

## Honey Bee Health Strategy

### Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP)

24 January 2019 – Auchincruive, Ayr,

#### Attendees:

NAME	ORGANISATION	POSITION
Steve Sunderland	SG	Lead Bee Inspector
Fiona Highet	SG-SASA	Entomology Manager
Graeme Sharpe	SRUC	Apiculture Specialist
Gavin Ramsay	SBA	Bee Health Convener
Margaret Thomas	BFA	
Alan Riach	SBA	President
Phil McAnespie	SBA	Vice President
Murray McGregor	BFA	
Jackie Quigley	SG	Secretariat
Angus MacAskill	SG	Bee Inspector
John Smith	SG	Bee Inspector

#### Apologies:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Margaret Ginman	BFA
Bron Wright	SBA

#### NOTE OF MEETING:

##### Item 1: Welcome and apologies

- Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Apologies received from Margaret Ginman, Bron Wright
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##### Item 2: Minutes and Actions Points (15 August 2018)

- Previous minutes were approved. Although it was noted that some information isn't being cascaded down to other members of the SBA. Steve asked if this could now happen.

##### Items 3: Royal Highland Show 2019

- General discussion of what is expected at the Royal Highland Show this year.

#### **Item 4: EU exit updates: issues likely to affect beekeepers**

- Assuming we leave on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the Apiculture Programme which formerly provided finance through and match funded by SG is now scheduled to be provided by Scottish Government but dependent on the outcome of the EU Exit provisions.
- Defra Statement - The Apiculture Programme finishes in August 2019 and the UK had not planned to put in a bid for any more money. However given the uncertainty surrounding EU Exit, the Defra Common Market Organisation team have advised that we should apply to the Commission for the new programme in the discussions which ensued all parties agreed that they approve the continuation of the Apiculture Programme using the existing options we had for the 2016 – 2019 provisions. This will now be confirmed and communicated to Defra who are handling the issue on our behalf.
- The legislative provisions of the Bees Act 1980 continue as they preceded our entry into the EU. Some minor amendments will be required reflecting changes made since our accession.
- **ACTION POINT STEVE TO CONFIRM THE REGULATORY POSITION.**  
**Post meeting: In Scotland, legislative control is implemented by The Bees Act 1980 which empowers Ministers to make orders to control diseases and pests affecting honey bees and provides powers of entry for authorised persons (to carry out necessary surveillance, inspection and certification requirements). The Bee Diseases and Pests control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended), requires beekeepers (and others) to notify the Scottish Ministers of the suspicion of the presence of a notifiable disease or pest, and provides powers for control such as destruction, treatment and prevention of movement of infected hives.**
- **For background: The Bee Diseases Control Order 1982(a) and the Importation of Bees Order 1997(b) were revoked by The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 in so far as they apply to Scotland**
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#### **Item 5: Train the Trainer**

- Believe the Train the Trainer course is a good course to help trainers become better trainers and to improve the quality of beekeeping education.
- A funding request from the SG has been received and the meeting approved it for the November 2019 diet of courses.
- Some mention was made regarding the candidates for the course. Some courses had inexperienced beekeepers attending and the fundamental requirement of the course was in danger of being undermined. A requirement will be enforced for future courses that we would be looking for candidates to be experienced probably with in excess of 10 year's experience. However the point was made that some courses would be undersubscribed.

- We have now run several tranches of these courses and although post evaluation shows the training is being put to its intended use we need to be able to fully justify their continuation. It was also felt that with the improved pool of trainers now available in Scotland we could run equally good and considerably cheaper if we ran the course using our own pool. For the 2019 courses we would run as proposed using the NDB course but would look to implementing Scottish sourced trainers for ones beyond.
- Action point: Graeme Sharpe to coordinate a team to develop the idea of Scottish sourced trainer improvement courses.

#### **Item 6: EFB developments and associated issues**

- SASA still waiting for detailed analysis of the 2018 EFB samples with regard to the DNA components including possible strain type 3.
- This strain type seems to be trickier to deal with although some dispute this.
- More timely issue of analysis of DNA strain types ID have helped the Bee Inspectors as they could then have tailored their response more effectively.
- See Annex A for details of one initiative to further reduce the incidence of EFB in Scotland.

#### **Item 7: Asian hornet and sentinels (plans for 2019)**

- In England each local association has a rep who helps raise awareness of Asian hornet.
- Sentinels will be the same as last year. SASA will put a call out to SBA to see if they can get new volunteers. It would be helpful if SBA members knew where the sentinels where so we can get a wider spread.
- There will be no spring trapping this year. There will be summer and autumn trapping.
- The catch and kill rate for non-target native species wasn't high last year.

#### **Item 8: Honey Bee Health Days**

- Great feedback from last year's Honey Bee Health Days in Tarland and Dumfries.
- Honey Bee Health Days for 2019 are planned for Kelso in Kelso High School hosted by Border beekeepers Association on 18 May and in Dunblane Cathedral Halls hosted by Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers Association on 1 June. Adverts and booking arrangements would be arranged by Jackie and forwarded to Alan Riach for inclusion in the SBA Events pages.
- There has been a good response from the associations so far.
- Kelso High School have a few pupils who are interested in coming along
- Confirmed that we would again consider reduced charges for adult accompanied young people and that an invitation would issue to those selected for the IMYB team (see below).

### **Item 9: IMYB**

- In absence of Bron, Steve presented her case for IMYB:
- The International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) this year is meeting in Slovakia from 3-7 July. The fee for the Team has risen from €500 to €750 which covers all expenses for five persons, (3 Team and 2 accompanying adults), for the whole Meeting and is considered very reasonable.  
In addition SBA needs to cover the cost of travel to and from Slovakia, training beforehand and small gifts to present to other Teams.
- Discussion ensued and was in favour of supporting the team particularly in the light of the excellent showing of the team in 2018.
- Steve to approach Bron to discuss what specific funding was required.

### **Item 10: Funding Issues**

- Train the Trainer and IMYB are already being funded for 2019 and any further requests should be presented as soon as possible to allow for efficient budgeting and sourcing of potential funds.

### **Item 11: Other Matters**

- Carol service Christmas 2019. An idea for a Beekeepers Carol service was mooted considering beekeepers tend to be a traditional group of society and keen to promote high values with established standing. Also Christmas can be a difficult time for any and the idea of a corporate venture may find an appeal. This wouldn't be an exclusively beekeepers event but would be open to all to come and celebrate and share with like-minded people. A similar event had been held for farmers in Ayrshire and a heartening turnout resulted. Suggested venues were discussed honing in on Glasgow, Edinburgh or Perth but dependent on where likely respondents came from– What are people's thoughts on having a carol service for beekeepers? Steve to approach Michelle with a view to seeking beekeepers views on the idea via social media and maybe a poll. Depending on the resulting response bring it to the next meeting for possible development.
- World of Bees – Invitation from Slovenian Embassy to go down to London. Margaret Ginman has expressed an interest.
- Steve to confirm with Margaret.

### **Item 12: Dates of next meeting**

- Next meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Battleby, Perth

### **Item 13: and finally**

- Steve will be retiring from the role of Lead Bee Inspector on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The post is to be filled and plans are in place to start looking for a replacement.

**Meeting closed at 14:50.**

**Bee Health Improvement Partnership**

**24**

**January**

**2019**

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# Denrosa Apiaries

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Bee Farmers and Honey Suppliers

## Wax Dipping Plant

WE are happy to announce that, after discussion in late autumn 2018, we have gone ahead and commissioned the construction of a tank intended to wax treat wooden beehive parts. In conjunction with the maker we have designed the system ourselves and it is fully paid for and delivery expected at the start of February.

This is not a cheap device, being constructed from very heavy gauge stainless steel and insulated to conserve heat and protect operators.

The system is mainly aimed at boxes, floors, inner covers, framed excluders, wooden construction feeders. It is not intended that frames will go into this tank.

The process is done at very high temperatures, min 160C, so the risk of burning for operators and fire from the very hot wax is considerable. However, using the tank at 160C for 10 mins renders the equipment sterile for both foulbroods, and in Australia and NZ is the only approved method of sterilising woodenware apart from irradiation.

However, the primary reason for constructing this tank is to preserve woodenware. Done for the full 10 mins the heat drives out all the moisture from the wood, and as it then cools it draws all the remaining wax on the surface into the wood so it looks dry very soon. It is possible to quickly paint the boxes at this exact moment, as later the wax will cause the wood to shed the paint. In our climate it is suggested that the dipping (more like frying) done correctly will result in the wood being protected from moisture or decay for up to 20 years. They may also be redone at any time, for renewed protection or for sterilising.

Woodenware looks very fresh for several years done this way, and if it has been hot enough the boxes do not have any wax on the exterior

and so are not slippery. Floors in contact with the ground are water resistant, but may need done more frequently than other parts. The process is equally effective on both new and older equipment but all older gear MUST have been thoroughly cleaned of potential contaminants (dirt, wax, propolis etc) as it can make the wax in the tank very dirty and look bad on the boxes.

The intention at present, once we have proven it works, is that the plant will be made available for others to have their equipment done. Due to reasons of safety we cannot allow beekeepers to come and do their own gear alone. It will have to be under the constant eye of our own trained staff. However we intend to perform this work for other beekeepers at as close to cost as it can be. Probably looking at £2.00 per box...a little less for a floor or inner cover. Capacity is 12 boxes per cycle for most types of box but only 8 for National or similar. With reheating time we anticipate four cycles per hour.

A system will be developed in conjunction with the Scottish Govt Bee Team, with the backup of expertise from SASA, to ensure biosecurity whilst using the plant to sterilise, protecting ourselves from any incoming contaminated gear, and also the incoming gear will be protected from contamination whilst with us.

For the information of anyone interested, we are using a blend of hard waxes, a high melting point paraffin wax as the main component to ensure good penetration of the wood, and a grade of microcrystalline wax which has a different structure and makes the surface tougher, plus seals in the paraffin wax and stops it leaching back out in hot weather.

For us this is progress from the use of creosote and substitutes for preservation, and a leap ahead in effectiveness and efficiency from sitting for hours blowtorching all the internal parts. It's a sizeable investment but one we hoped marks progress for ourselves and anyone else who decides to use it.

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