

Newsletter

August 2013



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

President:

Mr R Wood
Cothal Lodge
Cothal
Dyce

Chair:

John Cooper
9 Westburn Drive
Aberdeen
Tel. 01224 637774

Hon. Secretary:

Rosie Crighton
29 Marcus Cres.
Blackburn
AB21 0SZ
Tel. 01224 791181
e-mail:
aberdeenbeekeepers
@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Louise Forbes
56 Morningfield Rd
Aberdeen
AB15 4AQ
Tel. 01224 313096

Area SBA Rep:

Stephen Palmer
Tel.01888 551367
e-mail:
palmers@fintry.plus.
com

ADBKA Autumn Lectures

We are very pleased to confirm that again this year we will be running our autumn lecture series, "An Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping", to be held on Thursday evenings at Aberdeen Grammar School and presented by Dr Stephen Palmer.

The six-week programme begins on 26 September at 7.30 pm and will cost £10, payable on the first evening of attendance. Attendees who are not currently members of the ADBKA will be able to redeem £5 of the course fee against their first year membership of the association.

The programme is ideal for those thinking about starting out on beekeeping, but would also be of interest to novices preparing to take the next step, or even experienced beekeepers wishing to update their knowledge.

Programme

- 26 September: The Biology of the bee
- 3 October: The Beehive
- 10 October: What do I need to keep bees?
- 31 October: The products of the hive
- 7 November: Help – there's something wrong with my bees!
- 14 November: The beekeeping year

Our association has been successful in its application to be included on the **Scottish Beekeepers' Association's Autumn Lecture Tour** schedule.

David Aston will give a talk on the evening of Friday 11 October in the Kinellar Hall in Blackburn.

David is a Master Beekeeper, holder of the National Diploma in Beekeeping (NDB), Chair of the NDB Board, Executive member and Vice Chair of the British Beekeepers' Association, Chair of Trustees for the BBKA and Chair of the BBKA Technical and Environmental Committee.

More details of this event will appear in next month's newsletter.

For
your
diary!

THE ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION HONEY SHOW 2013

Watch out for the
2013 Honey Show
Schedule in the
September
newsletter

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

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2013



The annual honey show is the highlight of our year. As well as giving you the chance to show off the products of your own and your bees' hard work, it's a great opportunity to meet and chat with other north east beekeepers about the highs and lows of the season.

The success of the Honey Show relies on members taking part, so make sure you set aside the best of your jars of honey now, in anticipation of entering them into the competition. Details of how to submit your entries will be given in next month's newsletter.

Following the formal part of this year's show, we will be holding an "Experts' Question Time" session.

**In the Newsletter
this month:**

Autumn Lectures	1
SBA Lecture Tour	1
Honey Show 2013	1
Members' Events	2
Power Lines	3
Colony Losses	3
Notice Board	4
Honey Jar Store	4
According to.....	4

**GOING TO THE HEATHER:
APIARY VISIT AND PICNIC LUNCH - with Murray McGregor**

Saturday 17 August at 2.00pm

Coilacreich, Ballater

The site is on the north side of the A93, next to an electricity substation, about half way between Ballater and Crathie. Prior to our visit, we are meeting at 1 pm for a (bring your own) picnic lunch at the Deeside Gliding Club, just to the west of Aboyne. You can't miss the picnic tables and a large parking area on the left hand side of the A93 heading west.

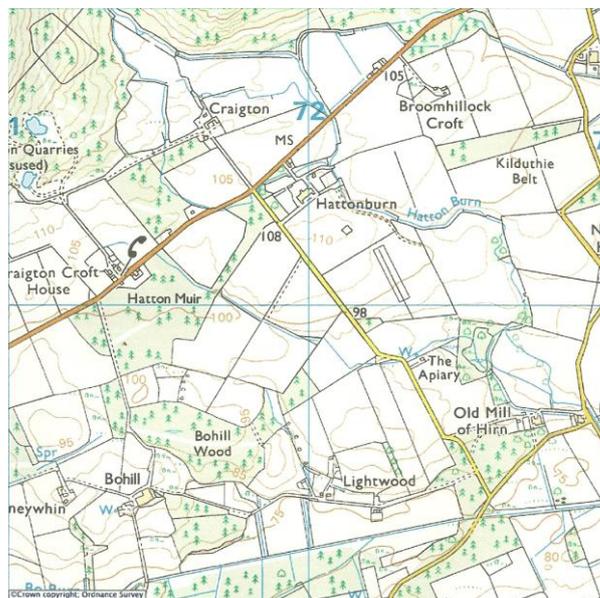
APIARY DEMONSTRATION

- with Hugh Donohoe

Saturday 31 August at 2.00pm

Old Mill of Hirn, Banchory

*Directions to Apiary from Aberdeen:
From Westhill to Garlogie Hall on B9117, then left on link road B9125 to meet the B977 again at Cullerlie, along the B977 (past the turn off to Hirn) and turn left into unclassified road after Hattonburn Farm, signed "unsuitable for HGV's" (look for "BEEDEM" sign). Along this road for about ¼ mile to small Z bend on a dip in the road, the Apiary is in the wood on the left at "BEEDEM" sign.
The Apiary doesn't have a post code, but is between Hattonburn Farm- AB31 5RB and Old mill of Hirn- AB31 5QR. (See map.)*



APIARY DEMONSTRATION

- with Jim Beattie

Saturday 14 September at 2.30pm

VARROA TREATMENT

Association apiary,
SAC, Craibstone, AB21 9YA

ADBKA AUTUMN LECTURES

Six-week programme starts Thursday 26
September at 7.30pm

Presenter: Stephen Palmer

**AN INTRODUCTION TO BEES AND
BEEKEEPING**

Aberdeen Grammar School Lecture Theatre,
Skene Street, ABERDEEN, AB10 1HT

Last week we asked how to safely transport a sealed queen cell without crushing it or letting it get too cold.

The consensus view sees the queen cell being placed in some sort of container – such as a matchbox or one of the larger plastic queen cages. Place this in a shirt or trouser pocket so that it benefits from body heat. In a shirt pocket, a thick jumper would provide additional insulation. Just how long this would keep the metamorphosing queen alive isn't known, but with a steady temperature and not too much jarring, the situation seems pretty much as it would be in the brood nest.

Interestingly, in his book *The Buzz about Bees*, Jurgen Tautz notes a range of evolutionary strategies that are shared by honeybees and mammals. Amongst them, the development of offspring within a protective environment (brood nest/womb) maintained at 35/36°C.

So, in summary: pop it in your pooch!

Does anyone have experience of using the hive cleansing product, Varroa-Gard?

It seems there are different methods and frequency of application. Do you have any advice or recommendations?

Please get in touch and we'll share it with other members.

An article in the Guardian explains why it's "nigh on impossible" to produce organic honey in the UK. That's because of the foraging range of the honey bee and the close proximity of non-organic land next to any organic production sites.

Read the story at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/aug/11/organic-honey-any-such-thing>



SBA Examinations

The Scottish Beekeepers' Association will be holding their examinations for **Modules 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7** on 9 November this year.

Candidates wishing to enter these exams should apply to the SBA Education Convener, Alan Riach, Woodgate, 7 Newlands Avenue, Bathgate, EH48 1EE, no later than 14 September.

The syllabuses and exam application form can be downloaded from

<http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/PracticalBeekeeping/Downloads.aspx>

(If you don't have internet access, contact the newsletter editor and arrange to have a paper copy of the application form posted out.)

Power Lines and Bees

Last month we reported the suspicions of ADBKA member Andy Leith that some stocks of bees he had near to pylons and underneath power lines were producing very little honey compared to other stocks on similar sites where there were no power lines.

As you might expect with possibly the world's most researched insect, this is something that has not missed the attention of scientists. The website *EMFs.info* ("EMFs" stands for "electric and magnetic fields") cites six different studies, one of which reports that: "Honeybee colonies exposed under a 765-kV, 60-Hz transmission line at 7 kV/m show the following sequence of effects: 1) increased motor activity with transient increase in hive temperature; 2) abnormal propolization; 3) impaired hive weight gain; 4) queen loss and abnormal production of queen cells; 5) decreased sealed brood; and 6) poor winter survival". (See <http://www.emfs.info/The+Science/Agriculture/bees/bees+and+microshocks.htm>)

The particular study referred to above was published in the journal of the Bioelectromagnetics Society (<https://www.bems.org/home>).

See the amazing live bee cam feed from Germany at

<http://explore.org/#!/live-cams/player/honey-bee-hive-cam>

Many media outlets picked up the news that a survey conducted on behalf of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association has found that nearly one in three managed bee colonies in Scotland died out last winter. This is twice the rate of losses in the previous year.

See how STV reported the story at:

<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/235922-fears-over-scottish-honey-bee-populations-after-31-fail-to-survive-winter/>

Preliminary results from an international study

The honey bee research network COLOSS has announced the preliminary results of an international study to investigate winter colony losses. Data were collected from 19 countries from Europe, Israel and Algeria. In total, more than 15,000 beekeepers provided overwintering mortality and other data of their colonies. Collectively, they managed more than 280,000 colonies. A preliminary analysis of the data shows that the mortality rate over the 2012-13 winter varied between countries, ranging from 6% in Israel to 37% in Ireland, and there were also marked regional differences within some countries. These figures compare with losses over the same period of 31% and 34% recently reported from the USA and the UK respectively.

The data show that Poland and Finland have each year experienced losses of about 17%. Countries in south eastern Europe (Slovakia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia) have had average losses of less than 10%, but in 2012 losses were slightly higher. In central Europe (Germany, Switzerland, Austria) losses rose to above 20% in 2012 but went back to around 15% in 2013. In the neighbouring Netherlands, losses were above 20% for five years, but decreased in 2013 to a level comparable with Germany and Switzerland. Interestingly, we now see losses rising to substantially higher levels in northern countries (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Ireland, UK) whose losses were around the 15% in the previous years.

Co-ordinator of the COLOSS Monitoring and Diagnosis Working Group Dr Romée van der Zee from the Dutch Centre for Bee Research says: "We have observed an interesting pattern in honey bee colony losses over the last 3 years. These results emphasise that losses in many countries remain greater than beekeepers consider are acceptable. We believe that many factors including the weather are responsible for these losses, which show patterns over the years which are not bound to administrative borders".

You can access the COLOSS information via <http://coloss.org/news/coloss-press-release-losses-of-honey-bee-colonies-over-the-2012-13-winter-preliminary-results-from-an-international-study>



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

Does anyone want to share my bucket of **MAQS** strips?

There are 20 strips in the bucket, enough for treating 10 hives. I'll need four treatments, so there would be sufficient strips for another six hives.

The cost (saving on p&p) is £55.20 per bucket, so each treatment would work out at £5.52.

You would need to collect them from Torphins.

Call Graham Torrie on 013398 82038 or e-mail
adbkanewsletter@btinternet.com

An outbreak of the dreaded **American Foulbrood Disease** has been found near Stranraer. Read the report in the Herald at:

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/bee-colony-destroyed-after-disease-discovery.21676766>



Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

Nucs Wanted

- by Colin Hart: 07814 689901, e-mail:

c.hart@virgin.net

- and Jennifer and Ali Lewis

e-mail alisonvlewis@hotmail.com

The Honey Jar Store

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:

Honey extractors ✓

Mini-melters ✓

Heather honey press ✓

Wax extractor ✓

Wax foundation press ✓

The Honey Jar Store is in Danestone, Aberdeen. At the Persley Bridge roundabout, turn onto Laurel Drive. Continue for about half a 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.

For the loan items, a returnable £10 deposit is required, with the maximum length of loan being two weeks.

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

According to.....

.....William Kirk and Norman Howes in their book *Plants for Bees*, "Heather honey is sometimes a bad winter food for bees because it is prone to cause bee dysentery. This is exacerbated if bees are confined to the hive and cannot void their faeces for long periods during the cold winter months. Many beekeepers in the south of England, who have made use of heather areas for furnishing winter stores, have not experienced this trouble. Possibly the reason is that in the south, where winters are milder than in Scotland, a sufficient number of mild days occur during the average winter to enable honeybees to take the necessary cleansing flights."