

Newsletter  
April 2013



# Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

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## AGM 2013: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> at the SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA.

The office bearing positions of President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the 15 ordinary members of the Committee are elected each year at the AGM.

Nominations for all the above positions can be made by any member of ADBKA. The only proviso is that the person being nominated is asked and agrees to the nomination. All nominations should be notified to the Secretary, Rosie Crighton, either by post, telephone or email, at least one week prior to the AGM. The deadline this year is Saturday 18th 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.

Unless they have previously intimated, by the 18th May deadline, that they wish to resign, current office bearers and committee members will automatically be nominated for re-election alongside any new nominations.

So, the EU voted on 15 March not to impose a ban on the use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides. The split was 13 for, 9 against, and 5 abstentions, including the UK. The best overview of the current situation can be found on the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22021104>

At the same time, the UK government's Environmental Audit Committee has called for precautionary moratorium on three pesticides - imidacloprid, clothianidin and TMX - that suspends their use on flowering crops attractive to pollinators. You can read the committee's report at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news/pollinators-pesticides-report/>

Meanwhile, the Scottish Beekeepers' Association has been caught up in the controversy by voting against a proposal to petition the Scottish Government to impose such a moratorium, a story picked up by the Herald, available at <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/beekeepers-are-stung-by-failure-to-ban-pesticides.20543869>

Find out about Friends of the Earth's "Bee Cause" at: [http://www.foe.co.uk/what\\_we\\_do/bee\\_cause/about\\_35042.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/bee_cause/about_35042.html)



We are sad to announce the death on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 of ADBKA member Jim Stables, father of current committee member, Graham.

Association Chair, John Cooper, said: "Jim was one of our longest serving members, and his own father, Graham's grandfather, had joined the association back in 1922, which gives the Stables family an unbroken connection with ADBKA of 92 years. Jim sat on the committee for many years and was also a District Secretary for Huntly for many years (there used to be a whole network of District Secretaries). He had a great depth of knowledge of practical beekeeping and will be sadly missed. We send our condolences to Graham and the Stables family."

## Members' Events

- **WORKSHOP: ASSEMBLY OF FLAT PACK KIT, ETC.**
- **APIARY SPRING INSPECTION**

Saturday 27 April at 10.00am  
Association Apiary, SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA

### APIARY DEMONSTRATION: DEALING WITH OIL SEED RAPE

Saturday 11 May at 2.00pm  
Fintry Schoolhouse  
Fintry  
Turriff AB53 5RN

### ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 25 May at 2.00pm  
SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA

### SBA NUCLEUS CREATION WORKSHOP

8 June 2013  
Moray BKA Apiary  
Contact Tony Harris at  
[tonyharris316@btinternet.com](mailto:tonyharris316@btinternet.com)  
NB - £20 fee to cover costs

The Scottish Government (SG),  
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)  
and Scottish Rural College (SRUC)  
are holding a

### BEE HEALTH DAY

on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 from 9.30am – 4.30pm at Moray  
College, UHI, Elgin

(tea, coffee and a sandwich lunch will be provided - PLEASE  
NOTIFY US OF ANY SPECIAL DIETARY  
REQUIREMENTS)

A full day of lectures and practical sessions covering: AFB,  
EFB and other Bee Diseases, Apiary Hygiene, a Shook  
Swarm demonstration and Integrated Pest Control

To book your place or for more information contact: Alison  
Knox on 0300 244 9836

email: [Alison.knox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.knox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Cost - £25.00 - Send your cheque, made payable to "SRUC"  
to: Alison Knox, P Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse  
Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Please note that numbers are limited so book early to avoid  
disappointment (we propose that similar events will be run  
on a regular basis in the future at various venues)

*With thanks to Moray Beekeepers' Association*

**The Scottish Beekeepers' Association** is undertaking a significant  
review of its constitution. SBA members are encouraged to engage  
in the process by scrutinising the proposals and expressing their  
views. The deadline for comments is 11 May 2013.

A copy of the draft constitution, along with supporting documents,  
can be found on the SBA website: [www.scottishbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.scottishbeekeepers.co.uk)

To access the documents, SBA members will require their username  
and password as shown on their 2013 membership card.

### Spring into Action!

With this long-awaited upturn in  
temperatures, you'll soon be  
thinking about carrying out your first  
hive inspection of the spring.  
According to the National Bee  
Unit's *Best Practice Guideline No.6*,  
here are the 'golden questions'  
you'll want to answer:

**Food** - Have the bees got enough  
honey and pollen until the next  
visit?

**Room** - Have the bees got enough  
room to expand the brood nest?  
Do the colonies need supers put  
on? Will they need supers at the  
next visit?

**Queen** - Is the colony Queen-right  
and headed by a young prolific  
Queen?

**Queen cells** - Are there any? Is  
the colony trying to swarm? Has it  
swarmed?

**Health** - Are there signs of pests  
and diseases?

**Comb Condition** - Do I need to  
change some or all of the frames  
and combs?

**Spring Clean** – Do I need to clean  
up the hive?

**Apiary** - If in an overwintering  
apiary site do I need to move all or  
some of the colonies to a crop such  
as oil seed rape or other productive  
location?

The NBU's advisory leaflets can be  
downloaded free of charge from  
[https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/bee  
base/index.cfm?pageid=167](https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/bee/base/index.cfm?pageid=167)

## Honey Jar Store



At the Persley Bridge roundabout, turn onto Laurel Drive. Continue for about half a 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.

The store is open between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday evenings and at other times by arrangement with Sandy Gordon (Tel: 01224 484540).

For the loan items, a returnable £10 deposit is required, with the maximum length of loan being two weeks.

Ragus Candy✓

Apistan - 10 strips, sufficient for 5 hives✓

Ambrosia Syrup✓

Honey Jars and Lids✓

Mesh Floors - National size (wire only)✓

Hessian Squares for smoker fuel✓

Free loan:

Honey extractors ✓

Mini-melters ✓

Heather honey press ✓

Wax extractor ✓

Wax foundation press ✓

From the Scottish Beekeepers' Association website:

### Dundee University / SBA overwintering survey 2012 / 2013

We are still in what feels like the depths of winter in some areas. There are worrying reports of winter losses and many potential causes which need to be examined and hopefully unravelled. You can help by completing the Overwinter Survey for 2012-13 [accessible from the SBA website: [www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk)]. Could you please pass to any other beekeepers you know in your locality who have not received the form.\* We are asking people to return either by Email attachment or by post to Dr Connolly at the Department of Neurosciences, Ninewells Hospital Medical School.

Postal address:

Dr. C N Connolly, Division of Neuroscience, Medical Research Institute, Ninewells Medical School (level 7), MAIL BOX 6, University of Dundee, DD1 9SY

Email address:

[c.n.connolly@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:c.n.connolly@dundee.ac.uk)

PLEASE MARK AS 2013 SURVEY

We encourage return of the completed questionnaire by the 15th May 2013 and also stress that it is important that postal code data is completed and that confidentiality will be ensured.

The more beekeepers who can be encouraged to return completed forms the better. A large data set will enable us to look more carefully at the causes of winter failures and how they may vary around the country. Bees and beekeepers are having hard times and it is vital that we have the information on what is happening 'on the ground'.

John E Durkacz

(Coordinator for the SBA-Dundee collaboration for the Insect Pollinators' Initiative)

8th April 2013

\*ADBKA members who are unable to access the internet – please contact me on 07594063703 and I will send you a copy of the form by post. Graham Torrie

Second only to the coverage given by the media to the latest developments in the neonicotinoid pesticide debate was a story concerning the effects on a bee's memory of a miniscule dose of caffeine. This emerged as an article in the magazine *Science*, which reported the work of a team of scientists, including members from Newcastle University and the University of Dundee. The researchers found that:

"Honeybees rewarded with caffeine, which occurs naturally in nectar of *Coffea* and *Citrus* species, were three times as likely to remember a learned floral scent as were honeybees rewarded with sucrose alone.....Caffeine concentrations in nectar did not exceed the bees' bitter taste threshold, implying that pollinators impose selection for nectar that is pharmacologically active but not repellent. By using a drug to enhance memories of reward, plants secure pollinator fidelity and improve reproductive success."

Read how the story was reported by Aberdeen News (Aberdeen, South Dakota, that is!) at [http://www.aberdeennews.com/news/aan-study-caffeine-amps-up-honeybees-memory-20130308\\_0\\_126460\\_story](http://www.aberdeennews.com/news/aan-study-caffeine-amps-up-honeybees-memory-20130308_0_126460_story)

An abstract of the research paper can be found at <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/339/6124/1202.abstract>



Find a gateway to international beekeeping at <http://www.apinews.com/en/>

## Notice Board



### Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor is the local agent for Thorne Beekeeping Equipment. Contact him on 01224 790468 or e-mail: [AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com](mailto:AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com)

**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

### Abelo Beekeeping Equipment

Wide range of products & competitive  
prices

Please check our offers at  
[www.abelo.co.uk](http://www.abelo.co.uk)

Contact Sebastian Bacz on  
07508944101 or e-mail  
[sales@abelo.co.uk](mailto:sales@abelo.co.uk)

The Scottish Beekeepers' Association is still seeking volunteers to act as stewards at their stand at the **Royal Highland Show**, which takes place at Ingliston Show Ground, west of Edinburgh, from 20-23 June.

Stewards are provided with parking and entry tickets.

E-mail Enid Brown at [edinbrown6@gmail.com](mailto:edinbrown6@gmail.com) with your name, address and telephone number, indicating what day(s) you would be able to attend.

### Dear Association Secretaries

*We all know that honeybees and other pollinators are having a hard time these days - researchers are looking at disease, pesticides, climate change etc: this all takes particular expertise and not a little funding. But individual beekeepers can help too, by taking part in a survey to try and find out how much forage bees & pollinators have access to, and when it is available to them.*

*The next stage will be to use the data to determine where forage is short at different times of the year, so that we can try to persuade policy-makers, gardeners, landowners & local authorities to consider the welfare of pollinators & manage land accordingly.*

*To gather this data, I'm asking for one or two volunteers from every Association area, who would be willing to record the flowering times of the major forage plants within roughly a 3 mile area of their home or apiary. You're probably taking a mental note of these anyway, so it would only involve recording what you see, normally up to 10 plants per month, over a full year. I'll provide a standard recording form.*

*Recording is simple, can be done on a computer or on a paper record sheet. You don't even need to be a beekeeper, just able to recognise the plants.*

*Please pass this request on to your members: would any volunteers please contact me directly - and my thanks in advance!*

*Mandy Clydesdale,*

*Secretary,*

*Peeblesshire Beekeepers Association,*

*20 Kingsmeadows Gardens*

*Peebles*

*EH45 9LB*

*Tel: 01721720 563 email: [amanda.clydesdale@btinternet.com](mailto:amanda.clydesdale@btinternet.com)*

## According to.....

.....William Kirk and Norman Howes in their book *Plants for Bees*, "Different types of flowers require the foraging bees to adopt different strategies to obtain nectar and pollen. Some examples are: • Open flowers – the bee will bite the anthers and use her forelegs to pull them towards her, e.g. bramble; • Tubular flowers – she inserts her tongue for nectar, pollen is incidentally caught on her legs and mouthparts, e.g. heather; • Closed flowers – she uses her forelegs to force the petals apart and gathers pollen on her mouthparts and forelegs, e.g. field bean; Spike and catkin flowers – she runs along the spike or catkin shaking the pollen onto her body hairs, e.g. hazel; • Presentation flowers – she presses her abdomen against the flower forcing the pollen mass out, e.g. salvia and sage"