



**NOVEMBER
2017**

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

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ABDKA HONEY SHOW 2017 RECORD OF TROPHIES

The honey show this year was very well attended and most categories were represented with an entry. This year the honey show was judged by Hugh Donahoe who has been a member of ADBKA for many years and former committee member and more recently been appointed as an SBA examiner.

What stood out at this year's show was that honey from our own training apiary at Crathes was successful in winning two categories and won a second place in another. This success is in no doubt down to the efforts of Naomi Adams, manager of Crathes Apiary and her willing assistants. The bees at Crathes are primarily for training purposes and as such receive regular disruptions throughout the honey producing season which is not conducive to honey production.

Thanks go to Rosie Crighton and Barbara Cruden for supporting the many association members who pulled the whole thing together.

	Trophy	Awarded for	Winner 2017
1	MTM Construction Shield	Best exhibit in the Light Honey	Graham Torrie
2	The Henry Simpson Trophy	Best exhibit in the medium/dark honey	David Morland
3	John D Walker Memorial Trophy	Best exhibit in the Creamed Honey Class	Terry Daniels
4	The Bill MacKenzie Quaich	Best Exhibit of Ling Heather Honey	Graham Torrie
5	The Cut-Comb Trophy	Best Exhibit of Cut-Comb Honey	Erling Watt
6	ADBKA Junior Shield	Best exhibit in Junior Class	Jelle Andrew
7	Jim Tocher Trophy	Most points in the Newcomer's class	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
8	S.C. Rae Memorial Trophy	Best Frame	Jennifer Lewis
9	The Anne C. Beddie Trophy	Best exhibit in the wax section	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
10	The President's Trophy	Best exhibit in the Photographic section	Graham Torrie
11	The Captain Manson Trophy	Most points in the Industrial Class	Jane Watson
12	The Thorne Trophy	Most points in the show	Jennifer Lewis
13	The A.S.C.D. Trophy	Best exhibit in the show	Graham Torrie (for Liquid Ling honey)

FUTURE ARTICLES

BEE MENU –
Malcolm Watson

**MY BEEKEEPING
YEAR**
(Murray McGregor)

**HONEY SHOW
PICTURE FROM
1984 –**
Sandy & Lilian
Gordon

MY BEEKEEPING YEAR

By Murray McGregor, Professional Bee farmer.

September – November

The colonies are over wintered in groups of between forty to fifty hives for ease of maintenance, numbers are limited purely for disease management.

Each colony is treated for Varroa with an Amitraz based strip. It is important to rotate the types of strip used over several years.

The colony is wintered with the varroa floor open throughout, a varroa tray is never used or inserted. Above the colonies which are in Smith or Langstroth type wooden hives there is a solid crown board that is placed directly above the brood box. There is no upper ventilation of any kind. See Note 5.

We utilize floors that have a 3/8" high bee entrance, mouse guards are never fitted. See Note 6.

Records are maintained on a spread sheet that is sent to Beebase weekly so that locations of each colony are known. The spread sheet is updated and given to each team leader with the tasks detailed.

Once each colony is fed all efforts should be made to disturb it as little as possible until March. See Note 7.

Note 5. Ventilation above the bees is never employed such as with metal gauzes or holes through the crown board and neither is a gap left between the crown board and the brood box. The bees themselves tell you that they do not like upper ventilation because they will propolise over a gauze or a gap above the brood box. The floors are open all year round and the bees never propolise over the mesh floor.

Note 6. Mouse guards are never fitted instead every hive has an entrance block which is permanently fitted. The entrance is 3/8" high, as a rule of thumb the entrance should be no higher than the tip of your pinky, any higher and the head of a young mouse can pass through. Mice rarely eat polystyrene and woodpeckers do not like it either.

Note 7. One of the biggest killers of bees in the winter time is the beekeeper and inexperienced beekeepers in particular should resist the temptation to disturb the colony as much as possible.

December – January

In December we are finishing extracting honey which is done with a machine that first stirs the honey within the cell when it is still in the comb. Heather honey is thixotropic and therefore the action of the needles stirring the honey is enough to temporarily thin it down sufficiently to allow it to be extracted. Once the honey has been temporarily thinned it is put into a centrifugal extractor. The extracted honey is stored in 300 kg metal drums prior to transportation to the processor in North Yorkshire. We do not undertake and filtering or heating of the honey, our customer wants it delivered in as pure a state as possible which gives them scope to process it without damaging its consistency. We supply the honey with as low a value of HMF as possible, which is essentially a measure of caramelisation.

In December we treat for varroa using the trickle method with oxalic acid. The vapour treatment with acyclic acid we find too dangerous for our health when treating so many hives and the process has to be repeated which makes it time and effort consuming and too laborious.

December is also a time when we clean and sterilize brood boxes and super boxes. The polystyrene we sterilize with a caustic and washing soda solution, wooden boxes are scorched with flame.

To be continued...

An industrial size honey extractor.



Extracted honey ready for delivery.



NOVEMBER 16th – 7:30p.m
'THE GREEN DESERT'

Kemnay Community Bee Group
 Kemnay Village Hall, AB51 5SS

We look forward to welcoming Andy Watson, NE area rep of The Scottish Beekeepers' Association who will give a talk titled 'The Green Desert'.

"Drive along the A96 at any time of the 'season' and look sideways - what do see? Green - in fact, if we look past any road margins what do we see? How did we get to this? - is this the beginning of the end for our bees and wild pollinators?

What are we and the authorities doing about it and can we get back to the balance that our insects so badly need?"

There will be a small charge of £2 to cover refreshments.

NOVEMBER 18TH – 10 – 4 p.m.
SKEP MAKING WORKSHOP
with Bryce Reynard –

Kinellar Community Hall AB21 0JQ.

The course will teach you how to create your own skep which you will be able to take home at the end of the workshop. The cost of the course is £20 per person and must be pre-booked in advance.

Please contact Malcolm Watson to book your place on this course in writing to Malcolm Watson, Elbrie Lodge, Auchnagat, Ellon.AB41 8YL or e-mail: aberdeenbeekeepers@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 18TH
SCOTTISH NATIVE HONEY BEE SOCIETY WINTER WORKSHOP-
"IDENTIFY THOSE NATIVE BEES !"

An interactive hands on workshop open to all SNHBS members which will arm you with the skills to identify black bees. Free admission but open to SNHBS members only. To join visit <http://www.snhbs.scot/> and once members you will be given a link to the ticketing for this workshop. The day will include training on image analysis, microscopy, wing morphometry, demonstration of simple DNA analysis and a discussion about a large scale survey of Scotlands bees starting next year.

Day runs from 10.00 – 16.00 and will include teas and coffees. Spaces limited to 60.
 Zoology building- University of Aberdeen

NOVEMBER 25TH – 7:30 p.m.
ADBKA Social evening and presentation of Honey Show trophies.

The social evening this year will be held in Kingswells church hall which is attached to Kingswells Parish Church on the Old Skene Road, Kingswells. AB15 8QA. This hall is opposite the junction from the Kingswells Village Hall.

As with previous years, this evening will be organised along the lines of an American supper. Members are invited to bring along food and drink which will be laid out for all to share.

We shall have our hugely successful bee.tle drive and for the first time a raffle which has gifts donated by our friends and suppliers for us to enjoy. In addition there shall be duplicate association beekeeping books for participants to win during the evening's entertainment.

Please contact Alison Goss on Email alagoss@aol.com or mobile 07970392322 to confirm your attendance

Honey extractors; Heather honey press; Mini-melters;
 Wax extractor; Wax foundation press

Contact: Sandy Gordon 01224 484540
 DANESTONE AB22 8AJ

Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife;
 Heather honey press; Wax melter;

Unimel stainless steel 3 frame tangential extractor
 Contact: Erling Watt 074294 54572
watterlingg@aol.com
 LONGSIDE AB42 4XO

Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife;
 Heather honey press; Wax melter;

Universal lightweight 9 frame radial extractor
 Contact: Joan Gilbert-Stevens 019755 81369

craigmill@btinternet.com
 MUIR OF FOWLIS AB33 8NX

Combimel stainless steel radial 9 frame extractor;
 Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife;
 Refractometer; Candle-making kit are available at
 Crathes Apairy. For further information contact Joan
 Gilbert-Stevens.

DAVID PERT

Members will be sad to hear the news that David Pert passed away on Monday the 6th of November. He had been ill for some time. David was an enthusiastic beekeeper and a much valued member of the ADBKA committee.

We were pleased to take the opportunity in last May's edition of our newsletter to pay tribute to his contribution to our association and it is good to know that he was able to see from this the high regard in which he was held.

David was an Association member for many years, and a valuable committee member for the past 5 years.

David was the kind of man who never said no when asked to help, and when the new apiary was being established at Crathes his many practical skills were constantly put to good use in a wide variety of ways. David always turned up with a smile and was a pleasure to work with. His contributions to the work of the committee and to association events have been unstinting. David epitomises the voluntary ethos on which the association depends and thrives. He will be sorely missed.

Our condolences go to his wife Dorothy, his daughter Heather and his wider family.

Graham Torrie & John Cooper, both past Chair of ADBKA



NOT JUST THE BEES

Research carried out systematically in 63 Nature Reserves across Germany since 1989, and coordinated by Hans de Kroon of Radboud university in the Netherlands has revealed a 75% decline in the biomass of flying insects over the past 27 years

These findings have been received with widespread shock.

The high rate of decrease is alarming according to Hans de Kroon, and Professor Dave Goulson of Sussex university, who is also part of the research team, points out that insects make up about two-thirds of all life on Earth, and this horrific decline looks like a course for ecological Armageddon. He argues that if we lose the insects everything else is going to collapse.

Lynn Dicks of the university of East Anglia, who was not involved in the research, suggests that if total flying insect biomass is genuinely declining by about 6% per year this is extremely concerning because of the extremely important ecological functions which these insects perform. These functions range from pollination, being a source of food for many other animals, acting as predators and as decomposers.

Only further research will reveal how widespread the German findings may be, and the causes for the German declines are not clear. Lack of food for insects because of habitat changes which result from modern agricultural practices, and the widespread use of pesticides could be two underlying causes.

The above is a synopsis of a report in the Guardian newspaper on 19th October 2017. The research is published in the scientific journal Plos One, and a Google search will doubtless produce further details of this issue, which is clearly part of the worrying global reduction in biodiversity that has been happening over the past several decades.

John Cooper – Past ADBKA Chair

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor is the local agent for

Thorne Beekeeping Equipment.

Contact him on 01224 790468 or e-mail:

aberdeenbeesupplies@hotmail.com

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