

Newsletter

June 2012

# Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

## Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association welcomes its new Chair

*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  
AB51 0YJ  
Tel. 01224 313096

**In the Newsletter**

**this month:**

New Chair	1
SBA Conference	1
News	2
Beekeeping Circles	2
Members' Events	2
Varroa and DWV	2
Secretary's notes	3
SBA matters	3
Notice Board	4
Equipment	4
According to.....	4

At our AGM, held on Saturday 26 May 2012, John Cooper was elected to the Chair of the Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association; Andy Sutherland was elected as Vice Chair. Mr R Wood continues as our President.

The job of Honorary Secretary remains in the safe hands of Rosie Crighton and, as notified earlier, Louise Forbes was elected to the post of Honorary Treasurer.

Members elected to serve on the committee for the year ahead were: James Beattie, Barbara Cruden, Ian Douglas, Paul Falconer, David Findlater, Sandy Gordon, Alexander Innes, Witek Mojsiewicz, Stephen Palmer, Innes Simpson, Fred Simpson, Graham Stables, Gordon Stephen, Kirsty Sutherland and Jim Thomson.

Outgoing Chair, Jock McGregor, was presented with an inscribed Quaich recording the gratitude of the association for his tireless efforts on behalf of its members. Jock, in turn, presented Rosie Crighton with the Robert Wood Quaich, an annual award made at the discretion of the Chair in recognition of extraordinary commitment and contribution to the association. Finally, Jock's wife, Margaret, was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a much deserved gesture of thanks for her support during Jock's tenure as Chair, and for the wonderful hospitality she has shown committee members

during meetings in her home, and the membership generally at many association events.

Following the formal part of the meeting we were privileged to hear a talk from Hugh Donohoe on the subject of keeping bees and preparing honey show exhibits. Hugh's comprehensive and detailed presentation was illustrated by an excellent slide show. A vote of thanks was proposed by the Chair, John Cooper.

*Could you please convey to all members of A.D.B.A. our thanks for the beautiful flowers and splendid Quaich.*

*Quite unexpected, making it so special and appreciated.*

*Over the years it was a pleasure to give service to the Bee Association and its members.*

*Wishing you all the best and thank you again,*

*Margaret and Jock*

## SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CENTENARY CELEBRATION CONFERENCE

**Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September 2012**

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.

To download a booking form, visit <http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/About/SBACentenary.aspx> Or, contact Peter Matthews, 4 Annanhill, Annan, Dumfriesshire DG12 6TN; Tel. 01461 205525, e-mail: [silverhive@hotmail.com](mailto:silverhive@hotmail.com)



## Members' Events

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION**

Sunday 17 June at 2.30pm  
Gordon Stephen and Fred Simpson:

**SWARM CONTROL**

Oldmeldrum

*(Site will be signposted on Inverurie/Oldmeldrum road close to 'HOODLES' the children entertainment facility at North Mains, Oldmeldrum)*

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION**

Saturday 7 July at 2.30pm  
Sandy Watson:

**GENERAL INSPECTION AND HARVESTING HONEY CROP**

Association apiary, SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION**

Saturday 22 July at 2.30pm

**DISEASE INSPECTION**

Birchfield, Kintore

*(Further details t.b.a.)*

The Torphins **Beekeeping Circle** proved its success recently when a request for assistance with a hive inspection was answered and the stability of the colony was restored. Local bee expert, Hugh Donohoe, provided the knowhow, which was gratefully received by those present. The bees came from Jock McGregor last year, over-wintered well to produce a strong colony. Ten days before the inspection a small swarm was found near the hive and this was put into an empty hive. This was already thriving, much comb had been created. Eggs and larvae were seen. The opportunity was taken to mark the queen.

There were still a very large number of bees in the original hive with a number of healthy queen cells. One of these was put into a nuc, with some frames, stores and candy. Most of the remaining queen cells were destroyed, leaving two – the assumption being that the first to hatch would kill the other. Some of the remaining stores from the super on the main hive were transferred to the reserve hive and new supers were put onto both hives.

The intention is to leave the hives and the nuc for a month before disturbing.

Altogether the evening was extremely useful, great training and the risk of subsequent swarms has been greatly reduced. This would not have been possible without the local beekeeping circle for which I am very grateful.

*Rod McGovern*

**Beekeeping Circles**

If you would like to join an existing beekeeping circle in the following areas, contact -

Helen Anderson, based in **Inverurie**, on 01467 620750, e-mail: [sh.and@gmx.com](mailto:sh.and@gmx.com)

Graham Torrie, based in **Torphins**, on 013398 82038, e-mail: [grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com)

*The initiative relies on individual members volunteering to compile and share (with permission) a list of names and contact numbers of other beekeepers in their local area, then to take things forward as the members of the circle deem fit. If you would be prepared to co-ordinate a beekeeping circle in your own area, please contact Graham Torrie.*

News**Mains of Drum Garden Centre - Gardeners Evening**

Sandy Gordon and John Cooper manned an Association stall at this event on 25th June.

We provided a display of local honeys and some items of beekeeping equipment, and offered some free honey tastings.

As is usual at this kind of event, the public showed plenty of interest in bee issues.

**Turriff Show**

Further to the information in last month's Newsletter, Sandy Gordon, with help from others, will be taking the lead again in organising the Association stand at the Turriff Show on 5th and 6th of August.

Would anyone willing to help on the stand please contact Sandy on 01224 484540.

Entries in the Show's Honey Section must be registered on an entry schedule form with the Show Secretary no later than the 14th July.

These forms and the honey schedule are obtainable from: Bruce Ferguson, secretary, Ardmiddle Mains, Turriff, AB53 8AG. Tel 01888 568830

Honey exhibits themselves should be delivered to the showground on the 5th August by 9.45 AM.

As stated in last month's Newsletter, our Association stand at the show is in jeopardy if entries to the Honey Section do not increase. If it is any incentive, there are money prizes available. Members are urged to support the show, which is Scotland's second biggest agricultural show.

Any member who wishes to sell honey on the Association stand may either deliver it themselves on the morning of the show, or get in touch with Sandy if they would like him to take it to the show for them.

Similarly, if anyone would like Sandy to take their competition exhibits to the show please contact him to make the necessary arrangements.



A study of honey bees in Hawaii by Sheffield University has established a strong link between the Varroa mite and the spread of deformed wing virus. The findings were reported in the journal Science and caused great excitement in the media. See the BBC's take on the story at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/18339797>

### Notes from the Secretary

On the 19<sup>th</sup> May, Craibstone was the venue for a special bee health diseases day which was run by the Scottish Government and SASA. Sadly there was a poor turnout of local members but those who did attend were offered an opportunity to view diseased frames courtesy of SASA who provided examples of European Foul Brood and American Foul Brood, as well as chilled brood and chalk brood. This was only available under special licenced conditions and a rare opportunity for learning.

Graham Sharpe and Steve Sunderland along with Kirsty Sutherland showed the assembled beekeepers how to perform a disease inspection and shared practical information and knowledge which will enhance the beekeeping skills of those who were present.

It is unlikely that this course will come to the Aberdeen area again, however if we are lucky enough to be able to host it in the future, I would urge beekeepers new and experienced to attend. This will help to increase knowledge and understanding of disease and disease prevention and help build a more robust approach to disease prevention within the Association area.

It was £25 well spent with a full day's programme, refreshments and lunch provided. As an Association we should be seen to be proactive in our beekeeping and take full advantage of good quality study days which will help take beekeeping forward in the future. This study day was a great opportunity for beekeepers to network and learn from each other through sharing knowledge and experiences and hopefully more beekeepers will attend if days like this are provided again in the Aberdeen area.

Due to weather difficulties it may be necessary to cancel apiary inspections at short notice and I would urge all those who wish to attend the events on the yellow card to telephone either John Cooper, Chair, on 01224 637774, or Rosie Crighton, Secretary, on 01224 791181, to confirm if the event is going ahead. Any decision to cancel or postpone will be taken prior to 12 midday on the day of the inspection/event. **This is only in the event of the weather appearing inclement on the day of the inspection/event.**

Would any member who would like to purchase a locally produced nucleus hive please get in touch with Rosie Crighton, (Secretary), on 791181 who will co-ordinate supply and demand if possible. Thank you very much.

I would like to take this opportunity publically to thank Jock McGregor for awarding me the President's Trophy at the AGM last month. This was completely unexpected and I feel undeserved, however I am absolutely bowled over by receiving it. I have very much enjoyed the challenge of the secretarial role in the last year and know that there is still much to learn and do, but having my efforts acknowledged by Jock in such a way is really wonderful and I hope that I will continue to provide a supportive role to the membership and new Chairperson, John Cooper, in the future. I was touched by Jock's generosity and offer a heartfelt thanks to him for his vote of confidence, I would like to wish him and Margaret my warmest regards and I hope this is a successful beekeeping season for them.

*Rosie Crighton X.*

### **Report on Scottish Beekeepers Association Executive Council Meeting 9th June 2012**

This was my first meeting as the area representative for Aberdeen BKA and Moray BKA and it soon became obvious that I have much to learn about the ways and means of the SBA.

I was surprised to learn that the total membership of the SBA was only 1400 (this is a very small proportion of the total number of Scottish beekeepers) and that many Scottish beekeepers (and their local Associations) seem to want to have little to do with the national organisation that serves and represents them. This is clearly something that both ADBKA and MBKA need to address. The President of the SBA (Phil McAnespie [philmcnespie@supanet.com](mailto:philmcnespie@supanet.com)) would welcome the opportunity to speak to our Associations. Perhaps this is something that we ought to consider early in 2013?

This year's touring SBA lecturer (Richard Ball – from the National Bee Unit of the UK) is not visiting our area this year; we seem to have missed an opportunity to be part of the programme and we need to ensure that in future we don't miss the boat! (There are plans already afoot for a touring lecturer for 2013)

The SBA is concerned about its future direction and plans. To this end a five-year plan is being developed to make the SBA more effective and relevant.

We need to identify a Spray Liaison contact person in both our Associations; the names can then be added to the SBA listing on its website.

At the meeting reports were given by committees concerned with: bee health, Education, Library, beekeeping insurance/compensation, membership, ICT, National honey show.

There was much discussion on the SBA Centenary weekend in September; we need to give this major event some further publicity on our websites and amongst our members.

The SBA is currently looking for a new General Secretary to replace the current post-holder when she becomes President of the SBA in March 2013.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is on 8th September.

*Stephen Palmer*

Stephen is our Area Representative on the SBA Executive Committee. He can be contacted at [palmers@fintry.plus.com](mailto:palmers@fintry.plus.com) or on 01888 551367



## 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)

Jock and Margaret are taking a well deserved holiday, from 24 June until 16 July. Over this period, supplies of wax foundation will be available from Sandy Gordon (see side panel on this page)

**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

### Hive with Bees for Sale

I have one National Hive for sale, complete with newly installed swarm which I installed from my apiary on 1st June 2012.

Peter Sykes  
Tel: 01975562817

### For Sale

Plastic Honey tank with valve 40kg  
Boxes of Honey jars 2 x 72  
Bee Candy 4 cakes i.e. one carton  
Small contact feeders 7 only  
Full length Bee suit (ladies?) never worn  
Bee gloves (ladies?) 1 pair  
Stainless Steel extractor, 9 frame, electric, seldom used.  
Double nylon strainer  
Heather straining cloths 3 only  
Smoker 1 only  
Hives, national, steel roofs 5 only  
A variety of supporting bits and pieces

Contact Mrs Taylor, Kintore, Tel No. 0146 642682

**Nucs and Queens**, mated or virgin – currently being advertised and sold commercially by "The Bee Man" at <http://www.the-beeman.co.uk/> Tel: 01644440202  
E-mail: [mike@the-beeman.co.uk](mailto:mike@the-beeman.co.uk)

As advised, prices are: mated UK queens £35; virgin queens £11.99 + P&P; 5-frame nucs £199 with 2012 UK queen

ADBA members are offered a 10% discount on these prices.

## 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.*

## According to.....

.....J Dennler in his 1889 book *Bees-Wax: Its economical uses and conversion into money*, "From marigold flowers a plaster can be made by bruising the flowers and the stalks and mixing them with as much lard as will cover them, allowing the mass to boil over a moderate fire for an hour, and then squeezing it through a cloth. The liquid that is pressed out is put on the fire again, and as much yellow wax added as will make it of the consistency of a plaster. If less wax is used, marigold flower salve is obtained. Both preparations are useful for all kinds of wounds."

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](mailto: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