

MINUTES OF MORAY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION (MBA) COMMITTEE

HELD AT SPEYBAY HALL ON TUESDAY 18th MARCH 2014 AT 6.30 PM

Committee Members Present:

1. Tony Harris (Chair) Andy Watson (Vice Chair) Donna Clark (Treasurer) Anne Black (Secretary), Ron Clark, Mike Collins, Raefe Lettey, James Black.

2. Apologies for Absence:

- **Ian MacAndie.**

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: The Minutes of the Last Meeting were approved as accurate. Proposed by Andy Watson, Seconded by Raefe Lettey.

4. Matters Arising and Actions: AB to create an email listing for members.

- **The Purchase of the Tent was discussed and after discussion it was agreed not to go ahead with the purchase of the tent.**
- **It was suggested that if any members who had received the Hive package last year that they be given an option to either return the Hive or purchase this at a cost of £50.00 to be paid by the end of May. The suggestion was carried.**

5. Secretary's Report:

- **AB reported she had received emails enquiring about Beginners Courses**
- **Details from Alan Riach of the SBA Basic Beemaster Examination**
- **Details from Bron Wright of the SBA Lecture tour by Pam Hunter on 1/2/3/6/7/8th October 2014 applications from interested association to be submitted by 16th April 2014.**

6. Treasurer's Report:

- **DC reported that at the AGM the bank balance was £3539.00**
- **£5505.00 had been received from BEAM**
- **55 members had paid 2014 fees.**
- **The Shipping Container had cost £1620.00 +£162.00 delivery charge.**
- **The current balance was £7476.00.**
- **The Secretary would email/send new members welcome packs, once new members' details were forwarded to her.**

7. Birnie Apiary:

- **The Container was now in site and Garry Forbes had suggested to Tony Harris that it was advisable to use a special paint to reduce condensation within the container during cold weather. Tony Harris agreed to source paint.**
- **It was suggested that the wooden shed be used to store clean equipment. Andy Watson had installed shelving in the metal shed.**
- **Anne Black had discussed the suggested kitchen improvements with John Baillie and awaited contact from him regarding a meeting to discuss plans, she had also received the offer of a Gas Cooker for use at the site.**

- **Tony Harris offered supplying benches from his portacabin for use as seating in the portacabin. Ron Clark was to source wood for work benches in the viewing shed.**

8. MBA Roles and Responsibilities 2014:

- **Tony Harris went through the roles and responsibilities document with regards to office bearers/committee members' duties, this document was updated and is to be distributed with the minutes of the meeting.**

9. 2014 Programme of Events and Courses:

- **The Committee discussed submitting an application for the Autumn Tour, the dates to be submitted were Wednesday 1st October and Tuesday 7th October. AB to book Elgin Library Gallery.**
- **Autumn Meetings to be held in Elgin Library Gallery or Elgin Town Hall dates to be booked as follows:**
- **Tuesday 28th October 2014**
- **Tuesday 25th November 2014**
- **Tuesday 27th January 2015 (AGM)**
- **Tuesday 24th February 2015**
- **Tuesday 24th March 2015**
- **Tony Harris distributed the dates of the MBA Summer Programme 2014 Association Apiary Sessions 2014 and MBA Training Courses 2014 to the Committee Members.**

10. IT Review:

- **Tony Harris asked whether the password for the Secretary's Laptop could be passed on to him as a security measure, and asked Andy Watson to thank Gill for her work on updating the Laptop.**

11. Any other Business:

- **Generator, Andy Watson reported that he had telephoned, emailed Hyundai completed a Warranty form as requested and had had no response, however, within an hour of informing the company that he would be contacting the Trading Standards Office, he had received confirmation that the company would pick up the Generator and this would be turned around within 4 days (plus oil change).**
- **The Red Generator had been fixed by James Black.**
- **The Equipment prices need to be reviewed. There would be a special offer on the 1lb jars.**
- **Tony Harris had ordered Queens and would Re-Queen the first week in June and sell on Nucs, MBA Nucs were sold @£80.00 to members, the SBA Council suggest £120.00 - £165.00 per nuc, it was suggested that the MBA Nucs be sold @ £150.00.**
- **Train the Trainer: Tony Harris asked if anyone was interested in being trained Raefe Lettey and Anne Black expressed interest in being trained.**
- **It was agreed that a deputy editor was needed for the Auricle and it was suggested that Ian MacAndie be approached.**
- **The Librarian has a monthly allowance of £20.00 to purchase books for the MBA Library suggestions of book titles welcome.**

- Raefe Lettey agreed to lead the hospitality team, however, was away from 28th March till 12th April AB to stand in.
- The next monthly meeting was a talk on Microscopy equipment required would be a screen, table, and Extension lead, AB to check whether we could use the Gallery and book the Refreshments. Members to be asked to bring 30/40 bees to be checked for disease.
- Nosema samples to be prepared in April for Tony.
- It was agreed to purchase a colony of Bumble Bees (*Bombus Terrestrus*) for the Apiary, TH to order.
- Spare keys to be cut for the container padlock, an extra key to be cut for the Portacabin front door.
- Pop Up Banner, it was suggested this be purchased for use at shows.
- New MBA Logo required.
- Bees Suits to be cleaned before first meeting 27th April.
- Bank mandate to be signed.
- Moray Science Festival to be held on Saturday 22nd March 2014 at Moray College UHI Campus, Leaflets/ conservation Packs require to be re-labelled with Secretary's address.
- Secretary to email Phil Moss with MBA programme of events for the SBA magazine.
- Speakers/Dates for the Winter Season were suggested:
- Tuesday 28th October 2014, Ann Chilcot – Observation at Hive Entrance.
- Tuesday 25th November 2014, Bryce Reynard – Skeps.
- Tuesday 27th January 2015, AGM.
- Tuesday 24th February 2015, Margaret Thomas - Swarm Control.
- Tuesday 24th February 2015, Andy Watson or Tony Harris.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

- Tuesday 27th May 2014 at 6.30 pm at Spey Bay Hall, AB to book hall.