees in relation to their exposure to oil seed rape which has been treated with pesticides such as neonicotinoids. Along with qualitative data supplied by beekeepers in the form of a questionnaire, I hope to show, indirectly, a relationship between honey bee health and exposure to pesticides.

Beekeepers will be asked for samples of bee, brood and comb on two occasions: one during oil seed rape flowering and again post oil seed rape flowering. Samples will be analysed for the aforementioned diseases on both occasions. The results of the analyses will be drawn against the level of exposure to oil seed rape, determined by pollen analysis and agricultural data. Data from this comparison will then be correlated with the questionnaires. The results of the questionnaires would be anonymous.

I feel that this is an important undertaking as it may provide insight into how certain chemicals, such as pesticides, may be affecting British honeybees and may provide invaluable data for future research.

If you are happy to distribute this message to your members I would be most grateful. Those who want to participate (including yourself if you wish) are required to email me at bjk201@exeter.ac.uk, supplying a mailing address and confirming the number of colonies they currently manage.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind Regards

Benjamin Keningale

Dear friends of the Dark Bee

We are pleased to announce that the preparations for the Sicamm conference 2012 in Switzerland have made good progress and that we have updated the information available on our websites www.mellifera.ch and www.sicamm.org. The document "Information" details the various options and shall assist you to select the best package according to your interests. Please use the registration form to fill in your choices and send it to Linus Kempter as indicated. More details about the venue and the conference concepts are available on the SICAMM homepage. We hope our program meets your expectations and look forward to receive your registration.

SECOND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We have received so far many very interesting abstracts and the programme is filling up fast. There are still some gaps, so we have set a **new deadline for submission to 12th May 2012**. Please use the "Call for papers form" to submit you abstract. We look forward to receiving your abstracts in SOON!

Looking forward hearing from you! Kind regards and best wishes,

Cécile Lüthi, Conference Secretary



Foraging around



Recently published studies from Britain, France and the USA have pointed to Imidacloprid, one of the neonicotinoid family of pesticides, as a likely culprit in **Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder**. This story generated blanket coverage in the media, with a good example being from the Independent at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/new-pesticide-link-to-sudden-decline-in-bee-population-7622263.html>

By way of balance, the manufacturer of Imidacloprid, **Bayer Crop Science**, has rejected at least one of the studies, saying that it is seriously flawed. The company's response was reported on the website CropLife at: <http://www.croplife.com/article/26554/bayer-responds-to-bee-health-studies>

Ever thought of creating a wild flower area in your garden? If so, you might want to think carefully about the sort of plants to introduce. A study by ecologist Dr Kevin Matteson of Fordham University showed that **bees prefer visiting native species** of wild flowers. The story was picked up by *The Ecologist* and published at: http://www.theecologist.org/green_green_living/gardening/1279693/why_bees_biodiversity_benefit_from_indigenous_wildflowers.html

SBA Compensation and Insurance Schemes

The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association is affiliated to the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA). In addition, many of our members will be full members of the SBA in their own right.

The SBA's **Compensation Scheme** applies differently depending upon whether someone is a full SBA member, or a member of an affiliated local association. The **Insurance Scheme** applies equally to full members and affiliated members.

Full details of the two schemes were published the February and March 2012 newsletters and are available on the SBA website at: <http://scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/Services/InsuranceandCompensationScheme.aspx>

For more information, contact the secretary (*contact details on page 1*).

According to.....

.....Celia Davis in her book *The Honey Bee Inside Out*, an average honey bee colony requires around 120Kg of nectar per year. Individual bees will usually bring back about 40mg of nectar from a foraging trip. *You work it out!*

ADBA Equipment

The Association has the following items of equipment available for free borrow: 2 honey extractors, 2 mini-melters, 2 heather honey presses, 1 wax extractor and 1 wax foundation press. These are available from the honey jar store at Danestone Market Garden (directions below) on payment of a returnable £10 deposit.

The maximum length of loan should be two weeks.

We also have supplies of Apistan, Jars, Ragus, Ambrosia Bee Syrup and Hessian for smoker fuel. The store is open between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday evenings and at other times by arrangement with Sandy Gordon (Tel: 01224 484540).

Directions: At Persley Bridge (Tesco) roundabout turn onto Laurel Drive. Continue for about ½ mile. Look for Laurel Place on your right (it is a semi-circle so take the second entrance into this street). Now turn left into Laurel Avenue. Danestone Market Garden is signposted, on the left, about 100 yards along.

Distributing the newsletter by e-mail realises significant savings for the association. If you do not currently receive the newsletter by e-mail and wish to do so, contact Graham Torrie on 013398 82038, or by e-mail at: grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com

We urge as many members as possible to do so.

Why not think about contributing to the newsletter yourself? We have a wealth of experience and expertise in the association, and it would be great if we could do more to share this around our members. If you have any tips, advice, or experiences to pass on, why don't you jot them down and forward them to the above e-mail address? I would be happy to assist with drafting and formatting, so feel free to call me on the above number if I can help.

Graham Torrie