

Newsletter

January 2013



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

Happy New Year!

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

***In the Newsletter
this month:***

Learning in 2013	1
Members' Events	2
Practical Certificate	2
Notice Board	3
Cpt Manson Trophy	3
Honey Jar Store	4
According to.....	4

It's 2013 already – so little time, so much to learn.....

With another beekeeping season racing towards us, now is the time to think about expanding your knowledge, improving your skills or maybe just topping up and polishing your current beekeeping expertise.

With your 2013 ADBKA membership you'll be receiving details of our own great programme of members' events, which are also publicised on our website and each month in the newsletter.

(Your membership renewal was due on the first of this month. If you haven't forwarded your subscription to our treasurer already, now's the time to get it done.)

And perhaps you want to cast your net more widely. A great place to start is with the extensive education programme being offered by the Scottish Beekeepers' Association. Published in this month's *Scottish Beekeeper* is a packed learning schedule, including:

Courses in -

- Candle Making and Wired Foundation Making – February
- Microscopy Preparation – April
- Skep Making - April
- Queen Rearing - May
- Nucleus Colony Making – June
- Building Colonies for Honey Extracting and Processing - August

To confirm your learning, you can take a host of examinations:

- The Basic Beemaster Certificate – a practical and oral exam that the SBA encourages all beekeepers in Scotland to undertake.
- Written examinations in:

- Honeybee Management
- Honeybee Products and Forage
- Honeybee Diseases
- Pests and Poisoning
- Honeybee Biology
- Honeybee Behaviour
- Selection and Breeding of Honeybees
- Honeybee Management and History
- Microscopy (in 2014)

- The Honey Judge Certificate
- The Apiarian Certificate

From 2014, the SBA will be offering a practical examination for the 'Intermediate Practical Certificate' – see page 2.

To find out more, visit

www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk

where you'll also find details of how to join the SBA. Alternatively, you can join by writing to:

Phil McAnespie
SBA Membership Secretary
12 Monument Road
Ayr
KA7 2RL

And as if this wasn't enough.....

The Scottish Agricultural College is running a course on Bee Health in Moray on 1 June. Contact Alison Knox on 0300 244 9836, or e-mail alison.knox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Finally, Graeme Sharp will be running a Varroa management course at the SAC, Craibstone, in the near future - date to be advised.

Members planning on sitting any of the SBA examinations scheduled for 24 March should note that their application and fee must be with Alan Riach by 2 February.

FILM:
**THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE
DISAPPEARING BEES**

Saturday 26 January at 2.00pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
Fintray Road
Blackburn AB21 0SS

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.

From the Scottish Beekeepers' Association website:

As of 2014, the SBA will be offering a new Practical examination, **The Intermediate Practical Certificate**. This is a completely new examination based on "The Year's Beekeeping Activities".

As its name suggests, it is aimed at Beekeepers progressing in their beekeeping career who are perhaps not comfortable with written exams, but who nevertheless want to be tested on their progress at a practical level. It is envisaged that the exam will take up to two hours at both the beekeeper's apiary and honey & wax processing premises.

The syllabus was formulated with the targets of clarity of format and a challenging test of advanced beekeeping.

Minimum entry qualifications have been set of:

- Attainment of the Basic Beemaster at distinction level
- Ownership and management of at least two colonies of bees for at least five seasons.

It would be expected that the candidates would present for the examination, with at least two working colonies and a nucleus.

General Format of the Intermediate Practical

1.1 The Practical Beekeeping section has been written to reflect the year's work, commencing with winter preparations.

1.2 The assessment will take place in the candidate's apiary during the active months of either May, June or July.

1.3 Since the examination will take place in the months stated in 1.2, operations performed outwith these months will require a descriptive or simulative answer.

1.4 The candidate will be expected to provide all equipment for opening and handling colonies and

demonstrate proficiency in lighting and using the smoker and performing manipulations at the request of the examiner.

1.5 The candidate's honey and wax processing equipment, queen rearing equipment and storage facilities for supers, brood boxes not in use and honey should be available for inspection.

1.6 Extraction and honey-handling equipment must comply with the current legal requirements for food processing and packing; to include facilities for cleaning, weighing and storing.

1.7 The candidate should have samples from their own apiary of clear, set and comb honey, also a wax product available for inspection.

1.8 If possible, at least two colonies and a nucleus should be available for the examination.

1.9 The assessment will be arranged to the mutual convenience of the candidate and the assessor, depending on the weather.

1.10 The examination may take one to two hours in total but individual hives will only be open for a short time.

Award of Certificate

The certificate will be awarded at three levels:

Pass 60-69%

Credit 70-79%

Distinction 80%+

The Intermediate Practical Syllabus will appear on the SBA Website this month.

Applications for the new Intermediate Practical will be invited in next January's (2014) edition of the Scottish Beekeeper.

<http://scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/>

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

Ten percent of Scottish beekeepers have taken part in the country's first **bee health survey**. Scottish Government Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, said: "Bees have a vital role to play in our ecosystem - not just because they produce honey and other products but because of their valuable contribution to the pollination of many crops and wild plants. Bees can also be an early warning system for other problems which may be developing in our environment.

"That's why it's important that we monitor bee health and ensure our bees stay healthy, particularly as they are susceptible to a wide variety of threats, including pests and diseases."

The story was covered widely in the Scottish media, including by the Scottish Farmer at <http://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/bees-health-check.19785781>



ADVISORY NOTE - Actions to take on suspecting that your bees may have been affected by insecticides:

As well as a sudden reduction in the number of foraging bees, a large number of dead or dying bees outside the hive may indicate poisoning. The colony may become bad tempered, and shivering, staggering and crawling bees may be seen. Returning foragers spin around on the ground until they die. Dead bees usually have their proboscis ('tongue') extended.

If you suspect poisoning, note the day and time and any information concerning apparent spraying activity.

Gather three samples of 200 dead bees – use paper or cardboard containers, not plastic. (Bees carrying pollen loads are useful in identifying the source of the problem.) Send one sample to:

SASA
Roddinglaw Road
Edinburgh
EH12 9FJ

Keep the remaining two samples in the freezer for possible further testing.

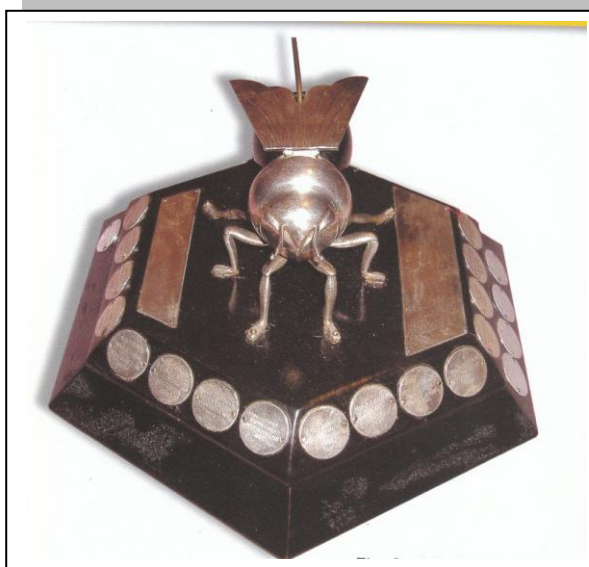
If the colony is badly depleted, reduce the entrance to guard against robbing.

The Captain Manson Trophy is awarded each year at our Honey Show for most points in the industrial class. (Last year won by Margaret McGregor.) The striking trophy, pictured on the left, features a silver honey bee, mounted on a heavy wooden base incorporating engraved plates citing each year's recipient. But who was Captain Manson, and what were the origins of the trophy?

Intrigued by the unusual design, ADBKA member Stephen Palmer undertook some research and found a very similar item being sold on-line by a London-based antique dealer:

Novelty Silver Plated Honey Bee Dish by Mappin and Webb

Attractive honey dish in the form of a honey bee. The wings lift to reveal the honey held in the glass body. Height 8 cms high Width 9 cms at the back of the wing. Length 20 cms from the tip of the feelers to the back of the glass. Electroplated. Usually made by Mappin and Webb with full marks to the base of the wings and body. Circa 1920.



If you can help fill in the story behind this unusual trophy, please get in touch and we'll share it in next month's newsletter.

Call Graham Torrie on 013398 82038; or e-mail: grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com



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.

Scottish Environment Minister, Richard Lochhead MSP, has been criticised by the Scottish Wildlife Trust for failing to act on their call to ban the use of **neonicotinoid pesticides** pending further tests on their effect on pollinators. Adding to the pressure, one of the leading researchers to have raised concerns about the pesticides, Professor Dave Goulson from the University of Stirling, is reported as saying: "I agree that neonicotinoids should be withdrawn pending further investigations."

"The evidence for impacts on bees, particularly wild bumble- bees, keeps mounting, and to continue using them does risk further harming bee populations, particularly in the light of recent evidence that they accumulate in the environment."

The story was widely reported, including by the Herald at

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/environment/scottish-government-fails-to-ban-pesticide-blamed-for-poisoning-bees.19747007>



Just when you thought the well of beekeeping puns might be drying up!

MBeeE!

Congratulations to Ian Craig, former president of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, who has been made a *Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire* on being awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List. Ian was the guest honey judge at our 2011 Honey Show.

On the 10th of January, the House of Lords held a debate on the plight of the honey bee. The issue was raised by Lord (Colin) Moynihan, who moved that *"this House takes note of the decline in honey bees in 2012 and of measures to combat the prevalence of disease in bee colonies."*

In his opening remarks, Lord Moynihan, himself a beekeeper, acknowledged the help he had received from ADBKA member Dr Stephen Palmer in preparing his speech.

You can read the debate in Hansard at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130110-0002.htm#13011048001187>

According to.....

.....Maurice Maeterlinck in his 1901 book, *The Life of the Bee*, "The real history of the bee begins in the seventeenth century, with the discoveries of the great Dutch savant, Swammerdam. It is well, however, to add this detail, but little known: before Swammerdam a Flemish naturalist named Clutius had arrived at certain important truths, such as the sole maternity of the queen and her possession of the attributes of both sexes, but he had left these unproved. Swammerdam founded the true methods of scientific investigation: he invented the microscope, contrived injections to ward off decay, was the first to dissect the bees, and by the discovery of the ovaries and the oviduct definitely fixed the sex of the queen, hitherto looked upon as a king, and threw the whole political scheme of the hive into most unexpected light by basing it upon maternity."