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Education – General Overview

7.1 Contacts

For further detail please contact the Education Convener of the SBA whose name is printed each month inside the front cover of *“The Scottish Beekeeper”*, and is also given later in section 11.3 of this Manual.

7.2 Introduction

The SBA Education Committee has three main aims:–

- to disseminate knowledge about bees and beekeeping.
- to actively promote beekeeping and membership of the SBA.
- to operate an examination system for those who wish to obtain qualifications in beekeeping.

7.3 Teaching

The SBA believes that it is of paramount importance to teach people about bees and their place in the environment, how to manage them profitably without causing alarm and inconvenience to the general public and how to derive pleasure and satisfaction from studying their biology and behaviour.

With this aim in mind, the SBA actively encourages Members and prospective Members to attend classes, whether or not they are interested in obtaining formal qualifications. Local Association Secretaries should be requested to organize classes at Basic Beemaster level and either teach the classes themselves or arrange for one of the numerous Expert Beemasters to take the classes for them. Where a need for more advanced classes can be identified, Members of the SBA Education Committee will be delighted to assist.

The Education Committee runs classes for the Basic and Expert Beemaster examinations, (including Modules), Honey Judge examination, Queen Rearing, Morphometry, the identification and treatment of Pests and Diseases, in Microscopy and in Candle making and the making of Wax Foundation. Please ask the Education Convener if you would like a class to be organized. Classes will be advertised in *“The Scottish Beekeeper”*.

The Annual Convention, organized at venues up and down the country, is intended to introduce prominent experts from home and abroad to lecture on topical subjects.

Touring Lecturer. Each year the SBA organizes a lecturer to speak to beekeepers in five localities throughout the country.

7.4 Promotion of Beekeeping

7.4.1 General

SBA Members actively promote beekeeping at local shows and community events, also at the major honey shows including the Royal Highland Show and the Scottish National Honey Show at Dundee. The SBA has invested in a number of wall charts, large colour photographs, and other publicity materials. The Publicity Convener has an SBA Vehicular Trailer containing publicity/display materials which can be towed to shows and other events. Please contact the Publicity Convener for details.

7.4.2 Promotion of Beekeeping in Schools

The SBA is keen to encourage as widely as possible an interest in bees and beekeeping in children. There are a number of observation hives available for placement in schools. This scheme is administered centrally by the SBA Promotion of Beekeeping Officer.

In order for this to prosper it is essential that Local Associations also appoint their own Schools Liaison Officer whenever possible. The Officer's remit should be to establish contact with schools and encourage local beekeepers to give talks to children. The SBA Promotion of Beekeeping Officer is able to provide supportive material in the form of posters, projects and ideas. He, in turn, is keen to hear of any initiatives with schools at a local level.

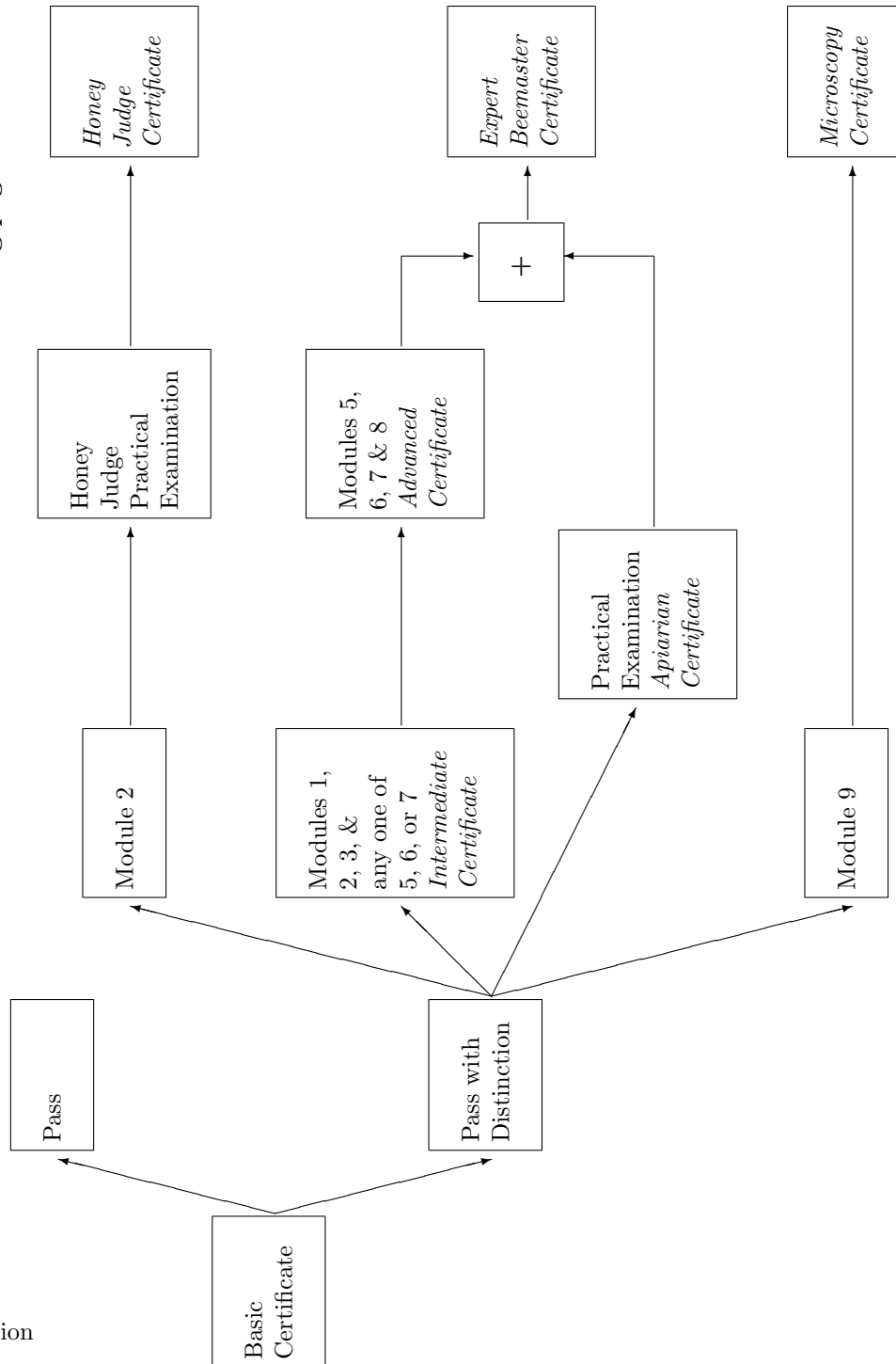
To act as a further incentive to participate in such schemes, a Schools Class has been established, at the Royal Highland Show, and is for ANY exhibit about bees or beekeeping submitted by a school and there will be a £35 book token for the winning entry and certificates for all participating schools.

7.5 Examinations

The SBA believes that studying for, and passing, the various examinations which are available to all classes of Member, is a worthwhile activity which should be encouraged. The SBA examination syllabuses have been fully revised to bring their content and standard of examination up to date and into line with those of the BBKA and to transcribe them into a much more user-friendly format than they used to have.

From 2012, examinations for Modules will be held in two diets, one in March and the other in November. In 2012, Modules 1,2,5 and 7 will be examined on 24th March and Modules 1,3,6 and 8 will be examined on 10th November. Information will appear in the January edition of the Scottish Beekeeper regarding the examinations for that year.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE FOR SCOTLAND
 Please also refer to the notes on the following page



7.6 Examination Structure for Scotland

Notes

Candidates who gain the Scottish Advanced Certificate AND the Scottish Apiarian (Practical) Certificate will automatically be awarded the Scottish Expert Beemaster Certificate.

It should be noted that candidates are no longer required to be in possession of the Expert Beemaster Certificate before taking their Scottish Honey Judge Certificate.

7.6.1 Module Titles

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| Module 1 | Honeybee Management |
| Module 2 | Honeybee Products and Forage |
| Module 3 | Honeybee Diseases, Pests and Poisoning |
| Module 4 | [Now discontinued] |
| Module 5 | Honeybee Biology |
| Module 6 | Honeybee Behaviour |
| Module 7 | Selection and Breeding of Honeybees |
| Module 8 | Honeybee Management and History |
| Module 9 | Microscopy |

The Scottish Intermediate Certificate will be awarded when Modules 1, 2, 3 and any one of modules 5, 6 or 7 have been passed.

The Scottish Advanced Certificate will be awarded when Modules 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been passed. In order to qualify for the Scottish Advanced Certificate the necessary modules must be passed in a time of not more than ten years.

Module 9 is a 'stand alone' module which can be taken before, during or after the other modules. The other modules can be taken in any order with the exception of Module 8 which must be the last module taken.

7.6.2 SYLLABUS BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

1. Basic Beemaster Certificate.
2. Intermediate, Advanced and Expert Beemaster Certificates.
3. Apiarian Certificate.
4. Honey Judge Certificate.
5. Microscopy Certificate.

All SBA examination syllabuses and other educational material can be accessed from the SBA Website. Look under 'Downloads'.

A further booklet entitled, "*Guidelines for Honey Judges and Show Committees*" is available from the Education Convener at a cost of £1.

7.6.3 EXAMINATION FEES

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| Basic Beemaster | £10 |
| Modules 1–3 and 5–8 | £10 each |
| Apiarian | £20 |
| Honey Judge | £20 |
| Microscopy (Module 9) | £20 |