



APRIL
2020

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

**ADBKA-
The Past Ten Years**
(Ian Mackley)

Advice
from Alan Riach

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

When we met for our AGM at Blackburn on 15th March the Coronavirus epidemic was just beginning to show itself in this country and we suspected that the association's activities might be affected. But none of us knew how far and how quickly the situation would develop. Four weeks later we find ourselves in the third week of a national "lockdown" due to a disease that has already claimed many lives, has taken away many people's livelihoods, and is putting essential services under great pressure. We do not know how long this will last or what the final toll will be.

Obviously, we have had to cancel all association events and meetings until further notice.

This year's introduction to beekeeping class, which started well with an excellent turnout of potential new beekeepers, was stopped after three classes and before the practical sessions. We know this means some people who hoped to get bees are now unable to do so and because spring is the best time to start they might need to wait for a full year. We plan to complete the class when it is possible to do so, and also we will endeavour to supply new beekeepers with mentors if they want them when the time is right.

In the meantime, those who already have bees need to look after them. Check the stores in your hives and continue to feed fondant until nectar is flowing. Sugar is back in the shops now, and beekeeping supplies are available through online ordering. Oilseed rape is starting to flower and the swarming season will soon be here.

The Government has advised that beekeepers should continue to look after their bees, with particular focus on health management. There are currently no restrictions on the movement of bees or on beekeepers visiting apiaries; so long as the social distancing rules are followed (full advice is available on Beebase and is linked from our website).

Finally, if any members feel they need assistance with their bees due to illness or to self-isolation please let the secretary know. We will endeavour to put you in touch with nearby beekeepers who might be able to help. Obviously there are no guarantees on this, but we will do our best. If you would be happy to help a fellow beekeeper please contact the secretary at aberdeenbeekeepers@gmail.com or on 07970 392322. By volunteering to help or asking for assistance you are agreeing to the secretary passing on your telephone number to another member.

Follow the guidelines, and stay safe.

Malcolm Watson

COVID-19 AND BEEKEEPING

As beekeepers, please be aware of the following guidance when looking after your honey bees. Updates to this guidance will be provided where necessary. You should keep up to date with the latest guidance issued by the Government as it is subject to regular change.

Defra, Scottish Government and the Welsh Government ask you as beekeepers to be responsible and to ensure that you continue good beekeeping practices, effective stock management and health checks whilst observing the Government's guidance on COVID-19.

You should follow Public Health guidance on social distancing. Everyone, including beekeepers, should avoid gatherings of more than two people and this includes at your apiary. You should maintain a distance of 2 metres between yourself and others to limit the spread of COVID-19.

GENERAL ADVICE FOR BEEKEEPERS IS AS FOLLOWS:

- You should continue to work and care for your animals in the normal manner, as far as possible. You should not take measures that compromise the welfare of the animals in your care.
- You should maintain good biosecurity at your apiary.
- You should not share beekeeping equipment with other beekeepers, particularly hive tools and other handheld devices and protective clothing.
- In line with the general advice on COVID-19, you should wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water before and after you come into contact with any animal. Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to.
- There are currently no restrictions on movements of bee colonies that you are managing, such as moving bees to fulfil pollination contracts. However, you should observe the public health guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when carrying out these activities, including the guidance on social distancing and essential travel.
- If you are required to visit premises other than your own, you should familiarise yourself with the public health guidance on infection prevention and control and take measures to minimise the risks from contaminated surfaces.
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, you should be self-isolating at home and should not be visiting other premises. Ideally, another beekeeper should take on this duty wherever possible. We are suggesting that local associations consider how they can support those confined or unable to attend their bees at this difficult time for all of us.
- If your bees are due an inspection by a government inspector, you should be aware that this may be subject to a delay depending on available resources within the inspectorate.
- If your bees are due an inspection by a government inspector, and you are in a high-risk group, or are showing symptoms of COVID-19, you must let your inspector know ahead of the inspection. Arrangements will be made that will limit the chance of COVID-19 being spread. This may include the inspection proceeding without the beekeeper being present or delaying the inspection.
- For all inspections, 2 metre social distancing will be considered the minimum and so the beekeeper will not be able to stand at the hive side with the inspector while the inspection takes place.
- Imports of bees are still permitted. There is no evidence to support restrictions to international movement or trade in bees, and the UK has no additional rules for bee imports with respect to COVID-19.
- You should report any suspicion of notifiable diseases or pests to the authorities in the usual way – please see the bee health page on gov.uk for further information.
- You should use husbandry techniques to minimise swarming. If you have to respond to collect a swarm you need to ensure that you use the guidelines on social distancing when collecting the swarm. If that is not possible, then the swarm should not be collected. Therefore trying to prevent swarms is the best approach.

03 April 2020

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

AGM – MARCH 2020



Margaret Mc Gregor and Moira MacAulay receiving bouquets in recognition of their long service in providing refreshments at ADBKA events



Naomi Adams receives the Chairman's trophy for managing the apiary over many years



Joan Gilbert-Stevens -
Honeybee Behaviour Certificate



Helen Anderson - Basic Beekeepers
Certificate



Ian Mackley –
Advanced Theory Certificate



Graeme Sharp - My beekeeping methods and preparing to take your bees to the Oil Seed Rape

WEE BEE



I spotted this wee bee working the dandelions on an embankment at the back of my house on 11 April. It obligingly walked onto my finger and waited patiently while I took this photograph.

With a little research, I've identified it as *Halictus rubicundus*, a mining bee that is quite common in Scotland. Coincidentally, last year we discovered a large population of these bees living near the cabin at our apiary at Crathes Castle.

Halictus rubicundus is one of more than a hundred different species of solitary bee to be found in Scotland. Perhaps, like me, you'll find it fascinating to take an interest in these cousins of the honey bee. To help you identify what you find, there's a handy guide published by Scottish Natural Heritage, which can be downloaded free from: <https://www.nature.scot/wild-bees-scotland-identification-guide>

If, again like me, you get carried away with the whole thing, I would recommend a book called Bees of the World by Christopher O'Toole and Anthony Raw.

Graham Torrie

STORES AND JARS UPDATE

At this time we can confirm that there is still stock of syrup and fondant available for uplift as required at Joans facility at Muir of Fowlis - uplift can be arranged taking into account current requirements to remain a suitable distance apart by contacting

Joan Gilbert-Stevens on 019755 81369 or email at craigmill@btinternet.com.

With regards the supply of jars due to immediate space constraints rather than request a large bulk delivery it is recommended that members contact the suppliers directly where they can place their own orders and have their jars and lids delivered directly to themselves. The following details are available for the regular supplier :

Pont Packaging ltd - tel No 0141-423-3066 - email info@pontuk.com

The reference code number for the standard 1lb jars normally purchased is 500435 and the necessary lids (ordered separately) 500277

It is hoped that by providing the above info members can make their arrangements as necessary to ensure that they have the supply of jars required to meet their honey stock needs.

It is hoped that normal services can be arranged at some time in the future when current constraints have been modified.

Erling Watt still has syrup and a small stock of association jars, candy and old candy pollen gold. Contact him on **074294 54572** or e-mail at watterlingg@aol.com

A small distillery in Fetternear is looking for a local beekeeper willing to sell pollen for use in making flavoured spirits.

If you know how to trap pollen and are interested,

please contact Andrew at

andrew@littlebrowndogspirits.com

FOR SALE

Over wintered National 6 frame Nucs.
Ready early May (weather permitting)
£140 Plus £40 deposit on box.

Contact **Erling Watt** on **07429454572**
or email longsideapiaries@gmail.com
for details.