

**Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association (MBA) Committee Meeting held at Benmore House, Elgin, on
Wednesday 2nd August 2011, commencing at 7.00pm**

1. Committee Members Present

A. Tassell (in Chair), G. Thompson, V. Hill, D. Clark, A. Watson, G. Hill & T. Harris. Apologies: R. Clark. Since the last meeting Allison Laws had resigned from the Committee and R. Clark co-opted on.

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting 8/6/11

With an amendment to Item 6, line 2 which should read, 'He had donated the first two years URL fee to M.B.A.' the minutes of meeting held on 8/6/11 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed G.H. Seconded A.W.

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising and Actions

There were no matters arising. The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed and reported on.

4. Correspondence

A thank you card was read from MBA member J. Baillie for the gift of a plant and subscription to Beecraft

5. Treasurer's Report

D. Clark reported a bank balance of £1678.29 with money still to be banked from beekeeping courses. A variety of necessary equipment for Birnie apiary had been purchased. She stated that any donation made to MBA via Paypal through the website incurred a charge to the Association. It was proposed T.H. Seconded G.H. that we do not accept payment for membership or courses via paypal as this option is solely for donations CARRIED

A review of MBA's membership structure will be compiled and discussed at the next meeting. Action. T. Harris

6. Birnie Apiary

T. Harris reported 7 hives of bees at Birnie and several nucs. It was hoped to take 8 colonies into winter. Each would be fed sugar syrup/thymol in late August and fondant will be placed directly onto the top bars before the first frosts. Loft insulation roll or expanded polystyrene will be placed under each roof. All the committee agreed to help making the sugar syrup. Action. The Committee, T.H. to arrange

Once a month, the roof and crown board will be quickly removed and the fondant repositioned so it remains directly above the cluster. A rota will be drawn up. Action T. Harris

It was agreed to purchase the necessary equipment to get the colonies through the winter at the Thornes August sale. A. W. stated he planned to travel down to Thornes and would collect the equipment. Action. T. Harris and A. Watson to liaise and compile a list of what is required.

Each colony would be treated with Apistan in September and then trickled with oxalic acid in December.

A generator had been purchased to provide power for the portacabin.

It was agreed to hold a working party in September at Birnie apiary. Action. T. Harris to arrange.

7. Beekeeping Courses

T. Harris reported that 7 members had recently passed the Scottish Beekeepers Association Basic Beemasters Assessment with distinctions.

It was agreed to run the course again from February 2012 and those members attending the course and taking the Assessment be given priority in the 2012 'Adopt a nucleus' programme.

An 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course will be held on 19/20th August and D.C. agreed to help T.H. with it.

If there are free places on any of these courses on the day of the course, any MBA member who wanted a refresher, i.e. has been on the course before, can attend free of charge, provided they contact Tony Harris.

For insurance purposes, anyone carrying out instructional classes at Apiary Meetings or Courses must be a member of the Scottish Beekeepers association

8. Adopt a Nuc Programme

MBA had managed to supply 8 members with nucs of bees at a subsidised fee of £80.00. Most of these were beginners and would need help in moving the bees to their own apiaries. Action. The Committee

9. Talks to Community Groups

A. Watson agreed to do the Beekeeping talk to WRI, Largie on 12th October. Action. A. Watson

10. Donate a bag of Sugar Project

V. Hill reported that Tesco stores in Buckie, Elgin and Forres had allowed MBA to place boxes where members of the public could donate bags of sugar to help feed the bees. The scheme had been promoted in the local press and Asda, Elgin and Tesco, Keith were also on board. Lots of sugar was being donated>

It was proposed T.H. Seconded A.W. that we endeavour to run this scheme every year in July. CARRIED

It was agreed that we use the donated sugar to feed the bees at Birnie. Any surplus would be offered to MBA members who would be asked to make a small donation towards apiary funds.

The Chairman thanked V. Hill for her efforts in running the scheme.

11. Winter Programme 2011/12

The following dates were booked at Elgin Library

Wednesday 26th October 2011 – ‘My Beekeeping Year’, Dr Stephen Palmer

Tues 29th November 2011 – ‘What’s Wrong with my Bees?’ (Bee Diseases and Other Nasty things), Dr Stephen Palmer

January 2012 (date to be confirmed) – Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 21st February 2012 – ‘My Life as Bee Inspector’, Kirsty Sutherland (not confirmed).

Action. A. Tassell to confirm with Kirsty

12. Charitable Aims

A short discussion on current activities in line with our charitable aims took place. It was agreed to leave this item on the agenda and if only to flag up any activities that DID NOT meet the aims

13. Any Other business

It was agreed to try and recruit a new Librarian for the MBA Library and to update it with DVD's etc.

The MBA Honey extractors would remain with A.T. and G.T.

MBA would treat any member's hive with trickled oxalic acid in the winter for a donation of £5.00.

It was proposed T.H. Seconded A.T. that we buy a Burco Boiler. CARRIED. Action D. Clark and A. Watson to liaise and to progress

A discussion took place on MBA policy with regard to swarm collections and requests for assistance in removing honeybees from lofts and roofs etc.

It was agreed that MBA do not charge for collecting swarms but if the swarm is passed on to a MBA member, the member be asked for a donation of £20.00.

It was further agreed that MBA WILL NOT provide a service of removing colonies of bees resident in cavities in roof, lofts etc. The Webmaster agreed to clarify this on the website. Action. G. Thompson

It was agreed that we need a Beevac. T.H. agreed to research and report back.

With thanks to G & V Hill for their hospitality the chairman closed the meeting at 20.55 hrs

The next meeting will take place in October.