

Newsletter

December 2014

# 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

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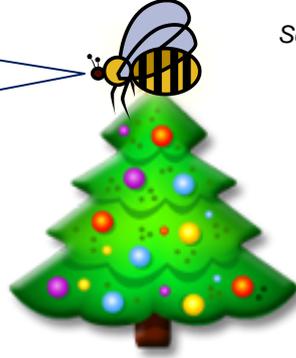
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*Don't forget to get your 2015 membership subscription form in as soon as possible. It's especially important this year as we manage the transition from the old ADBKA to our new incorporated charity.*

## SMALL HIVE BEETLE SBA CALLS FOR BAN ON BEE IMPORTS

The Executive Committee of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association has written to the Scottish Government urging them to take the strongest possible action to halt the spread into this country of the Small Hive Beetle, *Aethina tumida*.

The SBA 'urges that all possible measures are taken to prevent the introduction of small hive beetle into the UK. These should include a cessation of trade in live bees from the rest of Europe for 2015 until the true spread of the pest is better known.'

Meanwhile, ADBKA members have spotted a couple of on-line petitions following the same theme. If you feel inclined, take your pick from this one directed at the UK Government

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/sto-p-the-small-hive-beetle-spreading-to-britain>

or one specifically aimed at the Scottish Government

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/462/920/171/>



*This year's Honey Show trophy winners, snapped looking happy at our end of year social gathering last month. We enjoyed a lavish spread, brought along and shared by all those attending, and a challenging team quiz, organised and run by Innes and Sarah Simpson.*

*A good time was had by all!*

## FLUPIN' HELL!

Just when we've about managed to get our tongues around "neonicotinoid", a new systemic pesticide hits the headlines, particularly in Canada where government approval is being sought for its use. It's called (prepare yourself) **Flupyradifurone**, or, for those with less time on their hands, 'Flup' for short.

The product is being marketed by the agri-chemical giant Bayer Cropscience under the trade name Sivanto, which, according to their promotional material, "will be developed, registered and sold throughout the world in all major climatic zones allowing agriculture, the key markets being Brazil, USA, Europe, Ghana, India, and China."

As you might expect given the ongoing debacle over neonicotinoids, which are currently subject to a three year ban in the European Union, this new pesticide is causing quite a stir. Friends of the Earth Canada have claimed that their government is "about to licence another bee-killing pesticide", and have teamed up with the Sierra Club Canada Foundation, the David Suzuki Foundation, Pollination Canada, the National Farmers Union and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment to challenge the application.

**In the Newsletter this month:**

- Small Hive Beetle 1
- New insecticide 1
- Members' Events 2
- 2014 Quiz 2
- Wing things 3
- Honey Jar Store 3
- Notice Board 4
- According to.... 4



*Is this bee having a laugh?*

*Turn to page 4. (But not before you've tried the quiz on page 2!)*

**TALK:**  
**MY METHOD OF BEEKEEPING**  
**- Graeme Sharp, Bee Inspector**  
 Saturday 17 January at 2.00pm  
 The Kinellar Community Hall  
 Fintray Road  
 Blackburn AB21 0SS

**FILM:**  
**- to be announced**

Saturday 14 February at 2.00pm  
 The Kinellar Community Hall  
 Fintray Road  
 Blackburn AB21 0SS

## YOU'VE WAITED ALL YEAR, NOW HERE IT IS - THE GREAT BIG 2014 FESTIVE QUIZ!

The answers to the quiz are on  
 page 4. No peeking.

- Q.1: Your colony has become queenless and after about three weeks you see multiple eggs scattered haphazardly in some cells. The chances are you have, what?
- Q.2 What do you call the process of mixing a little fine-grained honey with your honey crop in order to get the lot to crystallise with a smooth texture?
- Q.3 Does a drone have a sting?
- Q.4 Who is the flaxen-haired minister in this photograph?
- Q.5 What is Certan used for?
- Q.6 Fill in the blanks to name these modern and historical types of hive:  
 a) N \_\_\_\_\_ L  
 b) C \_\_\_\_\_ L  
 c) D \_\_\_\_\_ T  
 d) S \_\_\_\_\_ N
- Q.7 An egg is laid in a queen cell on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. On what date would you expect the new queen to emerge from the cell?
- Q.8 *Hedera helix* is one of the last major sources of nectar and pollen of the year. What's this plant's common name?
- Q.9 Put these duties in the order they are undertaken over time by maturing worker bees:  
 a) foraging; b) guarding the entrance to the hive; c) feeding larvae; d) processing nectar into honey
- Q.10 Sort out these anagrams to reveal common beekeeping terms:  
 a) arm swing; b) rob down car; c) hot olive; d) a river moat
- Q.11 What is an imago?
- Q.12 Where was Brother Adam based during his famous beekeeping career?
- Q.13 The picture on the right shows what you might be faced with when you check the floor of your hive. What problem do you have?
- Q.14 Ling heather honey is described as being *thixotropic*. What does this mean?
- Q.15 What links the 1960s pop group the Ronettes, the late Amy Winehouse, and Marge Simpson?



## HOOKED ON FLIGHT

Honey bees have four wings: two at the front, the *forewings*, and two at the back, the *hind wings*. All four are connected to the thorax, which contains the large flight muscles that flex the thoracic plates and cause the wings to lift and depress in flight.

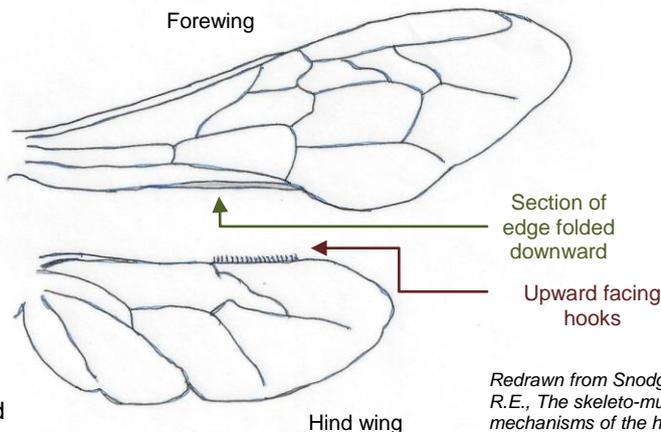
Like the rest of the bee's exoskeleton, the wings are made from cuticle, so thin that it's see-through. They have thickened, hollow veins that provide rigidity and through which blood, properly called *haemolymph*, circulates. The leading edge of each wing is especially thickened to give it extra strength for cutting through the air.



When it's not in flight, the bee's wings can be folded flat across its back, with the forewings completely covering the hind wings.

The picture on the left shows one of my bees on a purple sprouting broccoli plant doing just that.

When it takes to the air, each forewing draws across the hind wing beneath. On one section of the trailing edge of the forewing there's a downward facing fold, which catches a row of handily placed, upward facing hooks on the leading edge of the hind wing. (The hooks are called *hamuli*. In Latin, 'hamus' means hook; a 'hamulus' is a little hook.) The result is that the forewings and hind wings are stitched together, providing the bee with a unified surface area to better catch the air in flight. When it comes to rest again, the backward movement of the forewings causes the mechanism to uncouple. Pretty zippy, eh?



Redrawn from Snodgrass, R.E., *The skeleto-muscular mechanisms of the honey bee*, 1942

Getting a bit thin on top? This may be the answer. Scientists in Japan have found that an application of **propolis** from bee hives can promote hair growth in mice. *Who knew?*

Read about it in Entomology Today at <http://entomologytoday.org/2014/12/11/seal-ant-in-honey-bee-hive-promotes-hair-growth-in-mice/>

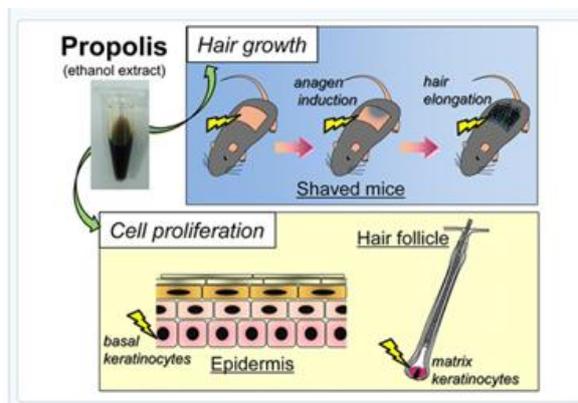


Image taken from <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/jf503184s>, 11/08/14

### 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**

You may be asked to show your ADBKA membership card when you visit the store, so remember to take it along

**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



### For Sale:

Three full Langstroth poly hives + extras.  
Two with wintered bees (2014 unmarked queens). Aberdeen City. Please contact Stewart on 07531 784 341 or [scander71@gmail.com](mailto:scander71@gmail.com). (I will be out of phone contact from Dec 21 to Jan 4.)

**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](mailto:AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com)

### WANTED:

### SBA Area Representative for the north east of Scotland

The Scottish Beekeepers' Association is seeking an Area Representative to be responsible for Aberdeen and District, Moray and Spey Beekeeping Associations.

As well as being vital cogs in the communication channels within the SBA, Area Reps. will also be expected to offer support and advice to their associations.

The Area Rep. will be elected in March 2015 for one year as an SBA trustee and will be eligible for re-election in 2016.

If anyone wants any further information they can contact SBA General Secretary, Tony Harris, by e-mailing [secretary@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk) or by phoning 07884 496246

## QUIZ ANSWERS

Q.1: Laying workers

Q.2: Seeding

Q.3: No

Q.4: The Reverend Lorenzo Langstroth - credited with introducing the first moveable frame hive, in 1851

Q.5: Controlling wax moth

Q.6: a) National; b) Commercial; c) Dadant; d) Stewarton

Q.7: 16<sup>th</sup> of June

Q.8: Ivy

Q.9: c), d), b), a)

Q.10: a) swarming; b) crown board; c) hive tool; d) Varroa mite

Q.11: An adult honey bee

Q.12: Buckfast Abbey

Q.13: Chalkbrood

Q.14: It is thick and gel-like, but will flow when agitated

Q.15: The beehive hairdo

Hopefully lots of ADBKA members will be considering undertaking the SBA's **Basic Beemaster** assessment next year. If you are, you might want to note that there has been a small revision to the syllabus, namely the addition of a requirement to describe an elementary method of producing a new queen (using normal artificial swarming methods) Para 3.8.

The revised syllabus and notes are now on the SBA web site at

<http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk>

Follow *Services*, then 'Quicklink' to *Education Syllabus*.

## According to.....

.....Laurie Croft in his book *Curiosities of Beekeeping*, "In the *Times* of 6<sup>th</sup> June 1962 there is a report of how a colony of vicious bees, in an apiary in Schooleys Mountains, New Jersey, was subdued using laughing gas. The gas was found to render them docile and lethargic. It is interesting that some beekeepers place ammonium nitrate crystals in the smoker. This chemical on heating produces nitrous oxide (laughing gas), and so would explain how the crystals induce a colony to calm down. It has furthermore been discovered that bees subjected to this treatment always lose their memory with regards to their geographical location. Colonies so treated can be relocated to a new site without loss."

### Our area SBA Representative is

Tony Harris

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