

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers' Association (MBA) Committee Meeting held at Baxters, Fochabers, on Tuesday 28th August 2012, commenced 6.30pm

1. Committee Members Present. A. Tassell (in Chair), A. Black, D. Clark, R. Clark, T. Harris, G. Thompson, D. Vincent & A. Watson

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting. The minutes of meeting held on 26.07.12 were accepted as a true record.
Proposed R.C. seconded A.B. CARRIED

3. Matters arising

Les Webster is confirmed as speaker for October meeting.

A.W. has spent time at Birnie recording all MBA equipment and has devised a new sales form.

T.H. has identified possible recruits to Committee and will contact them directly.

T.H. is in the process of arranging the Food hygiene course

The first aid courses will be deferred until 2013.

4. Treasurer's Report

D.C. reported 102 paid up members and after paying out £471 to Thornes for equipment for Birnie apiary the bank balance was £2,302.38.

After discussing the shortfalls in the 'Bee aware in Moray' match funding it was proposed D.C. Seconded G.T. that £2,000 of MBA funds be allocated to the project. CARRIED Unanimously

5. Bee Aware in Moray

T.H. reported that Moray leader had confirmed funding of £21,042 and Scottish Natural Heritage £5,634. The application to Awards For All Scotland had been refused due to the fact that we do not have a lease for Birnie apiary. Tarmac has told us they will try and negotiate a lease but this may take some time and therefore the project has been delayed. T.H. has re-submitted the application to Awards For All Scotland with some amendments.

T.H. had met with Gordon & McPhail but we have not heard from them since and an application for £2,000 has been made to the Co Op Communities fund

Recruitment and Selection of Project Manager - Moray Leader have agreed to fund a part time Project Manager. It was agreed to form a sub committee to progress the recruitment and selection process, to comprise of A.B. (Chair), G.T. and A.W. Ms J. Comins, the independent assessor of our accounts has offered to help and she and Jo Roberts, Development Manager, Moray Community Food network, who has recently advertised for staff with Leader funding, will be contacted and asked for their input.

MBA Committee Re-Structure – A.T. informed the meeting that due to family circumstances he would be standing down from the Committee and as Chairman at the AGM in January. There may also be a need to appoint a new Secretary depending on how the project develops.

In order to implement the Bee Aware in Moray project more volunteers are required.

A.B. agreed to head up a new MBA 'Hospitality Team' and to recruit volunteers. The team will be responsible for refreshments, hosting etc at courses, taster sessions and other MBA events. Volunteers will be given the opportunity of attending a Food Hygiene course.

T.H. has negotiated 4 places on the Scottish Beekeepers association (SBA) / National Diploma in Beekeeping (NDB) 'Train the Trainers' course in Perth on 4th and 5th October. This will be funded by Moray Leader and subsidised by the Scottish Government but in the meantime it was agreed to pay for hotels from MBA funds.

MBA members attending the course will be Tony Harris, Andy Watson, Arlene Ritchie and in order to get 2 male and 2 females on the team it was agreed to ask Yvonne Stuart.

T.H. agreed to form a 'MBA Training Team' to be responsible for all aspects of training of MBA members and for giving talks to community groups and schools. ACTION – T. HARRIS

What Needs to be Done before the Next Meeting? – The Project Manager Sub Committee will liaise with J. Comins, J. Roberts and D. Watson and will at the next meeting, present to the Committee the final job description, the draft job advertisement together with details of employer/employee contract, and a draft timetable to enable a Project Manager to be appointed as soon as the funding is in place.

T.H. agreed to approach several named MBA members with a view to filling positions on the Committee and recruiting volunteers for Bee Aware in Moray. ACTION – T. HARRIS

6. Donate a Bag of Sugar Project

This project was ongoing and there has been a good response from the Moray public. D.V. reported that the local press was covering the project in Forres. Many bags of sugar have been donated and were now being used to feed the bees at Birnie apiary.

7. Birnie Apiary

Preparation of the hives for winter will commence on Saturday 1st September when any honey supers will be removed, apivar strips inserted to tackle varroa and feeding sugar syrup will commence.

8. Winter Programme – all meetings to take place at Elgin Library, 7-9pm

Tuesday 23rd October, 'Judging Honey Products', Mr Les Webster

Monday 26th November, Several short talks of 15 minutes duration. 'The Moray Bee Improvement Group', Gerry Thompson, 'The Bee Aware in Moray Project', Tony Harris & An Oxalic Acid Demonstration, Andrew Tassell

Tuesday 29 January, Annual General Meeting' followed by 'Beekeeping Question Time'.

Thursday 28 February, 'Preparing for the New Season', Tony Harris

Moray Beekeepers begin a lecture course entitled '*Introduction to bees and beekeeping*' on Tuesday 5th February also at Elgin Library and it is hoped that at least 24 students will sign up for the course including MBA members and potential new beekeepers. There will be six classroom sessions hosted by Dr Stephen Palmer, with full day practical sessions run by MBA Training Team later at Birnie apiary. Individuals without bees will be asked to make a donation of £100 for the course. On successful completion of the course, they will receive a certificate of competence, a hive of bees, bee suit and gloves and necessary beekeeping equipment. The hive will be on loan to be returned to the MBA 'pot' after 1 full season.

MBA members may attend the lectures for free.

Individuals who are representing the organisations where Community Apiaries are to be set up in 2013 will also receive the course free of charge.

9. Any Other Business

Beekeepers Quarterly – 6 members names were handed to D.C. who will now progress the group subscription. ACTION - D. CLARK

Fondabee fondant – A.W. agreed to get prices for this product that will be advertised to MBA members as part of a bulk purchase scheme. ACTION – A. WATSON

T.H. with assistance of the MBA Training Team, agreed to run the Basic Beemaster course again in 2013 in conjunction with Dr Palmer's, '*Introduction to bees and beekeeping*' lectures. ACTION – T. HARRIS

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 27th September at Baxters, Fochabers.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.20 hrs