

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association (MBA) Annual General Meeting 2019, held at Elgin Town Hall on Tuesday 26th February, commenced 19.00 hours. Mr A. Watson in the chair.

**1. Welcome.** The Chair welcomed 33 members.

**2. Apologies.** L. Oldman, W. Jamieson, A. Joyce, D. Parry, L. Hinshelwood, S. Hermiston.

**3. The Minutes of AGM held 27th February 2018** were accepted as a true record. P. A Ranson, S. A. Black. **CARRIED**

**4. Matters Arising.** None

**5. Secretary's Report.** Temporary secretary, Tony Harris reported that it was a tumultuous year for the MBA on the admin side with lots of changes which cumulated in several sudden resignations from the committee and Tony took over as temporary secretary half way through the season.

The trustees met 5 times in 2018.

A full programme of apiary meetings was held in 2018 including a successful visit to Pluscarden Abbey.

Three Introduction to Beekeeping courses were held at Birnie along with a Queen Rearing Course.

We struggled for trustees all year, but Tony announced that we will have a full complement of volunteers after tonight's meeting.

We sadly lost two members in 2018, former MBA Chairman, Bob Malcolm and long-standing member, Morag Henderson, passed away.

On the honey side, it was one of the best seasons for many years although the heather harvest was a complete failure for many.

This is our centenary year and we are planning some events to celebrate this throughout the year.

**6. Treasurer's Report.** John Gifford summarised the accounts, which had been independently examined.

Current bank balance was £6463.88 but £3500 is an interest free loan to cover the Healthy 'BEES' Project claims, so Association funds are £2963.88 plus £55 held in cash/cheques.

**7. Election of Office Bearers.** It was Proposed T. Harris, Seconded A. Watson, on behalf of the Committee, that Alan Ranson be elected as Chair and there being no further nominees he is duly elected.

It was Proposed T. Harris, Seconded A. Watson, on behalf of the Committee, that Anne Black be elected as Vice Chair and there being no further nominees she is duly elected.

It was Proposed A. Ranson, Seconded A. Watson, on behalf of the Committee, that Tony Harris be elected as General Secretary and there being no further nominees he is duly elected

The Treasurer, John Gifford and committee members, James Black, and Markus Steiner offer themselves for re-election and there being no further nominees are duly re-elected.

It was Proposed T. Harris, Seconded A. Ranson, on behalf of the Committee, that Andy Watson, Sharon Scapens, Catriona Dunbar, Gordon Duncan, Torquil Gordon-Duff and Chris Toynton be elected as trustees and there being no further nominees are duly elected. A.Ranson then took over as Chair of the meeting

#### **8. S.C.I.O. Resolution proposed on behalf of the Trustees**

The secretary outlined the reasons for the resolution, the main one being that at present, as a Scottish charity, individual trustees can be held liable for any outstanding debts and they could be sued as individuals.

The SCIO is a corporate body which is a legal entity having, on the whole, the same status as a natural person. As the transactions of the SCIO are undertaken by it directly, rather than by its charity trustees on its behalf, the charity trustees are in general protected from incurring personal liability.

It was Proposed T. Harris, Seconded A. Ranson, on behalf of the Committee that Moray Beekeepers Association make application to convert to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

**CARRIED, Unanimous**

The secretary thanked the members and informed them that a 3-month consultation period will now be held. The draft constitution will be on the MBA website and members will be able to view it, comment and suggest changes to the constitution or any standing orders that are compiled.

After the 3 months consultation period, application will be made to OSCR to convert to SCIO.

This may take a few months, but it is envisaged that we will be in a position to make the conversion at the end of the year or at the 2020 AGM.

**9. Spring Summer Programme 2019.** 1 pm unless otherwise stated

Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, 1<sup>st</sup> Inspections, 1pm start  
Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Visit to Pluscarden Abbey Apiary, 2pm start  
Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Birnie Apiary, Swarm control, 1pm start  
Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, Summer Inspections, 1pm start  
Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>, Trip to the heather & Heather Picnic.  
Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, Honey Extraction Demonstration, 1pm start  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, Birnie Apiary, MBA Members' Honey Show

The trustees will be looking to add further events to the calendar as the year progresses.

**10. Presentation of Certificates to successful candidates in SBA Examinations 2018.** The Basic Beekeeper is the entry point into the system, the first rung of the ladder and is a practical assessment of your beekeeping handling skills at the hive as well as an oral test of your beekeeping knowledge.

Long standing member, Tommy Balch who, along with Nairn Beekeepers Association, was responsible for coaching two of the basic beekeeping students was asked to present the certificates.

Basic Beekeeping Certificates, were awarded to Emma Ritchie and Markus Steiner.,

The next step after taking the Basic Assessment is to sit some of the modular exams and Andy Watson has passed all of them. In 2018 he passed the Apiarian Beemasters practical assessment and having passed all the modules and practical assessments he is now awarded the Scottish Expert Beemasters certificate.

MBA will be running a course commencing in March for any member wishing to take the basic assessment in 2019. The only criteria for taking this assessment is that you have kept bees for one season.

**Honey Show results and Presentation of Trophies**

Our Honey show was held in October and trophies and certificates were awarded as follow.

We introduced a new award in 2018, 'Best Novice Exhibitor' and Sharon Scapens, the worthy winner, was presented with a certificate!

John Baillie retained the Steele Cup for most points awarded in the show and also picked up the best exhibit award for his dark runny honey, a delightful jar of Bell Heather honey. Congratulations John!

John & Dianna Baillie have also had considerable success at honey shows nationally and their achievements were recognised.

At the East of Scotland Beekeepers Association Honey Show at the Dundee Flower & Food Festival, John almost swept the board as he was awarded 6 firsts and 1 second!!

In the Scottish National Honey Show, John was the proud winner of the aptly named Moray Beekeepers Trophy and Dianna was awarded the McAnespie Perpetual Trophy for most points in the 'baking' section.

We have asked John and Dianna to give us a master class session on how to prepare the best honey exhibits for a show later in the year!

## **11. Any Other Business**

Members were encouraged to attend a working party to be held at Birnie apiary on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 11am start. The apiary will be tidied up and A. Watson will demonstrate how to make up a flat pack hive.

Access to the apiary remains the same but if this changes, members will be informed.

As it stands, the new A96 road will be very close to the apiary but this isn't set in stone.

The secretary advertised a practical Healthy 'BEES' course, Colony Manipulations, which is being held at Birnie on the weekend of 20/21 July and encouraged any member wishing to improve their handling skills around the hives to book onto the course.

**12 The Year in Photos.** A short powerpoint presentation was played showing the year in photos. The secretary stated that we plan to do this every AGM and asked members to take lots of photos for next year.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 19.35 hrs.