

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association Committee Meeting held at Benmore House, Elgin, on Tuesday 14th December, 2010, commencing at 7.00pm

1. Committee Members Present

A. Tassell (in Chair), G. Hill, V. Hill, D. Clark, A. Harris.

Apologies: A. Laws, G. Thompson and A. Watson

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

An omission was pointed out from the printed minutes of meeting held on 16/8/10 and it was Proposed G. Hill, Seconded, A. Tassell that the following be inserted.

'It was decided that a previous Committee decision to award Life Membership at the next A.G.M. would be suspended'. CARRIED

The minutes of meeting held on 28/06/10 were then accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed G. Hill, Seconded V. Hill CARRIED

3. Matters Arising

Printer cartridges have been purchased

A Lottery Application Pack had been obtained and the subject will be discussed at a future meeting

Committee members have been provided with name badges

Membership cards will be issued to members for 2011 season

The talk by Dr Stephen Palmer on 26th November had to be cancelled due to the snow. Dr Palmer will be invited to give his talk at a future date.

4. No Correspondence

5. Treasurer's Report

D. Clark reported a healthy bank balance of £2561.73, cash of £64.07, giving a total of £2625.80. The apiary fund currently stood at £300 although £159 had just been spent on equipment for the new season courtesy of the Thornes Sale.

It was proposed by D. Clark, seconded A. Tassell that the Committee recommend no increase in subs for 2011. CARRIED

6. M.B.A. Constitution

MBA are in the process of applying for charitable status and the Scottish Charity Regulator have recommended some changes to our Constitution. It was felt that the changes would not alter our objectives or purpose and it was proposed A. Harris, Seconded A. Tassell that the changes be put before the membership at the AGM. CARRIED

7. A.G.M. Issues

The Chairman, A. Tassell, Vice Chairman, G. Hill, Secretary A. Harris and Committee member V. Hill agreed to offer themselves for re-election.

The Committee decided to nominate D. Clark to fill the post of Treasurer, and A. Laws, G. Thompson and A. Watson as Committee members.

8. Summer programme 2011

February (wed 23 rd ?)	Talk Stephen Palmer, Elgin Library. To be confirmed!
March (Tues 22 nd ?)	Talk & Workshop, 'Preparing for the New Season', Elgin Library
Sunday 17 th April	Queen Marking/Clipping, Association Apiary, Nether Birnie
Sunday 15 th May	Alasdair Joyce's Apiary, Dallas, General Inspection,
Saturday 18 th June	Pluscarden Abbey, 'Summer Inspection'. To be confirmed!
Sunday 17 th July	G & V Hill's Apiary, Blossombank, Birnie
Sunday 21 st August	Trip to the heather and meal. Location and date to be confirmed
Sunday 18 th September	Talk & Demonstration, 'Extracting Honey' Birnie Apiary

It was also agreed to hold meetings at Elgin Library in October and November (full details to be decided later)

9. Beekeeping Courses 2011

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.

It was agreed to hold 4 x Introduction to Beekeeping Courses at £25 per person and 3 Taster Sessions at £10 per person in 2011. ACTION A. Harris to make arrangements

Basic Beemaster Exam. A. Harris and V. Hill will be commencing a weekly course in February for members wishing to sit this exam. It will be both theoretical and practical and will prepare members to take the exam in the summer.

10. MBA Website

The Committee wished to place on record their thanks to Allison Laws for designing and launching the new MBA website. After running for a few months the following feedback was given. Several members had made comments supporting the website, in particular the inclusion of Committee contact details and Meeting minutes was useful. The colour scheme was bright and attractive and a variety of useful information was available for members and visitors alike. The 'Latest News' scrolling feature was excellent but as the season progressed it was important to keep it up to date and relevant. The use of links to You tube videos is very helpful, especially for beginners.

It was felt that further improvement could be made by including

- back issues of the Newsletter with the links from the Home Page
- a Gallery page (members to be encouraged to send in photos), link from the Home page
- a Guestbook for visitors to sign, link from the Home Page
- Beekeeping suppliers on the 'Links' page, e.g. Thornes, BB Wear etc
- Change the 'Members Button' to something like 'Join us or Join MBA'
- A link to the MBA 'Introduction to Beekeeping Course' which is on You tube

Now that the 2011 programme is being finalised it was thought the website should highlight the Beekeeping Courses, Summer Programme and Apiary Inspection dates with an obvious link from the Home page to each, and to display the dates in list form as well as in the calendar page.

If there was no volunteer to regularly update the Blog it may be better to delete it. An option would be for the blog to be used for details of the Apiary Inspection visits and Queen Rearing Programme

Tony Harris agreed to liaise with Allison and to offer assistance if required.

11. Any Other Business

Gerry Thompson has agreed to act as lead in the 'Queen Rearing Programme' for 2011

Graham Hill has agreed to act as 'Deputy Apiary Manager'.

Donna Clark and Viv Hill agreed to represent MBA at the Moray Science Festival at Moray College in March 2011.

Tony Harris agreed to look into MBA buying publicity material and props for use at Shows and other events.

With thanks to G & V. Hill for their hospitality, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30 hrs.

Date of next meeting: March 2011