

**Minutes of Moray Beekeepers' Association (MBA) Committee Meeting held at Baxters, Fochabers, on
Tuesday 13th March 2012, commenced 6.30pm.**

1. Committee Members Present. A. Tassell (in Chair), D. Clark, R. Clark, D. Vincent, G. Thompson, & T. Harris. Apologies: A. Watson, A. Black. The Chairman welcomed co-opted member, Don Vincent to the Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting. The minutes of meeting held on 31.10.11 were accepted as a true record. Proposed R.C. Seconded D.C. CARRIED

3. Matters Arising.

MBA had not been able to purchase a portaloo but a 4 x 3 foot shed has been bought and will be erected at Birnie to hold a portaloo.

The Secretary, T.H. had represented MBA at the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA) Local Association Secretary's meeting in Perth in November and had reported back to the Committee.

4. Correspondence: was read from Pluscarden Abbey regarding a request not to pay subscriptions. After discussion it was agreed that this was not possible under our Constitution but it was unanimously agreed to award the honour of 'Life Membership' to Pluscarden Abbey, for the long standing service offered to members each year at summer meetings. This will have to be ratified at the A.G.M. ACTION T.H. to inform.

It was decided not to submit a bid for the SBA Autumn Lecture Tour.

Moray Steiner School, Forres had invited MBA to attend their May Fayre but the date clashed with our Pluscarden Abbey meeting. The Secretary agreed to write to explain why we couldn't attend this year

SBA is offering 'Course in a Case' to Local Associations at a subsidised cost of £50. The Committee decided not to purchase it. G.T. felt that MBA should be looking to run 'Improvers' Courses' for more experienced beekeepers and it was agreed to look at this again in 2013.

The Beekeepers Quarterly magazine subscription rate of £28 will be reduced to £18 for new and existing subscribers if a minimum group of 6 sign up for it. ACTION: T.H. to advertise this in the Newsletter.

As a thank you to MBA member J. Baillie, who has made 8 Miller feeders for the association, it was agreed that MBA would pay a subscription of £18 to the Beekeepers Quarterly for him.

5. Treasurer's Report.

D.C. reported a balance of £1237.00. 56 members had paid subscriptions including 2 Conservation Members. The MBA accounts were with Ms J. Commins, our independent examiner of accounts which is a requirement of the Office of Scottish Charities Register (OSCR) and should be ready for submission to OSCR soon.

OSCR requirements were discussed. T.H. pointed out that charities must keep accounting records of sufficient detail that are able to:

- show, day by day, the money received and spent by the charity
- record the assets and liabilities of the charity
- disclose the financial position of the charity at any time

It was agreed that the Treasurer will keep a Balance Sheet for the year showing dates and amounts of money in and out on a daily basis, and will produce and circulate to Committee members, a short financial report, every 2 months. ACTION: D. CLARK

The annual financial report will include a list of assets owned by MBA together with the value of each item.

A new mileage claim form had been devised and it was agreed that these would be completed by claimants and submitted to the Treasurer who would retain them.

T.H. stated that the requirements of charitable status were a steep learning curve for us all but we were now making progress. More challenges would ensue as we are now selling equipment to members at a discount price

6. Bulk Purchase of equipment.

MBA had bought frames and foundation for sale to paid up members and the prices had been included in the Newsletter.

It was agreed to purchase at least 1 pallet (40 boxes) of jars from Richmond Jars at a cost of approximately £900. The price to MBA members was agreed as:

1lb jars and lids, box of 54 - £25.00, 8oz hexagonal jars and lids, box of 90 - £32, 12oz hexagonal jars and lids, box of 60 - £25.00

Equipment Officer, A. Watson, had agreed to devise a stock control system to the sale of equipment and the shed at Birnie apiary will be converted into a shop
ACTION: A. WATSON

7. Birnie Working Party 18th March.

R.C. reported on the work required for the working party. It was agreed to purchase a combination lock for the shed door,
ACTION: R CLARK.

The portacabin has to be ready including electricity for the beekeeping courses starting on 26th May.

8. Summer Programme.

Dates for the summer meetings, Apiary Inspections and Courses were discussed and the Committee agreed to report back to T.H. the dates they could fill.
ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It was agreed that any member holding the SBA Basic Beemaster qualification could act as Duty Beekeeper. On the Committee that included, DC, TH, AT, GT, & AW. A Duty Beekeepers meeting will be held before the start of the season.
ACTION: T.HARRIS

9. Beekeeping Courses

3 Introduction to Beekeeping courses are to be held. These will be a full day at Birnie, and include a lunch of soup and sandwiches, cost £30.00. 2 Taster days at a charge of £12.00 are planned.

12 members had signed up for the Basic Beemaster course and it will start on 3rd April

It was agreed to arrange a meeting in June to demonstrate extracting and jarring honey but this will be dependent on the spring honey harvest.
ACTION: T. HARRIS

10. Honey Show

It was agreed to hold an informal Honey Show for members in October and to hold an Open Honey Show in October 2013. MBA would aim at launching into local schools in the spring of 2013 to get support for this Honey Show and to invite pupils to enter a painting/drawing competition.

It was agreed to recruit members to form an MBA 'Hospitality team', to assist at courses and summer shows.
ACTION: T.HARRIS

11. Queen Rearing

G.T. will be leading the project this season. Members will be contacted and a team assembled in good time.
ACTION: T.HARRIS/G. THOMPSON

MBA will again sell nucs under the 'Adopt a Nucleus' scheme for £80, using the same criteria as last season.

12. Website

It was decided not to have a 'members only' section of the website.

G.T. agreed to launch the Photo Competition.

ACTION: G. THOMPSON

T.H. agreed to write up and promote the Conservation member class.

ACTION: T.HARRIS

G.T. stated that a dispute had arisen with a past contributor to the MBA Blog on the website. He reminded us that all entries on the MBA blog were owned as copyright by MBA, not by the individual contributor.

13. Library

It was agreed to purchase a DVD from Bickersstaff Bees for about £8.00 as this contained many copies of old, out of copyright beekeeping books that could be used in our library.

ACTION: T. HARRIS

G.T. thought MBA should purchase educational books such as Yates, etc, but we should then consider a small charge to lenders. Librarian, A. Black was not present so it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

14. Beekeeping Auction

Aberdeen Beekeeping Association has arranged an auction of equipment (not bees) to be held at Rhynie Village hall on Saturday 5th May at 2 pm. There would be a 5% buyers and sellers fee to cover hire of the room.

15. Leader Funding

It was agreed to explore the possibility of obtaining funding under the Moray Leader programme. The next deadline was June 2012. The emphasis would be on sustainable communities, honeybee conservation and education. T.H. agreed to write the application.

ACTION: T.HARRIS

16. Any Other Business

A.T. agreed to arrange a site at the oilseed rape for MBA hives at Burnside of Tynet. ACTION: A. Tassell

T.H. stated that in order to remain fresh, the Newsletter was in desperate need of contributors.

G.T. suggested that new members be formally invited to Birnie Apiary Inspection meetings, 3 times a season, to welcome them to MBA. This was agreed.

ACTION: T. HARRIS

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.