

Beekeeping-The world's most fascinating hobby.

There is no more rewarding hobby than beekeeping, and few things give as much pleasure as eating honey from your very own honeybees! A whole new world awaits you in the fascinating study of honeybees, their very important role in the environment, their amazing social behaviour, and the workings of the beehive.



Can I be a beekeeper?

Location. Many gardens can accommodate a couple of hives. Alternatively a careful search of your local area could provide a suitable site on a farm, or similar place where there is often a small area of spare ground.

Time & Commitment. The keeping of even a few (3 or 4) hives of bees demands roughly one afternoon a week during the active season from April to August. In addition allow a few days extra in August-September to process the honey crop & feed the bees for winter. Bees satisfactorily bedded down for winter need very little attention from October to March, other than any recommended treatments for varroa.

Physique. The beekeeper should be reasonably fit as a full case of honey combs (let's hope you have lots of these) can weigh 15 kg.

Cost to Start. Initially to purchase a single hive and the necessary beekeeping equipment and protective gear will cost a few hundred pounds. Annual running costs however are low. Beekeeping is certainly much cheaper than many hobbies and can usually break even, or show a small profit.



Queen (with yellow dot) & Worker bees

How do I start?

There are 40 Local Beekeeping Associations in Scotland, all affiliated to the **Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA)**. Many of these run Beginners Classes. You will get links to the Local Associations on the SBA website at www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk Contact the secretary of the Local Association nearest you, who will advise you of available Beginners Classes, winter talks & summer visits.



Young queen emerging

Why Join the Scottish Beekeepers' Association?

Being a member of the SBA makes a lot of sense, here are some of the benefits:

- Insurance – Public & Product Liability
- “The Scottish Beekeeper” - A monthly magazine covering everything about bees and beekeeping.
- The Moir Library- Access to one of the world's foremost libraries on bee & beekeeping subjects.
- Education – Access to practical & formal courses focused on improving beekeeping in Scotland
- Marketing & Publicity– Information on food safety & pricing & advertising access to an eco-conscious audience.
- Up to date and informative website www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk
- Interactive forum discussion at www.SBAi.org.uk



Wax Show Exhibit

Details of SBA membership and its benefits can be found on the website.

What does membership of the SBA cost

Annual membership is currently £30, about equivalent to 6 jars of honey.



Shows & Exhibitions The SBA helps to run beekeeping events at the Royal Highland Show & the Scottish National Honey Show. There are always items of interest for beekeepers and potential beekeepers of all ages and you'll be made most welcome at the "Bee Tent"



The Honey Show

The Social Side of Beekeeping

Bees are social animals and so are Beekeepers. Enjoy days out visiting other beekeepers' apiaries, attending winter talks, honey shows and learning days such as candle making.



How to Join the SBA – See Joining the SBA at:
www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk

Alternatively you can apply in writing to:
Martin Kay
Membership Officer
Highfield, Schoolhill, Ceres
KY15 5NJ
Tel 01334 828187
membership@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk

For advertising & publicity contact Enid Brown
Publicity Convener
Milton House, Main Street, Scotlandwell
KY13 9JA Tel 01592 840582
enidbrown6@gmail.com



SC009345



SBA

Scottish Beekeepers Association

Supporting Scottish Bees and
Beekeepers



Beekeepers, Young & Old

www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk