

**Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association (MBA) Annual General Meeting 2013, held at Elgin Library on Tuesday 29th January, commenced at 19.00 hrs, Mr A. Tassell in the Chair**

**1. Welcome.** The President, Andrew Tassell, welcomed 29 members and 3 guests.

**2. Apologies.** R. Burkhill, V. Dawes, H. MacKenzie, H & P Webster

**3. The Minutes of 2012 AGM** were accepted as a true record. Proposed R. Clark, Seconded A. Watson  
CARRIED

**4. Matters Arising.** MBA Honey Show will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**5. Secretary's Report.** The Secretary had produced a written report. In summary, it had been another busy year, with a full programme of events and activities being held throughout Moray. 52 members of the public attended our Beekeeping Courses in the summer although the Association membership had decreased slightly to 103. It was going to be a very busy season for MBA in 2013 as we implement the 'Bee Aware in Moray' (BEAM) project and he appealed for volunteers to ensure its success. TH was stepping down as Secretary after tonight's meeting to take up the role of Project Manager for the BEAM project and he thanked members for their support over the last 4 years and asked for the same level of support for new Secretary, Yvonne Stuart.

**6. Treasurer's Report.**

In presenting the accounts the Treasurer, Donna Clark, outlined the funding received as part of the BEAM project of £17,499 with further match funding of £21,042 due from Moray Leader throughout 2013. She reported an end of year balance of £16,355.73. She will be applying to HMRC for gift aid refunds in the near future.

MBA has been nominated as a chosen charity for the Gordonstoun School, Aberlour Junior Highland Games in April and the more raffle tickets sold the greater the donation we will receive. Therefore, each member will be allocated at least one book of raffle tickets and asked to sell as many as possible, unsold tickets to be returned to the Treasurer.

The accounts were adopted with thanks to the Treasurer. Proposed A. Black, Seconded A. Watson. CARRIED

**7. MBA Constitution.**

It was proposed on behalf of the Committee by A. Harris, seconded A. Tassell

Under the heading EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS, on page 2,

Line 2 – delete 'four' and insert 'eight'

Line 3 – delete 'five' and insert 'seven'

CARRIED

It is Proposed A. Harris, Seconded A. Tassell that the draft Equal Opportunities policy be adopted.

CARRIED

**8. Election of Office Bearers/Committee**

The Treasurer, D. Clark and Committee members A. Black, A. Watson and R. Clark offer themselves for re-election and there being no further nominees are duly re-elected.

It is proposed A. Tassell, Seconded D. Clark on behalf of the Committee that Bob Malcolm is appointed Chairman, Yvonne Stuart is appointed as Secretary and there being no further nominees they are duly elected.

It is Proposed A. Tassell, Seconded D. Clark on behalf of the Committee that Mike Collins, Joy Malcolm, Ian MacAndie and Davey Stuart, are appointed to the Executive Committee and there being no further nominees they are duly elected.

**9. Bee Aware in Moray Project**

BEAM Project Manager, T. Harris gave a presentation on the project with an emphasis on the many free and subsidised courses available to members in 2013. He stressed that although the project is centred around the Training Apiary at Birnie, everything is portable and therefore capable of being re-located. This was an important feature of the grants received as we do not have lease on the land and our future presence cannot be guaranteed.

The Timetable for the year is:

5th February – Beekeeping Lecture series  
2nd March - Food Hygiene Course  
3rd & 24<sup>th</sup> March - Working Parties at Birnie  
26th April - Birnie Opening Ceremony  
May to July - School/Community Group visits  
May to June – Queen rearing programme  
Sat 1st June – Bee Health Day  
Sat 8th June – Nuc Workshop Day  
17th & 31st August – Bee Health & Disease,  
11th & 12th October – MBA Honey Show  
19th & 26th October – Honey Extraction/Marketing

#### **10. Spring/Summer Programme 2011, 1 pm start unless otherwise stated**

Sunday 3rd March	Working Party, Birnie Apiary, 11am start
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Working Party, Birnie Apiary, 11am start
Sunday 28th April	First Inspections, Queen Marking & Clipping, Birnie Apiary.
Saturday 25th May	Pluscarden Abbey, 'Spring Inspections'.
Sunday 30th June	Swarm Control, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 28th July	Summer Inspections, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 25th August	Trip to the Heather and Meal at Delnashaugh Hotel, Ballindalloch. (t.b.c.)
Sunday 22nd September	Talk & Demonstration, 'Extracting Honey' Birnie Apiary

Additionally, fortnightly Apiary Inspection sessions will take place at Birnie and members are encouraged to attend (see website for further details)

#### **11. Presentation of Certificates to successful candidates in SBA Examinations, 2011**

The Chairman outlined the Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA) Examination syllabus and encouraged members to increase their beekeeping knowledge and enjoyment by taking the Basic Beemaster Assessment.

He then presented the following certificates:

Basic Beemaster Certificates are awarded to Anne Black & Loraine Larkworthy

Basic Beemaster Certificates, with distinction, are awarded to Dianna Baillie, Ron Clark, Vicky Dawes, Morag Henderson, Amanda Peterson, Arlene Ritchie, Grant Scanlon, Davey Stuart, Yvonne Stuart & John Willoner.

The next step after taking the Basic Assessment is to sit some of the modular exams and congratulations are due to Gerry Thompson (not present) who was successful in Module 1 'Honeybee Management' and Module 2 'Honeybee Products and Forage'.

There are 8 modules in all and Barabara Westie completed the set in 2012, passing Module 7 'Selection and Breeding of Honeybees' and Module 8 'Honeybee Management and History', and she is now awarded the Advanced Beemasters Certificate.

Hazel McKenzie (not present) passed the Avarian Certificate in 2012 and having previously been awarded the Advanced Certificate she is awarded the Expert Beemasters Certificate, the highest level beekeeping qualification available in Scotland

The National Diploma in Beekeeping is the next level up and is the highest qualification available in the UK and they also run a series of short courses. Four MBA members successfully completed the NDB Train the Trainers Course in 2012 and are now formally qualified to teach beekeeping. Arlene Ritchie, Yvonne Stuart, Andy Watson & Tony Harris were presented with certificates and Tony also completed the NDB Advanced Husbandry course in 2012.

MBA will be running further courses in 2013 to prepare students for the Basic Beemaster assessment as well as an Improvers Course for those wishing to sit modules.

## 12. Any Other Business

### MBA Awards Evening

T.H. stated that the Committee had decided to introduce a 'Moray Beekeepers Association Awards' programme for next year's AGM that would cover categories such as, 'Most Improved Beekeeper', 'Beekeeper of the Year', 'Best Novice Beekeeper', etc. (full details to be announced soon)

### Award of Life Membership to Pluscarden Abbey

A.T. proposed on behalf of the Committee that Life Membership be awarded to 'Pluscarden Abbey' and he read the following citation.

#### **PLUSCARDEN ABBEY LIFE MEMBERSHIP CITATION**

'There has been a great history of beekeeping at Pluscarden Abbey for many years as can be witnessed by the 'bee boles' in a section of the Abbey walls.

With its stunning and picturesque setting, the Abbey is our most popular apiary meeting and has been for many years.

In recent years, Father Benedict has been responsible for the bees at the Abbey and he always gives a very warm welcome to visitors to the apiary and freely imparts his beekeeping knowledge.

Varying Benedictine monks have been in charge of the bees over the years and for this reason I am delighted to award the honour of 'Life Membership' to 'Pluscarden Abbey', for the long standing service offered to Moray Beekeepers Association members each year at summer meetings.'

### Award of Life Membership to Andrew Tassell

T.H. proposed on behalf of the Committee that Life Membership be awarded to Andrew Tassell and he read the following citation.

#### **ANDREW TASSELL LIFE MEMBERSHIP CITATION**

'Andrew Tassell has given 10 continuous years' service to the Moray Beekeepers Association and is stepping down from the Committee after tonight's meeting.

Andrew joined the Committee in 2003 and took over as Secretary in 2004. He has been heavily involved in organising the Association affairs and running meetings since and in fact our meetings have often been the Tassell family show as Fiona, Adam and Sarah have been regular helpers with the reputation of preparing a rather fine tea.

Andrew has served as Secretary, President and Chairman and his calming influence has been appreciated by many of us during some turbulent times. He is a knowledgeable and respected beekeeper and on top of that he is a really good bloke who will be missed.

So, on behalf of you all I would like to say a big thank you to Andrew for his commitment and dedication to bees, beekeeping and Moray Beekeepers Association over the last decade and I am pleased to present him with this award of 'Life Membership' together with an inscribed hive tool and plaque.

Once Andrew has re-charged his batteries and has more time on his hands I'm sure you will all agree that it would be a pleasure to see him attending some of our future meetings.'

Andrew was then presented with a certificate and an inscribed Hive Tool housed on a wooden plaque.

The Chairman expressed his pleasant surprise at the award and he thanked the membership and all Committee members he had worked with over the last decade.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm