

**Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association (MBA) Annual General Meeting 2013, held at Elgin Town Hall on Tuesday 28th January, commenced at 19.00 hrs, Mr A. Watson in the Chair**

**1. Welcome.** The Acting Chairman, Andy Watson, welcomed 29 members, 1 guest and stated he was pleased to see Life Member Andrew Tassell in attendance..

**2. Apologies.** J. Black, R. Burkhill, R. Clark, V. Dawes, M. Henderson, W. Jamieson & S. Palmer

**3. The Minutes of AGM** held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed A. Tassell, Seconded I. McAndie

CARRIED

**4. Matters Arising.** None

**5. Secretary's Report.** The Acting Secretary, Anne Black had produced a written report. In summary, it had been a very busy year as we implemented the Bee Aware in Moray (BEAM), and also ran a full programme of events and activities for members. MBA hosted the Scottish Government Bee Inspectors in June who ran a well-attended and informative Honeybee Health Day at Moray College and Birnie apiary. A week later on behalf of the Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA) we ran a successful Queen Rearing and Nucleus Creation Workshop. Further courses helped 6 members attain the SBA Basic Beemaster Certificate, 6 members passed Module 1, 1 member passed the Honey judge Exam and 1 member achieved the Expert Beemaster qualification. The MBA Honey Show was resurrected in 2013 and proved to be a huge success!

Thanks were recorded to the many volunteers who had made it such a successful year. On behalf of the Committee she also thanked Bob Malcolm who has stepped down as Chairman, Yvonne Stuart who has stepped down as Secretary and Joy Malcolm and Davey Stuart who had left the Committee.

**6. Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer, Donna Clark, presented the accounts which had been independently examined and signed off by Julie Comins. The BEAM project had resulted in lots of income and expenditure. The current bank balance was £3535.43 with a final payment from Leader of about £5500.00 due. This would give us a very healthy bank balance and she asked members for ideas on what to spend it on.

The accounts were adopted with thanks to the Treasurer. Proposed A. Tassell, Seconded A. Ranson. CARRIED

**7. MBA Constitution.**

Proposed D. Clark, Seconded I. MacAndie, on behalf of the Committee

PAGE 1, HEADING 'EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS'

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

CARRIED

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

The Treasurer, D. Clark and Committee members Mike Collins, Ian MacAndie and Ron Clark offer themselves for re-election and there being no further nominees are duly re-elected.

It is proposed D. Clark, Seconded I. MacAndie on behalf of the Committee that Tony Harris is appointed Chairman, Andy Watson is appointed Vice Chairman and Anne Black is appointed Secretary and there being no further nominees they are duly re-elected.

It is Proposed D. Clark, Seconded I. MacAndie on behalf of the Committee that Raefe Letty and James Black, are appointed to the Executive Committee and there being no further nominees they are duly elected.

T. Harris then took over the Chair of the meeting and he thanked A. Watson for standing in.

**9. Bee Aware in Moray Project**

A short slideshow accompanied by the 'Flight of the Bumblebee' music was played showing the development of the Training Apiary at Birnie and some of what we achieved in 2013. There were no questions.

## **10. Spring/Summer Programme 2014, 1 pm start unless otherwise stated.**

Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Preparing for the New Season & First inspections, Tony Harris, 7pm Elgin Library
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Microscopy Night, Donna & Ron Clark, 7pm, Elgin Library
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	First inspections, Q marking and clipping, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Swarm Control, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Swarm Control, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer inspections, Birnie Apiary
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	Trip to heather and meal (to be confirmed)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Honey Extraction Talk and Demonstration, Birnie Apiary

Additionally, regular 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 SBA Examination syllabus and encouraged members to increase their beekeeping knowledge and enjoyment by taking the Basic Beemaster Assessment, a practical assessment of beekeeping skill and knowledge, held at the apiary usually in June or July.

He asked Life member Andrew Tassell to present certificates to the following:

Basic Beemaster Certificates, with distinctions were awarded to Anne Black, Bob Malcolm (not present), Joy Malcom (not present), Ian MacAndie, Helen Webster (not present) and Paul Webster (not present)

The next step after taking the Basic Assessment is to sit some of the modular exams and congratulations are due to Dianna Bailie, John Bailie, Donna Clark, Ron Clark, Joy Malcolm, Ian MacAndie and Andy Watson who were successful in Module 1 'Honeybee Management' in 2013.

Tony Harris added the Honey Judge qualification.

There are 8 modules in all and after passing them a candidate is awarded the Advanced Certificate

Barbara Westie passed the Aparian Certificate in 2013 and having previously been awarded the Advanced Certificate she is awarded the Expert Beemasters Certificate, the highest level beekeeping qualification available in Scotland.

There are now 3 MBA members qualified to the Expert Beemaster level.

MBA will be running further courses in 2014 to prepare students for the Basic Beemaster assessment as well as Study groups for those wishing to sit modules.

## **12. Any Other Business**

D. Clark, on behalf of the Module 1 Study Group asked Dianna Baillie to present an exquisite drawing of a 'queen, worker and drone honeybee' to T. Harris as a thank you for running the group. A surprised T.H. was delighted to receive it.

Chairman, T. Harris then paid tribute to everyone who had helped make the BEAM project such a huge success. He particularly wanted to thank two people who had been a great help to him in his role as Project Manager. He then presented a bouquet of flowers to Donna Clark and Anne Black and stressed it was a personal thank you from him for their support and important contribution to the project.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19.50 hrs.