

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association AGM 2011. held at Elgin Library on Monday 24th January, commenced at 19.00 hrs, Mr A. Tassell in the Chair

1. Welcome. The President, Andrew Tassell, welcomed 39 members and 1 guest.

2. Apologies. 6 members had offered apologies

3. The Minutes of 2010 AGM were read to the meeting by the Secretary and accepted as a true record
Proposed G. Hill, Seconded W. Copland CARRIED Unanimous

4. Matters Arising. None

5. Secretary's Report. The Secretary had produced a written report. In summary, it had been another busy year, with a full summer programme, the opening of the Association Apiary at Birnie and a further increase in membership to 105. Fifty members of the public attended our Beekeeping Courses in the summer and 26 of them joined MBA as members. This raised over £1,000 additional funding which will go towards running the Association and funding the apiary for the coming season.

The challenge for 2011 will be to assist these new members to acquire bees and to mentor them through their first season as beekeepers.

He thanked the many volunteers who helped run the Association and invited members to get involved in the activities (e.g. Apiary Inspections and Queen rearing) taking place at the Association apiary.

6. Treasurer's Report. In presenting the accounts the Treasurer reported a healthy end of year balance of £1833.96. The accounts were adopted with thanks expressed to the Treasurer for her report.
Proposed G.Hill, Seconded A. Joyce. CARRIED Unanimous

7. MBA Constitution. The Association is currently applying for charitable status and in order to satisfy the necessary criteria the Committee recommend that the changes and additions to the Constitution shown below be adopted. Proposed: A.J. Harris, Seconded: A. Tassell

Under 'General' heading, line 3, delete the current 'Objects of the Association' and replace with:

- a) To advance education by providing training in the practice of beekeeping and production and distribution of educational information in the practice of beekeeping
- b) To help conserve the natural environment by promoting the importance of bees in the environment, and
- c) To conserve the future of the honeybee in Moray and Scotland.

After the last item in the Constitution, 'Revision of Constitution and Rules', the following be inserted:

ASSETS

For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Association's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purposes

DISSOLUTION

If on the winding up of the organisation any property remains after satisfaction of all the organisation's debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the organisation; that property instead shall be transferred to some other charity or charities (whether incorporated or unincorporated) whose objects are similar (wholly or in part) to the objects of the organisation.

CHARITABLE PURPOSE

The expression 'charitable purpose' shall mean a charitable purpose under section 7 of the charities and trustees Investment (Scotland) act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts

Under 'General Meetings', page 2, lines 14 & 15, delete '20% of the paid-up membership on the date of the meeting' and insert, '12 paid up members'.
All CARRIED Unanimous

8. Election of Office Bearers/Committee

The Chairman, A. Tassell, Vice Chairman, G. Hill, Secretary, A.J. Harris, and Committee member V. Hill were returned un-opposed.

It was Proposed: A.J. Harris, Seconded: A. Tassell that Donna Clark be appointed to fill the position of Treasurer, and Allison Laws, Gerry Thompson and Andy Watson be appointed to the Executive Committee. There being no other nominations the above were duly appointed.

9. Spring/Summer Programme 2011

Tuesday 22 nd February	'How the Honeybee Works', Dr Stephen Palmer, Elgin Library, 7pm
Tuesday 22 nd March	Talk 'Preparing for the New Season', Elgin Library, 7pm
Sunday 17 th April	Queen Marking/Clipping, Association Apiary, Nether Birnie, 2.30pm
Sunday 15 th May	Alasdair Joyce's Apiary, Dallas, General Inspection, 2.30pm
Saturday 18 th June	Pluscarden Abbey, Summer Inspection, swarm control, 2.30pm
Sunday 17 th July	G & V. Hill's Apiary, Blossombank, Birnie, 2.30pm
Sunday 21 st August	Trip to the Heather & Meal, full details to be confirmed, 2.30pm
Sunday 18 th September	Talk & Demonstration, 'Extracting Honey' Birnie Apiary, 2.30pm

10. Correspondence. None

11. Any Other Business. None

12. Awarding of Certificates

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 Exam. This is a basic oral exam, lasting about 30 minutes and takes place at an apiary. Members can then, if they wish, sit further written exams on a variety of beekeeping subjects all the way up to the Expert Beemaster Certificate.

The Chairman then presented certificates to:

Viv Hill – Basic Beemaster Certificate, passed with distinction

Barbara Westie – having passed module 5, Honeybee Biology, and now passed 4 modules is awarded the SBA Intermediate Certificate.

Tony Harris – having passed module 6, Honeybee Behaviour, module 7, Selection and Breeding of Honeybees, and module 8, Honeybee Management and History, has now completed 7 modules and is awarded the SBA Advanced Certificate.

Tony Harris and Viv Hill will be running a course starting in March that will prepare members for the Basic Beemaster Exam this summer. It will involve both theory and practice and will take place in Elgin and later at Birnie Apiary. Interested members to contact Tony or Viv.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19.25 hrs