

Newsletter
April 2014



Beekeeping Roup
See page 2

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910
Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

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Cothal
Dyce

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The **2014 Annual General Meeting** of Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association will be held at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 21st May in the SAC Craibstone Engineering Lecture Theatre, AB21 9YA. **(Please note the change of venue from the published programme for 2014.)**

The office bearing positions of President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the other 15 committee members are elected each year at the AGM.

Nominations for 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 Wednesday 14th May.

If there is more than one nomination for any of the office bearing 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 ADBKA members present at the AGM are eligible to vote.

Unless they have previously intimated their resignation by the 14th May deadline, current office bearers and committee members will automatically be nominated for re-election alongside any new nominations.

The business part of the AGM will be followed by light refreshments and a fund-raising raffle, and as per our usual practice, members are invited to donate prizes for this raffle. Members' unflinching generosity in the past has always been greatly appreciated

AGM 2014: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW APIARY

All members are cordially invited to come and have a look at the new ADBKA apiary at Crathes Castle from 2pm onwards on Saturday 17th May.

Light refreshments will be served, and while no beekeeping will be taking place that afternoon, bees are bound to be flying. Bringing a veil may be advisable.

Crathes castle staff have asked ADBKA members to always use the lower overflow car park at the castle when visiting the apiary. This car park is accessed by a sharp right turn at the bend before the main car park.

We have been assured that no parking fee is necessary for ADBKA members.

The apiary is a few yards up the foot path which links the overflow car park with the main car park, and then a right turn through a green gate into the non-public nursery garden area. The roof of the apiary cabin is visible from that gate.

Toilet facilities are available a short walk away from the apiary towards the castle at the cafe/restaurant.

Circulated with this month's Newsletter are four important papers:

- ✚ The Agenda for our 2014 AGM
- ✚ The Minute of our 2013 AGM
- ✚ The Chair's Report 2014
- ✚ The Abbreviated Accounts for the year to 31 December 2013*

**The attached Financial Statements are abbreviated. The full Annual Report and Financial Statements can be requested by contacting Louise Forbes either by e-mail at forbes.email@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01224 313096.*

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If your head has been feeling a bit chilly lately, you'd better have a look at the notice board on page 4.

Members' Events

HALF-DAY PRACTICAL WORKSHOP:

- assembly of frames, flat pack kit, making foundation, etc

Saturday 26 April at 1.30pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
Fintray Road
Blackburn AB21 0SS

GRAND OPENING OF ADBKA's CRATHES APIARY

Saturday 17 May at 2.00pm

Crathes Castle, Banchory, AB31 5QJ

(Crathes Castle is 15 miles West of Aberdeen and 3 miles East of Banchory, with the entrance to the driveway located on the A93)

See more details on front page!

Beekeeping equipment will be available for purchase at this event

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 21 May at 7.15pm

Engineering Lecture Theatre, SAC, Craibstone,
AB21 9YA

Please note the change of venue from that advertised in the 2014 Events Programme

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION:
Dealing with Oil Seed Rape**

Saturday 1 June at 2.00pm

Fintry Schoolhouse, Fintry, Turriff,
AB53 5RN

(OSR HGR: NJ75293 – 54613)

ADBKA member Jim Shewan is having a **roup of beekeeping equipment and bees** on 7th May at 6pm. It will be held at:

The Kennels
Esslemont House
Ellon
AB41 8PA

Entry via Old Castle on the A920, Ellon-Pitmedden road.
One way system in operation, exit by West Lodge.
Parking at Stable Yard.

Strictly cash only.

Items for sale:

Van; Sit-on mower; 2 sheds 12'x10': Approx 100 beehives, 3 with bees; Heather Press; Honey extractor; Easy Bee with stand and 2 buckets; Wax extractor; 2 barrows; Buckets; Feeders – 100+; Smoker; Hive tools (2); Creamers (2); Hessian; Ruskies; Generator 240 volt and 110 volt; Nuc boxes; Jacket and veil; Pouring aids; Strainers; Shallow wax

Lots of newspapers picked up on the research carried out by brave science student Michael Smith at Cornell University in the US. He wanted to know where on the body it was worst to be stung by a bee. And it seems he left no body region, limb or appendage untested.

So, what came out as the sorest? The nostril. (The part that you were thinking of came third!)

You can read how the story was reported by the Independent at <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/where-is-the-worst-place-on-the-body-to-get-stung-by-a-bee-one-student-has-found-the-answer-9241138.html>

Thanks to Ian Mackley for this item.

**Come into the Garden, Maud**

Seemingly, when Bernard Mobus was the Bee Advisor at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture at Craibstone, he developed a pure strain of *Apis mellifera mellifera* and called it the Maud bee (after the Aberdeenshire village of Maud). Do any of our members know anything about the Maud bee? If you have anything you can share, please get in touch with the newsletter via adbkanewsletter@btinternet.com or give me a call on 013398 82038.

Graham

Following his very well attended talk at the Kinellar Hall on 15 March, Steve Sunderland, the Lead Bee Inspector for Scotland, has responded to our letter of gratitude by noting his own pleasure at the hospitality he received and the high level of interest from ADBKA members in his lecture topic: *Honey Bee Health in Scotland Today*.

DOES THE BREEDER STOCK HAVE DESIRABLE TRAITS?

If you're thinking of increasing your stocks or replacing your queens this year, you'll want to consider which of your existing colonies will make the best breeder stock. Here's a simple way of remembering the important criteria to judge the best queen to breed from.

DOES

The 'D' stands for **docility**, arguably the most important of all the traits a hobby beekeeper will want passed on to new stocks. Are the bees stinging each time you inspect the colony, or are they content to let you get on with your work? Do they follow you when you walk away, or let you be after you retreat a few paces?

THE

'T' is for **tranquillity**. Do the bees run about over the combs, or cluster on the edges of frames and fall off in bunches, during your inspections? Do they take flight in large numbers when the hive is opened? Or are they quiet and relatively unperturbed when you lift the frames and rotate them during your examinations?

BREEDER

The 'B' concerns the **build up** of the colony through the season. Do they increase in numbers steadily in line with the increasing availability of forage, or are they either too big too early, or so slow that they don't get to full strength by the peak of the season?

STOCK

The 'S' is to remind you to consider the **swarming** inclinations of your colonies. This is a trait known to vary amongst the various sub-species of *Apis mellifera*, and as most of our bees will be hybrids, the tendency to swarm will vary. It's a heritable factor, meaning that it's passed down from parent to offspring. Bear in mind, though, that there are many other factors that influence swarming, such as the age of the queen and the degree of congestion within the hive.

HAVE

'H' is for **honey production**; an important factor for most beekeepers. If one of your beekeeping goals is to harvest a good honey crop, the colony that has produced more than the average throughout the season is going to gain points.

DESIRABLE

Think 'D' for **disease resistance**. Some breeding lines are more or less susceptible than others to diseases such as Nosema and conditions like chalk brood. If you have a strong, healthy colony, that will count in their favour as a potential breeder stock.

TRAITS

Finally, the 'T' stands for **thrift**. That is, the extent to which the colony needs supplemental feeding during the winter. If your chosen colony has inherited traits from the *Apis mellifera mellifera* sub-species, it will get through the winter on modest stores, whereas the 'Italian bee', *Apis mellifera ligustica* is known to enjoy eating rather than storing for leaner times. Which characteristic would you prefer to pass on to your new colonies?

Hive No.		Queen details:									
Date	Queen Y/N	Queen cells Y/N	No. of frames with bees	No. of frames with brood	All stages of brood Y/N	Enough stores? Y/N	Sufficient space? Y/N	Queen assessment			
								Score 1 (poor) – 5 (good)			
								Docility	Swarming	Tranquillity	Disease resistance

To assess all of this, you'll need to keep records of some or all of the things you want to judge the stock by. It'll likely look something like this.

Visit the ADBKA Honey Jar Store for:

- Ragus Candy
- Apistan (10 strips, sufficient for 5 hives)
- Ambrosia Syrup
- Honey Jars and Lids
- Mesh Floors – National size (wire only)
- Hessian Squares for smoker fuel



- Free loan of:*
- Honey extractors
 - Mini-melters
 - Heather honey press
 - Wax extractor
 - Wax foundation press

Approximately half a mile along Laurel Drive, turn into Laurel Place on your right - it's 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.

Danestone Market Garden AB22 8AJ

For the loan items, a returnable £10 deposit is required, with the maximum length of loan being two weeks. As other members may be waiting to borrow extractors, etc. these must be returned on time and in a clean condition.

The store is open between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday evenings and at other times by arrangement with Sandy Gordon (Tel: 01224 484540)

Notice Board



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

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor is the local agent for Thorne Beekeeping Equipment.

Contact him on 01224 790468 or e-mail:

AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

If the Cap Fits

Someone left a good tweed cap in the Kinellar Hall after our members' event back on the 15th March.

Jock McGregor is taking care of it and is keen to reunite it with its owner.

Call Jock on 01224 790468

Joan and Karl Stevens live near Muir of Fowlis and are **looking for their first colony of good-natured bees.**

If anyone can help please get in touch - we are beginners but have done the first bee keeping course and now want to start to get some practical skills and develop our first hive which is all set up and ready for inhabitants.

Mob: 07766 51886

Home: 019755 81369

Beekeeping equipment for sale including an extractor, hive parts and jars.

Contact Janet Smith on 01771 613658

Bee America, a family-owned company with headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, who are "committed to providing the best quality varietal and artisanal honey and honey-inspired body care products", have announced that they have perfected a honey delivery system that uses drones (that's male bees, not mini pilotless aircraft). They claim they are able to direct the bees to your home through a process based on the 'waggle dance'. The method also involves net bags in which the drones carry the honey jars. You can read their press release at <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/03/prweb11715011.htm>

Meanwhile, Harpers, a news organ for the wine industry, has published details of a breakthrough method of ageing wine by placing bottles within beehives, where they are kept at a constant temperature and also benefit from the vibrations produced by the buzzing of the bees. One of the developers is quoted as saying that wines produced by this method are "softer and smoother, and altogether more mellow and ready to drink". Their first marketed product using the new method has just been released and is priced at £833 a bottle! The article is available at <http://www.harpers.co.uk/news/bees-could-help-speed-up-the-ageing-of-wine-finds-new-research/356083.article>

Do you think that it's at all significant that both these stories were released on 1 April?



According to.....

.....J.B. Lamb, in his Appendix to the 1920 edition of Frank Cheshire's classic 1886 book *Bees and Bee-keeping*: "Mr A.H.E. Wood, of Glassel Apiary, Aberdeenshire, has found the following a very successful method of introducing queens, which he has designated the 'honey method'. He states that in one year not a single queen of fifty-two introduced by this means was lost, whilst in the following year many queens were also introduced in this way with only one failure, and even that may have occurred as a result of other circumstances. The procedure is as follows: Having made a stock queenless, a new queen is immediately introduced, although the introduction may be made some days later if the queen-cells are taken out. An eggcupful of good thick honey is slightly warmed, and the new queen is put into the honey, with which she is well-covered. Then the honey must be poured on to the top of a middle frame, care being taken that the queen is not damaged as she falls with the honey. With the finger she should be gently pushed in what he describes as 'one big dollop' between two frames, so that she goes down well wrapped up in honey. The hive should be closed up for three days without an examination."