

**NOVEMBER
2019**

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

PRESIDENT:

SANDY GORDON
Tel.01224-484540

CHAIR:

MALCOLM WATSON
e-mail:
adbkachair@gmail.com
Tel.07901-515212

VICE CHAIR:

DAVID MORLND
Tel. 07768244420
e-mail:
adbkavicechair@gmail.com

HON. SECRETARY:

ALISON GOSS
e-mail:
aberdeenbeekeepers@
gmail.com

HON. TREASURER:

JOHN ADAMS
Tel. 01224868402
e-mail:
treasureradbka@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY:**

ERLING WATT
Tel.074294 54572
e-mail:
[adbk-membership@
gmail.com](mailto:adbk-membership@gmail.com)

ADBKA NEWSLETTER

OLGA MACAULAY
Tel. 01224315276
e-mail:
adbkanewsletter@
gmail.com

FUTURE ARTICLES

Winter Beehive
Insulation Jackets
(N. & M. Stewart)

Membership survey
- Experience
(Ian Mackley)

Scotland in Bloom

HONEY SHOW 2019

Our Annual Honey Show was held on 12th October and was the most successful for several years with entries and attendees the best since 2017.

We were very fortunate indeed to have the Director of Beekeeping Awards for Apimondia, Enid Brown, to judge our entries – over 200 from 45 entrants.

She said that 47% of all honey entries had to be excluded at the last Apimondia in Montreal, because they contained additives like syrup and were not truly honey.

Members were given very useful feedback on the standards expected at Honey Shows and Enid was very impressed with the quality of the entries, one of which, submitted by David Robertson, won an additional prize of tickets to the National Honey Show in London at a future date.

Very disappointing was the decision not to award prizes to the shop displays, the reason for which was that the labelling did not meet the exacting standards of The Honey (Scotland) Regulations 2015 – a lesson learnt for future shows.

The artistic section is worth a mention as all entries were outstanding and the handicrafts section was won with a skep made at the recent skep workshop!

Our judge suggested that members should enter their honey and beekeeping products at the Dundee Show,

The ADBKA President Sandy Gordon, who was a prolific prize winner in his time, presented the trophies with a few words to each winner.

Trophies have now been engraved and will be distributed in the next week or so.

David Morland



*Most points in the industrial class
Clara Shenherd*



*Best exhibit in the junior class
Sophie Breeman*



*Best exhibit of liquid ling heather
Graham Torrie*



*Best frame in the show
John Macaulay*

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

The Thorne Trophy	Most points in the show	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
The A.S.C.D. Trophy	Best exhibit in the show	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
The John Cooper Cup	Best exhibit of cut comb honey	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
The President's Trophy	Best exhibit of liquid light honey	Alison Goss
The Bill MacKenzie Quaich	Best exhibit of liquid ling heather	Graham Torrie
The Henry Simpson Trophy	Best exhibit in medium/dark honey	Rhian & Crawford Anderson
The Anne C. Beddie Trophy	Best exhibit in the beeswax class	Joan Gilbert-Stevens
MTM Construction Shield	Best exhibit in liquid light honey	Alison Goss
The Captain Manson Trophy	Most points in the industrial class	Clara Shepherd
The David Pert Memorial Prize	Best exhibit in the handicraft class	Hazel Christie
S. C. Rae Memorial Trophy	Best frame in the show	John Macaulay
John D. Walker Memorial Trophy	Best exhibit of soft set honey	Tom Gullan
Jim Tocher Trophy	Most points in the novice class	Steve Waites
ADBKA Shield	Best exhibit in the junior class	Sophie Breeman



*Most points in the show
Joan Gilbert-Stevens*

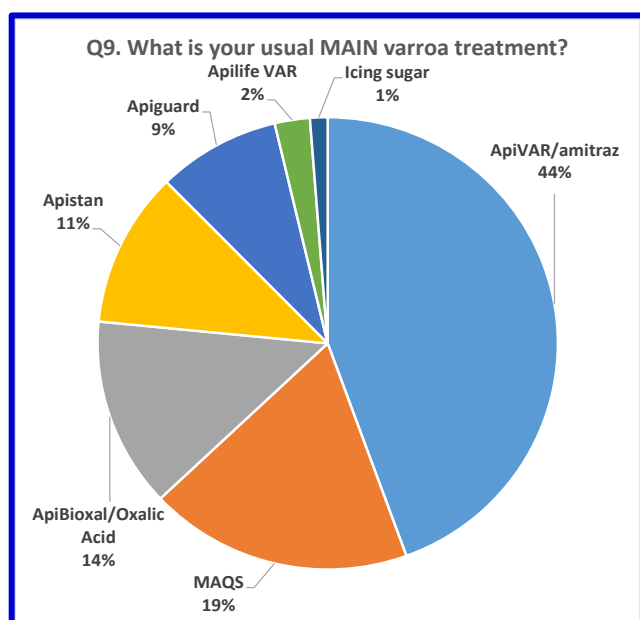


*Best exhibit in the handicraft class
Hazel Christie*



*The President's Trophy- Alison Goss
Best exhibit of liquid light honey*

2019 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY – VARROA TREATMENT



We asked what you used as your main varroa treatment. This question was not explained as well as it might have been; the underlying assumption was that whilst varroa treatments can and do take place at various times of year, most beekeepers who treat at all would treat at least in the autumn, and that was the treatment we were asking about. So a number of responses which kindly described annual regimes were adapted to fit the question.

The results show that the newer products on the market are chosen most often. There may be an element of ‘fashion’ here and/or the hope that the newer products are more effective, more cost-effective (as the market becomes more competitive the more products become licensed) and/or easier to deploy. The use of Apistan is perhaps greater than might be expected, given that it is said to be relatively ineffective due to widespread development of resistance in the varroa mites.

However, resistance does vary and occasional use might be ok but probably not optimal.

Ian Mackley

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that ADBKA subscriptions become due on 1st January. The rates for 2020 are unchanged at £20 single, £25 household, and free for under 16s. An updated membership form is available from the association website : this includes revised gift aid wording and a new section about data protection. We are also inviting members to state their occupation (or former occupation) – this information will help the committee to understand where special skills exist around the membership, that we may occasionally need to consult. Please renew your membership now, and complete the gift aid section if you are able to do so.

Malcolm Watson

ADBKA MEMBERSHIP DIRECT DEBIT OPTION

In response to requests from a number of members the option to pay ADBKA membership subscriptions by Direct Debit is now in place. The benefit of paying by direct debit is that you don't need to remember to complete a membership form every year or to arrange payment yourself.

The setup is all done online using a link from the membership page of the ADBKA website. Separate links are available for Individual Membership and Household Membership. The link will take you to a secure page managed by GoCardless who operate the direct debit service for ADBKA. The website will prompt you for your name, address and bank details. GoCardless will then contact your bank and set up the direct debit arrangement. Your bank details are held by GoCardless and not passed on to ADBKA.

Payment for your ADBKA membership will then be debited from your account on 15th January 2020 and annually thereafter. Direct debit mandates can be cancelled at any time by contacting your bank and/or the Treasurer. The name for the debit on your bank statement will be GoCardless with some banks also showing ADBKA in the text.

ADBKA will still be able to collect Gift Aid on direct debit membership payments for those who have completed the declaration on the 2019 membership form (the form included wording to reclaim tax now and in the future). If you have completed a Gift Aid declaration on the 2019 membership form but are no longer a UK tax payer please contact the Membership Secretary. Gift Aid provides a valuable addition to ADBKA funds (£840 for 2018) and we would encourage all members who are eligible to consider making a Gift Aid declaration.

Members wishing to include an additional donation with their Direct Debit subscription should email the Treasurer after completing the online Direct Debit form. The additional donation can then be processed together with the membership subscription.

NOTE THAT THE EXISTING PAYMENT METHODS BY CHEQUE AND DIRECT DEPOSIT REMAIN IN PLACE FOR THOSE WHO PREFER THESE METHODS.

John Adams
ADBKA Treasurer

**According to James Bonner in his 1795 book,
New Plan for Speedily Increasing the Number of Bee-Hives in Scotland:**

“I believe poor people, in general, make more by their bees annually than those in more affluent circumstances; and even the latter might make far more of them as they do, if they would only study to increase their stock to a considerable extent. The reason is that they are a kind of estate to the poor, who, when once they enter upon the business of rearing bees, take great pleasure in it, and, by paying proper attention to them, gradually acquire more and more knowledge in the profession. And the only reason why such persons do not increase their stock of hives to a much greater number than the country at present possesses, is that pinching poverty obliges them often to sell the best of their hives for ready money to make up the house rent. Not to add that such persons, when obliged to leave their cottages owing to raised rents, think bee hives a very troublesome species of property for removal.”

Graham Torrie

EXCURSION TO GORMANSTON

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the annual Beekeeping Summer School in Gormanston 2019 run by The Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations (FIBKA). This event was the 73rd annual event and was held at the Franciscan College Gormanston, East Meath, Ireland. A beautiful and quiet environment.

I was enrolled on the beginner's course which is specifically designed (on successful completion of the course) to enable a newcomer to beekeeping to safely look after their first hive of bees (albeit they recommended securing a mentor if possible).

Following opening ceremonies on the Sunday, the course began on Monday. The programme consisted of a series of lectures (specifically pitched at the beginner) over the next five days, culminating in a written and practical examination on the Thursday afternoon.

Revision sessions were held at the end of each day prior to the exam in order to keep all on track for success. The delivery and quality of the lectures was, in the main, excellent. The support of the course leader was exceptional.

All in all, I cannot recommend this experience highly enough. It was the most rewarding and enjoyable week.

Lorrie Van Der Heijdt



MEMBERS EVENTS

DECEMBER

Our final event of the year will take place on **WENESDAY 4TH DECEMBER AT 7PM** in the **Kinellar Hall, Blackburn.**

David Evans from St Andrews will talk on the opportunities to save money from DIY in beekeeping. David is fortunate to work with bees both as his day job, as a university researcher, and as his leisure time hobby. Members may be familiar with his beekeeping website <https://theapiarist.org/>

NORTH ABERDEENSHIRE APIARY

Earlier this year members were asked to express their interest in the Association establishing a club apiary north of Aberdeen. Unfortunately, there is currently not enough interest in this project to take it any further. The committee would be happy to revisit the proposal in the future should more members be interested.

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

BEE CABIN HONEY EXTRACTION SERVICE PRICES 2019

Sticky floors, sticky work surfaces, sticky everything, why not take the easy option and let us take care of the sticky mess for you, simply drop off your supers and collect later all jarred no fuss no mess.

FRAMES ONLY:

£1.95 per frame additional 55p per frame for heather honey customer provides container (bee Cabin can supply at additional cost). Minimum of 6 frames per extraction

FRAMES AND JARRING:

£1.36 per Jar – 1 lb, 12oz, 8oz (Jars included in price). Additional 24p per jar for heather honey Minimum of 6 frames per extraction

CUT COMB:

Cut and packaged £2.00 per frame

JARS ONLY:

1 lb, 12oz, 8oz, 4oz and 2oz all available

An additional charge is levied on Heather honey as it is difficult to extract, Due to its high viscosity it requires additional processing that other honeys don't.

Other than wireless cut comb, all frames being extracted of honey at Bee Cabin are spun either radially or tangentially therefore only wired foundation should be submitted for extraction. During extraction a frame from time to time can break and fall apart, this is purely due to the age or poor assembly of the frame, in these circumstances Bee Cabin will not be held liable for any such damage.