

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association Committee Meeting held at Spey Bay Hall, on Tuesday 26th November, 2013 commenced at 6.30pm

1. Committee Members Present

Anne Black, Raefe Letty, Mike Collins, Ian MacAndie, Tony Harris & Andy Watson

Apologies: Ron Clark, Yvonne Stuart and Davey Stuart

Since the last meeting, Bob Malcolm had resigned as Chairman, Joy Malcolm had resigned from the Committee and Yvonne Stuart had resigned as Secretary.

After discussion it was proposed TH. Seconded DC that A. Watson be appointed Acting Chairman and A. Black Acting Secretary. CARRIED Unanimous

T.H. said that it had been a busy and challenging year for MBA, with the implementation of the BEAM project in particular and the thanks of the Committee and the members should be recorded for the retiring Chairman, Secretary and Membership Co-ordinator for their contributions. This was echoed by those present. It was hoped that YS would remain as a Committee member.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

With the following additions the minutes of the meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were accepted as a true record. Proposed AB, seconded IM.

Under Item 3 insert 'CARRIED'

Under Item 4, insert,

'T.H. pointed out that the minutes from Committee meetings from February to June were still not on the website. The Chairman asked the Secretary to expedite this'.

Under AOCB insert,

'T.H. pointed out that the Committee minutes from 30 July stated that a picnic work party would be held at Birnie in September but it hadn't happened.

Also, the minutes from June stated that the Secretary would enquire about getting insurance cover for the equipment at Birnie. YS reported that she hadn't made any progress with this'.

After the proposal to co-opt Raefe Letty on to the Committee insert 'CARRIED'

3. Matters Arising and Actions

The microscope cases had arrived and were now in the possession of DC

25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 meeting venue was now Elgin Library, not the Town Hall

Due to YS being ill no one from MBA attended the Newtonmore Highland Folk Museum event

TH had given a talk on botany in November. It was agreed to cancel Ian Craig for April but to look at the possibility of getting him to do a talk for the winter 2014 programme. ACTION – T. HARRIS

The MBA Honey Show had taken place, was well supported and considered a huge success

TH has been selected by SBA to take part in training for the Nosema project.

YS & DS had delivered the donated hives to Birnie and they were now stored in the viewing shed

TH had represented MBA at the SBA Council meeting on 16 November. The main points to pass on were:

- SBA members will have an opportunity to take part in a postal vote on whether to accept the dissolving of the SBA, re-forming as a Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation and acceptance of a new Constitution.
- SBA Insurance – SBA members were covered for accidental damage to other people's property when collecting swarms but were not covered for personal injury.
- Local Associations were charging between £100 and £160 for a nucleus of bees

4. Correspondence

MBA had been invited to attend Elgin Academy Farmers Market on 6<sup>th</sup> December. MC and AW agreed to attend. TH will jar some MBA honey for sale. ACTION MC, AW and TH

## 5. B.E.A.M.

TH stated that the End of Grant reports had been submitted to Awards for All Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage along with application for remaining funds from SNH.

## 6. Treasurer's Report – D. Clark

The final claim to Leader would be submitted in December. Estimated £1300 still to be spent on the project. Current bank balance is £3794

## 7. Birnie Apiary

TH will remove apivar from the hives at Birnie this week and will arrange a rota to check apiary/fondant, every 3 weeks from January up to 1<sup>st</sup> April

## 8. A.G.M. Issues

The following was agreed:

Tony Harris will be proposed as Chairman

Andy Watson will be proposed as Vice Chairman

Anne Black will be proposed as Secretary

Donna Clark will offer herself for re-election as Treasurer

Mike Collins, Ian MacAndie and Ron Clark will offer themselves for re-election to the Committee

It was hoped that Yvonne Stuart and Davey Stuart will also offer themselves for re-election to the Committee

Raefe Letty and James Black will be nominated for the Committee.

A proposal will be included to reduce the numbers required for a Committee meeting quorum from 7 to 5.

DC will ensure the accounts are ready for the AGM having been independently examined by J. Comins

TH and AB will ensure the Trustees Annual Report and the Secretary's report are completed in time for the AGM  
ACTION: T.HARRIS/A. BLACK

TH will prepare a report on the BEAM project ACTION: T.HARRIS

To celebrate the successful conclusion of the BEAM project a big cake will be sourced as part of the refreshments.  
ACTION: D. CLARKE

MBA Awards (from last year's AGM) – TH agreed to e mail Committee members with some ideas  
ACTION: T.HARRIS

AB agreed to start compiling a member's e mail circulation list and to revise the members form for 2014  
ACTION: ANNE BLACK

## 9. MBA Programme 2014

The following was agreed:

Late March/early April	Working party at Birnie
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	First inspections, Q marking and clipping, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Swarm Control, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Swarm Control, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer inspections, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	Trip to heather and meal (to be confirmed)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Honey Extraction Talk and demonstration, Birnie Apiary

## 10. Beekeeping Courses 2014

It was agreed to hold a minimum of 3 one day Introduction to Beekeeping courses at Birnie Apiary. We will charge £40 and this will include lunch and first year membership of the Association. ACTION: T. HARRIS

A Q Rearing/Nucleus Creation course will also be run. ACTION: T. HARRIS

A Basic Beemaster course will also be run. ACTION: T. HARRIS

AB will contact Bryce Reynard to see if he can run a skep making course for us .ACTION: A. BLACK

Microscopy Study Group would start after Christmas and we would try and use Spey Bay Hall.

TH stated that the Training Team format hadn't worked in 2013 so he would be looking for additional volunteers to help with courses next year. SBA Train the Trainers courses may be available in 2014.

#### 11. Any Other Business

DC reported that Leader Transnational projects would be looking for bids in 2014 to be implemented in 2015. I. Catto, Leader Co-ordinator had sent literature and we would have to decide at a later date whether we wanted to submit a bid. Only 10% part funding is required and our beekeeping colleagues in Sweden were keen to continue our collaboration.

IM was now Webmaster and has been updating the website. TH said he was doing an excellent job and it was agreed that he be given full responsibility of making changes and reporting back to the Committee.

The laptop, printer, memory stick, this year's minutes and MBA Archives will need collecting from YS. It was agreed that RC would contact YS to make the arrangements. ACTION: R. CLARK

It was agreed that MBA will have a presence at the Moray Science Festival although the date wasn't known as yet. DC to find out. ACTION: D. CLARK

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2045hrs.