



**SEPTEMBER
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 BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

As you will know the ADBKA has been able to offer beekeeping supplies (syrup, fondant, jars) to members at favourable prices by bulk buying directly from the suppliers. Joan Gilbert-Stevens has been managing this service for the past four years but is no longer able to continue doing so. On behalf of the membership we would like to thank Joan for providing such an excellent service, including on many occasions delivering direct to members and arranging supplies for Erling Watt to cover those in the north of the area. Thanks to Erling as well.

The recent membership survey highlighted that access to supplies was a valued service for members. Therefore, the committee would like to hear from anyone interested and able to take on the role of coordinating supplies on behalf of the association. The main requirement is to have sufficient storage space for several pallets and ease of access for large delivery vehicles together with the time to manage ordering, deliveries and collections. The service could either be like the current model with stock maintained and available throughout the year or could be a more restricted service (pre-order and collection on delivery) several times a year. The latter option may allow for multiple delivery locations to better serve the dispersed membership.

If you are interested in managing the service on behalf of the membership or have any questions about the role please contact either John Adams or Joan Gilbert-Stevens.

John Adams

HONEY SHOW 2020

Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly we have had to cancel our 2020 Honey Show.

Our judge was to have been Alan Riach and he has kindly agreed to join us for next year's show. Over the next few weeks I will be in touch with members who won trophies last year to make arrangements for safe keeping.

Alison Goss

WINTER PREPARATIONS DEMONSTRATION

Over the weekend of 29th/30th August our winter preparations demonstration was completed at the Crathes apiary. This was our first association event for some time, and had to be held outside in four separate groups in order to comply with the social distancing regulations - thanks to Ian Mackley who developed a format that worked, albeit on a reduced scale to what we might have hoped for. 21 members attended in total, comprising a mixture of beginners and more experienced beekeepers, and Ian, Malcolm and Graham delivered the sessions.

The demonstration covered combining weak stocks, autumn feeding, and varroa treatment, as well as mouse precautions and options for insulation. All those who attended found it useful (either as new information or as a refresher), and if you weren't able to attend remember - September is the key month for getting your autumn feeding and varroa treatment done.



HOW TO OBTAIN SUGAR FOR BEES (in 1949!)

‘Under the food rationing scheme, sugar for bees can be obtained by completing the necessary form at any Food Office. Alternatively, the secretary of the local Beekeepers’ Association generally has a supply of these forms. On completion, the form should be returned to the Food Office, who will then arrange for the retailer to supply the sugar’

From: ‘*The Bee Keepers Encyclopedia*’ by A.S.C Deans, 1949 [Alexander Deans was the Head of the Beekeeping Department here at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture in Aberdeen]

Ian Mackley

BOOK REVIEW – More BBKA News ‘Special Issue Series’

Readers may remember (February 2020 Newsletter) that I like the ‘BBKA News - Special Issue Series’ as good, readable and low-cost supplements to the basic beekeeping guides, especially the ‘General Husbandry’ edition. They are authoritative, focused, concise and well-illustrated. I found them useful study materials for SBA modular exams too.



The BBKA have obviously discovered a good market for this format as several additional volumes have been published this year, including...

Queen Rearing (66 pages, £10). This volume is a compilation of specially commissioned, previously unpublished articles by Master Beekeepers and Diploma-holders covering mainly the practical aspects of queen rearing. It would be a good volume to get - and might be all you need to get started - before venturing on to one of the more specialist books on this subject. It would be useful for Module 7 study.

Integrated Pest Management (30 page, £8). It's too easy to see varroa management as 'autumn treatment followed by mid-winter oxalic acid treatments' with the only decision being on what product(s) to use. The volume gives a good explanation of IPM principles and practice, together with details of the full suite of IPM techniques.

Colony Management (14 pages, £4). The title sounded promising but I thought the content was rather disappointing. In a month-by-month,

'beekeeping year' structure, it didn't add much to what you'd find in your beekeeping guide and I thought some of the advice was a bit unhelpful or questionable.

Honey (60 pages, £10). This useful volume covers all you need to know about sources of honey, how to process it and the various regulations concerning processing and sale. There is some duplication between articles and the occasional contradiction! If you haven't already got a more specialist book about honey, this volume would be a good place to start and would be really useful for Module 2 study as it covers some subjects in more detail (and is more up to date) than say the Yates books. Be aware that about a third of the articles previously appeared in, and were perhaps the most useful part of, the Advanced Husbandry volume in the series so you may not want to own both.

These volumes are available postage-free from the BBKA online shop...

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/bbka-resources>

Of the whole series of eleven, my primary recommendations are the General Husbandry, Feeding, Swarming and Honey volumes.

Ian Mackley

BEE CABIN
BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES AND SERVICES
HONEY EXTRACTION SERVICE PRICES 2020/21

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:

£1.40 per Jar – 1 lb, 12oz, 8oz (Jars included in price).
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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 requires additional processing that other honeys do not.

Other than wireless cut comb, all frames being extracted of honey at Bee Cabin are spun either radially or tangentially therefore only wired frames with 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.

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Online shop - www.beecabin.ecwid.com

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JOCK MCGREGOR
IS THE LOCAL AGENT FOR
THORNE BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT
CONTACT HIM ON **01224 790468**
or e-mail:
aberdeenbeesupplies@hotmail.com

We are always interested in new articles for the newsletter, If you have an item for the newsletter, please contact **Olga Macaulay** by email at **adbkanewsletter@gmail.com** or

David Morland at **adbkavicechair@gmail.com**

If you have an article for sale or loan or if you want an article then make use of the adverts section, there is no cost to advertise.

Similarly if you are available to help other members or want some help yourself then why not use this section to advertise what you want or what you can offer. Many members struggle to move bees to the honey crops on their own and it may be interesting for you to offer assistance and meet another member and learn how they manage their bees at the same time for example.

The adverts together with your contact details appear on the internet as part of the newsletter.