

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association Committee Meeting held at Benmore House, Elgin, on Monday 16th August, 2010, commencing at 7.00pm

1. Committee Members Present

A. Tassell (in Chair), A. Watson, A. Laws, G. Hill, V. Hill, D. Clark, G. Thompson, A. Harris. Apologies: E. Clayton
Since the last meeting Mr K. West had resigned as Treasurer and Committee member. D. Clark has agreed to fill the Treasurer's role and G. Thompson has been co-opted onto the Committee

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting held on 28/06/10 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed G. Hill, Seconded A. Tassell

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising

The November meeting will be on Thursday 18th, the AGM on Monday 24th January, both at Elgin Library

Beekeeping Courses: 50 members of the public had attended our courses in the summer and 26 of them had joined MBA as members. A total income of £1040 (minus room hire/refreshments) had been raised which will go towards running the Association and funding the apiary.

4. Data Protection

An MBA member has set up a beekeeping website and used, it seems the personal e-mail addresses of MBA members to advertise and recruit subscribers to it. A discussion took place regarding the use of this information, in particular, MBA's responsibility to keep members' personal details secure and only allow them to be used in connection with their membership of the Association.

Although the Committee felt such use had been contrary to the Data Protection Act, it was now, 'after the fact', and as the e mail did have an 'Unsubscribe' button, no further action will be taken.

The Committee were of the unanimous opinion that while anyone, member or not, is free to set up whatever website they wish, personal attacks, verbal, written or otherwise of any Committee member, or in fact any MBA member will not be tolerated.

The Secretary, A. Harris stated that if any member wanted to take over the role of MBA Secretary, he would be prepared to stand aside.

It was proposed A. Watson, Seconded, G. Hill that in the interests of openness and clarity, Committee minutes will in future be circulated to the membership via e-mail and published on the website. CARRIED Unanimous

It was brought to the Meeting's attention that several Beekeeping Talks had and were occurring at Forres Museum under the banner of Moray Beekeepers Association. Whilst the Committee encouraged all members to give such talks, it was felt, as a matter of courtesy and good manners, that any member doing so, using the Moray Beekeepers name, should inform the Committee, beforehand.

5. Treasurer's Report

D. Clark reported that the handover of the accounts from the previous Treasurer was now complete. Using his figures, at handover, there was £1775.79 in the bank with £420.52 in the cash box, which gave a balance of £2079.86

G. Thompson raised the possibility of applying for Lottery funding and he agreed to obtain a Lottery Funding Application Pack and report back. ACTION G. Thompson

6. MBA Website

A. Laws has been busy designing the new website and it should be online soon. She summarised the content as follows: A simplified menu. Focus on MBA apiary. Events and courses. Meet the Committee, Contact Us and You Tube videos.

It was generally felt that it was important to get the website up and running ASAP and it could be added to later. The Chairman thanked Allison for her efforts.

7. Any Other Business

It was agreed to look into the possibility of issuing membership cards with useful information on for next season.
V. Hill agreed to obtain costing for 150 cards similar to that of Inverness Beekeepers. ACTION V. Hill

It was agreed in principle that a 'Mentoring Scheme', geographically based, be set up, to assist new members with beekeeping issues. Volunteers to be sought at AGM. ACTION A. Harris

The Secretary agreed to produce Committee badges ASAP. ACTION A. Harris

D. Clark agreed to write an article on morphometry for the Newsletter and also offered her services to members in this respect.

It was agreed to purchase new printer cartridges for the MBA printer. ACTION A. Harris

Two lots of Extractors, currently stored by A. Tassell (Keith) and R. Mackenzie (Pluscarden) are available for free use to paid MBA members. After discussion it was agreed that the extractors should be held by a Committee member as only Committee members have up to date information on who is a paid up member or not. G. Thompson agreed to contact R. MacKenzie to arrange collection and storage of the 2 extractors currently in his possession. ACTION G. Thompson

The SBA Autumn Convention is to take place on Saturday 11th September at Blackburn, Aberdeenshire and if anyone attending would like to car share can they contact D. Clark.

November meeting - It was agreed to ask MBA member, S. Palmer, to give a talk, 'My Beekeeping Year' on this night. ACTION A. Harris

A. Laws agreed to design a Quiz for use at an MBA event, maybe in February.

Date of next meeting: Monday 29th November.

With thanks to G & V Hill for their hospitality the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40hrs