

**MAY
2018**

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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**FUTURE
ARTICLES**

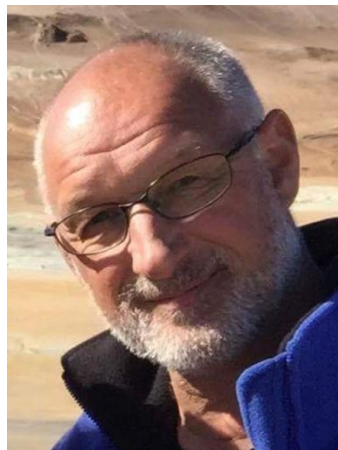
MEET THE MEMBERS
(Lindsey Macaulay)

**ADBKA HONEY
SHOW 2018**
(in October)

MAKING MEAD

MEET THE ADBKA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ian Mackley-committee member since 2018



Twenty years ago, if anyone had said I'd become a beekeeper I would have thought they didn't know me very well. It would never have crossed my mind or compared with my other interests. Then one day my daughter came home from junior school with a children's book about honeybees. That caught my wife's attention and she found out about, and started to attend, the ADBKA introductory course. However, she wasn't so keen on diseases and pests so I said I would attend that week so that we at least had the knowledge in the house. I ended up completing the course (and in fact did it all again the following year), but although I was interested I still wasn't entirely sure beekeeping was for me.

Then one day at work in BP the boss and his assistant staggered down to my desk carrying a huge box, which turned out to contain a WBC hive. This was recognition for some good work I had done and my boss had very enlightened views on how to do bonuses for maximum impact! Thornes exchanged the WBC for the National I preferred and Sandy Gordon kindly provided me with a swarm to occupy the hive. I joined the ADBKA and SBA. I fortuitously lived quite close to the Association apiary at Craibstone and not far from Jock's Thornes supplies too, which all helped.

That was all back in 2003. It seemed so simple then, partly due an absence of knowledge and experience on my part and partly that varroa did not arrive up here for another year or two.

I potted on for a few years, making all the usual mistakes - damaging the queen whilst marking, destroying queen cells in a colony that had already swarmed, not spotting hidden queen cells, getting to that 'I really haven't a clue what's going on' stage, and so on - but hopefully gradually improving and progressively trying new things.

A friend I had enthused about bees then wanted my help to start beekeeping. But I thought that if I were to help others, then I should confirm and consolidate my own skills and knowledge a bit so I took the Basic Beemaster examination in 2014. The examiner, Tony Harris, observed that Module 1 wasn't much more to learn than the BB. So I sat SBA Module 1 a few months later and I have now passed five of the seven Modules on the never-ending path to honeybee enlightenment!



I generally run about four colonies and I don't particularly chase large or varied crops. I'm lucky enough to have my hives in my garden where I can see them from the sitting room window. One of the most striking things about beekeeping I have found is that when someone finds out I am a beekeeper, they inevitably and immediately have questions for me. The subject is never simply passed over.

Ian Mackley

ECHT HORTICULTURAL SHOW**HONEY****HILL O'FARE TROPHY**

Presented to Exhibitor with Most Points

Donated by the late Mr A. Garioch, Echt

Note: One Entry allowed in Each Class

Class No.		
165	2	1lb. Jar Clear Honey
166	2	1lb. Jar Dark Honey
167	2	1lb. Jar Creamed Honey (excluding Heather)
169		Wax Cake, to be not less than 8 ozs
170	1	Standard or Shallow Extracting Frame (excluding Heather)
171	2	Candles made from Bees' Wax

Special Prize to Exhibitor with Most Points

Donated by Mr E. Paterson, Tough

This year's Echt Horticultural show will be held on **Saturday the 18th of August**. Each year there is an entry for honey exhibits which this year shall be judged by our very own Hugh Donohoe.

You can deliver your entries to a society steward who will be in attendance at **Cowdray Hall at Echt** on the Friday evening before the show between 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and on the day of the show between 7:00 a.m and 9:30 a.m . Exhibits can be collected from the show after 4:00 p.m. on the day of the show.

The show opens to the public at 2:00 p.m. and closes just after 4:00 p.m. During this time there is a raffle, presentation of prizes, refreshments are served and you get the chance to see some of the finest fruit, vegetables and flowers that Scotland has to offer.

Hopefully you can find the time to prepare an exhibit for the show which can only continue to function with the support of exhibitors like you.

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Whilst supporting the Scottish Beekeepers Association exhibition at the 2017 Royal Highland Show as a volunteer Steward, ADBKA committee member Karl Stevens was invited to show bees to the passing public. Little did Karl realise was that what he was asked to do was to don a full length bee suit and encourage the passing public to enter one of the most popular exhibits at the show. Karl duly obliged and advised 'I found the whole experience most enlightening and was encouraged by the support I received from the many passing junior beekeepers'.

The honey show that is held at the Royal Highland Showground is one of the top Honey Shows in Scotland and the beekeeping marque is one of the busiest at the show with over ten thousand people passing through it each day. The marque is staffed by members of the Scottish Beekeepers Association and they are looking for volunteer stewards to help out. If you want to participate you can contact the organisers at publicity@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk .The closing date is mid-May so please be quick and remember to tell us about it in a future newsletter article.

Lindsey Macaulay

TURRIFF SHOW 2018

Aberdeen Beekeepers has for many years been associated with the Turriff Show, with tables in the Industrial Tent which become available at midday on the first day. We have displayed products of the hive with members being able to take their own honey for sale.

This year we have decided that the Association will have an outdoor stand since we believe a higher profile at this event will emphasise the importance of the honeybee and of beekeeping in keeping up to a third of what we eat, on the table.

We would like to hear from volunteers who would like to commit to spending a day or two on the stand, talking to the public and answering their questions (rest assured that you will know more about bees and beekeeping than the majority of those visiting the show!)

Help will also be required to set up and take down the stand on the Saturday before and on Monday evening.

The show is on from Sunday 5th August to Monday 6th August.

Please email David Morland at davidmorland64@gmail.com for details.

David Morland

DUTHIE PARK - ABBOTSWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Duthie Park is one of the main public parks that is located within Aberdeen City limits and encompasses a 44 acre site and has been established since 1883. Within the Park there is the David Welch Winter Gardens which is one of Europe's largest indoor gardens.

The park has recently undergone a considerable restoration project to the value of £5.2 million of which £2.56 million was sourced from a Heritage Lottery Fund with the remaining funds being supplied by Aberdeen City Council. The restoration has affected just about every area of the Park with the emphasis being on returning the park to how it was presented soon after it was established. It appears to me that when a large publicly funded project gets underway there is often a big restoration period followed by a slow decline once the funds are exhausted. From walking around the Park it is nice to see that this project does not reflect this pattern in fact every year since the restoration got underway the Park has continually improved.

Since the restoration process the Duthie Park Ranger Service has been established who provide a variety of activities for schools and community groups throughout the year. During term time the Service runs a series of workshops for primary school pupils it was one of these workshops that we were invited to participate in.

As part of the restoration process an Education Room has been incorporated into part of the Winter Gardens which is used for educational and training purposes. It is within this suit that Olya Macaulay was invited this year to present bees and beekeeping to primary school pupils of Abbotswell Primary School. Last year we were invited to attend one morning workshop, but this year two groups of pupils expressed an interest in participating. The school offered to draw straws to decide which group could attend so naturally Olya volunteered to attend on both the 10th and 15th of May so that everyone could attend.



The visiting pupils were split into two groups with one group contributing to the planting and learning about bee friendly plants under the supervision of the Park Rangers and the other group attended Olya's presentation on Honey Bees. Olya showed the pupils actual combs of honey and bees wax together with numerous pictures. Olya included a talk to the pupils about the behaviour of the honey bee and the structure and casts of the bees before showing the pupils live bees within her observation hive which is a huge source of fascination to the pupils and teachers alike.

Finally Olya concluded her presentation by conducting a question and answer session to gauge how much the pupils had understood about the bees. It is fair to say that the pupils enjoyed the whole workshop and gained a lot from the experience.

Within the foreseeable future several other projects are planned within Duthie Park including the re-landscaping the area at the Gordon Highlanders War Memorial beside the café, which the Friends of Duthie Park will be funding. Over the summer there will also be the BP Big Opera Screen, Duthie Park Rangers Environment event and the Friends of Duthie Park Family Open Day.

MAY, 26th, 2 p.m.,

Craigston Castle, Turriff, AB53 5PX.

Sat Nav coordinates 57.585722, -2.404778

Demonstration - Apiary Visit & Swarm Control,

Kitta Potgieter

JUNE, 2nd, Tarland

Bee Health Awareness Day,

The MacRobert Memorial Hall,

JUNE, 9th, 2 p.m.,

ADEN PARK, MINTLAW

Demonstration - Apiary Visit & Nuc Making,

Erling Watt AB42

Aden Country Park is well signposted when entering Mintlaw from any direction. The apiary is located in the secure nursery area off the first car park with the gate at the far end visible as you enter the car park.

JUNE, 21st - 24th,

Royal Highland Show,

Royal Highland Showground,

Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8NB

JUNE, 30th

**VISIT TO MURRAY MCGREGORS
QUEEN REARING UNIT**

We have organised a visit to Murray's queen rearing unit at Blairgowrie **on Saturday 30th June**. This is a unique opportunity to see a professionally managed queen rearing operation that raises nearly 1000 queen bees each year.

We plan to arrive about 1pm and have a picnic lunch before the main event at 2pm.

If you would like to go, please register your interest by emailing David Morland at davidmorland64@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION SUPPLIES

Syrup - 14kg containers at £15.50

Fondant - 2.5kg packs - with 5 x packs being in a box - cost each is £3 pack or £15 for the box of 5 packs

Candapoline Gold Pollen in 1kg packs - £4 for 1kg pack or if anyone wants a box of 12 x 1kg packs that is slightly cheaper at £42 for a box of 12 x 1kg packs

Regus Candy in 2.5kg tubs at £6 tub or £24 box a box with 4 x tubs

**Contact: Joan Gilbert-Stevens
019755 81369**

craigmill@btinternet.com

MUIR OF FOWLIS AB33 8NX

or

Erling Watt 074294 54572

watterlingg@aol.com

LONGSIDE AB42 4XQ

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 4XQ

Combimel stainless steel radial 9 frame extractor;

Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife;

Refractometer; Candle-making kit are available at

Crathes Apiary.

For further information

contact Joan Gilbert-Stevens.

FOR SALE

We have 5 National Hives (that is a Brood Box, 2 Supers, Mesh Floor and Roof, no crown board or excluder,) Price £50 each.

One x 6 Frame Nuk Box £25.

Please contact Edwin Ritchie

Home 01569 763935 Mobile 0754385064

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor is the local agent for

Thorne Beekeeping Equipment.

Contact him on **01224 790468**

or e-mail:

aberdeenbeesupplies@hotmail.com