

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association Committee meeting held in Spey Bay Hall on Tuesday 27th August

1. Present : Bob Malcolm (Chair), Yvonne Stuart (Secretary) , Donna Clark (Treasurer) Ron Clark
Tony Harris, Anne Black, Mike Collins, Joy Malcolm.

2. Apologies: Andy Watson, Davie Stuart, Ian McAndie

3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 30th July proposed Anne Black ; seconded Donna Clark

4. Matters arising from previous minutes: All topics to be covered by current agenda

5. Winter Programme:

a. Quiz night: After discussion it was agreed that all members would be circulated to find out level of interest before finalising booking Elgin City football supporters club for Saturday 16th November. The cost would be around £6 per head including stovies. (the room £50 and food £4 per head)
Joy to action

b. A.G.M. : date 28th January Elgin Library.

c. October meeting: It was agreed we should enquire free dates for Elgin library before approaching Ian Craig to speak.

d. February: Tony agreed to deliver a talk 'preparing for new season' 25,26, or 27 February

e. March : Donna agreed to deliver a microscopy talk 25,26, or 27 March

All Dates to be arranged at library - Yvonne to action

f. Baxters Honey Show; reluctantly it was agreed that there would not be enough time to run this show properly and we would start earlier next year but the committee decided that we could run a small show event at Birnie on the same day as the quiz and we would distribute the prizes that evening – some fun classes to be included .

g. University of the Highlands festival 14th September: Donna, Kerry and Yvonne would attend

h. Newtonmore : Yvonne is willing to attend – date to be finalised .

6. Treasurers report: Donna reported that, after thorough scrutiny by 'Leader,' only a small item in her application had been refused and she had received £6974 . 'Leader' will keep £5000 of the grant until all accounts are submitted before they will release it. Tony still has training to claim for but all finances should be in order . The bank balance at present is £7507. Tony reported we still had £618 to claim from Scottish Heritage.

7. Secretary's report : Yvonne reported she had received a thank you letter from REAP for 14th August show which Andy attended.

All stores contacted re sugar donations were happy for us to put up requests and would e-mail Yvonne if boxes were full for emptying.

Interest in beginners classes was still being shown with a few phone calls asking when they would take place again.

Les Webster had offered to donate 20 years SBA magazines (bound) to MBA . **Anne to collect**

8. BEAM : Tony reported that he had worked 92 hours but claimed only 60 – all these hours were on administration

a. Mentoring new beekeepers: Tony reported he is expected to visit all the new beekeepers once a month and they are very far flung so this involves a lot of travelling- he had found that all the nucs except one were doing well and he would monitor that one. All the beekeepers had been advised there was no guarantee of their nuc wintering well but they would be given all the help and advice necessary to enable them to care for their bees properly.

b. National Diploma in Beekeeping Course: Tony attended this course in York and is willing to assist any members wishing to further their skills over the next few months.

c. Scottish Beekeepers Association Honey day: Tony, Andy and Anne all attended this course and will run a honey extraction and marketing course later in the year.

d. Honey Bee Health and Disease Course September 1st : now fully subscribed . Andy Watson to assist and Anne will provide refreshments.

e. September Monthly Meeting: demonstration and talk on 'extracting honey'.

f. Talks to Community Groups: Tony reported he had accepted invitations to speak at many organisations over the next few months - well over the target set in the Leader project.

g. End of Project reports: the official date for completion is 31st December but 'Awards for all Scotland' wish them submitted by end of October.

9. A.O.C.B.

a. Weedkiller: Ron reported he had bought and applied weedkiller round the apiary.

b. Rake: seems to be missing

c. Extractors: it was decided that the extractors would be kept at 2 locations – Andy Watson, and the Stuarts houses. Anyone borrowing them would get 1st week free and then pay £5 per week thereafter. Yvonne would also keep one of the heather presses – the other would be kept at Birnie.

d. Sugar Syrup : it was agreed that each member of the committee would make up a bucket of sugar syrup for the bees at Birnie.

e. Committee Minutes: all previous minutes would be signed by the chairman for the records and put on the web site. Yvonne would e-mail Bob the minutes for signing and he would put them on the web and return a signed copy. **Yvonne and Bob to action**

f. Blackhills Estate Mr and Mrs Christie were delighted to have anyone put some hives on the estate for heather or at other times.

g. Winter feeding: Andy had sourced bee fondant and the price for one would be £4 and to be decided for a pack of 5 as we do not know delivery costs yet – also apisuc – approximate cost to be about £14 for 12 kilo drum. Tony would advertise in the website and invite orders from the members. Apisuc would only be ordered if enough interest shown.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.30pm .

Date of next meeting : Tuesday September 24th in Spey Bay hall at 6.30pm.