

Newsletter

March 2012

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

President:

Mr R Wood
Cothal Lodge
Cothal, Dyce

Chair:

John McGregor
11 Marcus Road
Blackburn
Tel. 01224 790468

Hon. Secretary:

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

Hon. Treasurer:

Innes Simpson
Burndale
Keith Hall
Inverurie
AB51 0YJ
Tel. 01467 670265

In the Newsletter

this month:

Beekeeping Roup	1
SBA examinations	1
News	1
Condolences	1
Members' Events	2
A Waggy Tale	2
Notice Board	3
Foraging around	3
Compensation & Insurance	4
Equipment	4
According to.....	4

Great Big Beekeeping Roup

The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association and the Moray Beekeepers' Association will be holding a joint auction of bee stocks and beekeeping equipment at Bucharn Farm, Huntly, AB45 4PU, on Saturday 5 May. This will give our members a great opportunity to sell stocks and equipment that are surplus to their requirements this year, and for others to grab a spring bargain, as well as a chance for all of us to meet and chat with other north east beekeepers.

Look out for more information in the April newsletter!

From the Scottish Beekeepers' Association Website:

Forestry Commission Scotland Waives charges to hobby beekeepers

Following recent discussions, FCS has re-evaluated the impact of its current policy and as a result will waive the administration charge associated with permissions for the positioning of beehives on the National Forest Estate (NFE) by recreational Bee keepers with immediate effect. In announcing this change, FSC also made reference to Scotland's Honey Bee Health Strategy. The main aim of the Strategy is to achieve a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees for pollination and honey production in Scotland which will be achieved by strengthened partnership working between stakeholders with interests in honey bees. This change in policy is a very welcome, positive and helpful step in strengthening such partnerships, and appreciation is due to all those involved in the decision.

SBA Examinations

Don't forget, applications for the Scottish Beekeepers' Association's **Basic Beemaster examination** must be sent to the SBA's Education Convener, Ian Craig, by 14 April 2012, enclosing a fee of £10. Ian's address is: 30 Burnside Avenue, Brookfield, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, PA5 8UT.

More information, along with the syllabus for this and other SBA examinations can be downloaded from:

www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk

Application forms can also be obtained by contacting our Secretary.

The Association extends its condolences to:

- the family of ADBA member John Kellas, a long time member of staff on the Glen Tanar Estate, who died on the 28th of February at the age of 77 after a long period of illness, latterly as a patient in Aboyne Hospital. ADBA Chair, Jock McGregor said: "Jock had a lifetime association with bees and managed a couple of stocks throughout his illness into the close of season 2011. He was a fiddle player of some repute, playing with the local Accordion and Fiddle club and this too gave solace and comfort. We send condolences to his wife Violet and the extended family."

Members' Event

Talk by Commercial Beekeeper Murray McGregor

Saturday 24 March at 2.30pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
Fintray Road
Blackburn AB21 0SS

Please consider bringing along a prize as a contribution to the raffle that will be held following the talk

Members' Event

Practical Workshop and Spring Inspection

Saturday 28 April at 10am

Association Apiary, SAC, Craibstone

ALL DAY EVENT

Towns, Gardens and Britain in Bloom

If you haven't been able to catch this BBC series in which Sarah Raven sets out on a mission to halt the rapid decline in Britain's essential bees, butterflies and pollinating insects to our towns, it is still available on the BBC iPlayer at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0152fty>

Thanks to Emma Chapman for this item.

A Waggy Tale

We were out at the bee meeting at Kinellar Hall in February when, in our absence our lurcher dog stole a bottle of Vita Feed Gold from the kitchen table, unwrapped it from the jiffy bag, took off the lid and drank most of it. We found her, on our return, lying out flat having vomited copious amounts. She perked up and took her tea as usual but she remained very hot throughout the evening panting and seeking a cool area in the house. She was florid in colour and didn't fully recover until the next day. I looked up the chemical ingredients of Vita Feed Gold and discovered them to be sugar beet and salicylic acid. £15 for a bottle of sugar beet and aspirin, and the dog drunk it....I guess there a few lessons to be learnt there! However on the serious side, if any of you have thieving dogs please be mindful of where you store your bee chemicals and keep them away from pets ...oh and much more importantly, children! Needless to say I will be more careful in future and keep chemicals away from the dog, but also it is a useful lesson to remember to get to know what the ingredients of products are and not just assume because it is safe for insect consumption it will be safe for all animals.

Rosie Crighton

Mentors Available

A number of our experienced members have been kind enough to offer their services as mentors. If you are a beginner seeking a mentor in the following areas, please contact the Secretary:

-  Aberdeen
-  Culter/Drumoak
-  Banchory
-  Crathie
-  Inverurie
-  Blackburn

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

Graham Torrie, based in **Torphins**, on 013398 82038, e-mail: grahamtorry002@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.





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

The Scottish Beekeepers Association celebrates its centenary in 2012. The main celebration will take place on 15th & 16th September 2012 at the Stirling Management Centre, University of Stirling. Over the two days, there will be a series of lectures by Prof Robert Paxton, 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. Tickets go on sale in Spring 2012.

Whilst reading the January newsletter again it occurred to me that it might be useful to pass on a bit of info to other members via the newsletter. I buy 80 % acetic acid from my soap making supplies and can give you a link to their website. There's a choice of sizes and it is relatively cheap to buy.

Here is the link:

https://www.soapkitchenonline.co.uk/cgi-bin/sh000001.pl?REFPAGE=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2esoapkit henonline%2eco%2euk%2facatalog%2fToiletry_Bases_and_Concentrates%2ehtml&WD=acetic%20acid&PN=Liquids_and_Gels%2ehtml%23a904#a904

Regards, Julie Wall

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

Foraging around



A team of researchers from the Queen Mary University of London has discovered that **bumblebees can use cues from their rivals the honeybees** to learn where the best food resources are. The researchers suggest that bees would have opportunities to learn cues from their own species and other species to an equal degree in the wild, as they often share the same flower species as a source of food. The story was covered by, amongst others, Sci-news.com and can be found at <http://www.sci-news.com/biology/article00181.html>

The BBC reports that bee keepers in mid and north Wales are being urged to help with **research into the healing properties of honey** as scientists look to counter MRSA. Cardiff University and the National Botanic Garden of Wales launched the hunt last summer for honeys which can counteract bacteria. They are checking for honey with the potential to counter hospital acquired infections MRSA and Clostridium Difficile. See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-mid-wales-17231976>

With the numbers of honey bees declining in China, the country has now started depending on **artificial pollination to harvest fruits**. China's indigenous honey bee - Apis ceranae - previously survived under varied geographical conditions, but these are also dying off. Their population has decreased due to environmental pollution and competition from Italian bees - Apis mellifera ligustica - that were introduced in China just before the turn of the 20th century. Read the story at http://zeenews.india.com/news/eco-news/china-resorts-to-artificial-pollination_761052.html

Very many news outlets picked up a report that, **like humans, bees have different personality traits...** and choose their jobs to suit them. Researchers in the US have worked out that some bees are thrill-seekers whereas others opt for a more cautious, risk-averse attitude to life. Read the Daily Mail's take on this story at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2112197/Bees-personalities-say-scientists.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>



SBA Compensation and Insurance Schemes

The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association is affiliated to the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA). In addition, many of our members will be full members of the SBA in their own right. The SBA's Compensation Scheme applies differently depending upon whether someone is a full SBA member, or a member of an affiliated local association. The Insurance Scheme applies equally to full members and affiliated members. The details are provided below.

Compensation

All FULL Association members automatically qualify for membership of the Association Compensation Scheme. Normally, the first ten hives of any full member are covered FREE for compensation against loss by fire, theft, vandalism and AFB/EFB Disease. This cover is applicable only to stocks located in Scotland. Cover for stocks in addition to the first ten can be purchased on payment of an additional premium. This compensation scheme is separate from the Insurance Scheme, (details of which are given below), is financed entirely by the Association, and covers losses through Fire, Theft, Vandalism and AFB/EFB. Full details are available from the Compensation Convener. Affiliate and Family members may apply to join the Compensation Scheme; they pay £4.00 for the first ten stocks or part thereof (located only in Scotland), the same as full Members (£4-00 for each additional 10 hives or part thereof). The Insurance Convener has asked beekeepers to note that if they submit repeated claims (i.e. more than TWO) for vandalism to hives at the same location, having been advised to move them, they may be excluded from the Compensation Scheme.

Insurance

All Full and Affiliate members are covered by the Association's Public and Product Liability insurance with the Sun Alliance insurance company. Members should contact the convener, or their local Association secretary, for copies of the leaflets which detail these schemes.

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.....

.....William Hamilton in his book, *The Art of Beekeeping*, "It often happens in practical bee-keeping that districts only a few miles apart require completely different systems, if a profitable crop of honey is to be secured. The first thing to do, therefore, is to find out when the most important nectar-secreting flowers bloom in a district, the second thing is to adopt a system which enables one to have hives full of energetic bees to collect the nectar when it is available, and the third thing is to consider whether a system of swarm prevention, as opposed to dividing the colonies, is necessary or even desirable."

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

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