

## Education Update & Call for Examination & Workshop Applications - January 2016

### EXAMINATIONS

The next diet of **Module Examinations** will be held on **March 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 – Modules 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8** will be offered. Note Module 8 is included in this diet but Modules 1 to 7 must be passed before sitting Module 8. Applications are invited from candidates wishing to sit any of these exams.

**Please send applications to Alan Riach, Woodgate, 7 Newland Ave, Bathgate, EH48 1EE. with appropriate fees (£10 per Module), cheque made out to the SBA.** Please use the official application form which is available on the SBA web site - Members, Education, Fees & Examinations - Exam Application Form.

Please include contact telephone number(s) and a clear e-mail address on the application form.

**All applications must be submitted by Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

The syllabuses for the Modules can be obtained from the SBA web site – route as above for application form.

**In order to sit any of the Module exams, you must have gained your Basic Beemaster Certificate at Distinction level or your Junior Beekeeper Certificate with Distinction and be a current member (includes Junior & Family membership) of the SBA.**

Applicants for modular exams will be sent a specimen examination paper and some guidance notes on exam technique.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> diet of Module examinations for 2016 will be on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – Modules 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Applications to sit these will be invited in the September Magazine

**Module 9 – There is a Microscopy exam on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 in Portmoak hall, Scotlandwell, KY13 9HY**

**In order to sit the Microscopy exam you must have obtained a Basic Beemaster Certificate with Distinction and be a current member of the SBA.** It also helps, but not essential, if you have attended the SBA, 2 day Microscopy Workshop. (Last one was held on Sat/Sun 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015).

**The Fee for this exam is £20** & please note that you must come prepared with pre-prepared slides and bring your own, suitable microscopes (a Stereo Dissection and a Compound).

Please apply to Alan Riach by **30<sup>th</sup> January 2016**, using an exam application form & enclosing a cheque for £20 made out to the SBA.

**Honey Judge** – Anyone who has gained sufficient stewarding & honey showing experience, including at national shows such as the Highland, the Scottish National or the UK National may apply to sit their Honey Judge exam (See 4. Honey Judge Syllabus in Members, Education, Syllabuses on the SBA web-site for full entry requirements).

Examination will normally be carried out at the Scottish National Honey Show in Dundee 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2016. To gain sufficient stewarding experience, please contact Enid Brown, Shows Officer. Exam fee is £20. Applications to Alan Riach by end of June.

**Practical Examinations** – If you intend to sit the new SBA JUNIOR BEEKEEPER, examination (10 to 16 yr olds), the BASIC BEEMASTER examination, the new INTERMEDIATE Practical or the APIARIAN examination, please apply to me **by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016** with the appropriate fee – £5 for the JUNIOR BEEKEEPER, £15 for the BASIC BEEMASTER and £20 for the INTERMEDIATE PRACTICAL and the APIARIAN. (See Feb 2013 Magazine for details of the new Intermediate Practical)

Please refer to the syllabus section on the SBA web site for up to date syllabuses and entrance requirements for the practical examinations.

Please apply to Alan Riach, on an exam application form, which can be downloaded from the SBA web-site Education section. Enclose a cheque for the appropriate fee, made out to the SBA.

All Beekeepers in Scotland should aim to attain the Basic Beemaster (BB) Certificate. Please enquire whether your LA is holding BB mentoring classes. A 22 page set of notes has recently been added to the SBA web site in the Education –Syllabuses section (Ref 1b) aimed at helping BB Mentors and Candidates. These notes will also be useful to LA Tutors running Beginner’s Classes.

In addition, once you have obtained your BB with Distinction, for those who are uneasy with theory exams, but want to be tested at a more advanced practical level, obtaining the new Intermediate Practical and the Apiarian should be their aim.

Entrants for The Apiarian must have obtained The Intermediate Practical.

**WORKSHOPS** – For up to date information check the SBA web-site –Click on News & Events, Workshops & Courses.

### **WAX WORKSHOP - CANDLE MAKING. WAX MOULDING and WIRED FOUNDATION MAKING COURSE**

A one day course on candle making and foundation moulding & wiring will be held at E.H.Thorne (Beehives) Ltd at Newburgh (KY14 6HA) on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 from 10-00 am to 4-00pm. Course tutors will be: Enid Brown, Ian Craig, Phil & Joyce McAnespie, David & Bron Wright. Alan & Cynthia Riach. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided but bring a packed lunch and mug. Preference will be given to SBA members with current individual membership. If places are available non-members will be accepted at a **£10 surcharge**.

Applications must be made on a workshops application form and be with me by **30<sup>th</sup> January 2016**.  
**Course fee £25 members, £35 non-members –cheque made payable to the SBA.**

### **SKEP MAKING WORKSHOP**

A one day course on skep making will be held at The Pyramids Business Park, Easter Inch, Bathgate (EH48 2EH) on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 from 10-00am to 4-00pm. Course tutor will be Bryce Reynard.

Materials will be supplied and by the end of the day you should be well on the way to having a “swarm collection quality” skep finished. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided but bring a packed lunch.

The workshop is limited to 8 participants.

Preference will be given to SBA members with current individual membership. If places are available non-members will be accepted at a **£20 surcharge**.

**Applications must be made on a workshops application form and be with me by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The course fee is £50 –members , £70 – non members.** if you wish to check for availability e-mail me at [alan.riach@which.net](mailto:alan.riach@which.net) or tel on 01506 653839

Hopefully there will be a new Skep competition class at this year's Highland Show - "Skep suitable for Swarm Collection, Outside Diameter 30cm to 40cm, Height 25cm to 35cm, made by the exhibitor in straw or wild grasses and any suitable binding material"

### **NUCLEUS COLONY MAKING**

SBA supervised Nucleus making workshops will not be held in 2016. However it is hoped that the attendees from the 2013 & later Workshops will put into practice what they learned in order to be able to supply strong vigorous nucleus colonies to beginners. (See SBA Download 18).

ABA's wishing to duplicate this workshop should contact their Area Reps who can obtain supporting documentation from me as necessary. The following can be provided:

- 17 Page A4 spiral bound Hand out booklet (including SBA Download 18 & rearing queens in a queenright colony –reprint of NBU system) - Cost £3 each or free via PDF
- Introductory PowerPoint presentation (18 slides)
- Program template
- Joining Instructions template

It should be noted that Graeme Sharpe (SRUC) runs excellent courses on queen rearing and Nuc creation. Please do avail yourselves of Graeme's courses.

Steve Sunderland and SASA also run some excellent Bee Health days. Please support these excellent courses. See below for contact details.

### **HONEY WORKSHOP – BUILDING COLONIES FOR HONEY- EXTRACTING & PROCESSING**

A one day workshop will be held at E.H.Thorne (Beehives) Ltd at Newburgh (KY14 6HA) on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 10-00am to 4-00pm. This will include two short PP presentations by Ian Craig on optimising colonies for production of honey, hands on extracting, filtering and processing and advice on preparation for market. Course tutors will be Ian Craig, Enid Brown, Margaret Thomas and Alan Riach. Extracting and processing equipment will be available.

Preference will be given to SBA members with current individual membership. If places are available non-members will be accepted at a **£10 surcharge**.

**Applications must be made on a workshops application form and be with me by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The course fee is £20 –members , £30 – non members.** if you wish to check for availability e-mail me at [alan.riach@which.net](mailto:alan.riach@which.net) or tel on 01506 653839.

### **OTHER COURSES**

Beginner Courses are better run at Local Affiliated Beekeeping Association (ABA) level where practical advice and open-hive demonstrations can be provided. I would encourage ABA's to hold Beginner Courses which include both theory and practical sessions. Beginners learn most when they are in contact with the bees. In order to maximise effect, some ABA's are now holding a mid-week evening theory session, using virtual hives to gain early hands-on experience, followed by a weekend practical session in live apiaries. Contact your ABA secretary to enquire whether courses are being

run in your ABA or in neighbouring ABA's. Kate Atchley is gathering information concerning ABA beginner courses & this will be made available on a database in the coming season. Preparation courses for the Basic Beemaster (BB) Certificate are also better run at ABA level where practical and theoretical advice is readily available. I would encourage ABA's to hold mentoring classes to prepare local candidates for their BB examination and also encourage candidates to attend winter talks and summer demonstrations. One of the main aims of the SBA Education Committee is to get all beekeepers in Scotland through their Basic Beemaster Examination. Achieving this modest target would bring about a marked improvement in Scottish beekeeping by causing beekeepers to reassess their beekeeping knowledge and techniques. So irrespective of age or how long you have been keeping bees, please consider sending me an application for your Basic Beemaster.

Graeme Sharp of SRUC runs courses on various beekeeping subjects. He is running a series of Varroa management, Beginners days, Intermediate days & Bee health days in 2016. For more information on cost and venue and to book your place, please contact Graeme - [Graeme.Sharpe@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:Graeme.Sharpe@sruc.ac.uk) Tel 01292 525375. Graeme will publicise other courses in the magazine and at Local Association level. These courses are excellent, please avail yourselves of them. He is also available for evening talks at ABA meetings.

Steve Sunderland's Animal Health/Disease Prevention group are also running subsidised Bee Health Days in 2016 –dates and venues to be announced. Again these health days are excellent and well worth attending. If you are interested in attending please contact Vicky O'Donnell [Vicky.O'Donnell@gov.scot](mailto:Vicky.O'Donnell@gov.scot) Tel 0300 244 9151 for details of cost and venue.

### **CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

For members from outlying areas, correspondence courses are available through the BBKA. There are cost implications for participants.

Enquiries to:

Correspondence Course Secretary - Bob Gilbert, 66 Sharpe Street, Amington, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B77 3HZ [BBKAccourse@aol.com](mailto:BBKAccourse@aol.com) Tel. 01827 65749

### **SBA TOUR SPEAKER**

The Tour Speaker for 2016 (dates to be decided) is Dan Basterfield NDB.

Alan Riach  
Education Officer