



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

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SC031754

2021 HONEY SHOW

A large turnout of members coupled with more than 200 entries ensured that our 2021 Honey Show was a great success. Thank you to everyone who entered into the spirit of the occasion and brought along their honey, wax products, mead, handicrafts, artistic exhibits, photographs, shop displays and baking. Thanks also to Jock McGregor for setting up an equipment sales table, and to Margaret McGregor and Moira Macaulay for organising the fine refreshments on offer.

Our Honey Judge this year was Alan Riach of the Scottish Beekeepers Association. Alan, along with his wife Cynthia, travelled from Bathgate to carry out his judging duties and we were privileged to have one of Scotland's top show judges cast an eye over our entries.

Regretfully, we have had to cancel our **Members' Social Event** planned for Friday 10 December.

The good news is, we have programmed a **practical demonstration** at the Crathes Apiary for Saturday 11 December at 2.00pm. See page 2 for more details.

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Special thanks to our Honey Show convenor, Alison Goss, for undertaking the daunting task of organising and running the show, and to the keen group of volunteers who helped with the many tasks over the Friday evening and all-day Saturday.

It must be very many years indeed since there was an ADBKA honey show without the presence of our President and regular trophy winner, Sandy Gordon. We were sorry that Sandy wasn't able to come along this year and we send him the very best wishes of all members and friends.

The most notable feature of the day was the unprecedented success of Denitsa Topalova. 'Dani' was showing her entries in the Novice classes, but managed to scoop three trophies, including the **ASCD Trophy** for the Best Exhibit in the Show! The picture shows a delighted Dani with her trophies.

See more pictures from our 2021 Honey Show on our website at <https://aberdeenbeekeepers.net/2021/11/03/2021-honey-show/>

2021 ADBKA Convention

Yesterday (6 November) we gathered at the Aberdeen Airport Dyce Hotel for our 2021 beekeeping convention. We were privileged to hear excellent presentations from our two keynote speakers, Lead Scottish Bee Inspector Luis Molero and former bee inspector and leading BBKA member from Cheshire, Graham Royle.

We will have a full report in next month's newsletter.



ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
DEMONSTRATION: WINTER VARROA TREATMENT

Saturday 11 December 2021 at 2.00pm

ADBKA Apiary, Crathes Castle

Come along to the apiary to learn about using oxalic acid trickle as a winter *Varroa* treatment. There will also be the opportunity to look at oxalic acid sublimation equipment and discuss its use.

Park in the lower of the two car parks at Crathes Castle, walk up through the gap in the hedges and enter the first gate on the right. All attendees must bring their own bee suit, gloves and proper footwear.

Please note, the practical demonstration will be weather dependent.

Honey Show Roll of Honour



The Thorne Trophy	Most points in the show	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
The A.S.C.D. Trophy	Best exhibit in the show	Denitsa Topalova
The John Cooper Cup	Best exhibit in cut comb honey	Olga Macaulay
The President's Trophy	Best exhibit in heather honey	Denitsa Topalova
The Bill MacKenzie Quaich	Best exhibit in ling heather honey	Denitsa Topalova
The Henry Simpson Trophy	Best exhibit in medium/dark honey	Alistair McEwan
The Anne C Beddie Trophy	Best exhibit in the Beeswax Class	Alison Goss
MTM Construction Shield	Best exhibit in light honey	Witek Mojsiewicz
The Robert Wood Shield	Best exhibit in the Novice Class	Hazel Christie
The Captain Manson Trophy	Most points in the Industrial Class	Sonya MacPherson
The David Pert Memorial Prize	Best exhibit in Handicraft	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
S. C. Rae Memorial Trophy	Best frame in the show	Jennifer Lewis
John D. Walker Memorial Trophy	Best exhibit in soft set honey	Terry Daniels
John Tocher Trophy	Most points in Novice Class	Ian Christie
ADBKA Shield	Best exhibit in Junior Class	Sophie & Katie Breeman

THIS MONTH IN THE APIARY: NOVEMBER

Apart from periodically checking the hives, there is little to do outside. It is a good time to reflect on the past season whilst it is reasonably fresh in the mind. Ask yourself:

What went well? Give yourself some credit for it!

What was ok? Be prepared to do it again next season. Some minor tweaks may bring further improvement.

What didn't go so well? Don't beat yourself up about it but aspire to improve next time. Beekeeping is not straightforward and even experienced beekeepers lose colonies over winter, lose a swarm, occasionally damage a queen, come across things they haven't seen before and so on. We are all always learning something about beekeeping.

How to be a better beekeeper? Did you not know what to do, or maybe did know, but didn't do it correctly? Was it lack of preparation? Was it down to lack of equipment? What have you learned? Answers to these and similar questions should guide you towards ways of improving next season; reading, courses, mentoring, additional or different equipment and so on.

Think about what additional equipment you need. The traditional once or twice yearly sales by the major suppliers seem to be increasingly augmented by pop-up and other occasional sales. If you have your shopping list, you can be ready when the sales come up. Second quality hive parts and frames are almost always available in sales, as are feeders and other smaller accessories. You might want to club together with others to get an order together.

The quiet winter months should be used for cleaning and maintenance of any hive parts not in use. This might involve scorching wooden hive parts, sterilising poly hives with a bleach solution and fumigating comb with acetic acid. The National Bee Unit produce a useful fact sheet 'Hive Cleaning and Sterilisation' which can be downloaded for free from:

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=167>

Do any necessary repairs to the woodwork at the same time, then you will be all set for next season.

December is the time for your 'mid-winter' varroa treatment, which is usually some form of oxalic acid, i.e. ApiBioxal, Oxuvar or Oxybee. Be prepared - more next month.

Ian Mackley



Bee for Book

Check out our library catalogue on our website at

www.aberdeenbeekeepers.net/books/

Hopefully you will be inspired to borrow a book to keep your beekeeping brain ticking-over through the winter months. The books are free for members to borrow. Just email Graham at adbklibrary@gmail.com

Books will be posted out to members free of charge. At the end of the lending period (2 months) just pop the book in a padded envelope and post it back – at your expense.

If you want to extend the loan period, just check that no-one else is waiting for the book.

Still Droning on.....

Last month you were asked to consider whether it might be possible for a drone that successfully (and exceptionally) overwinters to bump into its own grandfather as it wanders around the hive the following spring. Hopefully you realised right away that this is impossible. Immediately after a successful mating, the drone will fall to the ground and die. Grandfather and grandson will never meet.

The second part of our poser asked if you can work out how many great-grandfathers a drone has. Give yourself a pat on the back if you said.....one!



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

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

STAINLESS STEEL HONEY TANK

Height: 59 cm Dia: 40 cm
Includes integral coarse
and fine filters, honey
valve and stand.

£50

Contact Graham on
07594 063703



BEE CABIN

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

WE'RE HERE FOR ALL YOUR
BEEKEEPING NEEDS
DESS, ABOYNE AB34 5BB

*Bee Cabin will be closed during the winter from 1st
November 2021 until and including the 1st of March
2022. During this closure period, we will be offering a
limited service to beekeepers for the supply of bee
feeds, treatments and equipment arranged and
collected by appointment.*

Thank you all for your continued support, we look
forward to serving you in store in 2022.

For any queries or to arrange collection please call
Colin on 07809229375 or email beecabin@gmail.com

EQUIPMENT

- Flat pack Nat. hives (W. Red Cdr.), OMF floor,
brood body, 2x supers, crown board & flat roof (w.
metal): £165
- Poly nucs: £36
- Brood frames (Hoffman) x10: £12
- Brood foundation (wired) x10: £15
- Hive tools (s/s) trad. pattern: £8

Can deliver locally.

Enquiries: (01224) 580137

aberdeen.honeybees@gmail.com

A Beekeeping Alphabet

K is for (Robert) Kerr

Kerr was a Scottish beekeeper and cabinetmaker who in 1819
invented the Stewarton hive, named after the town in Ayrshire
where he lived. The hive is octagonal - to eliminate tight, damp
corners - with top bars. The Stewarton hive is significant in the
history of beekeeping as it is considered the first standardised,
modular hive; it had components we would now call brood
bodies and supers of differing depth but identical in plan and
perimeter so they could be stacked.

Ian Mackley

