

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association (MBA) Annual General Meeting 2020, held at Elgin Town Hall on Tuesday 25th February, commenced 19.05 hours. Mr A. Ranson in the chair.

**1. Welcome.** The Chair welcomed 29 members and 4 guests to the meeting and stated that this evening marked the end of our 2019 centenary celebrations. Our after dinner speaker is David Foubister.

**2. Apologies.** A. Davie, J. Davie, J. Gifford, M. Hawker, S. Jacyna, A. Joyce, M. Montgomery, R. Newman, D. Parry, A. Tassell, A. Watson, B. Westie

**3. The Minutes of AGM held 26th February 2019** were accepted as a true record. Proposed. C. Toynton, Seconded. J. Black. **CARRIED**

**4. Matters Arising.** None

**5. Secretary's Report.** Tony Harris reported on a full programme of events for the year which included monthly apiary meetings, 3 x Introduction to Beekeeping courses, a Honey Bee Health course and 8 x Healthy 'BEES' courses run throughout Scotland. These courses are run by the excellent MBA Training team. The treasurer resigned suddenly in August and this caused some administration problems and has delayed our application to convert to a SCIO. We were very pleased to welcome Ken Thomson as the new treasurer and he is doing an excellent job already in updating procedures. Planning continues for the new Elgin By-pass which looks like it will be very close to Birnie apiary. We have been reassured that it won't be a problem to us and they have promised to create lots of wildflower meadows nearby, so that may be worthwhile. TH ended his report by wishing everyone a successful 2020 and encouraging members to get more involved with the association activities, especially at Birnie apiary.

**6. Treasurer's Report.** Ken Thomson summarised the accounts, which had been independently examined. The bank balance was £1,1761.74 (as at 31/12/19) but £3,500 is an interest free loan to cover the Healthy 'BEES' Project claims. Ken is in the process of reclaiming gift aid for 2017 to 2019 and is further attempting to update MBA accounts and subscriptions. He concluded his report by requesting that if possible, members pay subscriptions by bank transfer, direct debit or Cash app (details on the membership form)

Chris Toynton suggested that as the bank balance was so healthy, we look at paying off the loan.

The Chairman thanked the treasurer for his report and the accounts were accepted.

**7. Election of Office Bearers/Committee.** The Chair, A. Ranson, Vice-Chair, A. Black, Secretary, T. Harris offered themselves for re-election and there being no further nominees were duly elected.

Committee members, James Black, Catriona Dunbar, Gordon Duncan, Torquil Gordon-Duff, Sharon Scapens, Chris Toynton and Markus Steiner offered themselves for re-election and there being no further nominees were duly re-elected.

It was Proposed T. Harris, Seconded A. Ranson, on behalf of the Committee, that Ken Thomson be elected as Treasurer and there being no further nominees he was duly elected.

It was Proposed T. Harris, Seconded A. Ranson, on behalf of the Committee, that Pete Roberts be elected as a trustee and there being no further nominees he was duly elected.

**8. S.C.I.O. Update** Although the application had been delayed, it has now been submitted to OSCR. We are hopeful that the conversion will take place this year.

**9. Spring Summer Programme 2020.** 1 pm unless otherwise stated

Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, 1st inspections, queen marking/clipping

Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, \*\* 2pm start, Visit to Pluscarden Abbey Apiary

Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, 1pm start, swarm control

Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, 1pm start, summer inspections

Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, trip to the heather & picnic/bbq

Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, 1pm start, honey extraction demonstration

Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, Birnie Apiary, MBA members honey show

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

We had a particularly strong and enthusiastic group in 2019 and they all did very well.

Basic Beekeeping Certificates, were awarded to Catriona Dunbar, Gordon Duncan, Torquil Gordon-Duff, Sarah Hayes, Jim Hinshelwood, Linda Hinshelwood, Pete Roberts and Chris Toynton,

The next step after taking the Basic Assessment is to sit some of the modular exams. These are written exams covering a wide range of subjects and there are 8 modules in total.

Further congratulations are due to Torquil Gordon-Duff, Sarah Hayes and Pete Roberts who passed Module 1, 'Honey Bee Management', exam in November, and to John and Dianna Baillie, Module 3, 'Honey Bee Diseases and Pests'.

John Gifford passed Module 5, 'Honeybee Biology' and Module 6, 'Honeybee Behaviour' and having now passed 4 of the modules he is also awarded the SBA 'Intermediate Modular Certificate'.

MBA will be running a course commencing in March for any member wishing to take the basic assessment in 2020. 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.

John Baillie retained the Steele Cup for most points awarded in the show and also picked up the 'best exhibit' award along with another bottle of malt whisky for an immaculate block of beeswax.

'Best Novice Exhibitor' for 2019 was awarded to Jim Hinshelwood for a lovely jar of liquid honey.

John & Dianna Baillie have also had considerable success at national honey shows. At the Royal Highland Show, held in Ingleston in June, John was awarded the E&MBKA Napier S Landale Memorial trophy for most points in Beeswax class, Champion Beeswax Exhibitor (Ian Craig Perpetual Trophy) for most points in beeswax section, the Empirex 1938 Silver Challenge Cup for most points in the Honey Classes and NHS Blue Ribband Award for his model of a plane.

At the East of Scotland and Scottish National Honey Shows, John was awarded the David Robb Quaich in the East of Scotland show for his plain cake of beeswax, and in the National, the Barrie Trophy for highest points in the wax classes and the Andrew Limond Memorial Silver Medal, for runner up in over-all points.

Dianna was awarded the Ayrshire Honey Baking Perpetual Trophy for most points in the produce made with honey section.

At the prestigious National Honey Show in England which has literally hundreds of entries from all over the world, John was placed first for his model of the plane, and both Dianna & John managed commended through to thirds in the classes they entered - not enough points to earn a trophy, but an achievement given the sheer volume of entries.

We are still trying to get 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**

J. Baillie offered to take any exhibits for members wishing to enter any of the national honey shows.

**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 19.45 hrs.