

Newsletter
May 2013



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

2013 Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday May 25th at the SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA.

This is one of the most important occasions of the year for our association and we urge as many members as possible to attend. As you will see from the report being presented by our Chair, John Cooper, it seems likely that we are about to see significant changes in the year ahead, with the exciting prospect of a move from our current apiary site at Craibstone.

Circulated with this month's newsletter are the following documents, which you should bring along to the meeting:

- 1 Agenda for the AGM of 25 May 2013
- 2 Chair's report: AGM 2013
- 3 Abbreviated ADBKA Accounts for the year to 31.12.2013

As part of our formal business at the AGM, the office bearing positions of President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the 15 ordinary members of the Committee are elected each year.

Nominations for all the above positions can be made by any member of ADBKA. The only proviso is that the person being nominated is asked and agrees to the nomination. All nominations should be notified to the Secretary, Rosie Crighton, either by post, telephone or email, at least one week prior to the AGM. The deadline this year is Saturday 18th 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.

Unless they have previously intimated, by the 18th May deadline, that they wish to resign, current office bearers and committee members will automatically be nominated for re-election alongside any new nominations.

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:**

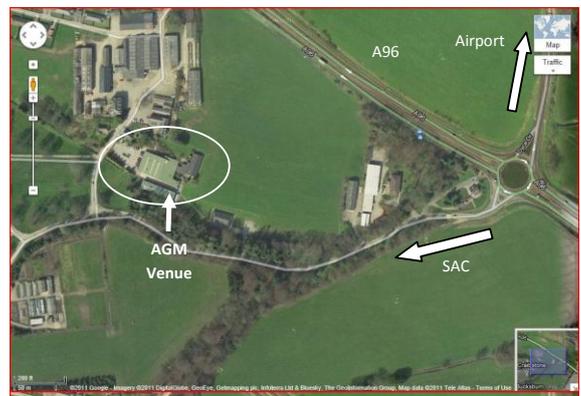
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Following the formal part of our meeting, we will be showing the highly acclaimed film: **Queen of the Sun – What the Bees are Telling Us**

"Taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive, this engaging and ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world."



How to get there.....



Just when you thought the matter was settled, on 29 April the European Commission decided to impose a two year ban on the use of some neonicotinoid pesticides. For a good round up of the current position, see <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/29/bee-harming-pesticides-banned-europe>



**APIARY DEMONSTRATION:
DEALING WITH OIL SEED RAPE**

Saturday 11 May at 2.00pm
Fintry Schoolhouse
Fintry
Turriff AB53 5RN

**ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT
BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday 25 May at 2.00pm
SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA

**SBA NUCLEUS CREATION
WORKSHOP**

8 June 2013
Moray BKA Apiary
Contact Tony Harris at
tonyharris316@btinternet.com
NB - £20 fee to cover costs

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION:
GENERAL INSPECTION AND THINKING
SWARM CONTROL**

Saturday 15 June at 2.00pm
Association Apiary, SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION:
DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF 'SHOOK SWARM'
with Kirsty Sutherland**

Saturday 29 June at 3.00pm
Association Apiary, SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA

The Scottish Government (SG),
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
(SASA)
and Scottish Rural College (SRUC)
are holding a

BEE HEALTH DAY

on Saturday 1st June 2013 from 9.30am – 4.30pm
at Moray College, UHI, Elgin

(tea, coffee and a sandwich 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 on 0300 244 9836

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

Cost - £25.00 - Send your cheque, made payable
to "SRUC" to: Alison Knox, P Spur, Saughton
House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11
3XD

Please note that numbers are limited so book
early to avoid disappointment (we propose that
similar events will be run on a regular basis in the
future at various venues)

With thanks to Moray Beekeepers' Association

These rather odd, and seemingly unrelated,
stories have popped up since the last issue.

Firstly, the Mail has reported that scientists in
Croatia have unveiled specially-bred colonies of
bees that can detect buried landmines from more
than three miles away.

Bee 'trainer', Professor Mateja Janes, said "We
have been refining their abilities for many years
and they are faster and safer than sniffer dogs.

"Another advantage is that when they're not
working they make delicious honey too", added
the professor, apparently.

Meanwhile, the Gulf News reports that a
Hertfordshire-based company has received
£250,000 of government funding to run a trial of
bomb-detecting bees at Heathrow Airport. It
seems the bees "packed into a hand-held
detector — learn to stick out their tongue on
sensing an explosive or chemical. This trips an
infra-red sensor that raises the alert, and bomb
disposal experts can then step in."

If you want more, you'll find the Mail story at:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2315198/The-bomb-bees-sniff-landmines-THREE-MILES-away.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

The Gulf News report is at:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/bees-being-trained-to-sniff-out-bombs-1.1175920>





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.

Our neighbours in Moray BKA have had a visit from Scottish rural affairs cabinet secretary Richard Lochhead MSP, who officially opened their new training apiary at Birnie. The minister took the opportunity to announce a £200,000 support package for Scottish bee farmers who have suffered colony losses as a consequence of the late onset of spring.

You can read how the story was reported by *The Scottish Farmer* at:

<http://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/conservation-news/200000-for-bee-keepers.20973734>

To find out more about what Moray BKA have been up to, visit <http://www.moraybeekeepers.co.uk/>



PRESS RELEASE

The buzz about swarming

A new finding about swarming should help beekeepers in managing their bees - and it has been revealed by university researchers evaluating the effectiveness of Vita's [swarm lures](#). Read more about the research findings [here](#). The full research paper is available as a [free download](#) from the IBRA Journal.

New Varroa control on the way

Vita has begun the pan-European registration process for HopGuard®, a varroa control treatment that uses natural food-based compounds and is suited for year-round use. The registration process for Europe is expected to be complete in the second half of 2014. You can read more about HopGuard [here](#).

Healthy bees on the move

Vita chose the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) Spring Convention this year to launch an innovative new web application for beekeepers: the online guide to healthy beekeeping. You can access it from all smartphones by pointing your web browser to www.healthybeeguide.com.

Twittering away!

Vita has two new Twitter accounts to add to [@vitaeuropeltd](#). The first, [@healthybeeguide](#), is a font of knowledge and tips for healthy beekeeping, with some great photos thrown in. The second, [@sdwoven](#), as you may have guessed, is my personal take on all things bee and business related. Today I was proud to be the first on Twitter to break the news of the two-year partial EU ban on three neonicotinoid products in an attempt to protect bees. Get more great news and views by following both accounts today!

We received this press release from Vita (Europe) Ltd. Please note that the ADBKA does not endorse any specific product or supplier.

Members unable to follow the embedded links can contact Vita (Europe) Ltd at:

Vita House, London Street
 Basingstoke, Hants RG21 7PG
 United Kingdom
 Telephone: 01256 473175

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

Abelo Beekeeping Equipment

Wide range of products & competitive prices

Please check our offers at

www.abelo.co.uk

Contact Sebastian Bacz on

07508944101 or e-mail

sales@abelo.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

Dear Bee lovers,

Here is Simona Cibirkaite from Lithuanian travel agency "Visit Lithuania" writing. We are destination management company offering a new, guaranteed departure specialized tour "Lithuanian Beekeeping" on 17th - 22nd July 2013.

Beekeeping is one of main crafts Lithuania is proud of. We would like to share centuries -old beekeeping traditions, which are still alive in some areas of the country; introduce to beekeeping nowadays, give a chance to taste divine Lithuanian honey and fall in love with beautiful land of Lithuania.

Please find the programme* attached. Group discounts available.

If any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime by

Email: simona@visitlithuania.net

Ph. no.: +370 61860628

Thank you for your time and hope to hear from you soon.

Best Regards,

Simona Cibirkaite

Incoming department manager

Travel Agency "Visit Lithuania"

Ph: + 370 5 2 62 52 41

Fax: + 370 5 262 52 42

E-mail: simona@visitlithuania.net

www.toursLithuania.com

*If you want a copy of the tour programme that came with this communication, please let me know.

Graham

(see contact details below)

FOR SALE (preferably as a job lot):

- 5 Smith type hives: 1 with a good stock of bees - fed and looked after, 4 hives good condition with open mesh floors and some drawn foundation
- 5 spare supers
- Honey jars: 18 doz jars + 12 doz lids
- Smoker: one only + one coil of hessian smoker fuel
- Extractor: 6 frame, hand driven, tinned metal

Contact Mr Alley on 01330860402

There are plans to set up bee hives on the roof of the National Gallery at the foot of the Mound in Edinburgh. See <http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/art-of-beekeeping-will-keep-gallery-in-the-honey-1-2904008>



According to.....

.....J Dennler in his 1889 book, *Bees-Wax - its economical uses and conversion into money*: "The carpenter, Mehring, of Frankenthal in the Palatinate, was the first to conceive the idea of constructing a pair of plates of wood on which were engraved the impressions of the bases of the cells, with which he pressed out of wax-sheets the first foundations of the comb. Dümmler in Homburg, Kunz in Jägendorf, Sand in Gundau, Peter Jacob in Fraubrunnen in Switzerland, perfected the ingenious discovery, and soon furnished very useful foundations. But it was Otto Schulz, of Buckow, who, later on, brought the artificial combs to a perfection hitherto unattained. Since then he has never been unfaithful to his principles, viz.: *to furnish a perfect product at a low price and in large quantities*. That this undertaking has grown in the hands of the 'Bee-lord' (literally the bee-village-magistrate), as our manufacturer is called in the bee-world, is to be seen by the fact that his business increases every year, and that, in 1885, he produced and despatched about 18,000 kilo-grammes."

If you have an item for the newsletter, please contact Graham Torrie on 013398 82038, or by e-mail at grahamtorrie@icloud.com

Distributing the newsletter by e-mail realises significant savings for the ADBKA. If you wish to receive your copy by e-mail, please let me know.

Graham