Minutes of Moray Beekeepers Association (MBA) Annual General Meeting 2021, held virtually, via Zoom on Tuesday 23rd February, commenced 19.00 hours. Mrs A. Black in the chair.

**1. Welcome.** The Chair welcomed 29 members to the meeting. She reminded us that because of Covid-19 restrictions we have been unable to meet regularly at Birnie. Committee members and others had however continued to look after the bees, issue supplies and maintain the site.

The Healthy Bees Project led by Tony Harris has concluded. The final Report has been submitted and accepted and can be viewed on MBA Website.

Tony Harris and his wife have moved to live in France, selling off all of his beekeeping equipment in the process. In recognition of his many years of training, support and inspiration to Moray Beekeepers, Tony was presented with an engraved crystal decanter, glasses and a bottle of Single Malt Whisky at Birnie Apiary on November 28th.

Anne also thanked Alan Ranson for his work as Chair, Trustee and Trainer for MBA and Andy Watson, past Chair of MBA , now SBA Outreach Trustee.

**2. Apologies.** Petra Pennington

**3. The Minutes of AGM held 25th February 2020** were accepted as a true record. Proposed. C. Toynton, Seconded. J. Black. CARRIED by a large majority

**4. Matters Arising.** None

**5. Secretary’s Report.** Trustees met 5 times in 2020/21 once as normal, once together but socially distanced and three times virtually, on Jitsi.

Because of Coronavirus restrictions, all our Training workshops and Apiary meetings have had to be cancelled. We did manage one socially distanced working party at Birnie, and another is planned for March 30th at 10.00 am –members encouraged to come along and help with the seasons preparations.

Our new Training Team consists of Mike Collins, Anne Black, Markus Steiner, Chris Toynton and Pete Deeming. John Gifford reminded us of his previous involvement in training, and his willingness to be part of the team. He will be included in next meeting.The Team is in the process of finalising an Introduction to Beekeeping course which will be presented via Zoom and recorded presentations, followed by one-to-one practical training at Birnie,

As ever some supplies and equipment are available at competitive prices through MBA, and should where possible be ordered online via email to Pete Roberts, [equipment@moraybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:equipment@moraybeekeepers.co.uk) and paid for via BACS. The Committee has decided that the limits for members purchasing frames and foundation should be increased to 5 packs at a time. After orders are paid for, further purchases can be made, stock permitting.

MC ended his report by saying that the Committee will do it’s best to keep members informed about what’s going on at Birnie, and would encourage all members to get involved, at working parties and at members sessions when we are allowed to get back together at the apiary. Regular updates about MBA activities are posted on Facebook and Instagram, by Catriona Dunbar. In addition links to webinars from all over the UK and further afield are on our website.

**6. Treasurer’s Report.** Ken Thomson summarised the accounts, and answered points of clarification.Balance at end of December: £8,321.46 Gift Aid claims going back almost four years, totalling £1974.40, are included in this years accounts and are now up to date. The Healthy bees project has been completed and all the claims submitted and paid. This leaves the balance for the whole project at -£168.40 Ken again asked that if at all possible payment should be by BACS.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for his report, and the accounts were accepted by Poll. 93% agreed 7% abstained

**7. Election of Office Bearers/Committee. The Chair explained that the current Trustees would stand down,** The acting Chair A Black, acting Vice Chair C Toynton and acting Secretary M Collins offered themselves for election to the respective posts – proposed by M Steiner, seconded by S Scapens The Treasurer, K Thomson offers himself for re-election – proposed A Black, seconded M Collins Committee members J Black, Catriona Dunbar, Gordon Duncan, Torquil Gordon-Duff, Jim Hinshelwood, Pete Roberts, Sharon Scapens and Markus Steiner offer themselves for re-election – proposed A Black, seconded M Collins

These proposals were voted on and carried by a large majority.

J Gifford pointed out that the notice for proposals or additional items for the agenda had been sent out a couple of days late and hadn’t offered a full 14 days’ notice. It was explained that organising this meeting had been rather complicated, but that we will endeavour to be more timely with notifications in future.

**8. Proposed changes to fees.** Ken Thomson explained the reasoning behind simplifying the MBA Fee structure to just two levels. The Proposal to be voted on *To simplify Fee structure – no late payment fee, no new member joining fee, full Annual Membership fee applies at whatever time in the year someone joins. New Membership Fee to be either £17.00 for Full Adult Member, or £10.00 for Concession (Over 65, Juniors and Conservation members)*

After some discussion this was put to the vote and carried 96% agreed, 4% abstain.

**9. SCIO update and Proposal.** Sharon Scapens outlined the process so far of conversion from MBA OSCR to MBA SCIO. MBA SCIO is now registered, as Charity Number SC050177. To allow us to be able to continue to meet and vote on line, we need to have an EGM before the end of March, when that option will cease. At the EGM we can vote on the proposal to add “or virtually” to the current voting in person.

A vote was then taken on the proposal –  *To apply to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator for consent to wind up the Moray Beekeepers Association in accordance with the terms of its constitution and subsequently transfer all of the Moray Beekeepers Associations’ assets to the Moray Beekeepers Association SCIO.*

The vote was carried with a large majority in favour.

**10. Training Courses –** Markus Steiner explained the form that our Introductory Course will take, and why. The Course catering will be sorely missed, as will the personal nature of previous courses, and so we had decided to charge £15.00 for our online course. There followed a discussion on what should be charged, and for various reasons, including ensuring commitment from attendees, and not undervaluing ourselves, we decided, after a vote that the charge should be £30.00 per person.

11. **Life Membership of MBA for Tony Harris.** Proposed by Anne Black and seconded by Mike Collins, that Tony Harris should be granted Life Membership of Moray Beekeepers Association. Carried with a large majority of 89% in favour.

**12. Any other Business**

T Balch asked about the larger pieces of equipment funded in the past. A Black reassured all that the equipment, in particular the large extractor and wax melter is in the container at Birnie, and that the information is on the website and items can be borrowed by any member by arrangement.

D Clark asked about the current large Bank Balance. It was explained that we will need to renew and update with some polyhives and other equipment for the apiary, and that we need a reserve as at present we don’t know for sure how much it will cost to repair the portacabin, and indeed if we may have to move site, with considerable costs.

A Parsons suggested including in the cost of training, the cost of a nuc, so that students could take it away with their first colony of bees.

A discussion followed on the ownership of the land on which the Apiary is situated, and the security of our tenure there. We hope to have this finally clarified soon.

Finally a request that minutes of last year’s, now approved, AGM minutes, and those of Committee Meetings, will be added to the website. They will be as soon as signed off.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Attachments -

Balance Sheet as at 31.12.20 SCIO update and Proposal