



**MARCH
2019**

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

CHAIR:

DAVID MORLAND

Middle Ardo
Udny, Ellon
AB41 6QX
Tel. 07768244420
e-mail:
ADBKAChair@
gmail.com

HON. SECRETARY:

**MALCOLM
WATSON**

Ebrie Lodge,
Auchnagatt, Ellon
AB41 8YL
e-mail:
aberdeenbeekeepers@
gmail.com

HON. TREASURER:

JOHN ADAMS

5 Baillieswells Drive,
Bieldside, Aberdeen,
AB15 9AT
Tel. 01224868402
e-mail:
treasureradbka@
gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY:**

ERLING WATT

23 Winding Brae,
Longside, AB42 4XQ
Tel. 074294 54572
e-mail:
adbkamembership@
gmail.com

FUTURE ARTICLES

ADBKA beehive
models –
Skep Beekeeping
(David Morland)

Beginners. Briefly
(Ian Mackley)

Relocating Bumblebee
Colonies
(David Morland)

THE ASSOCIATION'S MODEL BEEHIVE COLLECTION

In February last year, Alison spotted a Facebook post about an auction of Beehive Models and Beekeeping equipment and we debated bidding for it. Since neither of us was prepared to travel at fairly short notice to Cockermouth, Cumbria, it was fortunate that Mitchells, the auctioneers were able to accept a telephone bid.

Later that day we heard that we had been successful against competing bids from as far away as Cornwall and U.S.!

The cost and risk of using a carrier to bring our booty home persuaded me to travel down by car, in the hopes of finding out more about the seller.

I found three heavy wooden boxes waiting for me and asked if they had information on who we had bought them from. In fact many of the models were labelled with the name TW Baines of Bouth, Ulverston and they were part of his estate.

He was clearly a knowledgeable beekeeper and had done lots of research into the history of the beehive and beekeeping. Amongst some papers I discovered a leaflet about the Furness Beekeepers, so contacted David Walmsley, the current Chair. He was unable to tell me much beyond the fact that Tom Baines parted company with the Furness Beekeepers after some sort of disagreement, but he did pass my details on to Stewart Beattie who sent me this:

“I knew the Baines family for over 40 years. Initially from Furness beekeepers and Lakeland Rose Show. The person who made bee display hives was Tom Baines . He was a keen showman. Not just in beekeeping but as a hobby travelled with family in a wreck of a van round all the agricultural and various honey shows in Northern England.

They did not have much money but put a lot into life. Well known at the shows they visited. He constructed children's show boats. You know the old fashioned ones where you pull rope. Making a few bob at the shows.

He also made hives to display for selling his honey. They won many honey shows especially with dark honey. He made miniature displays of fair show grounds with waltzers, etc. Large display honey pots”.



The photographs show several of the models in our collection, and I have singled out one historic beehive for this article which is coincidentally featured in both Bee Craft and the Scottish Beekeepers Association this month, the Stewarton Hive. I think you will agree the attention to detail in the model is remarkable and this is true of the other models, which include variants of the skep and tools which were, and still are, used for skep beekeeping.

I have been told that our Association once owned a Stewarton Hive which was donated to the Scottish Beekeepers when the apiary moved from Craibstone to Crathes a few years ago. This may perhaps be the one that illustrates the article in the SBA Magazine?

We have displayed some of the collection at the last Honey Show and at the Turriff Show, and intend to continue putting them on show to the public on suitable occasions, so be sure to come and see them 'in the flesh' – you will be impressed.



I will write about some of the models in future newsletters.

By the way, if there are any model makers among the membership, please get in touch, since several of the models could do with some TLC!

David Morland

MEMBERS EVENTS

MARCH

Sat 23rd at 10am at Westhill library.
SBA Exams

Sun 24th at 2pm at Kinellar Hall.

AGM

plus lecture – Bumble & Solitary Bees
by Murdo MacDonald.

APRIL

Sun 7th at Kinellar Hall.

Classroom Day - Swarm Control
with Tony Harris
(booking required).

ADBKA AGM

The AGM will be held on Sunday March 24th at Kinellar Hall. This will be preceded by a talk on Scottish bumble and solitary bees by Murdo MacDonald, starting at 2pm. Any member wishing to make a nomination for the committee should notify the secretary at least a week before the AGM, having first obtained consent from the person concerned for their name to go forward.

MURDO MACDONALD

Murdo Macdonald is a biologist based in Inverness. He is on the board of Scottish Natural Heritage and secretary of the Highland Biological Recording Group, specialising in ants, bees and wasps

He is author of the SNH book "Bumblebees" and together with the late Gill Nisbet wrote "Highland Bumblebees". Over many years he has recorded many species which were previously unknown in Scotland, and contributed many learned papers on the subject.

David Morland

BEGINNERS, BRIEFLY...

An occasional article aimed at helping the novice through the beekeeping year.

MARCH

The bees will hopefully be flying on warmer days and we are continuing to heft the hives and feed fondant as required. Remember it must go directly over the cluster. Many colonies survive the depths of winter yet die out in March, especially if there is a cold snap, so don't take your eye off the ball and if in doubt, feed. Do not be tempted to perform a first inspection yet. If you feel the need for a quick peek (e.g. perhaps there is no sign of life unfortunately), do it on a warm day.

Be prepared for the season ahead by the end of March as your beekeeping life will start to get busier in April. Your personal kit should be clean and repaired, your spare hive components cleaned up and maintained, and any new components assembled.

If you will be deploying new frames, make them up but do not put foundation in them until just before they go in the hive; bees prefer fresh foundation, so keep it in the packet until needed. You can carefully use a hairdryer to freshen up stale foundation. Warm it just sufficiently on both sides to take the dull white'ish bloom off and restore a slightly glossier freshness. Be careful the foundation doesn't warp though, as that leads to poor combs.

In the next couple of months you will be doing inspections, perhaps marking the queen, adding supers, controlling swarming and possibly dealing with a crop if your bees can forage on oilseed rape. So take time now to read up on the relevant skills and procedures. If you come along to the Apiary volunteer group on Sunday mornings, you will see most of these procedures for real and can then go to do them with your bees.

Ian Mackley

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

Candipolline 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

1 lb Honey jars - 1/2 gross with lids - £30/box

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

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

For further information contact
Joan Gilbert-Stevens.

Have you thought of buying your fondant in bulk?

Kent Foods (trading as BFP) sell 12.5 Kg Fondant packs (FON460) for £9.07 in VAT. Product reference is SUG00457.

There is a minimum order of £150 which is 17 packs.

Their address is

Albex House, 1 Marchfield Drive, Paisley PA3 2RB.

Telephone 0141 882 9999,

[Email sales@kentfoods.co.uk](mailto:sales@kentfoods.co.uk)

State that it is for honeybee food"

David Morland

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due by 31st March, after which time you will not receive the monthly newsletter.

Current membership cards may be requested at members-only events, discounted beekeeping supplies and equipment loans. As a charity we rely on member subscriptions to maintain our fine apiary and put on an interesting programme of events.

The rates for 2019 are unchanged at £20 single, £25 household, and free for under 16s. An updated membership form is available from the association website : this includes revised gift aid wording and a new section about data protection. We are also inviting members to state their occupation (or former occupation) – this information will help the committee to understand where special skills exist around the membership, that we may occasionally need to consult. Please renew your membership now, and complete the gift aid section if you are able to do so.

Malcolm Watson

THE ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE (AWPR) – PLANTING OF TREES, BUSHES AND WILDFLOWERS

If you have been enjoying the reduced travel times enabled by the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR/B-T) road around Aberdeen, you will have noticed considerable expanses of newly planted trees and wildflowers.

A spokesperson for Transport Scotland advised me that the landscape design for the route was developed in response to the Environmental Impact Assessment and was based on principles in Transport Scotland's policies "Cost Effective Landscapes: Learning from Nature" and "Fitting Landscapes". Both prompted the use of native species to help improve biodiversity, provide new wildlife habitats and complement existing habitats whilst also offsetting the visual impact of the new road.



Tree planting close to Dyce

While approximately 100 hectares of vegetation was removed for AWPR construction, more than 140 hectares will be replanted. Furthermore, many of the areas removed were monoculture – coniferous trees in particular – while the replacement planting is more varied and of species more useful to wildlife.

Although the planting does not target pollinators specifically, out of the 1.4 million trees to be planted bees will benefit from approximately 112,000 hawthorn; 87,000 willow; and 62,000 blackthorn. Also of potential interest to us are cherry, rowan, holly, and hazel. After planting the contractor continues to be responsible for the trees for a five year establishment period and there is a subsequent 25 year maintenance period.



Wildflower planting close to Balmedie

It is interesting to note that close to Dyce airport the planting of berry-producing species was minimised in order to avoid mass gatherings of feasting birds as this would increase the risk of bird strikes!

As well as trees, wildflower grass has been planted to create visual interest throughout the year as the different species come into flower, and to increase biodiversity along the road corridor. The mixes were developed by modifying readily available wildflower mixes to ensure that all the species were ones which had previously been recorded in the Aberdeenshire area. The wildflower mix used contains species such as cowslip, vetch, knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, oxeye daisy, yarrow and yellow rattle which are all known to be important sources of nectar and pollen.

With so much of our countryside being transformed into a green desert it is reassuring to see the AWPR taking a different approach - in addition to greatly reducing journey times in the area it has potential to be a net benefit to wildlife. Although there have been significant delays in construction, Transport Scotland were keen to highlight that the route had opened to flying insects on schedule.