Aberdeen and District Beekeepers’ Association welcomes its new Chair

At our AGM, held on Saturday 26 May 2012, John Cooper was elected to the Chair of the Aberdeen and District Beekeepers’ Association; Andy Sutherland was elected as Vice Chair. Mr R Wood continues as our President.

The job of Honorary Secretary remains in the safe hands of Rosie Crighton and, as notified earlier, Louise Forbes was elected to the post of Honorary Treasurer.

Members elected to serve on the committee for the year ahead were: James Beattie, Barbara Cruden, Ian Douglas, Paul Falconer, David Findlater, Sandy Gordon, Alexander Innes, Wittek Mojsiewicz, Stephen Palmer, Innes Simpson, Fred Simpson, Graham Stables, Gordon Stephen, Kirsty Sutherland and Jim Thomson.

Outgoing Chair, Jock McGregor, was presented with an inscribed Quaich recording the gratitude of the association for his tireless efforts on behalf of its members. Jock, in turn, presented Rosie Crighton with the Robert Wood Quaich, an annual award made at the discretion of the Chair in recognition of extraordinary commitment and contribution to the association. Finally, Jock’s wife, Margaret, was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a much deserved gesture of thanks for her support during Jock’s tenure as Chair, and for the wonderful hospitality she has shown committee members during meetings in her home, and the membership generally at many association events.

Following the formal part of the meeting we were privileged to hear a talk from Hugh Donohoe on the subject of keeping bees and preparing honey show exhibits. Hugh’s comprehensive and detailed presentation was illustrated by an excellent slide show. A vote of thanks was proposed by the Chair, John Cooper.

Could you please convey to all members of A.D.B.A. our thanks for the beautiful flowers and splendid Quaich. Quite unexpected, making it so special and appreciated.

Over the years it was a pleasure to give service to the Bee Association and its members.

Wishing you all the best and thank you again,

Margaret and Jock

SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CENTENARY CELEBRATION CONFERENCE

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September 2012

The Stirling Management Centre, University of Stirling

Over the two days, there will be a series of lectures by Prof Robert Paxton, Prof Keith Delaplane, Prof Robert Pickard, and Dan Basterfield NDB.

Accompanying the lectures will be trade stands, local associations’ displays, workshops, demonstrations and beekeeping exhibits. The highlight of the celebration will be a centenary dinner and ceilidh.

To download a booking form, visit http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/About/SBACentenary.aspx Or, contact Peter Matthews, 4 Annanhill, Annan, Dumfriesshire DG12 6TN; Tel. 01461 205525, e-mail: silverhive@hotmail.com
The Torphins Beekeeping Circle proved its success recently when a request for assistance with a hive inspection was answered and the stability of the colony was restored. Local bee expert, Hugh Donohoe, provided the knowhow, which was gratefully received by those present. The bees came from Jock McGregor last year, over-wintered well to produce a strong colony. Ten days before the inspection a small swarm was found near the hive and this was put into an empty hive. This was already thriving, much comb had been created. Eggs and larvae were seen. The opportunity was taken to mark the queen.

There were still a very large number of bees in the original hive with a number of healthy queen cells. One of these was put into a nuc, with some frames, stores and candy. Most of the remaining queen cells were destroyed, leaving two – the assumption being that the first to hatch would kill the other. Some of the remaining stores from the super on the main hive were transferred to the reserve hive and new supers were put onto both hives.

The intention is to leave the hives and the nuc for a month before disturbing. Altogether the evening was extremely useful, great training and the risk of subsequent swarms has been greatly reduced. This would not have been possible without the local beekeeping circle for which I am very grateful.

**Rod McGovern**

### Beekeeping Circles

If you would like to join an existing beekeeping circle in the following areas, contact -

Helen Anderson, based in **Inverurie**, on 01467 620750, e-mail: sh.and@gmx.com

Graham Torrie, based in **Torphins**, on 013398 82038, e-mail: grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com

The initiative relies on individual members volunteering to compile and share (with permission) a list of names and contact numbers of other beekeepers in their local area, then to take things forward as the members of the circle deem fit. If you would be prepared to co-ordinate a beekeeping circle in your own area, please contact Graham Torrie.
Notes from the Secretary

On the 19th May, Craibstone was the venue for a special bee health diseases day which was run by the Scottish Government and SASA. Sadly there was a poor turnout of local members but those who did attend were offered an opportunity to view diseased frames courtesy of SASA who provided examples of European Foul Brood and American Foul Brood, as well as chilled brood and chalk brood. This was only available under special licenced conditions and a rare opportunity for learning.

Graham Sharpe and Steve Sunderland along with Kirsty Sutherland showed the assembled beekeepers how to perform a disease inspection and shared practical information and knowledge which will enhance the beekeeping skills of those who were present.

It is unlikely that this course will come to the Aberdeen area again, however if we are lucky enough to be able to host it in the future, I would urge urge beekeepers new and experienced to attend. This will help to increase knowledge and understanding of disease and disease prevention and help build a more robust approach to disease prevention within the Association area.

It was £25 well spent with a full day’s programme, refreshments and lunch provided. As an Association we should be seen to be proactive in our beekeeping and take full advantage of good quality study days which will help take beekeeping forward in the future. This study day was a great opportunity for beekeepers to network and learn from each other through sharing knowledge and experiences and hopefully more beekeepers will attend if days like this are provided again in the Aberdeen area.

Due to weather difficulties it may be necessary to cancel apiary inspections at short notice and I would urge all those who wish to attend the events on the yellow card to telephone either John Cooper, Chair, on 01224 637774, or Rosie Crighton, Secretary, on 01224 791181, to confirm if the event is going ahead. Any decision to cancel or postpone will be taken prior to 12 midday on the day of the inspection/event. This is only in the event of the weather appearing inclement on the day of the inspection/event.

Would any member who would like to purchase a locally produced nucleus hive please get in touch with Rosie Crighton, (Secretary), on 791181 who will co-ordinate supply and demand if possible. Thank you very much.

I would like to take this opportunity publically to thank Jock McGregor for awarding me the President’s Trophy at the AGM last month. This was completely unexpected and I feel undeserved, however I am absolutely bowled over by receiving it. I have very much enjoyed the challenge of the secretarial role in the last year and know that there is still much to learn and do, but having my efforts acknowledged by Jock in such a way is really wonderful and I hope that I will continue to provide a supportive role to the membership and new Chairperson, John Cooper, in the future. I was touched by Jock’s generosity and offer a heartfelt thanks to him for his vote of confidence, I would like to wish him and Margaret my warmest regards and I hope this is a successful beekeeping season for them.

Rosie Crighton X.

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Report on Scottish Beekeepers Association Executive Council Meeting 9th June 2012

This was my first meeting as the area representative for Aberdeen BKA and Moray BKA and it soon became obvious that I have much to learn about the ways and means of the SBA.

I was surprised to learn that the total membership of the SBA was only 1400 (this is a very small proportion of the total number of Scottish beekeepers) and that many Scottish beekeepers (and their local Associations) seem to want to have little to do with the national organisation that serves and represents them. This is clearly something that both ADBK&A and MBKA need to address. The President of the SBA (Phil McAnespie philmcanespie@supanet.com) would welcome the opportunity to speak to our Associations. Perhaps this is something that we ought to consider early in 2013?

This year’s touring SBA lecturer (Richard Ball – from the National Bee Unit of the UK) is not visiting our area this year; we seem to have missed an opportunity to be part of the programme and we need to ensure that in future we don’t miss the boat! (There are plans already afoot for a touring lecturer for 2013)

The SBA is concerned about its future direction and plans. To this end a five-year plan is being developed to make the SBA more effective and relevant.

We need to identify a Spray Liaison contact person in both our Associations; the names can then be added to the SBA listing on its website.

At the meeting reports were given by committees concerned with: bee health, Education, Library, beekeeping insurance/compensation, membership, ICT, National honey show.

There was much discussion on the SBA Centenary weekend in September; we need to give this major event some further publicity on our websites and amongst our members.

The SBA is currently looking for a new General Secretary to replace the current post-holder when she becomes President of the SBA in March 2013.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is on 8th September.

Stephen Palmer

Stephen is our Area Representative on the SBA Executive Committee. He can be contacted at palmers@fintry.plus.com or on 01888 551367.
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

For Sale
Plastic Honey tank with valve 40kg
Boxes of Honey jars 2 x 72
Bee Candy 4 cakes i.e. one carton
Small contact feeders 7 only
Full length Bee suit (ladies?) never worn
Bee gloves (ladies?) 1 pair
Stainless Steel extractor, 9 frame, electric, seldom used.
Double nylon strainer
Heather straining cloths 3 only
Smoker 1 only
Hives, national, steel roofs 5 only
A variety of supporting bits and pieces
Contact Mrs Taylor, Kintore, Tel No. 0146 642682

Notice Board

Hive with Bees for Sale
I have one National Hive for sale, complete with newly installed swarm which I installed from my apiary on 1st June 2012.
Peter Sykes
Tel: 01975562817

Nucs and Queens, mated or virgin – currently being advertised and sold commercially by “The Bee Man” at http://www.the-beeman.co.uk/ Tel: 01644440202
E-mail: mike@the-beeman.co.uk
As advised, prices are: mated UK queens £35; virgin queens £11.99 + P&P; 5-frame nucs £199 with 2012 UK queen
ADBA members are offered a 10% discount on these prices.

According to.....

.....J Dennler in his 1889 book Bees-Wax: Its economical uses and conversion into money, “From marigold flowers a plaster can be made by bruising the flowers and the stalks and mixing them with as much lard as will cover them, allowing the mass to boil over a moderate fire for an hour, and then squeezing it through a cloth. The liquid that is pressed out is put on the fire again, and as much yellow wax added as will make it of the consistency of a plaster. If less wax is used, marigold flower salve is obtained. Both preparations are useful for all kinds of wounds.”

ADBA Newsletter

Distributing the newsletter by e-mail realises significant savings for the association. If you do not currently receive the newsletter by e-mail and wish to do so, contact Graham Torrie on 013398 82038, or by e-mail at: grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com

We urge as many members as possible to do so.

Why not think about contributing to the newsletter yourself? We have a wealth of experience and expertise in the association, and it would be great if we could do more to share this around our members. If you have any tips, advice, or experiences to pass on, why don’t you jot them down and forward them to the above e-mail address? I would be happy to assist with drafting and formatting, so feel free to call me on the above number if I can help.

Graham Torrie