



ABERDEEN AND MORAY ANNUAL REPORT 2011

GENERAL

After a cold, frosty start to 2011, Spring arrived in March/April and bees quickly built up but dry weather meant OSR yields were not bountiful. Disappointing summer weather resulted in few natural swarms and Queens slow to mate.

Honey harvest was mixed in both Moray and Aberdeen, some had bumper crops.

Beekeepers who migrated to heather reported good Bell Heather Harvest but ling was patchy, good at Moray Association Site but poor in Deeside due to frost in an otherwise mild season.

Short term frost and snow in December meant bees able to have cleansing flights especially with record temps of 14C in Aberdeen on Christmas Day.

MORAY BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION is now a Registered Charity with all the benefits this brings. The "Donate a Bag of Sugar to help Save the Bees" supported by Asda and Tesco raised over 300 kilos. The Association Apiary has gone from strength to strength providing Introduction to Beekeeping Courses, Honeybee Taster Sessions, Demonstrations and Queen-rearing Programmes. 7 new members received Nucs through "Adopt a Nucleus Programme".

A full summer programme was provided at various locations throughout Moray.

Membership is now 123.

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION held Beginners' Classes in January and Beekeeping classes in September. Practical Demonstrations were held at Association Apiary at Craibstone and members' apiaries during summer months.

Both Moray Beekeepers and Aberdeen and District Beekeepers have a full winter/summer Programme planned for 2012.

VARROA

Apistan is not as effective as it once was and some beekeepers are sourcing Apivar from the Borders. Both Associations report increased interest from general public.

Dr. Stephen Palmer will be the new Moray and Aberdeen Area Representative as from the AGM in March, 2012. It has been a pleasure and an honour to have been Area Representative for the past 9 years.

Hazel MacKenzie
December, 2011