

Newsletter

February 2013



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

Association Outing to the BBKA Spring Convention

President:

Mr R Wood
Cothal Lodge
Cothal
Dyce

Chair:

John Cooper
9 Westburn Drive
Aberdeen
Tel. 01224 637774

Hon. Secretary:

Rosie Crighton
29 Marcus Cres.
Blackburn
AB21 0SZ
Tel. 01224 791181
e-mail:
aberdeenbeekeepers
@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Louise Forbes
56 Morningfield Rd
Aberdeen
AB15 4AQ
Tel. 01224 313096

Area SBA Rep:

Stephen Palmer
Tel.01888 551367
e-mail:
palmers@fintry.plus.
com

ADBKA members are planning to make the trip to what is probably Europe's biggest beekeeping event: the British Beekeepers' Association Spring Convention.

Beekeepers from all over the UK and many from overseas will gather on Saturday the 13th of April at Harper Adams University in Newport, Shropshire for a day of lectures, workshops, demonstrations and a trade exhibition drawing a host of suppliers of beekeeping material and equipment from Britain and beyond.

The event promises courses and workshops for all levels of experience, including:

Microscopy; Advanced Microscopy; Anatomy & Dissection Microscopy; Queen Rearing;

Pointers to buying Microscopes; Disease Recognition; Making the most of the Nectar Flow;

Handling Techniques; First steps in Beekeeping; Plants and Bees; Candle Making;

Making and Selling Cosmetics made with

Honey & Beeswax; Introduction to the SEM; Food Safety Certificate;

How to pass the Basic; General Husbandry; Advanced Husbandry; Module 1; Module 5; Food Hygiene Certificate;

Patchwork & Quilting Fun Day; Beekeeping Art; Beeswax Flowers;

Lace Making Demonstration; Tile Factory Visit; Nature Walk

The full Spring Convention programme can be downloaded from

http://www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/30686_bbka_complete_vf_1358367221.pdf

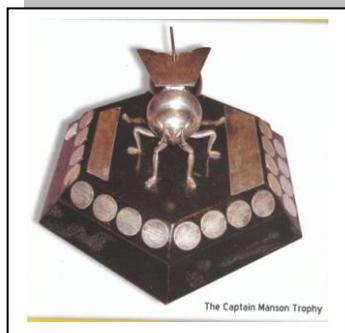
Alternatively, you can call the BBKA Head Office on 0871 811 2282 or 0871 811 2337

[You can find further details of what delegates can expect on page 4 of the newsletter.]

If you want to join a group of Aberdeen and District beekeepers on this outing, contact Stephen Palmer on 01888 551367 or Rosie Crighton on 01224 791181.

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Last month we asked if anyone knew anything about the story behind the striking **Captain Manson Trophy**, which is awarded each year at our Honey Show for most points in the industrial class.

ADBKA Member, Allister Paterson, remembers meeting Mrs Manson, probably more than seventy years ago. He thinks that the trophy might have been donated by Mrs Manson in memory of her late husband after his death.

Committee member, Gordon Stephen, also recalls:

"Captain Manson was farmer at Kiblean farm Oldmeldrum where his son Akki still stays at a house named Kempwood. The farm is now run by his son Sandy who is chief executive of Johnston Carmichael accountants."

"The Captain was very well respected in the area having been very badly wounded in France and left for dead for at least a day He only had one arm but somehow managed to keep a lot of bees very successfully. His daughter Mary Sleight told me once that he insisted on extracting all the honey they had taken off in a day before they were allowed to go to bed. He was very public spirited and active in the Farmers Union of which I think he was President for a time in its early days. He would certainly have been an office bearer in the Beekeepers Association. I met Akki yesterday and he told me his father was once at an NFU meeting at the London Savoy [I think] and he sold the hotel 1000 2oz jars of honey which took the family a long time to fill up! He sold a ton of honey in 1940."

Members' Events

TALK:

QUEEN REARING
Margaret Thomas, NDB

Saturday 23 February at 2.00pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
 Fintray Road
 Blackburn AB21 0SS

TALK:

**BEEKEEPING IN SCOTLAND
 TODAY**
**Phil McAnespie, President of the
 Scottish Beekeepers' Association**

Saturday 23 March at 2.00pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
 Fintray Road
 Blackburn AB21 0SS

We are very lucky to have such prestigious speakers as Margaret Thomas on 23 February and Phil McAnespie on 23 March and would urge as many members as possible to attend these events.

Have you looked at....

...the website of IBRA, the International Bee Research Association?

Founded in 1949, the International Bee Research Association (IBRA) is a not for profit organisation, funded from the generosity of members and supporters, and by donations and legacies. Its mission is to collect, collate and disseminate information on all species of bees.

As a publishing house, it produces a varied and extensive selection of bee publications:

- Journal of Apicultural Research - Award winning and scientifically acclaimed
- Bee World - the international link between beekeeping science and practice
- Journal of ApiProduct and ApiMedical Science - the latest research on hive products
- Books - covering all aspects of bee science, history, and beekeeping
- Leaflets and cards - providing information in a practical format.

Although some of the site is password controlled for members only, lots of information can be freely accessed. Amongst many other things, there are some high quality downloadable leaflets on bees and beekeeping, a well stocked online bookshop (not the easiest to navigate!), a free bumblebee screensaver and, for the scientifically-minded, access to *The Coloss Beebook*, which aims to standardise methods for studying the honey bee. It is intended to be a practical manual compiling standard methods in all fields of research on the honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, becoming "the definitive, but evolving, research manual".

My own attention was drawn to the IBRA Bee Bole Register. This is a searchable database of the location and details of bee boles around the country. A quick dip into this revealed 26 sites within Aberdeenshire, prompting the thought that ADBKA members may know of the existence of bee boles that have yet to be registered. If you do, let us (and IBRA!) know.

It was only a matter of time before news would emerge that a **beekeeping smart phone app is being developed**. With a grant from the Technology Strategy Board, the University of Essex and Chelmsford-based firm Simul Systems Ltd are aiming to use a mathematical model to identify the best positions for beehives in order to optimise pollination.

To find out more, whip out your smart phone and check out

http://www.eadt.co.uk/business/essex_university_study_uses_maths_to_maximise_pollination_by_bees_1_1798274



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

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

Nuc Wanted

Does anyone have an overwintered nuc available for sale in early spring?

Please contact Ewan at
e.m.campbell@abdn.ac.uk

Wanted

Glen Hives or thirteen Bar WBC's, Lift/EEK's, Roofs, floors and excluders wanted for a Static Apiary any condition considered as long as considered repairable.

Contact Graham on 01358 743348

It has become difficult to open a newspaper or listen to the news without hearing the rising pitch of **the neonicotinoid pesticide controversy**.



If you still have the appetite for more, try the BBC's report that the European Commission is to debate a proposal that member states restrict the use of neonicotinoids to crops not attractive to bees and to prohibit the sale and use of seeds treated with products that contain the active substances. Three pesticides would be affected - clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam - with farmers being banned from using them on sunflowers, oilseed rape, cotton and maize. See:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21277933>

The latest move has been prompted by a report from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Reuters highlights the fact that the EFSA has said that current gaps in the scientific data meant it had been unable to assess the risks posed to bees by some of the authorised uses of the pesticides, and there was a high level of uncertainty in its latest evaluation. Pesticide manufacturers are reported to have seized on the uncertainty in the EFSA's findings, saying that the opinion provided no grounds to challenge the currently approved use of the chemicals. See:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/16/eu-pesticides-bees-idUSL6N0ALBRT20130116>

Meanwhile, B&Q and Wickes have announced that they intend to remove products containing neonicotinoids. B&Q is banning the only product it sells containing imidacloprid, one of the neonicotinoid family of insecticides, and Wickes will later this year take off products containing the related thiamethoxam compound. See how the Guardian reported the story at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jan/29/retailers-withdraw-products-bees>

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 ✓

BBKA Spring Convention – what's on...**Public Day – Saturday 13 April****Lectures, Workshops & Courses**Queen Mother Hall

10.00 - 11.00 George Knights Memorial Lecture - Sponsor BeeCraft

The pesticide conundrum Maryann Frazier

11.30 - 12.30 Should beekeepers worry about Nosema
Geoff Williams

13.00 - 14.00 UK climate change; effect on beekeeping
Paul van der Linden

14.30 - 15.30 Second season - Sponsor Thorne Beehives
Kim Flottum

16.00 - 17.00 Harnessing the swarming impulse Tom Salter

Teaching Block Lecture Hall

10.00 - 11.00 The invasive hornet Steve Martin

11.30 - 12.30 Beekeeping without swarm control Ged
Marshall

13.00 - 14.00 Reading bees Ken Basterfield

14.30 - 15.30 Managing bee mites and diseases by letting
them be Maryann Frazier

16.00 - 17.00 The essential mating process Glyn Davies

Regional Food Academy Lecture Hall

10.00 - 11.00 Honey bee nutrition - Sponsor Belgosuc Kim
Flottum

11.30 - 12.30 Random apiary survey Giles Budge

13.00 - 14.00 Foraging patterns Francis Ratnieks

14.30 - 15.30 Queen selection Margaret Thomas

16.00 - 17.00 Newfoundland - the island of happy bees
Geoff Williams

Speakers Corner

15.30 - 17.00 Saturday TF3 Teaching Block

Speakers Corner offers an eclectic mix of short presentations on new products, techniques and developments. Companies or individuals are invited to give a 10 minute presentation and face 5 minutes of questioning. Views and opinions may differ which makes for greater interest. Topics already confirmed for 2013 are as follows: Arnia, remote hive monitoring; Belgosuc, befeed; NOD Apiary Products, Miteaway, with further news and subjects on the day.

Teaching Block Rooms

10.00 - 12.00 S8 §Introduction to the SEM examining bee parts Richard Page

10.00 - 12.00 TG5 ‡Gardening for bees Steve Alton

10.00 - 12.00 TG8 §Candle making - Sponsor Thorne Beehives Beulah Cullen

10.00 - 11.00 TF3 ‡Buying & maintaining microscopes
Graham Royle

10.00 - 11.30 TF4 ‡Making the most of the nectar flow
Gail Johnson

10.00 - 12.30 TF5 §Bees and flowers in drawing and painting Val Littlewood

11.30 - 12.30 TF3 ‡Using the Green CiC Dan Basterfield

12.30 - 13.30 TG5 ‡Nectar & pollen; where, when & how
Geoff Howe

12.30 - 14.30 TF4 ‡First steps in beekeeping Margaret
Holland

13.00 - 15.00 TG8 §Making cosmetics with honey and beeswax Sara Robb

13.00 - 15.00 TF3 ‡Honey cookery for busy people -
Sponsor 9 Maidens Mead Simone Capell

13.30 - 16.00 TF5 §Bees and flowers in drawing and painting Val Littlewood

14.00 - 16.00 S8 §Introduction to the SEM examining pollen Thomas Leigh

14.00 - 18.00 TG5 §Queen rearing event - Day 1 Terry Clare

15.30 - 17.00 TG8 §Beeswax flowers Liz Duffin

15.30 - 17.00 TF3 Speakers Corner Various Speakers
TBA

15.30 - 17.00 TF4 ‡Handling techniques Jo Schup

Faccenda Building

10.00 - 16.00 GS 1&2 §Patchwork & quilting fun day 1
Carol James

10.00 - 16.00 GS 1&2 Lace making demonstration
Shrewsbury Lace Makers

Queen Mother Hall – Car Park

11.30 + 13.30 + 15.30 Harper Adams Site Tours: 1 hour duration

N.B. Workshops & courses marked § - pre-booking and course fee payment required

Workshops & courses marked ‡ - limited pre-booking is available

According to.....

.....R.O.B. Manley in his 1946 book, *Honey Production in the British Isles*, "When the first loads of early pollen are seen on some mild, sunny day, the bee-keeper should spend some time in the apiaries, noting those stocks whose bees are carrying in plentiful supplies and those into which little or none is passing. When one colony is found to be carrying pollen freely the majority will usually be found similarly engaged, and this is the first true sign of prosperity and successful wintering; for when liberal supplies of early pollen are being carried into a hive, the colony concerned is almost certainly in good condition and breeding well. But in nearly every apiary some stocks will be found to be carrying little or no pollen, and these should be noted, for it is among them that trouble is most likely to manifest itself."