



**SEPTEMBER
2018**

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association (SCIO)

- promoting the study and development of apiculture, and advancing the heritage, culture and science of beekeeping amongst its membership and throughout the wider community

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**FUTURE
ARTICLES**

HONEY SHOW SCHEDULE

We hope this year was a great success for all members and that the 2018 Honey Show will have record entries, especially for new members and first time entrants. The warm spring and summer weather has left most beekeepers with substantially more honey than usual which means more wax as well.

This year there have been several changes in the Honey Show Schedule. This was primarily to reduce the number of categories, which was deemed quite high for a local association show. The Honey Show Convenors pulled data from the previous 3 years and reviewed the entries into each class. This helped us gauge the popularity of entries per class and highlighted classes which have had no entries over those years. All open categories are 'open to all'. The Intermediate section has been removed as it caused confusion for exhibitors and also had very few entries over the last three years. Several of the honey categories have been removed where they had either one or no entries over the last three years.

The Gift table was reluctantly removed as it has become increasingly hard to find organisations prepared to accept unlabelled honey, internal HSE regulations meant the charities were unable to accept the donations. Last year it was refused by 8 organisations (three of which did not reply) and eventually was accepted by Instant Neighbour at St Machar. The Industrial section has had a bit of a shake up this year with new recipes and we hope for many entries from members, their families and friends. There is no requirement to be a member of ADBKA to enter any of the classes however, should a trophy be won by an exhibitor (non member) who lives some distance away it will be presented to them but retained by the association.

Please give us your feedback on the schedule so we can work with you to improve on this going forward.

We look forward to seeing exhibits from as many members as possible on Saturday, 20th October at Kinellar Hall. Help us to make it a great show!

Alison Goss and Jenny Lewis

CRATHES APIARY REPORT AUGUST 2018.

The bees were able to take good advantage of the warm summer and collected several supers of blossom honey and we are grateful to Joan for the extracting and bottling of this honey.

8 colonies went off to the heather, we suffered from poor re-queening of the hives this year and had to unite 3 colonies prior to taking them away to Ballogie for August.

At the time of writing this I do not expect that we will have any heather honey this season

On Saturday 25th August we had an apiary clear up day and spread one tonne of bark, again thanks to Joan for arranging the delivery. Another one tonne will be required and hopefully this will be delivered and spread out next week.

We have currently no electricity supply to the cabin and I will take this up with the Crathes estate.

Naomi Adams

BEES IN THE BALTIC

I visited the three Baltic states – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – on holiday this year and whilst travelled around, made a few beekeeping observations of interest.

All three countries are flat and heavily forested, with the remainder of the land being agricultural or given over to nature reserves. We experienced temperatures in the mid twenties but the area is of course persistently very cold in winter. I have the impression beekeeping is popular but unfortunately I didn't ever actually speak to a beekeeper to find out. An internet search suggests for instance that Estonia has around twice as many beekeepers but only about half the population and half the land area of Scotland.

I saw a few hives from the road but never at a time and place where it was convenient to stop and investigate. They looked large though and this impression was reinforced in the honey shops in Riga that displayed large brood and super frames that I initially thought were from Dadant hives. However, the internet tells me that the standard Latvian hive is a 1920's design based on a modified Langstroth, 25 x 25 x 12 inches, double-walled with fifteen frames and a capacity double that of a Langstroth, so that's bigger than a Dadant and getting on for nearly three times a National. Supers are half height brood bodies and can apparently contain up to 55 lbs of honey!



I didn't see many bees. The first ones I saw were pretty dark but then a few more stripy ones arrived.

There were a couple of very smart honey shops in central Riga, as well as several stalls at the central market (in former Zeppelin hangers!). As well as general seasonal honey, there was a lot of monofloral honey; buckwheat, hogweed, lime, wild raspberry, OSR, and heather. I brought some small samples back which we tasted at the last committee meeting. Prices seemed slightly lower than Scotland at €10/kg which is about £4/lb, but retail packaging went up to 4.5 kg jars!

The honey shops and supermarkets all sold a wide range of honey mixed with some other health-beneficial substance, so typically 90% honey and say something like cinnamon or blueberries! Pollen, propolis and bee bread

were also on sale at low prices. I deduce honey-aware and knowledgeable populations with marketing and consumption based on health benefits.



In Tallinn I visited what is claimed to be the oldest continuously operating pharmacy in Europe, dating from at least 1422 and run by the same family from 1583 to 1913. An exhibition illustrating treatments available in 1695 included a pestle of dried (or 'parched' as the label had it!) honeybees but unfortunately no further information on how they were administered...but perhaps it is best not to know!



And finally, the ballet which we went to in Riga included two dancing beekeepers and a scene of a picnic being disrupted by bees, all brought on by the ballerina's love of honey on pancakes!

In looking up things for this article I have discovered that there are a number of beekeeping operations in Latvia that are open for public visits and I could have come away rather more informed about Baltic beekeeping than I am. So next time you go abroad, maybe research beekeeping visit opportunities before you go?

MEMBERS EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, 22ND 23RD,
SBA AUTUMN CONVENTION, Glasgow

OCTOBER, 5TH,
SBA TOURING LECTURER,
Kinellar Hall, Blackburn. 7:30 p.m.
**An additional event not included in this
year's programme card:**

The SBA 2018 touring lecturer Marin Anastassov will visit Aberdeen as part of his autumn tour around the country. Marin is a master beekeeper and currently, amongst other accolades, a Trustee of Gloucestershire Beekeeping Association.

The subject will be "Nutritional requirements of honey bees and supplemental feeding".

Malcolm Watson – ADBKA Secretary

OCTOBER, 10TH,
SBA EXAMS,

venue : Westhill Library, Westhill Drive,
Westhill, AB32 6FY, at 10.30 a.m.
invigilator : Hugh Donohoe

Malcolm Watson – ADBKA Secretary

OCTOBER, 20TH,
ADBKA HONEY SHOW,

Kinellar hall, Blackburn. Schedule is attached.

NOVEMBER, 17TH,
Saturday, 10a.m. until 4p.m.
ADBKA CONVENTION 2018,
Kinnellar Hall, Blackburn AB21 0JQ
Details to follow.

ASSOCIATION SUPPLIES

Syrup - 14kg containers at £15.50

Fondant - 2.5kg packs - with 5 x packs being in a box - cost each is £3 pack or £15 for the box of 5 packs

Candapoline Gold Pollen in 1kg packs - £4 for 1kg pack or if anyone wants a box of 12 x 1kg packs that is slightly cheaper at £42 for a box of 12 x 1kg packs

Regus Candy in 2.5kg tubs at £6 tub or
£24 box a box with 4 x tubs

Contact: Joan Gilbert-Stevens
019755 81369

craigmill@btinternet.com

MUIR OF FOWLIS AB33 8NX

or

Erling Watt 074294 54572

watterlingg@aol.com

LONGSIDE AB42 4XQ

Honey extractors; Heather honey press;
Mini-melters; Wax extractor;
Wax foundation press

Contact: Sandy Gordon 01224 484540
DANESTONE AB22 8AJ

Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife;
Heather honey press; Wax melter;
Unimel stainless steel 3 frame tangential extractor

Contact: Erling Watt 074294 54572
watterlingg@aol.com

LONGSIDE AB42 4XQ

Combimel stainless steel radial 9 frame extractor;
Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife;
Refractometer; Candle-making kit are available at
Crathes Apairy.

For further information
contact Joan Gilbert-Stevens.

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor

is the local agent for

Thorne Beekeeping Equipment.

Contact him on **01224 790468**

or e-mail:

aberdeenbeesupplies@hotmail.com

**A TOUR OF THE FAMOUS "BEECHGROVE GARDEN" (IN JULY 2018)
WITH THE HEAD GARDENER MHAIRI RATTRAY.**



THE ANNUAL RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM COMPETITION

took place on the 9th of August 2018 in Aberdeen. The schedule was very tight and strict with just a few minutes on presentation as judges had to visit numerous sites and projects. One of the sites was Hazelhead Park Grove Nursery.

Olya Macaulay was invited to conduct short presentation about the development of Apiary site in the Grove Nursery. (on the left). The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Barney Crockett, joined RHS Britain in Bloom competition. With judges Keith Jackson (hat) and Darren Share MBE at the Winter Gardens. (on the right). The judges are deciding if Aberdeen wins in the prestigious 'city' category.

