



Association Winter Programme

An excellent programme has been organised for Association members as follows:

8.10.08..Kevin Cowle (Lanark) on Beekeeping in the Clyde Valley

22.10.08..Eric McArthur to talk about breeding honeybees. Our old enemy Varroa will be on the agenda, with Eric's recommendations for treatment.

5.11.08..On a lighter note - Hat Night which I am reliably informed allows members to ask ANY question they like of the Panel of distinguished Beekeepers– relating to Beekeeping, of course.

19.11.08...The AGM

6.12.08...Our Social Evening. The venue to be confirmed

14.1.09..Graeme Sharpe with a full programme on increasing stocks, swarm control and preparing bees for the heather.

28.1.09...Ian Maxwell speaking on 50yrs of Beekeeping.

Inside this issue:

Scentless flowers 2

Honey Section Schedule 2

Illegal GM Crops 3

Bumblebees 3

Novices 3

Special points of interest:

- The Association winter Programme
- Changes to the Honey Section Schedule of Classes at the Ayr Flower Show
- The Association Library



Welcome to the First Ayr and District Beekeepers Association Newsletter. I hope to include articles of both local and national interest. I would be delighted to receive comments on any topic printed, and items which you would like to see included. Suzanne Clark.

My email address is bees5@btinternet.com

Flowers for show only



Scentless flowers

A new study suggests pollution is dulling the scent of flowers, disrupting insect life and imperilling food supplies. The research at the University of Virginia says gases mainly from the emissions of car exhausts, cuts the distance travelled by the scent of flowers.

The scent molecules normally travelling for approximately 1,000-1,200metres, today may only

travel 200-300 metres Could this be one more cause of “death by a thousand cuts” being experienced by our bees. We call it CDD - but have the bees decided they are fighting a losing battle and just giving up. Clearly more research is needed, and continuing pressure from beekeepers and commercial organisations on our government for increased funding is required.

Honey section classes at Flower Show

Extracted Honey

Class 702-two 454 jars Dark Set Honey.

Beeswax

Class 711-two Beeswax candles Dipped and Moulded

Beeswax - New Class

Class 713-two Beeswax candles moulded.

Photographs– 600mm x 600mm - Maximum.

Class 715 –Set of 3 Colour Prints of Beekeeping Associated Subjects.

The Association Library.



The library has a variety of books old and new. An excellent DVD for beginners is “An introduction to Beekeeping” with Paul Metcalf. Another good basic introductory DVD is “An Introduction to Keeping Bees” by second sight productions. A couple of recently acquired books are “The

Honey Bee around and About” and “The Honey Bee inside Out” Both are by Celia Davis who has kept bees for over twenty years. The former deals with bee diseases, and the latter with anatomy and physiology. Also check out Beekeeping Study Notes for those hoping to take exams in the future!

Some changes to
honey section
schedule of classes

Illegal GM Crops are found in Scotland. September 13th 2008

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Fields of Oilseed Rape have been destroyed at two sites in Aberdeenshire and one near Arbroath. The experimental seeds which had been sown were contaminated with unauthorised GM material found among a new variety of Oilseed Rape from North America.

The Scottish Government says there is no risk to the environment or human or animal health, and is working with stakeholders to understand how this occurred and ensure it never happens again.

Stronger regulation is called for to tighten protocols to ensure GM contamination is avoided says Becky Price of Gene Watch UK, and concern expressed about the origin of the seeds

and the effect contamination on the economy and public health, by Pete Riley of the GM Freeze Campaign.

Jim McLaren NFU Scotland President said NFUS agrees EU rules relating to GM crops should not be breached, but more research and discussion was needed on the role of biotechnology in agriculture.

A proposal before the European Commission to allow a certain amount of unauthorised GMO to enter the food chain is strongly opposed by Gene Watch UK who call for continued vigilance to ensure contamination by GM crops does not occur.



Unauthorised GM crops cause concern

Speaking of Bumblebees.....

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Scottish National Heritage have funded a project to plant a new wild flower meadow at Vane Farm, Loch Leven National Nature Reserve.

Wild meadows, once common across the countryside are disappearing due to changes in farming practices. As a result many birds and insects are also in

decline. This project will hopefully attract new species, as well as the declining great yellow bumblebee. Open all year round, or visit between May and August to see the meadow. Shop, and café overlooking the Loch.

RSPB Scotland News May 2008.

Bumblebee Conservation Trust at Loch Leven nature reserve is worth a visit.

Looking for Novices.

This is no time to be modest. The Ayr Flower Show needs your support, so come on novices, don't be shy.

It will be fun, may bring (some) fame, is unlikely to make your fortune but you have nothing to lose in submitting a jar or two of honey for judging.

If this is not possible, then a photo or

a moulded candle will be very acceptable. Here is Mr. J. McComb receiving his trophy from President Mr.P.MacAnespie for obtaining the most points for classes 700-714 for a member of the Association.

It could be you!

