

**Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association (MBA) Annual General Meeting 2012, held at Elgin Library on Thursday 26th 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.** 8 members had offered apologies

**3. The Minutes of 2011 AGM** were accepted as a true record. Proposed A. Watson, Seconded M. Henderson

**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 programme of events and activities being held throughout Moray. 34 members of the public attended our Beekeeping Courses in the summer and the Association membership had again increased to 123. Birnie apiary was now very well stocked with bees and equipment and our newly acquired charitable status has raised our profile and opened opportunities for fundraising. He thanked the team of volunteers who helped run the Association and invited more members to get involved.

**6. Treasurer's Report.**

In presenting the accounts the Treasurer, Donna Clark, reported a healthy end of year balance of £1356.53. She stated that much of the expenditure in the last 12 months had been used to enhance Birnie Apiary. The accounts were adopted with thanks expressed to the Treasurer for her report.

Proposed A. Watson, Seconded A. Black.

CARRIED

**7. MBA Constitution.**

It was proposed on behalf of the Committee by A.J. Harris, Seconded, A. Tassell

Under heading, 'MEMBERSHIP' on page 1, at the end of line 4, after the words, 'to the Treasurer', insert,

'In addition to the annual subscription, new Full and Full Concession members, or persons re-joining after a membership break, will be required to pay a joining fee.'

The Annual Subscriptions for members shall become due by 1<sup>st</sup> March annually, at which time they must be paid to the Treasurer. If subscriptions are not paid by 1<sup>st</sup> June, a late payment surcharge will be payable by Full, Full Concession and Youth members.'

CARRIED

Under heading, 'MEMBERSHIP' on page 1, 4<sup>th</sup> para, after the words, 'until their subscription is paid', insert,

'There will be five categories of membership by subscription: Full (Adult), Full Concession (over 65 years), Youth (12-16 years), Junior (6-12 years) and Conservation member. The qualifying date for Full Concession, Youth and Junior memberships will be 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year.'

CARRIED

Under the heading EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS, on page 2, delete 6<sup>th</sup> line,

'Such honoraria as may be paid to these officers shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting,' CARRIED

Under the heading, 'GENERAL MEETINGS' on page 2, line 3, after the words, 'the annual subscription', insert, 'joining fee and late payment surcharge'

CARRIED

Under the heading, 'SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS and YEARBOOK' on page 3, line 3, after the words, 'Show', delete the word '(Secretary)' and insert, 'Organiser'

CARRIED

It was proposed on behalf of the Committee by D. Clark, Seconded, A.J. Harris.

Subscriptions for 2012 be set at: FULL (F) – £12 , FULL CONCESSION (FC) - £7.00, YOUTH (Y) – £7.00, JUNIOR (J) – free, CONSERVATION (C) - £10.00

CARRIED

The joining fee for Full and Full Concession new members or members re-joining after a break be set at £5.00

CARRIED

The late payment surcharge for Full, Full Concession members be set at £3.00 and for Youth members £2.00.

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

The Chairman, A. Tassell, Secretary, A.J. Harris, Treasurer, D. Clark and Committee member A. Watson were returned un-opposed.

It was Proposed: A. Tassell, Seconded: A.J. Harris, that Anne Black, Ron Clark and Gerry Thompson be appointed to the Executive Committee and there being no further nominees they were duly elected.

Don Vincent was co-opted onto the Executive Committee.

### **9. Spring/Summer Programme 2011**

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Working Party, Frames, Foundation Sale, Birnie Apiary, 12 noon start
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	First Inspections, Queen Marking & Clipping, Birnie Apiary, 2.30pm
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Pluscarden Abbey, 'Spring Inspections', 2.30pm
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Inspections and Swarm Control, Birnie Apiary, 2.30pm
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Queen Rearing, Tom Balch's Apiary, Forres, 2.30pm
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Trip to the heather and meal at Delnashaugh Hotel, Ballindalloch, 2.30pm
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Talk & Demonstration, 'Extracting Honey' Birnie Apiary, 2.30pm

### **10. Bulk Purchase of Equipment/Jars**

Equipment Officer, Andy Watson informed members that MBA will be purchasing frames, foundation and jars in bulk for onward sale to members in 2012. There was also an option to purchase Fondabee fondant and Apisuc inverted syrup depending on demand and he asked members to submit their orders to him asap.

### **11. MBA Honey Show Future.**

Chairman A. Tassell stated that members support of our annual honey show had been very poor in recent years and he asked whether it should be continued. After discussion it was generally agreed that it was important to hold a show to display honey produce to the public and to promote the honeybee. It was suggested that a number of demonstrations on 'Preparing Honey for the Show Bench' would help encourage new beekeepers to enter exhibits. The Secretary stated that the Committee would take these views on board and will discuss it more fully at the next meeting.

### **12. Presentation of Certificates to successful candidates in SBA Examinations, 2011**

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 Assessment.

He then presented the following certificates:

Basic Beemaster Certificates, all passed with distinction, to John Baillie, Donna Clark, Wendy Jamieson, Pam Nairn, Gerry Thompson & Andy Watson.

Barabara Westie, Module 6 'Honey Bee Behaviour'.

Tony Harris, the Aparian Certificate and the Expert Beemaster Certificate, with distinction.

He added that MBA will be running the Basic Beemaster Course again in April and May.

### **13. Any Other Business**

Webmaster, Gerry Thompson, stated that MBA had a newly designed website and he encouraged members to visit and contribute to it, especially the blog section and Facebook page. He announced the launch of a 'Photo Competition' with prizes and photos to be displayed in the Gallery section of the website (full details to be announced).

Tony Harris appealed for articles for the Newsletter and stated that the 'best' contributor to the Newsletter in 2012 would receive a bottle of malt whiskey as a prize.

Davey Stuart felt that MBA should have more of a presence in the many summer shows taking place locally and the Secretary replied that in order to do so more volunteer helpers were needed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19.50 hrs

