

EDUCATION CONVENER'S REPORT 2012 AGM

As in previous years, the Education Committee has conducted written and practical examinations, provided courses, offered advice, organised the Autumn Convention, identified the Tour Speaker, and promoted beekeeping to the general public at shows including the Royal Highland Show and the Scottish National Honey Show.

2011 EXAMINATIONS

2011 was the best year so far for candidates applying to sit SBA Examinations. This fits in well with the Scottish Government 'Honey Bee Health Strategy' where one of the main outcomes is **Education, Training and Knowledge Transfer**.

Forty eight members gained the Scottish Basic Beemaster Certificate, also, six passed Module 1, four Module 2, sixteen Module 3, one Module 5, one Module 6, one Module 7 and three Module 8..

One member was awarded the Scottish Intermediate Certificate, three the Scottish Advanced Certificate, three the Scottish Apiarian Certificate and three the Scottish Expert Beemaster Certificate.

The names of the successful candidates have appeared in my 'Education Update' in The Scottish Beekeeper of August 2011 and September 2011.

2012 EXAMINATIONS

Members are reminded that the syllabuses for the Basic Beemaster Examination and the Modular Examinations were updated in 2010. Please visit the 'downloads' section on the SBA web site for all syllabuses, failing that please contact the Education Convener.

The next diet of Modular examinations will be held on 24th March 2012 when Modules 1, 2, 5 and 7 will be examined. Note that Module 4 has been discontinued. There will be an examination for Module 9 Microscopy on 31st March 2012.

AUTUMN CONVENTION

The 2011 Autumn Convention at Perth, was fairly well attended, but many more beekeepers, members and none members of the SBA, should be prepared to support this annual event where we bring knowledgeable speakers mainly from outwith Scotland. Ninety-one delegates plus seven trades stand holders attended what was a very pleasant and informative day.

TOUR SPEAKER

In 2011 we had the husband and wife team of Ruth and Ian Homer from Dorset as our tour lecturers. Their lectures attracted a good attendance and were well received.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Willie Taylor set up another of his very successful educational exhibitions at the Royal Highland Show and the Scottish National Honey Show in an effort to bring beekeeping to the attention of the public at large and young people in particular. This time he was assisted by Christine and Peter Matthews who will take over from him in 2012. Hundreds of children took the opportunity to make a beeswax candle and take part in the educational activities at the RHS show in particular.

The SBA tent at the RHS is in a prime site by the west gate. The accommodation is excellent, allowing plenty of exhibition space.

Similar displays, with a different theme, will be on offer at the 2012 shows.

*Ian Craig
Education Convener*