

Newsletter

April 2015



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association (SCIO)

- promoting the study and development of apiculture, and advancing the heritage, culture and science of beekeeping amongst its membership and throughout the wider community

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SC031754

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The **2015 Annual General Meeting** of Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association (SCIO) will be held at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 20 May in the Kinellar Community Hall, Fintray Road, Blackburn AB21 0SS

The positions of Honorary President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the other committee members are elected each year at the AGM.

Nominations for the above positions can be made by any member of the association. Importantly though, the person being nominated must have given their approval. All nominations should be notified to our Secretary, Rosie Crighton, either by post, telephone or email, at least one week prior to the AGM. The deadline this year is Wednesday 13 May. You'll find Rosie's contact details on the left of this page.

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

Unless they have previously intimated their resignation by the 13 May deadline, current office bearers and committee members will automatically be nominated for re-election alongside any new nominations.

The business part of the AGM will be followed by a short presentation on the history of Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association.

Circulated with this month's Newsletter are four important papers:

- ✚ The Agenda for our 2015 AGM
- ✚ The Minute of our 2014 AGM
- ✚ The Chair's Report 2015
- ✚ The Abbreviated Accounts for the year to 31 December 2014*

**Please note that the attached/enclosed abbreviated accounts have not been independently reviewed. If changes need to be made to these accounts as a result of the independent review, you will be notified of those changes in your May 2015 newsletter. If you would like to see a copy of the full Annual Report and Financial Statements, or have any queries, please contact me on 07981 55 8765 or by email at forbes.email@btinternet.com.*

Louise Forbes

ADBKA members can grab a terrific bargain at our Honey Jar Store. (See page 2 for contact details.) While stocks last, we have 12.5 kg jerry cans of Ambrosia syrup for £15 each. You won't find this cheaper anywhere else!

AGM 2015: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS



A good turnout by our apiary volunteers on Sunday 29 March meant that much was achieved in preparation for the new season. Our plans for the year include carrying out Bailey comb changes on our hives, managing swarming using Snelgrove boards and doing some selective queen rearing to improve the temperament of our stocks. In addition, we'll be examining our bees for nosema infection and testing for pyrethroid resistance using the Beltsville test.

The Scottish Beekeepers' Association is seeking an Area Representative to act as a link with local beekeeping associations in the north east of Scotland. There are six local associations in the area: Orkney, Inverness-shire, Nairn, Moray, Aberdeen and District and Speyside.

If you are interested in taking up this position, contact SBA General Secretary, Tony Harris at secretary@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk or on 07884 496246

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**KIT ASSEMBLY DAY
HANDS-ON MAKING UP FRAMES AND HIVES**
- bring along your own flat-pack kit and
receive expert instruction

Saturday 25 April 1.30pm - 5.00pm
The Kinellar Community Hall,
Fintray Road, Blackburn AB21 0SS

**ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 20 May at 7.15pm
The Kinellar Community Hall,
Fintray Road, Blackburn AB21 0SS

**DEMONSTRATION:
HIVE INSPECTION**

Sunday 17 May at 2pm
Association apiary, Crathes
Castle, Banchory, AB31 5QJ
(Park in the lower car park.
Walk up the footpath leading to
the upper car park and come
through the gate on the right
marked 'staff only'. You'll see
the cabin ahead of you. PS -
remember to shut the gate
behind you.)



Former ADBKA Chair, John
Cooper, being presented with
the Scottish Beekeepers'
Association's *Local
Association Award* by Gavin
Ramsey, the SBA's Bee
Health Convener.

Researchers at the universities of Dundee and St Andrews have made an important contribution to the ongoing debate over the dangers or otherwise of neonicotinoid pesticides. Their study, published in the Journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, provides evidence that the levels of pesticides found in pollen and nectar of treated plants can have adverse neurological effects in bumblebees. Dr Chris Connolly of Dundee University's Division of Neuroscience said, "Our research demonstrates beyond doubt that the level of neonicotinoids generally accepted as the average level present in the wild causes brain dysfunction and colonies to perform poorly when consumed by bumblebees".

Expect much, much more on this subject as we approach the end of the two year ban on neonicotinoid use imposed by the EU in December 2013. If you can't wait, better go to <http://phys.org/news/2015-02-neonicotinoid-insecticides-impair-bee-brains.html>

Thanks to Lizzie Bacon for this item.



Visit the ADBKA Honey Jar Store for:

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 of:
Honey extractors
Mini-melters
Heather honey press
Wax extractor
Wax foundation press

Approximately half a mile along Laurel Drive, turn into Laurel Place on your right - it's 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.

**Danestone
Market
Garden
AB22 8AJ**

You may be asked to show your ADBKA membership card when you visit the store, so remember to take it along

For the loan items, a returnable £10 deposit is required, with the maximum length of loan being two weeks. As other members may be waiting to borrow extractors, etc. these must be returned on time and in a clean condition.

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

EEEEEEK!

Were you inspired when you read in January's newsletter the procedure for carrying out a Bailey comb change, only to take fright at the sentence, "If possible arrange a new hive entrance between the two brood boxes and close off the old."? How do you do that? One way is to drill a hole in the side of the upper brood box, but then you end up with a brood box with a hole in it! More useful is to make a small eke with an entrance that will sit between the two boxes. But saws, wood, hammers and nails are not everyone's cup of tea. So here's a simple and cheap way of reaching the same end.

Buy a sheet of Polyfoam insulation; a sheet 25mm thick, 2500mm long and 600mm wide will cost about £9 from a DIY store near you - particularly if you live in Inverurie or Westhill.

Now gather together a sharp knife, a long ruler, a marker pen and a tin of impact adhesive, the sort that you spread on both surfaces to be glued together, then let it dry for about five minutes before you make the joint. You're ready to go.



The external measurement of a National brood box is 460mm x 460mm. You're going to produce four sides for your eke, each 30mm wide. So it's a good idea to cut out two panels from your sheet of foam, one 460mm wide and the other 400mm wide. Measure the required lengths and mark the cutting lines with a felt pen. Cutting this material with a sharp knife is easy, with a little care. (You'll likely have to draw your knife along the cutting line two or three times to



get through.) Now, on each of your panels, mark out two 30mm wide strips and cut these off. All being well, you will now have the four sides of your eke; two 460mm long and two 400mm long. It's a good idea to ask a small black spaniel to check out your work before you proceed.



Carefully spread a thin coat of adhesive on each of the surfaces to be jointed together. You can take your time with this, because the glue needs to all but dry on each face before you bring them into contact with each other. While you're waiting, take one of the sides (it doesn't matter which one) and with your knife cut out an entrance about 100mm wide and half the depth of the foam strip. The job is almost done.

To join the four sides, keep them on a flat surface and press each joint together firmly, one at a time. As long as you do it this way, your eke will turn out nice and flat. If it is a bit twisted,



don't worry, the weight of the upper brood box will remedy the problem. The foam is a very forgiving material.



Right: the final stage in the Bailey comb change. The lower entrance is closed off and your new eke is in place, above a queen excluder, between the two brood boxes.

The full procedure was detailed in the January newsletter and can be found on the National Bee Unit website at

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=167>

Remember, once you reach the stage illustrated on the left, it will be three weeks before you can remove the bottom brood box; it'll take that long for all of the brood to emerge as adult bees. The nurse bees will migrate upstairs as the amount of brood in the basement diminishes and the new brood being raised on the new comb above increases. When you take the bottom brood box away, you can shake off any bees remaining on the old comb.

At the end of the process you can ring Sandy Gordon at the Honey Jar Store and arrange to borrow one of the association's wax melters to render down the old combs.

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

BEE PACKAGES, INCLUDING MATED QUEEN

£130 for one, but more than 20 would be £85 each.
Telephone Sebastian Bacz on 07543270350 for details

BEES FOR SALE

Contact Mr Christie on 01651 821 236
(Rothienorman)

Hi

My name is Jane Clark and I am an elder at Queen's Cross Church in Aberdeen. I already run craft fairs on a regular basis at the church and we are looking to extend this to include a farmers' market.

We would love to have a stall to raise awareness of beekeeping (our minister is especially keen to learn about keeping bees) and also to sell honey. We are hoping to have our first combined fair and farmers' market on Saturday 16 May so I am contacting people I think might be interested in taking part. Obviously I would need to have sufficient numbers of stalls to make it worthwhile.

Can you please see if any of your members would like to be involved? I can be contacted at jane_clark_at_altens@yahoo.com or by phone: 01224 898362 / 07890 864578.

Thank you for giving this your attention.

Kindest regards

Jane

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

BEES WANTED

If you are planning on selling bees this season, the following ADBKA members are very keen to hear from you:
Eric Chambers - tel. 01224 58013 (please leave message if no reply)
Ann Gill - tel. 01358 711477
Rob Rowe - tel. 07733 421385 or 01224 695819

BBwear DISCOUNTED CLOTHING OFFER for ADBKA MEMBERS

In order to get the 20% discount, you will need to contact BBwear directly, by email at sales@bbwear.co.uk or by phone on 01872 562731, and place your order. You'll also need to ask the ADBKA Chair or Secretary (see contact details on the front page) to email BBwear to confirm that you are a member of the association. Your order will then be processed.

You can see the range of clothing on offer at <http://www.bbwear.co.uk/> or you can request a catalogue by calling the above number.

Please note that you will not get the discount if you place your order online via BBwear's website, and discounts cannot be refunded after the order has been placed through the website.

(NB. Free gloves are not included with the full suits, however, a 50% discount is offered on washable leather gloves or spats.)



The Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA)

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, number SC009345

ADVERTISEMENT

'Applications are invited from interested persons to carry out a feasibility study into an SBA led but externally funded queen rearing and nucleus creation project across Scotland. A consultancy fee will be agreed with the successful applicant and it is envisaged that the study will take place over a 6 week period.

For more information contact the SBA General Secretary, Tony Harris, e mail secretary@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk or telephone 07884 496246