

Newsletter

September 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

In the Newsletter this month:

Honey Show 2013	1
AFB Alert	1
Go for Crathes	1
Members' Events	2
Heather visit	2
AFB advice	3
Buzz off!	3
Notice Board	4
Honey Jar Store	4
According to.....	4



THE ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION HONEY SHOW 2013

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

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2013 at 2.30PM

With one beekeeping season coming to a close and another beginning, we are marking the turning point in the year with our annual honey show. Members can exhibit their honey and a range of other hive products, with trophies being awarded for the best entries. Have a look through the competition categories in the honey show schedule and help to keep this important tradition going by 'entering' into the spirit of the occasion.

Whether or not you are entering the competition, come along to see how the show works, enjoy the friendly atmosphere, have a bite to eat, a cup of tea, and a good blether with other beekeepers. We will have trade stands selling beekeeping books and equipment.

Following the formal part of this year's show, we will be holding an "Experts' Question Time" session, when our most experienced members will offer their opinions and advice on the many mysteries and challenges of beekeeping.

*All trophy holders should ensure that they return their trophies to the secretary **before** 12 October.*

AFB ALERT IN ABERDEENSHIRE

An outbreak of American Foulbrood Disease has been found in the Turriff area. The infected hive has been destroyed and the movement of bees and related equipment into or out of the affected apiary are under legal controls enforced by Scottish Government Bee Inspectors. The news comes within weeks of reported AFB outbreaks in Inverness-shire and Stranrear.

All ADBKA members are advised to be especially alert to signs of AFB when carrying out hive inspections. (See page 3 of this newsletter for further information.) The Food and Environment Research Agency's advisory booklet, *Foulbrood Diseases of Honey Bees* contains detailed information on identifying AFB and EFB and is available to download free from <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm?pageid=167> Copies can be obtained from the National Bee Unit by telephoning 01904 462510, and our own local bee inspector, Kirsty Sutherland, also has a number of paper copies available. She can be contacted by e-mail at Kirsteen.Sutherland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

In order to assist Scottish government bee inspectors to control this and other diseases, beekeepers are urged to register on BeeBase, the national bee database. This will give them access to up-to-date information on the control of AFB and bee related issues.

Beekeepers who are not on BeeBase are requested to register at: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/> or send their contact details to: BeesMailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

GREEN LIGHT FOR CRATHES

Planning Permission and Building Warrant have at last been approved, and the new apiary building has been ordered from Forest Products of Echt.

It is anticipated that the building kit will be delivered to them from the factory at the end of October and it is hoped that its construction on site will take place soon after.

Exactly how quickly everything will be finalised will be to a large extent dependent on the work schedules and availability of various contractors, but it is hoped that all will be complete sometime in November, after which the Association's bees can be moved to the new apiary site from Craibstone.

John Cooper

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

SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION'S AUTUMN LECTURE TOUR

- with David Aston

Friday 11 October at 7.15pm

KEEPING HEALTHY HONEYBEES

Kinellar Hall
Blackburn
AB21 0JQ

David Aston 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.

We are very pleased to welcome David to Aberdeen and District BKA and would urge as many members as possible to attend.

THE ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION HONEY SHOW 2013

Saturday 12 October at 2.30pm

The Engineering Theatre
SAC
Craibstone
AB21 9YA

'HANDS ON'**- A PRACTICAL SESSION TO TRY YOUR HAND AT MAKING WAX AND HONEY PRODUCTS**

Saturday 26 October at 2pm

Kinellar Hall
Blackburn
AB21 0JQ

Please note that in order to allow members to drop off honey show entries on the evening of Friday 11 October and also to attend that evening's lecture at the Kinellar Hall, entries will be received at Craibstone **between 4.30pm and 6pm**. Entries can also be handed in at Craibstone between 8am and 9.30am on the day of the show. *See the Honey Show Schedule for more details.*

The two-year EU ban on three neonicotinoid pesticides: clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam, which comes into force on 1 December, is being challenged in the courts by two of the big chemical manufacturers. Switzerland-based Syngenta is challenging the thiamethoxam ban only, with Germany's Bayer CropScience challenging the ban on all three chemicals. In a statement reported on the website nature.com, Bayer said that the Commission's move is "unjustified, disproportionate and goes beyond the existing regulatory framework". In response, the European Commission has said that its measures were based on scientific information and the conclusions of the European Food Safety Agency, which has ruled that these insecticides could pose a risk to bees in some circumstances.

Who do you think will win? The lawyers, I hear you say.

Read more on this story at:

<http://blogs.nature.com/news/2013/08/eu-insecticide-ban-triggers-legal-action.html>



Once again this year, nature was kind to us for our picnic and visit to Murray McGregor's heather site near Crathie. Apart from a couple of short showers, we were able to enjoy watching Murray's dark bees swirling above us in bright, warm sunshine.

Around 20 of our members listened and learned from someone who is currently managing 3,000 hives and expects to harvest between 50 and 60 tonnes of heather honey.

These bees are so busy that a few hundred of them took the chance to have a rest on this handy wide brimmed bonnet!





Buzz Off!

Association member, Ken Gow, advised us of this rare sighting:

"I don't know how common it is to see it, but yesterday lunchtime, for the first time, I happened to witness the mass chuck-out of drones from one of my two hives here. I watched them for about 15 minutes before lunch, and after lunch it was still going on. Typically drones would tumble out of the front door with a worker or two attached or in pursuit. They would then be harried and steered away from the door. The drones would either give up the fight and fly off, or evade the bouncers and make their way back in, presumably to get thrown out again. I would say the ejection rate was one or more every few seconds; one or two were dead on the ground below. It's a very difficult thing to photograph, because of the rapid movement, but I attach a few photos."

A story in the Telegraph suggests that the method of applying oxalic acid as a *Varroa* treatment, and the concentration of the application, are both critical in its effective use. Commenting on an unpublished study by researchers at Sussex University, the report makes the claim that a vapour "at a particular concentration" is better than applying the acid as a liquid.

See the story at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/10285919/Honey-bee-treatment-applied-in-wrong-way.html>



The reported **worldwide honeybee decline might be related to the action of the metal manganese**, according to Dutch scientists.

An excess of manganese is said to increase reproduction, resulting in too many young bees that cannot be fed sufficiently by the worker bees, and also stimulates bees to leave the hive.

Maarten van Hoorn, leader of the research team said: "It is known that the [*Varroa* mite] carries the *Borrelia* bacterium inside it. *Borrelia*, the cause of Lyme disease, helps the tick during the infection process, using manganese instead of iron. The manganese is transported to the host, in the case of the bees by the bacteria inside the varroa mite, thus influencing colony behaviour. The bee decline problem is therefore a general microbial issue, brought about by an excess of manganese."

Read more at: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/1439792>



Last month we asked if anyone had experience of using the hive cleansing product, Varroa-Gard. We've had two members suggesting that the 'foot bath' method (a tray of the powder on the hive floor inside the entrance) might not be as effective as directly powdering the seams of bees three or four times a year using something like a sugar dredger.

Please bear in mind, though, that this is not a method that is recommended by the manufacturer.

American Foul Brood (AFB)

AFB is caused by a spore forming bacterium called *Paenibacillus larvae*. These spores are the infective stage of the disease and infection begins when food contaminated with spores are fed to larvae by the nurse bees. Once in the gut of the larva the spores germinate, bacteria move into the larval tissues, where they multiply enormously. Infected larvae normally die after the cell is sealed and millions of infective spores form in their remains. Spores are very resistant to extremes of heat and cold, and to many disinfectants and remain viable for many years.

Symptoms of AFB

The characteristic disease signs of AFB include some or all of the following:

- Uneven or 'Pepper-pot' brood pattern
- Sunken, greasy or perforated, darkened cell cappings
- Roping, sticky larval remains when drawn out with a matchstick
- Dark "scales", which are difficult to remove from cells

Spread

The most common method of transmission from infected hive to healthy hive is the beekeeper. The spores can be easily transferred, if frames of honey or brood are moved between hives, or if other contaminated equipment is used. However, robbing by adult bees of dead or dying infected colonies is also an important mode of transmission. If left to run its course, all colonies infected with AFB will eventually die from the disease.

Control

The control method for AFB is simple in the UK: **all infected colonies are compulsorily destroyed**. The first stage is to destroy the adult bees and brood combs by burning, then the hives and any appliances are sterilised by scorching with a blow lamp.

From the BeeBase website: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/>

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

For Sale

Starter Kit for Beginner - Polystyrene hive with bees, 2 spare polystyrene hives, clearers, feeder box and nuc box: £400. Call David Wilkinson on 01467 651400.

For Sale

Heather Honey Press

- takes up to nine shallow frames
Call 01467 643169 after 6pm

Items for sale:-

2 slotted queen excluders brand new: £5 each
Electric 9 frame radial honey extractor, used but very good condition, with wooden stand: £225
Plastic honey pail with tap, excellent condition: £15
Smoker, used: £15
Please contact Mrs Smart on 01467 621104, (Inverurie), or mobile 07599 414507, for further details.

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

AberdeenBeeSupplies@hotmail.com

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. **As other members may be waiting to borrow extractors, etc. these must be returned on time and in a clean condition.**



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 ✓

Please note that due to an increase in the cost of honey jars from our suppliers, we have found it necessary to increase the price from £22.50 to £24 for half a gross.

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.....

.....Robert Couston in his 1972 book, *Principles of Practical Beekeeping*, "When a colony has no mated queen present in the autumn, it will frequently retain its drones as well as fugitive drones from other hives, no doubt in the hope that a new queen could be raised or a present virgin queen be mated. Such attempts seldom meet with success, but a useful clue is given to the beekeeper. In an apiary at this time, if one hive has drones flying from it several weeks after the others have cast their drones, it is an indication that all is not well within and an examination should be made forthwith."