

The Auricle

Moray Beekeepers Association Newsletter
Hot off the 'press'

Issue No: 3/11

June 2011

YOU CAN SPONSOR THIS NEWSLETTER FOR JUST £10 – IT HELPS COVER THE COSTS!

MANACHIE LODGE VISIT

Despite a rather dismal morning, more than 40 people turned out for Moray Beekeepers' Apiary Meeting in May and were duly rewarded when the rain stopped just in time for the hive inspections. Manachie Lodge is the delightful home of Alasdair and Mary Joyce, with its pretty gardens, a babbling burn and lovely woodland setting.



Alasdair showing off a frame of brood

Alasdair keeps his bees a few hundred yards away from the house through the woodland garden and over a bridge across a burn as Mary is hyper allergic to bees stings and has to remain indoors when the hives are opened. Alasdair is one of the few beekeepers remaining who still make their own foundation and his set up shows that the old adage, 'bees in a wood, ne'er do any good' is not necessarily true. Three hives were inspected and Alasdair explained many tips and techniques for managing honeybees in a woodland setting. I think it safe to say that everyone learned something from Alasdair's vast knowledge and practical experience, in particular how he placated the bees by pouring heavy sugar syrup between the top bars for them to drink up, thus taking their minds off the inspection on what was not ideal weather for opening up the hives

Afterwards Mary put on an excellent spread for tea-time and the raffle was drawn for five prizes.

So, a big thank you to everyone who helped out, especially Alasdair and Mary for a marvelous afternoon!

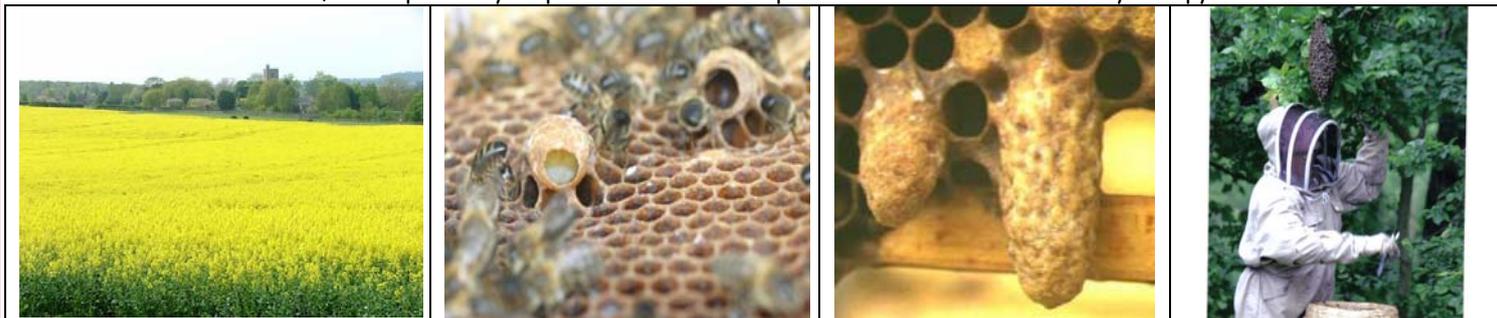
OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON SATURDAY 18TH JUNE AT PLUSCARDEN ABBEY, 2.30 PM START WHEN WEATHER PERMITTING WE WILL BE CARRYING OUT SUMMER INSPECTIONS AND SWARM CONTROL.

Full details of all Monthly Meetings, Open Apiary Sessions and Courses are at
www.moraybeekeepers.co.uk

SWARM PREVENTION & CONTROL by Tony Harris

Despite their best efforts at swarm control, several members with bees near to Oil seed rape (OSR), have been 'swarm chasing' during the month of May and while this sounds like good fun, and indeed it can be, it can also be tiresome for the beekeeper as equipment becomes scarce, and it can be a public nuisance in the eyes of some members of the public. It was not long ago that a beekeeper was issued with an A.S.B.O. and banned from keeping bees in his garden due to his 'swarmy' bees so this article seeks to re-iterate previous advice given so that beekeepers in Moray can stay one step ahead of their bees with regards to swarming, particularly with bees near to or on the OSR!

The very first thing to be aware of is that a strong colony, on 7 or 8 Brood combs should have at least 2 supers on by mid May, the first of drawn comb if available, the second, which can be placed either above or below the first, of foundation. Most books will tell us to add a super when the bees are covering about three quarters of the brood combs and then add another super when they are occupying the same sort of space in the first super. But when there is a heavy nectar flow on, such as with OSR, the bees will need much more space than you think as the nectar has to be 'hung' in empty cells in the comb, for the water to evaporate off, and a restriction in this space is a factor that can bring on swarming. So the answer in keeping ahead of your bees on the OSR is to check the brood chamber before the flow starts and if necessary remove frames of old granulated stores and replace with empty brood combs or foundation, and super early to provide much more space than the bees can actually occupy.



We are also told that if we find charged queen cells, i.e. with larva inside, we can destroy them and this will give us 7 days grace to sort out some spare equipment for our chosen swarm control technique, as it takes 8 days for a queen cell (QC) to be sealed and thus no swarm will emerge for another 8 days, right? No. actually it is very wrong! If the bees are set on swarming they can take a 3 day old larva and feed it royal jelly so it becomes a queen. This means that a queen and swarm may issue from your hive as early as 2 days after your inspection. This is because the egg hatches after 3 days, and if the bees then select say a 3 day old larva, it will be sealed 2 days later on day 8, and the swarm will be gone before you know it. Many beginners are caught out by this!

It is also worth noting that when there is congestion in the hive, with nectar 'hanging' in every available cell, and no space for the queen to lay the bees may well swarm before the QC is sealed. This happened recently to one member as after the swarm had emerged, an examination of the (congested) brood chamber showed just 1 unsealed QC in the hive. A super of foundation, above a queen excluder had been on the hive for weeks but the bees had refused to enter it - so make sure you use fresh foundation, or leave the queen excluder off for a while. (this mightn't have happened if the queen's wings had been clipped). The bees you see, in the words of Bernard Mobus, 'do nothing invariably' and do not read the same books as us!!

So with bees on the OSR I would not try to delay swarming by knocking down all the QCs as the 'normal' swarm control rules don't seem to apply with such a heavy nectar flow and you are leaving yourself wide open to 'swarm chasing' problems. The first QCs will by the way produce the very best queens if left to hatch out as they are not selected as 3 day old larvae but treated as prospective queens from the day the egg is hatched. So I would carry out some form of artificial swarm on the day the QCs are discovered or make up a nuc with the queen and bees (as described in last month's newsletter). If the brood in a hive is found on almost all the frames it suggests that the brood box is too small for your strain of bee so you should look into maybe using a double brood box system of management or selecting a less prolific strain of bee.

If your bees do swarm and you know what hive they came from you must go into the hive to check for QCs. Remove with your hive tool anything that looks remotely like a QC leaving just one unsealed QC that you know has a larva inside. Apart from this frame, shake the bees off all the other frames so you won't miss a QC. Mark the frame the QC is on with a drawing pin after brushing the bees from it to make sure no other QC's are on it. Seven days later you must go back into the hive and repeat the process, leaving just the now sealed QC and removing all the others (you can get away with leaving for 7 days in this instance because a swarm has left and no queen is present). Then, leave alone for 3 weeks by which time the Queen should have mated and commenced laying. If you have several hives and you don't know which hive the swarm came out of there is a way of finding out. Put some icing sugar into a honey jar and run the jar along the clustered swarm so you trap about 30 bees in it. Close the lid and shake lightly to disorientate the bees and coat them with the icing sugar. If you then let the bees fly from the jar they will fly back to their original home and you should be able to see 'ghostly' looking bees entering a hive and this will be the one that has swarmed.

It is also important to keep an accurate Hive Record Card so you know what is going on in each hive and don't get mixed up with your timing. If 2 or 3 swarms emerge within a day or two of each other and you have run out of hives it is OK to throw one on top of one another in the same hive, the queens will sort themselves out. If your hives are in a rural location and swarms won't cause a nuisance to others another option is to leave the swarm alone so it can go and populate the local woodland. Get spare equipment ready before the season starts, carry out rigorous 7 day inspections if your queen is unclipped until you see charged queen cells and then take immediate action, and if you need any help, don't be shy, ask someone more experienced to help you out. 'Swarm chasing' can be fun but beekeeping is far more enjoyable when you are in control of the bees rather than the other way around!

ARTIFICIAL SWARMING from Dave Cushman's website - www.dave-cushman.net/bee/artswarm

When queen cells are raised in a colony under the swarming impulse, the actions of the beekeeper will rarely forestall swarming completely. This method was devised in an attempt to fool the bees into thinking that they have already swarmed. Whilst it duplicates some of the situations of swarming, I doubt that the bees are actually fooled, but merely respond to their changed circumstances.

The principle behind any swarm management system is to separate the brood from the queen. Also a "true" swarm has an old queen, a 20,000 or so workforce of bees of all ages and no comb.

We can create a set of situations that mimic the natural system quite closely. If you wish to try this, you will require extra equipment (I am assuming National Hives and UK conditions.)

Stand, Floor, Brood Chamber, and a full complement of brood frames fitted with foundation, Crown board (inner cover) and Roof (outer cover). A manipulation cloth or another crown board are also useful.

In the following explanation I will refer to right and left. There is no significance in this, you should adopt whatever is convenient to you... Providing that you are consistent you will achieve the desired result. I make no reference to the use of smoke... You should use it as and when you judge it necessary.

First place your spare stand 4 or 5 feet to the right of the hive to be "artificially swarmed" Remove the roof of the "parent" hive and place upside down on the ground between the hive and the stand that has just been positioned.

Insert your hive tool into the joint immediately above the queen excluder to break the propolis seal and transfer the supers, no matter how many are already in place, complete with crown board into the upturned roof thus trapping all the bees that were in the supers (this keeps them out of our way). Remove the queen excluder and place out of the way for use later.

Place the spare crown board on the parent brood box (to calm the bees) then transfer the floor, brood box and crown board as one unit from the original site to the "New" stand.

Put the spare floor on the now vacant stand that is still on the original site, oriented with the entrance in the same direction as the original... Place the spare brood box with the frames of foundation on this floor and remove the centre frame leaving a gap. (all the flying bees that are out foraging will automatically return to this entrance). If you have a manipulation cloth or further crown board use it to cover the top of this newly placed box.

Now we must turn our attention to the parent brood box... Remove the crown board and then run through the box examining each comb until you find the queen (often easier said than done!). Temporarily cover the box with the crown board. Transfer the frame of bees that the queen is on into the gap between the frames of foundation on the original site (you should destroy any queencells that exist on this frame), put the queen excluder on this box and place the original supers on the queen excluder. If they are very heavy, consider adding another super.

Returning to the box with the frames of brood remove the crown board, close up the frames and insert the last frame, (the one with foundation that came out of the gap), to one side then replace the crown board.

It now remains only to put the original roof back on the original site and our spare roof on our "New" queenless hive.

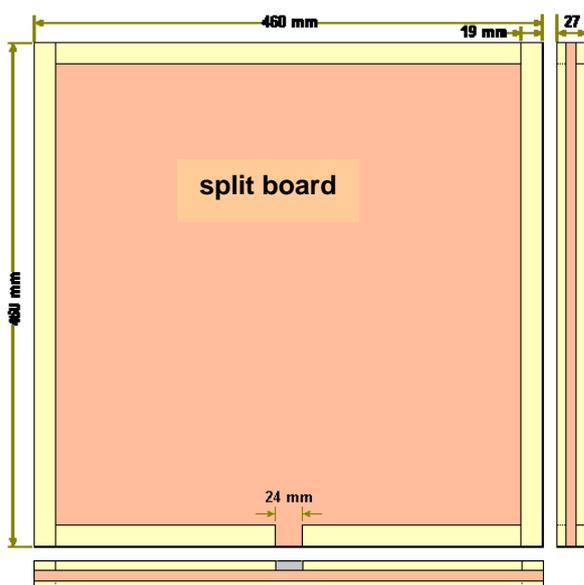
Let us take stock of what we have done. We now have two colonies that can be described as "swarm" and "parent" the one on the original site has an old queen, an abundance of bees and almost no brood. This is very similar to the circumstances that a swarm is faced with. It also has stores of nectar and honey and the small amount of brood forms a focus for the bees' activities.

Our small colony has no laying queen, brood of all ages, queen cells that are about to "hatch" and a recently depleted number of bees. This is rather like the state of a colony immediately after a swarm has issued.

Our two hives are both going to be very busy for the next several weeks, the swarm has to draw much foundation for the impatient queen to lay in. The flying force of bees will decrease as the older bees die (it will be three weeks before there are fresh bees emerging).

Our "new" colony will reduce the number of queencells to that which it's smaller number of bees can properly support, (usually two), and much of the sealed brood will be emerging giving an increase in the population of adult bees.

But we cunning beekeepers have a trick up our sleeve! If after a week we swap the small hive from the right side of the main one to a similar position, but on the left of it, then our returning foragers from the small hive will come across the hive on the original site first and enter there instead (this balances the numbers). The reversal can be repeated in another weeks time causing further balancing.



The procedure outlined above will eliminate swarming in about 95% of cases without significantly reducing the honey crop. Once the new unit is queenright it can be used for increase or it can be united back to the parent colony at the end of the season.

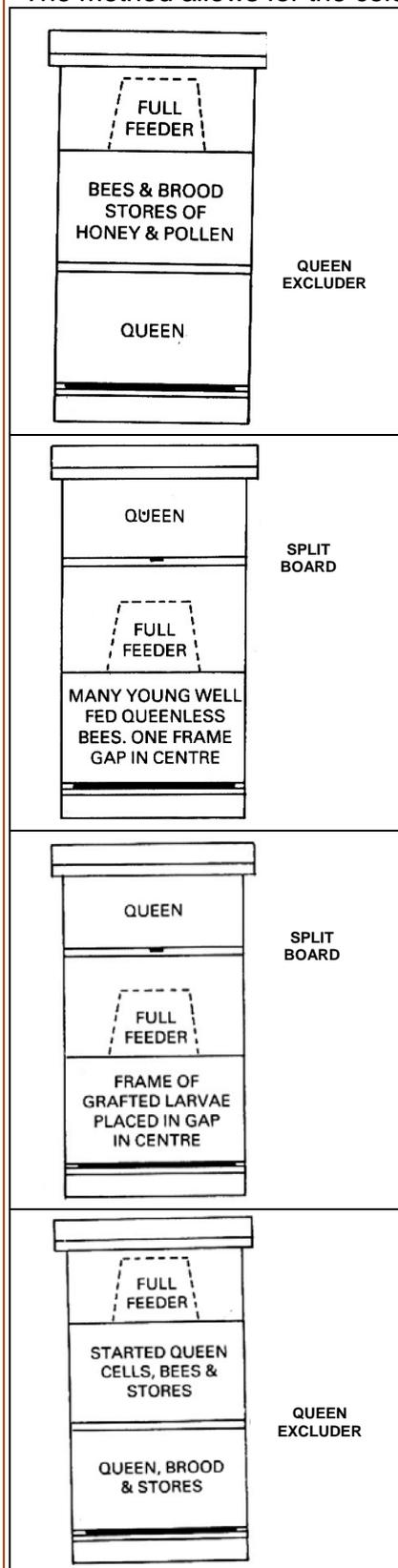
Many variations can be employed... My particular favourite is to use a frame containing a couple of queencells, a frame of emerging brood, a frame with brood of all ages and other frames taken from storage... one with sealed stores and the other with foundation that has been partially drawn. These combs go in a 5 frame nucleus box with extra bees shaken in. The nuc is then removed from the site to another apiary beyond flying range. The "small" hive has less occupied frames (The spaces are made good with combs from storage), but the emerging brood will soon bolster the numbers.

This method gives more flexibility and the extra nuc can be used for "increase" or "insurance" purposes (or if bee improvement is your aim it gives a wider choice of stock for future breeding selection).

The queenless portion may be housed over a split board with a divided brood chamber or separate nucs taped together so that 4 x twin frame, 3 x three frame or 2 x 5 frame nuclei may be formed (use one queencell per unit).

QUEEN REARING - THE COOK METHOD

The following is a quick summary of the method of queen rearing MBA are using this year. The method is taken from the book *Queen Rearing Simplified* by Vince Cook and is explained by Committee member, **Gerry Thompson**, who is leading the inaugural MBA Queen rearing programme this year (see article on next page). The method allows for the colony to stay in the same hive under one roof and does not affect the honey harvest.



STAGE 1

Around late May a strong colony with at least 7 frames of brood will be selected to raise our queen cells for us. The colony will be rearranged according to the diagram on the left. The logic behind this rearrangement is to ensure that there are as many young bees in the top box as possible: young bees are best suited to rearing queens as they are best at secreting royal jelly. In this way our grafted larvae will be copiously fed and the resultant queens will be the best possible. The colony's queen is confined to the lower box on a frame of mostly unsealed brood inserted between a frame of honey and pollen and one of drawn comb. A split board is placed under the roof for later use and the colony is left for **8 days**.

STAGE 2

On the **8th day** at say 10am the hive is rearranged according to the second diagram. The top box (with the now hatched young bees) is thoroughly searched for queen cells and any present are destroyed. The bees in the bottom box must be queenless and so the queen must be found and placed in the top box. The split board is simply the equivalent of a crown board with a small entrance cut into one side.

STAGE 3

Approximately **4 hours** after Stage 2 has been completed we move on to Stage 3. This is illustrated in the 3rd diagram. By this time the bottom box will contain a large volume of queenless worker bees many of them young and ideally suited to receiving our grafted larvae.

STAGE 4

The diagram to the left shows how the colony is rearranged the day after offering our grafted larvae to the bees. Hopefully the grafts will have been accepted!

It takes 16 days for a queen bee to mature from the egg and as the larvae are between one to two days old when they are grafted the sealed cells must be distributed to prepared queenless colonies on the **10th day** after grafting. The queenless colonies we will use are nucs or mini-nucs and I will be letting you know how we got on in next month's Newsletter.

BREEDER QUEEN SELECTION

The breeder queen (see her photo below), chosen for the queen-rearing programme heads a very prolific and healthy colony. It wintered well, built up quickly in the spring to fill 2 brood boxes and is very mild mannered, remaining quietly on the comb during inspections. The colony was donated to MBA early in 2010 so the queen's history is uncertain. She is not a dark bee and obviously a mongrel, and judging by the orangey/yellow stripes, looks to have some Italian strain in her genes. It will be interesting to see the characteristics of her daughters

'REARING TO GO' by Gerry Thompson

Unfortunately the superb weather of April was replaced by a somewhat more familiar icy blast and we had to delay our queen rearing plans until Sunday 22nd May, when armed with "Queen Rearing Simplified" we started on the great adventure. In attendance were John and Dianna Baillie, Tony Harris and yours truly and we have Dianna to thank for the great photographs!



spot the Queen!

Today was stage one of the process and the first part of that was to find the queen from our chosen cell starter colony and confine her in a bottom brood box away from most of her brood. The theory being that the brood hatches and all of those young bees are in prime condition, when we make them queenless, to feed our grafted larvae when we carry out stage two of the process in eight days time. Well find her we did and into the queen clip she went. Then we set about re-arranging the colony.

A couple of charged queen cells were found and the decision was made to make up a couple of nucs using the queen cells and the excess brood from the top box of this double brood box colony.

John had very generously made and donated some very beautifully crafted nuc boxes and a couple of these were pressed into service.



charged queen cell



a good frame of brood for a nuc



new nuc boxes looking good!

This is where the fun started. Unknown to us, Tony's queen clip was faulty and on lifting the manipulation cloth under which the clip had been placed, her majesty was nowhere to be seen! By which time the normally even-tempered bees were quite understandably getting a bit concerned at the tearing apart and rearrangement of their home. There was nothing for it though and back through the box we had to go. Luckily we found her in reasonably short time and put her into the brood box where she'll be staying for the next couple of weeks and we made the box up with frames of drawn comb.



queenless clip cage



a gallon of syrup to keep the bees happy

Well that was pretty much it. We reassembled the hive, placed a contact feeder containing 1 gallon of syrup over the crown board and off into the sunset we went. Next week I will make my first attempt at grafting larvae. Stay tuned!

HARVESTING SINGLE FRAMES OF HONEY

You may be fortunate enough to have a few super frames filled with honey by the end of May and if you do it is quite easy to enjoy it without the use of expensive extractors. It is quite simple to reap a harvest from just a couple or even individual frames and here's how you do it.

The comb is completely cut from the frame into a bowl and thoroughly mashed until the comb cells are broken up and it has a nice even consistency.



Spoon or pour this honey wax mixture into a large jar as shown in the photo. Place a piece of shaped metal mesh over the mouth of another similar jar. Now take the jar with the mesh and turn it upside down, setting it on top of the filled honey jar and duct tape the two together forming a honey hourglass

When a good seal is made, flip the honey hourglass over and put it in a warm place and wait for an hour or two. Your honey will flow right from the honeycomb into the jar, leaving behind the beeswax and you can fine filter it later. Yummy!

One of the benefits of harvesting single combs at different times throughout the season is that you get to sample honey from multiple flora sources because the bees are collecting from different nectar flows at different times during the season and you will be amazed at the differing flavours. And if you intend to enter your honey into the many summer honey shows in the area, harvesting single frames, allows you to get jars of light, medium and maybe even dark honey without just mixing the lot together to get one uniform blend.

'WORK TO DO IN JUNE

- Regular inspections should continue, every 7 days if you have an unclipped queen, every 14 days if she is clipped. Check for any queen cells with larva inside and when found carry out your chosen swarm control technique.
- Make sure there is enough space in the hive for the queen to lay, the bees to spread out and for them to hang ripening nectar.
- Cut out the sealed drone brood from the bottom of the shallow frame inserted in the brood chamber as part of varroa control and replace the frame in its original position.
- You may be able to take off some frames of capped honey or even complete supers if you are fortunate and this should be extracted as soon as possible. Oil seed rape honey should not be left until it is capped as it is likely to granulate in the comb but how do you know when you can take it? The answer is to shake full super frames over the hive and if any nectar flies out, place it back in the hive as it is not yet ready. If no nectar comes out, even if cells are uncapped, remove and extract immediately. The wet supers can be placed back on the hive in the evening for the bees to clean up.
- Fine filter the OSR honey as it is run into buckets, fill the bucket to the brim, seal the lid and then store the honey at 14C to allow rapid granulation and then below 10C for the best storage conditions after it has granulated. Don't jar OSR in its liquid state unless you don't mind it going 'rock hard' in the jar. Next month's Auricle will include an article on what to do with your granulated OSR honey so you get a lovely creamed or soft set honey from it!
- Spring was early this year so bear in mind that the 'June gap' may also be early. This is the period between the end of the spring nectar flow and the beginning of the main summer flow when the bees can actually starve. You need to check stores and feed the bees if required. It is unwise to feed syrup if you have supers on the hive as the syrup may find its way into the honey super and this is a big 'no, no!' Use fondant over the feed hole in the crown board or dunk a couple of sugar bags in a bucket of cold water for 10 seconds and place these on the top bars of the brood chamber surrounded by an eke or empty shallow super. Remove the fondant or sugar once the flow resumes.
- Make sure you have supers ready for the main nectar flow that should start towards the end of the month from lime trees, brambles and Rosebay Willowherb.
- Continue to monitor for varroa using an insert in your open mash floor and by uncapping drone brood.
- If you are fortunate enough to collect a swarm, treat it for varroa as soon as you have it while the mites have no brood to hide in. You can use an apistan strip or strips depending on the size of the swarm or trickle oxalic acid between the top bars – 5ml per seam of bees. Swarms are in a prime state to draw out foundation, so place the swarm onto frames of wired foundation and feed sugar syrup for a week in a rapid feeder.
- Remember it takes between 6 and 8lb of honey to make 1lb of beeswax so be very careful when extracting honey from frames of drawn comb – you can use them again later in the season and indeed, if stored correctly, they can be used year after year.

BIRNIE APIARY UPDATE

Apiary Inspections, Introduction to Beekeeping courses and Honeybee Taster sessions have been continuing at Birnie and more are planned throughout the summer. Eight members have been preparing for the SBA Basic Beemaster Assessment and the practical sessions are taking place in May and June at Birnie. A small group of members started the queen-rearing project in May and we are hopeful of being able to provide mated queens and nucs of bees soon.

We now have 4 colonies of healthy bees and 2 nuc boxes with bees, brood and queen cells.

Thanks are due to Ron Clark for repairing the roof and John Baillie who arranged for the access road to be cleared and has made half a dozen nucleus boxes for us. We have also sown wildflower seeds and planted borage plants and we will have to wait and see if they escape the attentions of the rabbits. We have acquired a water butt and are looking for guttering and a down pipe so we can harvest rainwater off the shed roof, so if you have any spare, let a member of the Committee know.

CONGRATULATIONS to MBA member, **Barbara Westie**, who having obtained the Scottish Beekeepers, Association Intermediate Certificate last year, has continued her studies, and just passed Module 6, 'Honeybee Behaviour'. Well done, Barbara, only 2 modules to go!

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Due to a growing membership and busy programme of events we are looking to co-opt 3 or 4 members onto our volunteer team on the MBA Committee. It is an exciting time for beekeeping in Moray so if you would like to be involved in some exciting projects, and increase your beekeeping knowledge and enjoyment, please contact the Secretary Tony Harris who will fill you in on what is required. We meet every 2 months during the season and help out at Monthly Apiary Visits and Inspections. Experience is not necessary, just enthusiasm!



RAFFLE WINNERS

MBA members Mike Reid and Ian Yeats were the lucky winners of the raffle at the Manachie Lodge meeting. Forty pounds was raised and goes towards Birnie Apiary funds.

THORNES WARNING OVER FAULTY PLASTIC QUEEN EXCLUDERS

Thornes have issued a warning about a fault in their plastic queen excluders - apparently the workers bees are having trouble getting through it. If you have bought one of these in the last 12 months or so contact Thornes for further information.

ASSOCIATION HEATHER STANCE SOUGHT

If any member can offer any suggestions for a site please contact any member of the Committee.

ADOPT A NUC PROGRAMME

If you are making up nucs for sale this summer can you please consider selling them through the MBA 'Adopt a Nuc' programme. This will add to the nucs the Association will be making up and will supply new beekeepers and existing members who have lost their bees recently. MBA Secretary, Tony Harris has a list of members looking for bees so please contact him when in a position to sell. Members wishing to go on the list for a nuc are also asked to contact Tony.

SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (SBA)

Moray Beekeepers Association is affiliated to the SBA and you are encouraged to join. Membership of £25 a year will give you a monthly magazine, £2 million Public and Product liability insurance, a compensation scheme if you lose your bees and access to beekeepers throughout Scotland,

Contact membership convener: Mr. Phil McAnespie, 12 Monument Road, Ayr, KA7 2RL

SBA web site: www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk

BEESUITS/GLOVES /SMOCKS

Quality bee suits and clothing from BB Wear, for MBA members who receive a 15% discount (please order via the MBA Secretary)

BB1 Full suit £84.00

www.bbwear.co.uk/

A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Joanna Baughan & her son Shaun, aged 12 years,
Bob & Joy Malcolm, Amanda Peterson, Arlene
Ritchie, Gordon Ritchie & Don Vincent

The Association website is packed with lots of useful information on beekeeping and bees and has an interesting blog that you are encouraged to contribute to. It is well worth a visit - the address is

www.moraybeekeepers.co.uk

Items for inclusion in the Newsletter to be sent to the Editor: Tony Harris, Cowiemuir, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7PS or you can e mail: tonyharris316@btinternet.com or phone 07884 496246

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR SUBS FOR 2011, NOW £10 ADULT, £5 OVER 65YRS AND 12-16YRS!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

An Invitation to all Beekeepers in Scotland

The Scottish Government (SG)
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)

is holding a

BEE HEALTH DAY

on Saturday 16th July 2011 from 9.30am - 5pm
at SASA, Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ
(teas, coffees and lunch will be provided)

A full day of lectures including a practical session on
AFB/EFB diagnosis on a live hive of bees

Topics covered: AFB, EFB, Bee Diseases and Apiary Hygiene
Shook Swarm demonstration and Integrated Pest Control

Bring your own bee suits etc.,

(we will have some spares available for those who are just starting out)

Lecturers are:

Graeme Sharpe - Apiculture Specialist, SAC
Margaret Thomas - Beefarmers Association
Fiona Hight - Entomology Manager, SASA
Steve Sunderland - Lead Bee Inspector, SG

Cost - £25.00

To book your place or for more information contact:

Alison Knox on 0300 244 9836
email: alison.knox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Send your cheque, made payable to "SAC" to:

Alison Knox, P Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

- With thanks to -

Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers' Association

MORAY BEEKEEPERS SUMMER PROGRAMME

Saturday 18th June, 2.30pm
Pluscarden Abbey Apiary Visit

Sunday 17th July, 2.30pm
Graham & Viv Hill's Apiary Visit
Blossombank, Birnie, near Elgin

Sunday 21st August
Trip to the Heather & Meal
(location to be arranged)

Sunday 18th September, 2.30pm
'Honey Extraction' Demonstration
Birnie Apiary

Non-Members Welcome by Arrangement!

MORAY BEEKEEPERS COURSES

Saturday 25th June, 1-3pm

Honeybee Taster Session, Birnie Apiary
Free for MBA members who want a refresher,
Non-members - £10

Friday 15th July, 7-9pm, Elgin Library

Saturday 16th July, 1-3pm

Introduction to Beekeeping Course
Free for MBA members who want a refresher,
Non-Members - £25

Friday 19th August, 7-9pm, Elgin Library

Saturday 20th August, 1-3pm

Introduction to Beekeeping Course
Free for MBA members who want a refresher,
Non-Members - £25

Numbers are Limited, Pre-booking essential
Pre-booking is essential. Contact Tony

THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN CONVENTION
Saturday 10th September 2011
8.45am - 5.10pm

At Dewar's Conference & Sports Centre, Glover Street, Perth

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Dr Giles Budge - Random Apiary Survey: What a Whopper!
- Recent Advances in Understanding Foul Brood
(Both lectures dealing with Bee Diseases)

Terry Clare - Taking the Present into the Future
(Lecture dealing with Bee Breeding)

Willie Robson - Reflections on Beekeeping with an Emphasis on
Colony Survival

Tickets £25 including coffee, lunch and tea (students half price)

TRADE STANDS

Bee Books New and Old, Beecraft, BIBBA, CirComb, Beware Apiaries, SBA

Bookings for the Convention to Iain F. Steven
4 Craigie View, Perth, PH2 0DP. Telephone 01738 621100
(cheques payable to 'SBA' and enclose SAE for programme/receipt)
Closing date 3rd September

MORAY BEEKEEPERS APIARY INSPECTION AT BIRNIE

(Members Only)

Saturday 11th June, 1-3pm

Saturday 25th June, 1-3pm

Sunday 10th July, 12-2pm

Sunday 24th July, 12-2pm

Sunday 7th August, 12-2pm

Sunday 28th August, 12-2pm

Sunday 11th September, 12-2pm

Sunday 4th October, 12-2pm

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

23RD - 26TH June, Ingliston, Edinburgh

This is 'the' show to visit if you want to see the very best of honey and wax exhibits. Enid Brown, Show Convener for the Scottish Beekeepers' Association is looking for volunteer stewards to help out in the honey tent.

Don't worry if you are a novice as the stewards work in teams under the leadership of an experienced beekeeper.

To volunteer please email Enid at honeybees@onetel.com