

Moray Beekeepers Association

November 2012

News Bulletin

Established 1919
Scottish Charity No: SCO42185

BEE AWARE IN MORAY

A part-time Project Manager is required to run the Association's Bee Aware Moray (BEAM) project. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of the project – from promoting beekeeping and bee conservation, to developing the Association's apiary. They will be a competent and experienced beekeeper, familiar with all aspects of current beekeeping management practices, and will have excellent communication and organisational skills as well as being IT competent.

Funding is available until the end of Dec 2013. The post is on a self-employed basis, and is self-supporting, working from home with some requirement to attend occasional evening and weekend events. Own transport is required. A Disclosure Scotland (PVG) check will be undertaken.

Closing date for applications:
5pm Friday 16th November

A role description can be [downloaded here](#). Please send any enquiries and applications to beeaware@moraybeekeepers.co.uk or visit the website www.moraybeekeepers.co.uk

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our next meeting is on **Monday 26th November** at Elgin Library, 7pm start, when MBA Secretary, Tony Harris, will be giving a talk entitled 'The Varroa Mite' and MBA Chairman, Andrew Tassell will then demonstrate the oxalic acid trickle method to tackle varroa, usually carried out on your bees in Late December so come along and see how it's done! Admission is free to MBA members (show membership card at the door), non-members can pay £2. Refreshments will be available.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 29 January, Elgin Library, 7pm followed by 'Beekeeping Question Time'. Items for the Agenda, and any proposals requiring a vote must be forwarded to the Secretary in writing not less than fourteen days before the meeting date.

SCOTTISH HONEY WANTED

If any member has any surplus honey for sale, preferably in buckets, MBA would be willing to buy 1 or 2 buckets at the going rate. It will be used as part of the BEAM project (promotions/tastings etc) in early spring next year when honey will be in even shorter supply. Please contact Tony Harris, Tel 07884496246.

FONDABEE FONDANT

MBA Equipment Officer, Andy Watson, has managed to source a supplier of fondabee fondant and will be putting in a bulk order in November. Fondant is the recommended feed for your bees during winter and it is available at £20 for a pack of 5 (2.5kg/pack) or £4 for one pack. Pre-ordering is essential and you can do so by contacting Andy on Tel. 07786247327

BEEKEEPING COURSE, FEBRUARY 2013

Moray Beekeepers begin a lecture course entitled '*Introduction to bees and beekeeping*' on Tuesday 5th February also at Elgin Library and it is hoped that at least 24 students will sign up for the course including MBA members and potential new beekeepers. There will be six classroom sessions hosted by Dr Stephen Palmer, with full day practical sessions run by MBA Training Team later at Birnie apiary. Individuals without bees and wishing to get some will be asked to make a donation of £100 for the course. On successful completion of the course, they will receive a certificate of competence, a hive of bees, bee suit and gloves and necessary beekeeping equipment. They will also receive mentoring for the first season. The hive will be on loan to be returned to the MBA 'pot' after 1 full year.

MBA members wishing to brush up on the beekeeping knowledge can attend at a cost of £10, payable on the first evening of attendance. Full details will be published in plenty of time but if you would like to book a place on the course please contact Secretary, Tony Harris.

BASIC BEEMASTER COURSE

The Basic Beemaster Course will again be run in 2013 and will tie in with Dr Palmers lectures mentioned above. There will then be several practical lessons at Birnie Apiary with the actual assessments usually taking place in June. It is condition of the Scottish Beekeepers Association that applicants must have owned and managed bees for one full season but as the bees at Birnie belong to all the members, if you have been regularly helping out at apiary sessions, then you meet the criteria. Again, to book a place on the course or for further information, contact the Secretary, Tony Harris. Numbers are limited so book early to avoid disappointment! There will be a small charge.

COMMITTEE RE-STRUCTURE

In order to implement the BEAM project the Committee will be re-structured in order to spread the workload and responsibility. Andrew Tassell is standing down as Chairman and Committee member after 10 years so we are looking for a new Chairman. The main criteria for the Chairman's post is that you are skilled at running meetings so don't be put off if you think you are not experienced enough as a beekeeper.

Tony Harris will be standing down as Secretary at the AGM but intends to remain heavily involved in MBA affairs. The Secretary's post is to be streamlined to avoid over loading the post holder. Basically, the Secretary is the nominated contact person for the Association, responsible for answering correspondence, arranging meetings and taking minutes of meetings. The Committee feel that the Secretary post should be filled by a competent beekeeper of at least Basic Beemaster level.

So we need a new Chairman and Secretary. If you are enthusiastic about bees and their future it really is an exciting time to come on board. You will be given lots of help and support while you settle in and will enjoy being part of a committed and happy team of volunteers! Please contact any member of the Committee if you would like to find out more about either of these posts.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We have recently welcomed Paul and Helen Webster onto the Committee as co-opted members and Bob and Joy Malcolm will be joining us soon. Welcome guys and thanks for agreeing to help out!

WEBSITE

A big thank you to new Committee member Paul Webster who has who has now taken over the MBA website.

TRAINING TEAM

Four MBA members recently attended a National Diploma of Beekeeping course in Perth entitled, 'Train the Trainers'. Subsidised by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Beekeepers Association the course is aimed at teaching beekeepers to teach beekeeping to beekeepers and to the general public. So, Tony Harris, Arlene Ritchie, Yvonne Stuart and Andy Watson now form the core of the MBA Training Team and will be preparing lesson plans, courses and presentations over the coming months that will benefit bees and beekeepers.

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Committee member Anne Black has agreed to head up a new MBA Hospitality Team to look after the catering and hospitality aspects of the BEAM project. We plan to send all members of the team on a Food Hygiene course and this will not only be beneficial to MBA when refreshments are being provided but will also benefit any member who extracts and jars their own honey. If you have any skills in the catering or hospitality field or would just like to get involved please contact Anne on Tel. 07907948646.

If you have any questions about any of the above or would like to find out more or volunteer for Chairman or Secretary, please contact me. E-mail tonyharris316@btinternet.com Tel. 07884 496246

Tony Harris
Secretary, Moray Beekeepers Association