

Newsletter
May 2012

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910
Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

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Annual General Meeting and Apiary Inspection

Our AGM will be held at the SAC, Craibstone AB21 9YA on Saturday 26 May 2012. Immediately prior to this, at 1.30pm, there will be a general inspection of the association apiary as part of our programme of members' events. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be available from 3pm, with the AGM beginning at 3.30pm.

The official positions of President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as the 15 ordinary members of the Committee are elected each year at the AGM.

Nominations for all of the above positions can still be made.

Any member of the Association can nominate another member for any of the positions. The only proviso is that the person being nominated is asked and agrees to the nomination.

All nominations should be with the Secretary (see contact details on this page), either by post, telephone or email, at least one week prior to the AGM. The deadline this year is 19 May.

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

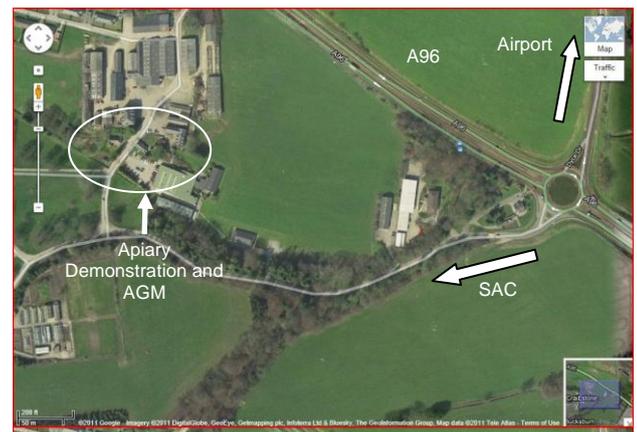
Current Committee members and office holders will automatically be nominated for re-election alongside any new nominations. (Note for current Committee members: If you do not wish to be considered for re-election, please inform the secretary by 19 May, otherwise your nomination will automatically go forward. If you are resigning from an official position, but wish to have your nomination put forward as an ordinary member of the Committee please make that clear to the Secretary by the 19 May.)

Our **Guest Speaker** at this year's AGM will be Hugh Donohoe. The title of Hugh's talk will be 'Keeping bees and preparing Honey Show exhibits'.

Hugh is based in the Banchory area where he has managed up to 30 stocks. He has been keeping bees for more than 25 years.



How to get there.....



First North East Beekeeping Auction a Great Success!

Around 100 people turned out for our beekeeping auction on Saturday 5 May. With 176 lots, there was something for everyone and some great bargains to be grabbed. ADBA Chair, Jock McGregor, said the day had exceeded his most optimistic expectations: "Because this was the first time we had organised an event like this, the level of interest was really hard to gauge. However, I'm delighted to say that we had a terrific response from our members, with a good balance between buyers and sellers, and a diverse and interesting range of lots."

More than £1,500 worth of goods exchanged hands, with only one item remaining unsold at the end of the day, having failed to reach its reserve price.

The committee has been inundated with calls to repeat the event next year - so, watch this space!

NEWS CLUSTER

✦ Looking forward to our forthcoming AGM, the following documents are distributed with this newsletter:

- i. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Engineering Lecture Theatre, S.A.C. Craibstone, Bucksburn on Wednesday 25th May, 2011
- ii. The Chair's report
- iii. The Treasurer's update

✦ Picking up on last month's report on bees' preference for local wild flowers, member Ian Mackley writes: If anyone is thinking about following up your lead on wildflower growing, I can recommend Scotia Seeds <http://www.scotiaseeds.co.uk/index.php> who offer a 'Bird, Bee and Butterfly' mix of Scottish wildflower seeds.

✦ A communication has been received from the President of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, Phil McAnespie concerning an e-mail in circulation from Phil Chandler. It seems that Mr Chandler is promoting insurance cover for beekeepers, inferring in the process that the SBA is supportive of the pesticide industry. Mr McAnespie refutes this allegation, and asks that we point out to local association members that "the Insurance and Compensation Scheme included in the SBA membership is extremely good, affordable and more than adequate". (See the panel on page 5 regarding the SBA's insurance and compensation schemes.)

✦ Still on the subject of insurance, our Treasurer has recently confirmed that the ADDBA's own Public Liability policy covers "The committee and members for the time being of the Aberdeen & District Bee Keeping Association".

✦ In last month's newsletter we included a plea from Dr Alan Bowman and his research team at the University of Aberdeen for Varroa infested combs to be sent to him for the purposes of an important new research project into Varroa control. Dr Bowman has advised us that another method of providing mites for the research would be to use the icing sugar method of removing them from adult bees. He provides the following model:

- Find a glass jar – ideally a Kilner-type of jar with a screw top and separate lid – and cut/fit a lid of fine wire or cloth mesh, too fine for bees to escape, but large enough for debris and icing sugar to pass

through.

- Pour 100 ml of water into the jar and mark to show the space occupied by this volume. Drain and dry the jar.
- Find a light coloured or white tray/dish into which you will later shake the sugar with any mites present. Paper will do in a sheltered place.
- Shake some 300 bees into the jar (300 closely-packed bees occupies approx 100 ml). This is best done by creating a long funnel with a piece of card, placing the end of the funnel into the jar and shaking bees from one or more frames into the funnel. Shake the bees into the bottom of the jar to gauge their volume against your 100 ml mark.
- Put on the mesh lid and add about 2 tablespoons of icing sugar, shaking it over the bees.
- Shake the bees and sugar, adding more if necessary, to coat the bees well. Let the jar sit for 1-2 minutes.
- Tip the jar upside down over the light-coloured tray/dish/paper, with the mesh in place, and shake out the icing sugar. Continue to shake for at least one minute to be sure you have all the mites that may be present.
- Check the sugar for mites. Add water to see the mites more easily.
- Return the bees to their colony. They will survive after cleaning up!

If you can supply brood comb frames from *Varroa* infected colonies, or mites isolated using the above method, please contact Dr Bowman by e-mailing: varroa-project@abdn.ac.uk or by phone on 01224 272877

✦ The Association traditionally has a stand at the **Turriff Show**, being held this year on Sunday 5 and Monday 6 August, where there is always a great interest in bee-craft and the work of local beekeepers.

Members are urged to assist us in maintaining our profile at this important north east event. You can do so by providing honey as well as other products of the hive, both for show and for sale. Entries must comply with the specifications published by the Show organisers, and reproduced on page 4.

For more information, contact the Chair or the Secretary

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: 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.

APIARY DEMONSTRATION

Thursday 17 May at 7.00pm

Demonstration to take place at Aquheron, AB51 0XH (postcode approximate, but apiary signposted from the Dunecht-Kintore road and off the A96 roundabout west of Blackburn)

APIARY DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 9 June at 2.30pm

General Inspection, dealing with oil seed rape

Association Apiary, SAC,
Craibstone. AB21 9YA

APIARY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday 17 June at 2.30pm

Swarm Control
Oldmeldrum

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

SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CENTENARY CELEBRATION CONFERENCE

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 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 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>

The Scottish Government
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)
and Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) are holding a

BEE HEALTH DAY

Saturday 19 May 2012

9.30am – 5.15pm

Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, AB21 9YA

(teas, coffees and lunch will be provided - please notify us of any special dietary requirements)

A full day of lectures and practical sessions covering: AFB, EFB and other Bee Diseases, Apiary Hygiene, a Shook Swarm demonstration and Integrated Pest Control

To book your place or for more information contact:

Alison Knox, P Spur, Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Tel: 0300 244 9836

Email: Alison.knox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that there will be a cost of £25.00
(cheques should be made payable to "SAC")

Last month, **A Member Asked.....**are there any views on the optimum Varroacide to use this coming year?

The best advice on the subject is that provided by The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) and publicised on its BeeBase website (<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/>)

Information about Varroa, including monitoring methods, resistance management and treatment information, is available in the FERA advisory leaflet "Managing Varroa". It can be downloaded from

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm?pageid=93> Members without access to the Internet can obtain a free copy by writing to: National Bee Unit, The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York, UK, YO41 1LZ

The following is an extract from FERA's advisory document on Varroa treatment:

"INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

"IPM means using a combination of different control methods at different times of the year in order to keep the varroa mite population to such a level as it causes no significant harm to a bee colony.

"IPM allows the beekeeper to choose the products or methods appropriate to them. It encourages careful monitoring so that treatments are used in line with known risk. A record should be kept of treatments applied.

"Chemical treatments have been used for a number of years in Wales, based on a combination of Apiguard (other thymol based treatments are now licensed) and oxalic acid. These offer a very simple means of controlling mite numbers effectively. It is particularly useful to beginners and should be seen as an important part of an IPM approach that can be adapted as necessary."



Notice Board

Site Wanted

I am a member of the association and am trying to find a heather location for my bees in July. I live in Tarves and my bees are currently at a rape site near Pitmedden.

If you can help, please contact Stuart Barclay at:

stugetwet@yahoo.co.uk

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

Steele & Brodie Hive Parts

(1st of single walled hives)

Brood box with Frames (drawn comb); 12 supers some with drawn frames; crown board; travel screen

Given a little woodworking skills, enough to create two hives

NB Frames identical to standard BS frames. **Nil cost**

For further info: contact John McGregor on 01224 790468

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

From Janet Lowore at 'Bees for Development':

Places are available to join the **Bee Safari to Turkey** this July. The holiday combines travel with adventure, and opportunities to learn about bees and beekeeping. Meeting local people - exploring botany, bees and beautiful places. Your hosts in Turkey will ensure you have a trip of a lifetime!

For more information about this unique and memorable trip visit:

<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/how-to-help/safaris>

SCHEDULE FOR THE TURRIFF SHOW

Section 4 - honey

59. Two 1lb. Jars of Liquid Light Honey.
60. Two 1lb. Jars of Liquid Medium or Dark Honey. (excluding Bell Heather)
61. Two 1lb. Jars of Granulated Blossom Honey (excluding Creamed/Soft Set Honey).
62. Two 1lb. Jars of Creamed/Soft Set Honey.
63. Two 1lb. Jars of Ling Heather Honey.
64. Two 1lb. Jars of Liquid Bell Heather Honey.
65. Two 8oz. Cut Comb Containers with clear clip-on lids of Cut Comb Blossom Honey 7-9oz. each.
66. One Shallow or Standard Frame.
67. One Cake of Beeswax (weight not less than 8oz.).
68. Beeswax for retail trade not less than 8oz. in total and minimum of eight pieces.
69. Three Beeswax Candles all made by any method to

be displayed vertically. One candle may be lit by the judge.

Additional rules for section 4:

1. Jars used in all classes will be B.S.I. specification 1lb. squat with commercial lids.
 2. All honey and wax exhibited must be the bona fide produce of the exhibitor's own bees.
 3. All beeswax may be displayed in show boxes.
- 5
SPECIAL PRIZE - £3 and Medallion for Best Exhibit in Section 4.
TROPHY presented by Turrieff District Agricultural Association for the Best Exhibit in Section 4.

Foraging around



The **British Black honey bee** seems to be fighting its way back, according to a Co-operative Group funded study by the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association. In Scotland, populations were found in Fife, Argyle and Bute, Sutherland, the Roseneath peninsula and Argyle. The story was widely covered in the media, including by the Scotsman at

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/sting-in-the-tale-as-native-black-bees-prove-fighting-fit-1-2239930>

Another brave soul has taken on the "challenge" of covering himself with as many bees as he can, in the name of achieving the World Record for the feat. Sadly, it seems that China's She Ping, who **covered himself with 331,000 honey-bees**, failed to make the grade, though he did live to tell the tale. The story and pictures are available at

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/331003/20120420/chinese-beekeeper-ping-wears-331-000-bees.htm>

For some of the most **stunning bee photographs** you are ever likely to see, have a look at the Guardian website at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/gallery/2012/may/08/bees-green-shoots?newsfeed=true#/?picture=389593530&index=1>

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.

Full details of the two schemes were published the February and March 2012 newsletters and are available on the SBA website at: <http://scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/Services/InsuranceandCompensationScheme.aspx>

For more information, contact the secretary (*contact details on page 1*).



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.....

.....ASC Deans in his book *The Bee Keepers Encyclopedia*, "Honey bees appear to possess a certain time sense and, according to Miss Beling, a pupil of von Frisch, a regular rhythm is shown in the colony when the urge to feed is felt. Plants exhibit great variation in the time each flower opens and nectar is yielded; but the bee seems to recognise this and is able to take advantage of the food when offered by the plant."

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