

East Lothian Beekeepers' Association

(Founded 1887 – Scotland's Oldest Local Association)

www.eastlothianbeekeepers.org.uk

Newsletter 154

January 2010

New year, new secretary!

After years of hard work keeping the Association organised and informed Donald Smith stepped down as secretary at the AGM, so before I introduce myself I'd like to thank him on behalf of all the members for all his excellent work on our behalf.

It's a hard act to follow, but my name's Jo Dodds and as the Association's new secretary I'll do my best to fill Donald's shoes. Having studied the beginner's course last year I set up my own pair of hives in June, so I'm very much a novice beekeeper. I wouldn't have had the confidence to get started without the assistance I received from the Association, so I'm keen that we help more beginners get going and would like to encourage them (and everyone else!) to come along to meetings where they can pick up tips from members and speakers with a wealth of experience.

I'll do my best to bring my own new ideas to the post, but would also love to hear those of other members, so please get in touch. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter and I look forward to hearing from you!

AGM 2010

The AGM was held at 7.30pm on 20th January and was well attended with 30 members present. The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

1. Apologies Colin Macintosh
2. The minutes of the AGM held on 22nd January 2009 were approved.

3. The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year to 31st December 2009 as summarised below:

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subscriptions	£290.00	Hall hire	£108.00
Honey sales	£392.00	Speakers	£31.80
Bee sales	£175.00	Post Office	£34.92
Candle sales	£56.63	Beekeeping supplies	£105.77
Bank interest	£1.40	Bhopal donation	£250.00
Other	£45.75	Books and film	£126.00
Total	£960.78	Depreciation	£27.50
		Total	£683.99
Surplus for the year	£276.79		

The Treasurer noted that subscriptions were up from the previous year, and that appreciable sums were made from the sale of honey, bees and candle rolling at the Haddington Show. The Bank balance stands at £1219.73. The meeting voted to keep the membership fee unchanged at £5.00.

4. The President reported on the year's events which included round-table discussions of basic beekeeping (intended to help beginners but poorly attended), weekly visits to the Association apiary which were hampered by poor weather (these will moved to midday at weekends this year), the stall at the Haddington Show, and the very popular public screening of "The Vanishing of the bee". He also noted the donation made to Eurig Scandrett to promote beekeeping at Bhopal.

5. Jo Dodds was elected as Secretary and George Barton and Rosemary Carthy were re-elected as President and Treasurer respectively. Donald Smith will continue to look after the library and coordinate the display for the Haddington Show.

6. The meeting discussed the pros and cons of limiting the term that office bearers can serve, eventually agreeing that section 3 of the constitution be altered to read "The office bearers shall be three in number:- President, Secretary and Treasurer, these officers to be elected annually at the AGM, each office bearer to not normally serve more than three years before relinquishing the position to another member." George Hood commented that because the winter program had been limited to round table discussions, there had been no outside speakers and emphasised how important it was to hear expert beekeepers from other areas speaking about practical beekeeping. The meeting agreed to buy a banner for use at the Haddington Show and other events saying "East Lothian Beekeepers Association" - and without an apostrophe!

Membership Subscriptions 2010

The subscription for this year remains great value at five pounds! Please print out and fill in the attached membership form and return it to the Treasurer Rosemary Carthy, at the address at the end of the newsletter.

Winter Meetings Programme – Haddington Town House, 7.30pm

Donald Smith has lined-up some great speakers, so why not come along to listen and quiz the experts (and enjoy tea and biscuits afterwards)?

17th February "Selecting, Rearing and Introducing Queens Using Honey Producing Colonies." Ian Craig, immediate past president of the Scottish Beekeepers Association will speak about this fascinating process.

17th March "Beekeeping Around the World." Eurig Scandrett will give a talk about the beekeeping project he has initiated in Bhopal, India, including information about honey's role in ayurvedic medicine. If you have exotic beekeeping stories or photos from far flung lands then your contributions would be welcome too.

21st April "Practical Beekeeping." A masterclass from George Hood, our vastly experienced and knowledgeable local commercial beekeeper.

Disease

Following the AGM Angus McGaskill and Jim Anderson, our local bee inspectors, gave a sobering account of their work during 2009's Scottish foul brood outbreaks. They noted that American and European Foul Brood can both be tricky to detect and as a result had unwittingly been spread by beekeepers in Inverness-shire, Perthshire and Aberdeenshire.

Sealed brood is normally affected by AFB, so watch for a "pepper-pot" pattern, sunken darkened cell cappings, "ropy" larval remains that draw out like chewing gum on a matchstick and dark scales stuck inside cells. EFB usually affects unsealed brood and can result in erratic brood pattern, twisted larvae, wax-like yellowed larvae and a nasty sour odour. <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/public/BeeDiseases/foulbrood.cfm>

Thankfully neither disease has been detected in East Lothian to date, but source new bees locally to minimise the risk of spreading disease, be wary of collecting swarms and if you're worried about the health of your bees contact the inspectors immediately via the SGRIPD Area Office at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/grants/Inspections>

North Berwick Biodiversity Festival – Sunday 18th April

East Lothian Council's Biodiversity Officer has asked if we'd like to participate in this event. He's keen for exhibits to have a practical element, so if you've got any ideas or could help out on the day I'd be glad to hear from you!

New Members

Welcome to Peter and Liz Moore, Louise Muir and Bryan Delahunty.

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