

## Minutes of Moray Beekeepers' Association Committee Meeting held at Riach Cottage, Longmorn, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2010, commenced 19.00 hrs

### 1. Committee Members Present

A. Tassell (in Chair), K. West, A. Harris, E. Clayton, G. & V. Hill, R. MacKenzie, and newly co-opted members A. Laws and A. Watson. No apologies. Since the last meeting J. Salt has resigned from the Committee.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting held on 10/12/09 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed G. Hill, Seconded A. Tassell.

CARRIED

### 3. There were no matters arising

### 4. Correspondence - None

### 5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, K. West, reported a healthy balance of approximately £1,000 in the bank with the majority of the beekeeping course fees still to be banked.

It was proposed K. West, Seconded A. Tassell that the money set aside as 'Association Apiary funds', presently at £70, be topped up to £200.

CARRIED

Mr West also stated that the monies raised at raffles would be put into the Association apiary kitty.

### 6. Health & Safety (H&S) / Risk Assessments

Ms A. Laws (qualified H&S Inspector) outlined the legal obligations of the MBA, and individual Committee members, with regard to H&S legislation. The Association has a duty of care to its members and visitors and Committee members also have personal legal duties. This meant that MBA / Committee members could be prosecuted if found to be negligent in any civil claims. Risk assessments for the MBA apiary visits were complete and the Secretary had sent Committee members a copy. Allison stressed that it was the responsibility of the person in charge of any 'meeting' to assess the situation on the day and to complete a simple one page form before the meeting went ahead.

The subject of disclaimers arose, in particular whether they would be sufficient and whether they are legal. Allison replied that risk assessments are in place to provide protection for the MBA / Committee and that simply getting a visitor to sign a disclaimer, did not negate any duty of care.

K. West asked if MBA, as a private club was 'under the law' re H&S? Allison replied 'YES'.

Mr West further stated that H&S / Risk Assessments had never been discussed before. The Secretary replied that all Committee members had been e mailed draft copies of H & S / Risk Assessments and asked for comments. Mr West said he hadn't seen anything at all on H&S.

It was Proposed R. MacKenzie, Seconded A. Tassell that the above paperwork on H&S be re-circulated and that A. Tassell, G. Hill and A. Laws meet to revisit the subject, in particular the form to be completed by the Duty Beekeeper.

CARRIED

### 7. Apiary Visits

#### Insurance

The Secretary outlined the insurance cover available through the SBA as follows:

#### Beginners Classes

- i) Up to 10 students in the class.
- ii) Full protective clothing must be worn
- iii) The instructor to be a suitably competent beekeeper and SBA member
- iv) A first aider is present
- v) It is advisable to have a mobile phone on site.

This covered MBA for the current Beekeeping Courses programme.

SBA members and Local Associations are also covered for Public & Product Liability, Pollution and other Events (public liability) up to £2 million.

This covered MBA for apiary visits if the owner of the apiary is an SBA member as well as any attendance at the Association apiary but it was unclear if MBA were covered for apiary visits elsewhere.

#### Age Limits

The Secretary reminded those present that our Constitution included an Under 12 year's class of membership and we did have a 7-year-old member.

Various viewpoints were expressed and after discussion the chairman asked for a show of hands.

- a. Those in favour of imposing an age limit at MBA meetings – 4 in favour
- b. Those in favour of not imposing an age limit but allowing the Duty Beekeeper to assess each case on its merits on the day of the meeting - 3 in favour (there were 2 abstentions, K.W & A.H)

a above was therefore CARRIED

It was then Proposed V. Hill, Seconded A. Tassell that no child under the age of 5 years be allowed to attend any MBA apiary meetings in any location. CARRIED

#### Duty Beekeeper

A.Harris felt the Committee should decide an outline criteria for this role. It was agreed that any Duty Beekeeper should have at least 3 years experience of keeping bees and be encouraged to take the SBA Basic Beemasters Exam.

8. August Meeting – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, BBQ at Riach Cottage

September Meeting – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at Birnie Apiary, Honey Extraction, A. Harris

9. MBA Honey show as part of the Forres Flower Show

It was agreed to hold this event again this year. Organiser: V. Hill

10. Winter programme

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October @ Birnie Apiary, Tidy Up

November, Film Night at Elgin Library, A. Tassell to arrange film.

January, AGM, at Elgin Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week

11. Beekeeping Courses Update

The Secretary reported that all the courses had been fully booked and we had raised about £800 towards MBA funds and he thanked all who have helped out.

12. Association Apiary Update

All of the colonies in the apiary had tried to swarm and several nucs had been made up. Again the Secretary thanked all who have helped out.

13. MBA Web Site

Although J. Salt had indicated he wanted to step down from this role the Committee were hopeful that he might change his mind. If he didn't A. Laws agreed to take over.

14. Any Other Business

It was Proposed R. MacKenzie, Seconded A. Tassell that J. Salt be awarded 'Life Membership' at the AGM for his contribution and length of service to MBA. CARRIED

R. MacKenzie said he would be stepping down from the Committee after tonight's meeting.

R. MacKenzie agreed to store the extractor/press at his place.

A.Laws felt that e-mails flying about with everybody giving different views were detrimental to the running of the MBA. It was agreed that the Committee should meet more.

K. West raised the issue of acquiring a portaloos for the Birnie apiary. R. MacKenzie agreed to contact RB Farquhar for pricing and report back.

L. Loyd-Baker was presently co-opted onto the Committee. After discussion it was agreed to release her from this role, the Secretary to inform her.

E. Clayton had brought the MBA library with him and would hand over to Rob for Angie MacKenzie who had volunteered to take it over.

A. Harris asked if any retired member or someone not working full time was prepared to take over as Apiary Manager/Co-ordinator.

With thanks to K & S West for their hospitality the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00 hrs