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# Other Associated Organisations

There are many other Beekeeping and Government Organisations with which the SBA maintains links and with whom we co-operate in trying to promote the interests of beekeepers in Scotland. Below are details of some of the principal ones, with an indication of how we interact with them.

The SBA is always interested in beekeepers whose professional or other interests give them expertise which can help us to fulfil our aims. Keep this in mind as you find out more about your own local members, since those who can help us with our interactions with outside bodies may make an extremely valuable contribution to beekeeping throughout Scotland if they can be persuaded to offer their services in the right context. Anyone with appropriate expertise and willingness to help should get in touch with the appropriate member of the SBA Executive for advice on how best to collaborate with us.

### 4.1 Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID)

This Scottish Government Directorate handles much the same area as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) does through the Westminster Parliament for England and Wales.

The principal ways in which it interacts with beekeepers are:-

- The establishment of a legal framework to help to control the spread of the more serious bee diseases.
- The application for funding from the European Union to support beekeeping in Scotland.
- The provision of direct support for beekeeping, using such funding as is available. At the moment (2009) there are two main ways in which such support is given.
  - Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) in Edinburgh has a Bee Diseases section under the supervision of Mrs Fiona Highet which provides a free diagnostic service to all beekeepers in Scotland for samples of bees, comb and hive debris which they send from hives they suspect may be diseased. Elisabeth Sharp, also working there, deals with suspected incidents of pesticide poisoning.
  - Graeme Sharpe is a Lecturer in Apiculture at the Scottish Agricultural College in Auchincruive, Ayrshire. His lectures to Local Beekeeping Associations throughout Scotland are available free to Local Associations, as he is funded by EU money for the support of beekeeping.
- The SBA endeavours to keep in touch with SGRPID in order to press for an improved level of support for beekeeping from the Scottish Government.

## 4.2 The Council of National Beekeeping Associations of the UK (CONBA-UK)

This is the over-arching organisation of all the National Beekeeping Associations of the UK. The members are the British Beekeepers' Association (representing England, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (representing Scotland), the Welsh Beekeepers' Association (representing Wales), and the Ulster Beekeepers' Association (representing Northern Ireland). Observers from the Bee Farmers' Association, the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeding Association, the Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (representing the Republic of Ireland), and the International Bee Research Association also attend. It was established in 1978 to enable the beekeepers of the UK to develop as far as possible a united policy with regard to the development of Beekeeping in the UK. It meets twice a year, in the spring during the Stoneleigh Spring Convention, and in the autumn during the National Honey Show in London. Representatives from the SBA attend to represent the interests of beekeeping in Scotland.

CONBA-UK in turn represents the interests of UK beekeeping on several committees of the European Union which decide on the ways in which the Union will support beekeeping throughout Europe.

CONBA-UK is also a member of the European Professional Beekeepers' Association (EPBA).

## 4.3 The Bee Improvement and Bee Breeding Association (BIBBA)

This organisation was established in 1964 for the "conservation, restoration, study, selection and improvement of the native and near native honey bees of Britain and Ireland".

It maintains an active selective breeding programme and is of interest to many beekeepers who wish to maintain as far as possible the characteristics of the old indigenous types of bee of the British Isles.

The SBA maintains an interest in this organisation, though it has no official regular links with it.

## 4.4 The Bee Farmers' Association of the UK (BFA)

The Bee Farmers' Association consists of beekeepers with over 40 stocks to whom it disseminates information through frequent bulletins. It aims to promote the production of high quality UK honey and to provide pollination services. It liaises with CONBA-UK and together they have joint representation on the EU Honey Working Party in Brussels.

## 4.5 The International Bee Research Association (IBRA)

This not-for-profit organisation was established in 1949 to "increase awareness of the vital role of bees in the environment and encourage the use of bees as wealth creators" and now has an international membership.

It publishes much fundamental research about bees in its three publications "*Bee World*", "*Journal of Apicultural Research*" and "*Apicultural Abstracts*". It also publishes other authoritative texts, pamphlets and educational aids.

The Secretary's address is 18 North Road, Cardiff, CF1 3DY. It has an extensive library and is the world's premier beekeeping information service.

The Moir Library subscribes to some of IBRA's publications through an exchange arrangement with "*The Scottish Beekeeper*".

This position is likely to change in the near future as IBRA is undertaking a radical reorganisation.

## 4.6 Apimondia

Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and has a broad membership of Beekeeping Associations representing many countries of the world.

Its main activity is to hold a Congress once every two years, and the last one (the 41st) was held in Montpellier, France in 2009 September. The next one is to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2011 September.

The Congress provides the opportunity of hearing many new research papers as well as exchanging views about the latest developments in agriculture or the spread of diseases which impinge on beekeeping in different parts of the world.

Anyone interested in attending the next Apimondia Congress is advised to get in touch with a member of the SBA Executive, so that representation of Scotland there can be centrally co-ordinated.