

Newsletter

October 2011

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



THE ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

HONEY SHOW 2011

THE ENGINEERING LECTURE THEATRE, S.A.C.
CRAIBSTONE, BUCKSBURN

SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2011
AT 2.15PM

Our annual Honey Show relies on members taking part. And although we can't all win, we can definitely increase the competition!

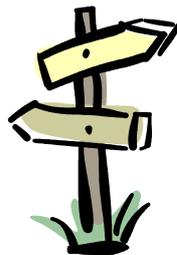
If you haven't taken part before, it's easy. Just pick a jar off your shelf (or two or three if you have a variety of honey types) and hand in your entry at Craibstone between 7pm and 9pm on the evening of Friday 21 October. If distance is an issue, you can also submit entries between 8am and 9am on the morning of the show.

It is vital that all those members holding trophies from 2010 return these on the day of the Honey Show or, if not attending, to the secretary or chair as soon as possible. Please contact Rosie or Jock (see numbers on this page) in order to arrange.

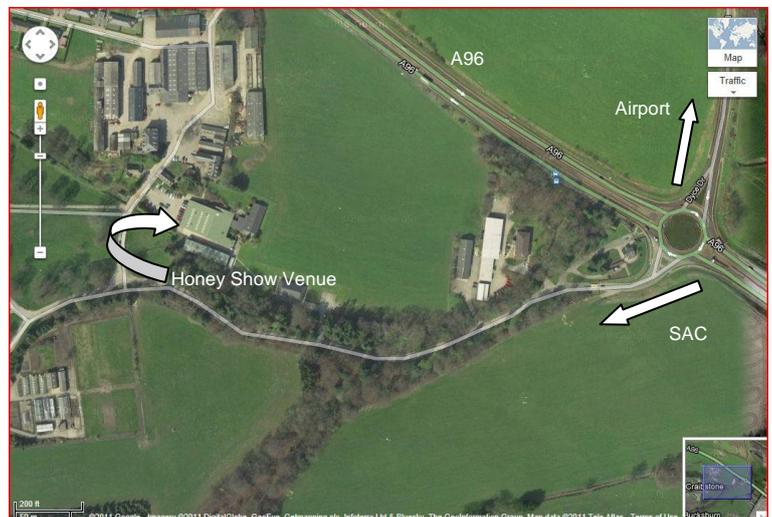
For more information, see the Honey Show Schedule issued with last month's newsletter.

In the Newsletter this month:

Honey Show	1
Nosema outbreak	2
Lecture Series	2
Vacancy	2
In the News	3
Equipment	3
Notice Board	4



How to get there.....



Nosema Ceranae Reaches Scotland

On the 23rd of September, a news release from the Scottish Government announced that the bee disease *Nosema Ceranae* had been confirmed in Scotland for the first time. Three samples of bees sent to Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) for analysis have tested positive.

The cases identified are from three regions of Scotland, indicating that the disease is not confined to one area.

Nosema ceranae is a microsporidial disease of honeybees which may cause dwindling of the

bee colony. Several treatments are available and should be used in conjunction with good husbandry practices (such as frame replacement and sterilisation) to prevent the build-up of *Nosema* spores within the colony.

Further information on the symptoms and treatment of this disease are available on the National Bee Unit's BeeBase website.

There are no risks to public health from *Nosema ceranae* and no implications for the quality and safety of honey.

Although *Nosema* is a

serious disease it is not a notifiable disease under The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007.

SAC bee advisory officer Graeme Sharpe said: "It was really inevitable that *Nosema ceranae* would be confirmed in Scotland sooner or later, given that many cases have already been recorded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"While the disease does not pose a risk to human health or to honey quality or safety, it is vital that it is prevented from spreading if we are to avoid the further decline of the honeybee.

"The disease shortens bees' lifespan by affecting their digestion. There is a seasonal trend to infection, with low levels during summer, a small peak during autumn and a slow rise in infection in winter.

"In the early spring, levels of infection increase rapidly when brood-rearing starts and flight is limited due to low temperatures."

Any beekeeper who suspects their colony is affected by *Nosema ceranae* can contact Graeme for advice at SAC's Ayr Disease Surveillance Centre on 01292 520318, or speak to SASA.

Vacancy:

Association Treasurer

Due to a change in his work commitments the Treasure, Innes Simpson, has given notice of his intention to resign his appointment. Any member interested in giving support to this critical business aspect of the Association please contact Association Secretary, Rosie Crighton, on 01224 791181 or by e-mail at: aberdeenbeekeepers@gmail.com

An introduction to bees and beekeeping

This popular series of talks by Stephen Palmer continues over the next few weeks with:

27th October:

What do I need to keep bees?

3rd November:

The products of the hive

10th November:

Help – there is something wrong with my bees!

17th November:

The beekeeping year

The session on 10th November is intended for all beekeepers, new and experienced, and as many members as possible are encouraged to attend.

For full details, see the August 2011 edition of the newsletter.

Foraging around in the media

In a £156,000, three-year study, researchers from the University of Southampton are investigating a potential link between **diesel fumes from vehicles and bees' brains**. They feel that the nanoparticles which are emitted from diesel engines could affect bees' in-built navigation skills, disrupting their ability to find their way back to their hive. The story was covered by numerous news outlets, including the Daily Record at: <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/science-and-technology/2011/10/07/researchers-study-link-between-diesel-fumes-and-destruction-of-bee-colonies-86908-23473287/>

Boosting **financial aid for apiculture** under the new Common Agriculture Policy after 2013, increasing support for coordinated research, encouraging information sharing and providing adequate training for beekeepers, farmers and veterinarians are among the measures recommended by the EU's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Read the press release at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20111003IPR28105/html/Agriculture-committee-calls-for-EU-wide-action-to-save-bees>

In draft guidance that is highly likely to be confirmed early next year, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has announced that it was recommending a **new NHS-funded 'vaccine' for people who had experienced "a severe systemic reaction to bee or wasp venom"**. The drug, Pharmedgen, de-sensitizes a person by gently stimulating their immune system. The jurisdiction of NICE covers England and Wales. Read the full story in the Telegraph at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8796536/Bee-sting-vaccine-on-the-NHS.html>



And finally... bees are being told to buzz off by vegans pining after a honey fix. **Bee-free honey** is described as "an awesome alternative to the frighteningly under-regulated honey industry". The product is advertised at: <http://supervegan.com/blog/entry.php?id=1772>



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. Members who fail to return equipment within this time are likely to lose their deposit. Please return equipment promptly and allow others to benefit from it.

The Association honey jar store at Danestone Market Garden has 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.

Extractor and Steam Melter for Hire/Loan

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

Have you got the wax melter? Jock has somewhat sheepishly admitted that his record keeping has let him down and he has forgotten who last borrowed the melter. If you are the meltee, he would be pleased to hear from you.



Notice Board

NATURAL BEE-KEEPING WEEKEND WORKSHOP

“Bee-keeping with a difference”
Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th October 2011

For the first time together in Scotland, we have two vastly experienced natural bee-keepers teaching the course: Heidi Herrmann, Chairman of the Natural Bee-Keeping Trust, and Phil Chandler, a ‘top bar hive’ specialist and author of “The Barefoot Bee-Keeper” and www.biobees.com.

The full cost of the workshop, including organic lunches, teas, coffees and homebakes is £95.00
Venue: Peterculter, Aberdeen

For more info:
Email: anne@vitalveg.co.uk
Telephone: 07717 346589

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

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