

SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Reg Charity No.SCO09345

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1pm -5.15pm, Saturday 26 March 2011, in Dewar's Conference Centre, Perth.

1. **OPENING REMARKS:** President Alan Teale welcomed 49 Members. The AGM would see some new committee members elected, would present awards in recognition of excellence and would be informed of policy decisions made in November's Council Meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** 15 Members had sent apologies.
3. **OBITUARIES:** Membership Convener Phil McAnespie read out the names of 17 members who had died in the past year and also asked that we remember George Duncan and Jim Bell whose wives had died very recently.
As a mark of respect, all stood in silent tribute.

Miss Mary Findlay	Fortingall
Mr Neil Anderson	Kelvin Valley/East of Scotland
Mr David Ashton	Cumbria and Denmark
Mr James Bogle	Peebles
Mr John Edwards	East of Scotland
Mr John Gleed	Nairn and District
Mr George Hood	East Lothian
Mr Norman Hall	Fife
Mr Elliot Jardine	West Linton
Mr I R MacDonald	Inverness-shire
Mr Jim Mackie	Fife
Mr Robin Muir	Dunfermline and West Fife
Mr Andrew Richards	Edinburgh
Mr Harry Scott	Ayr
Mr J L Tocher	Aberdeen
Mr J M Tosh	Kilbarchan
Mr Bruce Wall	Mull and Iona

4. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 13 MARCH 2010

The Minutes were passed as correct and signed by the President and Secretary.

Proposed Hazel MacKenzie (Aberdeen DBKA); seconded John Tout (Dunfermline and West Fife BKA)

5. MATTERS ARISING

Mike Thornley (Helensburgh DBKA) asked about the suggestion of a second Local Association Secretaries' Meeting. This will be discussed under item 10 of the Agenda. There were no other Matters Arising.

6. REPORTS

6a) General Secretary's Report. Bron Wright (BW)

1. **Executive Meetings:** Three of the Executive committee meetings, in January, May and September 2010 were again held in Scone Palace and our thanks go to the Earl of Mansfield, our Honorary President, for his generosity in allowing us accommodation.
2. **Executive Changes for 2010:** Janice Furness was confirmed as Minutes' Secretary, Sheila Barnard as North Area Rep, John Tout as East Area Rep, Willie Taylor retired as Promotion of Beekeeping Officer and Andrew Smeaton, his long-standing deputy, will be taking over (to be confirmed under item 8).
3. **2010 Awards:** (details, July Magazine pp196-197)
Dr John Anderson Award – Magnus Peterson, Dunblane and Stirling BKA
Harry Brown Award – Allan Cameron, EMBA
Local Association Award – John Durkacz, DWFBKA and Magnus Peterson

A special presentation was also made to Rosemary Tout in recognition of her many years helping with the sales stand at the Royal Highland Show.

4. **LA Secretaries' Meeting:** 2 subjects were discussed; 'Varroa Mapping' a project to identify those areas of Scotland still free of the Varroa mite; and the LA Secretaries Meeting, should a second meeting be held during the year.
5. **Council Meeting:** Council unanimously accepted a recommendation that a Direct Debit scheme be introduced in 2012 for payment of Membership subscriptions.
6. **The Autumn Convention:** Successfully hosted by Aberdeen DBKA as part of its centenary celebrations. Speakers had been excellent.
7. **SBA Support for Two Research Projects:** Alan Bowman's (Aberdeen) investigation into Varroa mite control is complete; Chris Connolly's (Dundee) research into possible effects of combined miticide and pesticide exposure on honeybees, just beginning.
8. **Meetings:** Members of the Executive had represented the SBA at many meetings and it was hoped SBA input will continue to contribute to the well-being of honeybees.
9. **The 2011 Autumn Lecture Tour:** Spread over two weeks, allowing six lectures instead of the usual five. Ian and Ruth Homer are the lecturers

6b) Treasurer's Report. Barbara Cruden (BBC)

1. **Statement of Accounts:** The Treasurer's statement of accounts was sent out by mail this year. Almost £25000 had been transferred from the Membership Account; nevertheless expenditure still exceeded income by approx £220. Overall the SBA has quite a lot of funds but most of these are not easily accessible. BBC therefore considered it prudent that membership subscriptions were raised by £5 to £30 with effect from January 2012. This had been mooted at the Council Meeting.
2. **Discussion Points:**
 - John Coyle (JC) (Dunblane and Stirling BKA) asked why income had dropped. BBC explained that income had increased slightly but expenditure had increased much more. Magazine costs continue to rise, and 2010 had had the major one-off expense of buying an SBA trailer. JC was surprised only a £5 increase was suggested, would it suffice? AT said it would be discussed.
 - Christine Matthews (CM) (South of Scotland BKA) thought the income figure should be much higher as membership subscriptions were paid in January. BBC explained that membership fees went into a separate account and money was usually transferred to the General Account in April, once all subscriptions were in. CM asked how much had been received so far in membership fees. PMcA thought about £20000. CM asked if that meant more or less members paying by now than usual? PMcA was not sure, but said some were always slow to pay. He normally sends out final reminders at the end of March. AT said we'd need the previous year's accounts to get a true comparison, and we'll look into this.
 - Eric McArthur (EMcA) (Glasgow DBKA) asked how many Members were still underpaying, not having amended their Standing Orders. PMcA said he had sent 250-300 final reminders last year, some had paid up but 146 had not and their membership had therefore ceased. The Direct Debit system will make collecting the correct amount much easier; although this year will bring a huge amount of work in setting it up, the following years will be much easier. EMcA suggested an incentive to joining the Direct Debit scheme might be for a £10 increase, with a rebate of £5 for those paying by Direct Debit.
 - Peter Matthews (PM) (South of Scotland BKA) said it was not good to lose so many Members. Could LAs get their Members to set up Direct Debit schemes? PMcA said LA Secretaries would not be able to ask for the confidential data he would need, and he thought it unfair to put all that work on them, but they could be asked to encourage their members to join. He will be sending out one big mailing for it.
 - Phil Moss (PM) favoured a £5 increase followed by smaller increases, as needed, once the Direct Debit scheme was operative. Bill Duff said Direct Debit would allow for more frequent smaller rises.
 - It was suggested PMcA put a notice in the March Magazine each year warning that this will be the last Magazine for those not paying their subscription by the end of March. after which non-payers could be contacted.

- John Coyle noted that only 7% of SBA members were present today, and suggested that it would be a good idea therefore to put the details of today's proposals into the Magazine so that more of the membership was aware of them.

3. **Proposal and Vote to Increase the SBA Annual Subscription:**

An increase should be made in the annual SBA Subscription from 2012. *All in favour.*
The amount of increase to be £5.

The proposal to accept a £5 increase in SBA subscriptions from 2012 was proposed by John Taylor and seconded by John Tout.

The overwhelming majority were in favour, only 3 wanting a bigger increase, therefore the proposal was passed. The subscription will rise from £25 to £30.

4. **Retirement of Treasurer:** BBC announced that she will retire as Treasurer at the next AGM. AT thanked her for her hard work, and invited applications or recommendations for the position, a real opportunity for someone with a good financial brain to apply it to the betterment of the SBA. It was important to have new blood on the Executive.

6c) **Editor Nigel Hurst (NH)**

Report – March p 75

He has stood back during the production of the last two Magazines. AT formally thanked him for all the hard work he'd put into the Magazine during his time as Editor, a position which involves a lot of work, a lot of criticism and little reward. NH said the Magazine could only succeed if Members supported it and continued to send in material, and he thanked them for all their contributions.

6d) **CONVENERS' REPORTS**

1. **Advertising and Publicity. Enid Brown (EB)**

- 1.1 **The SBA Trailer:** EB said what a difference the trailer had made; she has been able to visit more shows and better promote beekeeping. SBA goods are not stored in it, just display boards etc, and not having to unload and reload every time was a huge bonus.

John Coyle (JC) asked how many miles the trailer had done. EB was not sure, but had taken it to Kinghorn, Falkland, Aberdeen, Kinross and Dundee, and this year will also take it to Edinburgh for Gardening Scotland and the Royal Highland Show (RHS). JC said this seemed to be concentrating on the East and so money not well spent. EB said she would take it to the West if dates suggested were suitable. The van that towed it was hers and her only means of transport. There was also the question of insurance- at present it had to be her who was the driver. IC said Ayr BKA had their own trailer. PM said the trailer will more than pay for itself at the RHS alone, with its 60000 visitors to the Honey Tent. CI said none of the events in the West had suitable access for a trailer, but that EB lent them the poster collection when they needed it. John Taylor also said there were problems with access in many places. EMcA said if the trailer made EB's job easier it was money very well spent as she worked so hard for the SBA.

- 1.2 **Advertisers:** Jorgensen has ceased to have full page adverts in the Magazine.

- 1.3 **Roles of Advertising and Publicity:** AT said these covered several roles: education, income and recruitment. How much does it recruit new Members? EB said they were really two separate jobs and Publicity would be better linked with Shows, but a few new Members were recruited for the SBA at most Shows, or the seeds of interest sown, at the RHS last year there were 30 new enrolments.

- 1.4 **New Members:** Phil Moss (PM) asked if we might get more new Members at the RHS if we only charged 50% of the annual fee. EB said this was already the case, and at all Shows after June, with a reminder that the full amount would be due the following January.

- 1.5 **Stewards for the Royal Highland Show:** EB reminded everyone that she needed 40 stewards a day for the RHS, and asked volunteers to sign up. Some LAs already organise a day's outing to the event, and this was a good idea for others to follow.

2. **Bee Diseases. Gavin Ramsay (GR)**

- 2.1. **Foulbrood Outbreaks:** These continued through 2010 but were fewer than in 2009. Hopefully we can look forward them becoming less of a problem.

- 2.2. **Bee Health:** Various bee health meetings have been attended; the next will be attended by PM in his new position as Diseases Convener. Bee Farmers have been co-operative, agreeing not to sell outwith foulbrood affected areas.

- 2.3. **Mapping Varroa Free Areas in Scotland:** This has begun lead by Kate Atchley (Lochaber BKA (see February Magazine p45). There will be another article soon. It is important that bees stocks are not moved into these areas.
- 2.4. **Foulbrood Colony Numbers:** EMcA asked if it were possible to have a breakdown of the reducing numbers of colonies with foulbrood. Steve Sunderland (SS) (Bee Inspector) said 71 colonies with EFB had been over-wintered and would be checked again. Shook swarm, the main treatment, had been very successful. Only small numbers had been destroyed. AT said the picture was much improved, things could be much worse. Our objective must be now to get back to the pre-EFB state.
- 2.5. **Residues in Honey:** As Markets Convener John Durkacz (JD) had been asked about oxytetracycline (OTC) residues in honey from hives treated with it for EFB. SS said testing methods were now so finely tuned that it was almost impossible to meet the stipulated zero tolerance of antibiotics in honey. It was a question of establishing an acceptable level. GR said traces had been found in at least one sample, but SS said it was so low that it had been passed as safe. Alan Riach (AR) asked where else it was used. SS said fish farmers used it but had MRLs (minimum recommended levels) rather than zero tolerance. AR asked if there were any danger of it getting into plant systems. GR said this was theoretically possible but it had a short life span anyway, traces soon disappeared. Peter Stromberg (PS) said a MRL should be set.
- 2.6. **Quarantine Sites:** Dr Frank Moisey (Tayside) asked for a map of quarantine sites. SS recommended going onto BeeBase for the foulbrood sites map, but quarantine sites are not shown.
- 2.7. **Thanks to GR:** AT thanked GR warmly, saying he deserved our heartfelt thanks for the capable way he had handled a most difficult period for the Diseases Convener. The Members showed their appreciation with a round of applause.
3. **Education. Ian Craig (IC)** Update Report - January p11
- 3.1 **The Education Committee:** As in previous years the Committee has conducted written and practical examinations, provided courses, offered advice, organised the Autumn Convention, identified the Tour Speaker, and promoted beekeeping to the general public at Shows including the RHS and the Scottish National Honey Show.
- 3.2 **Beekeeping Examinations 2010:** 20 members gained the Scottish Basic Beemaster Certificate, and 22 module certificates were awarded: 7 x module 1, 5 x module 2, 1 x module 3, 2 x module 5, 2 x module 6, 3 x module 7 and 2 x module 8. The names of the successful candidates appeared in the 'Education Update' in the Magazine of July 2010 and October 2010. Two were awarded the Scottish Intermediate Certificate, two the Scottish Advanced Certificate, one the Scottish Microscopy Certificate and two the Scottish Honey Judge Certificate. Four of the Basic Beemaster candidates were senior school pupils who sat the examination as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- 3.3 **Updated Syllabi:** Members are advised that the syllabi for the Basic Beemasters' Examination and the Modular Examinations were updated last year. Syllabi can be obtained from the 'downloads' section of the SBA Website, failing that please contact the Education Convener. The marking scheme is now out of 100 instead of 75 but this does not mean that there are more questions. The next Modular examinations will be held on 24 March 2012 and ALL modules 1-8 will be examined every year. Module 4 has been discontinued. Module 9 Microscopy will be held on 31 March 2012.
- 3.4 **2010 Autumn Convention, Aberdeen:** This was fairly well supported, but we always hope for more. 99 delegates plus 7 trade stand holders attended what was a very pleasant and informative day. IFS had brought fliers for this year's Autumn Convention.
- 3.5 **2010 Tour Speaker:** This was Dinah Sweet, from Wales. Her lectures attracted a good attendance and were well received.
- 3.6 **Retirement of Willie Taylor (WT):** After many years of sterling work, WT has retired as Promotion of Beekeeping Officer and will be replaced by his long time deputy, Andrew Smeaton. IC thanked him most warmly for all his work over the years.
- 3.7 **Queen Rearing Workshop 29-30 May 2010:** EB and JD organised this very successful weekend at Dunfermline and West Fife BKA apiary. It was led by Terry Clare, President of BIBBA. Around 40 Members attended, 21 to both workshops. A report was written by Mike Thornley and printed in the July Magazine, p181.

- 3.8 **Morphometry Course 27 Nov 2010:** EB, assisted by JD and GR organised this follow-on course on Morphometry and Breeding Better Bees at Scotlandwell. The course was again taught by Terry Clare. In spite of the snow, about 50 members attended and feedback was extremely positive.
- 3.9 **2011 Examinations:** 17 Members attended the Microscopy course in the University of Stirling on 12 March 2011. 27 candidates sat 35 module papers on 19 March 2011. 13 candidates have so far applied to sit the Basic Beemaster Exam, and 2 the Apiarian.
- 3.10 **New Honey Judges:** Peter and Christine Matthews (South of Scotland BKA) were congratulated and presented with their Honey Judge Certificates.
- 3.11 **Thanks to IC:** AT emphasised that education was one of the SBA's *raison d'être*, and thanked IC for all his work as Education Convener.
- 3.12 **Point re Module 4:** It was pointed out from the floor that although the Website says Module 4 has been discontinued, it also states that Module 4 is required for the Intermediate Certificate. IC said this was an oversight and would be corrected.
- 3.13 **Beginners' Classes:** EMcA asked how successful beginners' classes had been. Several LAs now run them, producing many of the SBAs new Members.
- 3.14 **Integrating Courses:** JC said we seem to have three different scenarios; Magnus Peterson's (MP) notes on the SBA Website: BBKAs Course in a Case: the Modular Examinations. Should the committee look at some way of unifying these? IC said the Scottish Government was looking into education and that the SBA's Basic Beemaster Certificate fitted in beautifully with their Honeybee Health Strategy (HBHS). The Course in a Case is very useful. PMcA has spoken to MP and he will try to integrate Course in a Case in his course. SS agreed Course in a Case does mesh well with the Modules and the HBHS Education sub-committee will look into this. IC emphasised that Course in a Case was not mandatory, it just offers help.
- 3.15 **Communicating the Beginners' Course:** Peter Stromberg (PS) said a beginners' course should not be too prescriptive. JD said Fife's beginners' course was going over the heads of some class members, and that what are needed is good communicators who can pitch the course at the right level. Mike Thornley agreed with this. IC said Kilbarchan had someone to monitor beginners. IC said the Scottish Government is working on this.
4. **Insurance and Compensation. Charlie Irwin (CI)** Report - February p52
- 1 **Vandalism Claims:** There had been none in 2010, the first time for many years. EMcA asked whether in cases of vandalism the claim needs to be accompanied by a police crime report. CI said this was the case.
- 2 **Leaflet:** The Insurance and Compensation leaflet has been updated and reprinted.
- 3 **Claims:** Before acting on any claim CI checks with PMcA that the claimant is a fully paid-up SBA member.
- 4 **Number of Colonies Covered:** AT asked how many colonies were now covered? CI said he had tightened this up. The subscription covered 10 hives; he had wanted to reduce this to its original 4 but the Executive had outvoted him, so it was still 10, with an additional £4 for each 10 additional hives. He has reinstated the stipulation that affiliate and family members have to pay extra to be part of the compensation scheme, so a 'family' of 3 can no longer claim free compensation cover for 30 hives!
The difficulty is in ascertaining how many hives a beekeeper has: if he has 15 hives, has not paid the extra £4 and then claims for 3 lost, the compensation claim is refused as he is under-insured. JD asked if there was any way of knowing how many hives were owned. CI said the survey he sent to LA Secretaries last year asking for numbers of hives owned by each of their members, though the answers were anonymous, was nevertheless to give an idea of whether extra cover may be needed. However, he only had a 60% return. If the beekeeper is known to have more than 10 hives and has not paid any extra, then no hives are covered as he is under-insured. Similarly if he has not paid the full Membership fee he is not entitled to any cover. The 40 day rule was brought in for late payers, meaning no cover for 40 days after late payments.
- 5 **Thanks:** AT thanked CI for his hard work over the past year.
5. **Library. Una Robertson (UAR)**
- 1 **Work in the Moir Library:** This carries on much as before. Books continue to be added to the stock and the magazines are gradually being put into a semblance of order.

- 2 **Duplicate Magazines:** At both the AGM and the Council Meeting duplicate magazines, some of our own and some from other associations both here and abroad, were offered to members in exchange for donations: the two occasions raised £47.10 for the benefit of the Library. In the July Magazine, 42 duplicate books not needed by the Moir were offered to members, again in exchange for donations. Over half these books found new homes and a further £181.93 was raised from the donations.
- 3 **Archival Material:** In view of our forthcoming Centenary the Library Committee is looking at the question of collecting together archival material regarding the SBA in order to secure its survival.
- 4 **Borrowing Books:** Members are reminded that books can be borrowed from the Moir by contacting the Library Convener by post, telephone or email. Borrowers only pay postage for returning the books. Personal access to the Moir requires a current, up-to-date Library card which is sent out to every member after payment of the annual subscription in January. It is absolutely essential that this card is shown to the staff at Fountainbridge Library, otherwise access to the Moir will not be granted.
- 5 **Possible Moir Library Move:** Tom McGravie asked UAR to tell the meeting of the very latest development, and UAR revealed that the previous day there had been a meeting with the Edinburgh Public Library, and that the Moir *might* be able to move back from the Fountainbridge basement to a much pleasanter setting in the Central Library on George IV Bridge.
6. **Markets. John Durkacz (JD)**
 - 1 **The Scottish Honey Survey:** The report was published in the February Magazine, p 41. This time it had been conducted by email and had had a higher response. It had little statistical relevance however; as there could only be an average for an area if there were enough returns, and one area had had a single return from a very successful producer. Overall the returns had been a bit better than the previous year. Prices asked compared very much with the supermarket survey he did, and some beekeepers seemed to have found it useful.
 - 2 **Environmental Health Inspectors:** They had been more in evidence and a number of Members have had their honey tested, none with problems.
 - 3 **Instruction Leaflet:** Les Webster's 1992 instruction leaflet needs updating. JD hopes to do this soon; he is fully occupied at present.
7. **Membership. Phil McAnespie (PMcA)** Report - p52 February
 - 1 **New Members:** 128 in total. Membership is now 1328, going up gently thanks to Enid and others. 300 reminders were sent to non-payers and 146 of these have now been crossed off the membership list.
 - 2 **Thanks:** AT thanked PMcA for the enormous amount of work he does as Membership Convener.
 - 3 **Course in a Case 2:** This is available from PMcA for those who have ordered it.
8. **Shows. Enid Brown (EB)**
Nothing new to report.

6e) OFFICERS' REPORTS

1. **Pesticides and Spray Liaison. Les Webster (LW) absent**
Les Webster had sent the Executive a letter explaining that he felt the post of Spray Liaison Officer was no longer appropriate. The Executive had agreed, and therefore the post will not be filled this year. LW did not have the local knowledge needed. Sprayers should contact the beekeeper or the LA Secretary. The best policy was for the beekeeper to have a good relationship with nearby farmers.
2. **Promotion of Beekeeping**
No report as Willie Taylor (WT) retired last year. Andy Smeaton will be the new Promotion of Beekeeping Officer (see item 9).
3. **Audio-Visual Aids**
The Office of Audio-Visual Aids has been discontinued. JD has offered to look through the material stored by WT to see what is worth keeping.
4. **Website. Alasdair Joyce (AJ)**
 - 1 **Website Inquiries:** Inquiries are either dealt with, or passed onto LA Secretaries. This often results in new Members.

- 2 **New Internet Provider:** This has been very successful; there was a seamless transition.
- 3 **Retirement of the Webmaster:** AJ had hoped to step down at today's AGM but will not do so until a suitable replacement has been found.

6f) Area Reports

1. Aberdeen and Moray. Hazel MacKenzie (HMacK)

- 1.1 **General:** Bees have been enjoying lovely spring-like weather in March and working snowdrops, butterbur, aconites and willow. What a joy for beekeepers. Last year the many weeks of continuous snow cover were disastrous for many colonies, but those surviving built up rapidly and swarmed early.
- 1.2 **ADBKA:** Very successful Beginners' Classes were held in January and February and a follow-on programme of demonstrations and hands-on practical experience has been arranged for the summer months. A request has been made to experienced beekeepers in the Association to provide nucs for beginners. Aberdeen Community Council Garden and Allotments are on-going with security fencing being erected. There have been no new cases of foulbrood and the standstill order on the Association apiary has been lifted. Varroa seems less evident, especially where Apivar was used.
- 1.3 **MBKA:** New membership cards, incorporating the 2011 programme of events, have been introduced this year and given to members. They are running Beginners' Classes and Classes for the Basic Beekeeping Exam in 2011 as well as a Queen-Rearing programme concentrating on the black bee.
- 1.4 **Winter Losses:** This has varied from 50% to only odd weak stocks. Aberdeenshire beekeepers who fed Ambrosia in Autumn have had no losses compared to those who fed sugar syrup. Generally stocks are in good health and building up with young bees due to better bee-friendly weather. However, we will have a more accurate picture once spring inspections have taken place.
- 1.5 **HMacK Retirement:** Finally, HMacK announced that after 9 years in post she will be stepping down at the next AGM. AT thanked her for her long stint of duty.

2. East. John Tout (JT)

- 2.1 **General:** Most beekeepers in the East had a slightly better year in 2010 than in 2009, but even meticulous beekeepers have had some losses, and JT will be sending round a questionnaire to ask for opinions on why this might have happened. GR said there was already an SBA survey form for colony losses, Magnus Peterson's COLOSS, so why duplicate? But JT said JD was particularly concerned why some of last year's beginners' colonies had not survived since he had provided many of them.
- 2.2 **Pyrethroid-Resistant Varroa Mites:** Last year saw the first signs of pyrethroid-resistance, so IPM becomes increasingly important.
- 2.3 **Beginners' Course:** The joint FBA and DWFBA beginners' class has 45 members this year and it will be difficult to get them all bees.

3. North. Shiela Barnard (SB) absent

Report - January p26

4. West. Peter Stromberg (PS)

- 1 **Winter Losses:** These had varied from medium to very high, but had mostly been balanced by colony increases. West Glasgow losses appeared very low, but towards Kelvin Valley and Bishopriggs they were quite high. Many beekeepers had no honey. Snow had lain from 25 November until two weeks ago; the bees had had perhaps 6 flying days in all that period. It was still too early to assess winter losses – wait until mid-April.
- 2 **Pyrethroid-Resistant Mites:** There had been the first signs of pyrethroid-resistant mites in some areas. It is 10 years since they were first found in England and it had been anticipated that they would reach us after 10 years.
- 3 **Comments:**
 - EMcA said it was time beekeepers used alternative treatments – thymol was good but organic acids were better. AT said people were already heavily using organic acids.
 - JD found there was a real variance in the success of thymol here. Many using it do not close off the open-mesh floor when inserting Apiguard, so it doesn't work. It may work better in polystyrene hives. PM only uses Apiguard and leaves it in all winter.
 - Alan Riach said it was important to vary treatments.
 - IC had been unable to detect mites in some colonies and wondered if the bees were beginning to cope.

7. SBA AWARDS 2011

Details of the Award winners were printed in the Magazine May 2011 p125

Local Association Award: Charlie Irwin, Glasgow DBKA.

Harry Brown Award: Phil Moss, Oban DBKA.

PM thanked everyone for the Award. He is delighted with the certificate but would like the prize money to go towards the expenses of one of the speakers at the 2012 SBA Centenary celebrations.

Harry Brown Award Certificate for 2010 was given retrospectively to Allan Cameron.

The Moir Library Prize: Robert Hawker for his article '*Thomas William Cowan – a Son of Scotland*'. RH was not present but had intimated his thanks for the beautiful certificate, designed by Susie Wright, and would like to donate the £25 prize to the Moir Library.

8. ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS

The President read out the list of nominations.

Hon President: The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Mansfield DL JP;

Hon Vice-President: I F Steven

Hon. Auditor G Hendry, CA (Aberdeen);

Hon. Legal Adviser: Taggart, Meil and Mathers (Aberdeen);

Hon. Librarian: Mrs M Sharp (Edinburgh).

Proposal for the re-election of Honorary Office Bearers:

Proposed Ian Craig, seconded, Barbara Cruden.

Nominations accepted unanimously by the Meeting.

9. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President read out the lists of nominations.

President's Committee

The following Members were nominated by the Executive:

President	P McAnespie	(Ayr)
Vice-President	Mrs B Wright	(Edinburgh)
Imm. Past Presidents	Prof A Teale	(Inverness)
	I Craig	(Kilbarchan)
General Secretary	Mrs B Wright	(Edinburgh)
SBA Co-ordinator	I F Steven	(Perth)
Treasurer	Mrs B Cruden	(Aberdeen)
Editor	N Southworth	(Uphall)
Minutes Secretary	Mrs J Furness	(St Andrews) confirmed

Alan Teale retired as President to become Immediate Past President;

Vice-President Phil McAnespie becomes President (proposed by John Coyle and seconded by Ben Bellamy); Bron Wright becomes the Vice- President (proposed by Claude Wilson and seconded by Bryce Reynard); Ian Craig, Immediate Past President, continues as Past President since Alan Teale will not be able to complete the normal three year term (the two past presidents proposed by Mike Thornley and seconded by Alan Riach), Nigel Southworth replaces Nigel Hurst as Editor (proposed by Ian Craig and seconded by Alan Teale). The remaining, unchanged positions of Treasurer, Minutes Secretary and SBA Co-ordinator were proposed en bloc by Hazel MacKenzie and seconded by John Coyle.

Nominations accepted unanimously by the Meeting.

Taking over the running of the meeting from this point, the new President, Phil MacAnespie thanked the Executive and the Membership for the honour they had bestowed on him, and thanked the retiring President for his fluency, knowledge and skill, and the hard work he had done during his two years in post. There was a round of applause for AT, who in turn thanked all on the Executive for their hard work and support, and said it had been a privilege to chair meetings with them. There were also non-Executive members of the SBA who had given him great support and he was grateful to them too.

PMcA said things are changing in the world, but as the bees work for the benefit of the colony, he trusts the new Executive would work well together for the benefit of the SBA.

Conveners of Standing Committees

One change: Dr Phil Moss nominated to replace Dr G Ramsay as Diseases Convener.

The following Members were nominated by the Executive:

Advertising and Publicity	Miss E Brown	(Kinross)
Bee Diseases	Dr P Moss	(Oban)
Education	I Craig	(Kilbarchan)
Insurance/Compensation	C Irwin	(Glasgow)
Library	Mrs U A Robertson	(Edinburgh)
Markets	Dr J Durkacz	(Crossford)
Membership	P McAnespie	(Ayr)
Shows	Miss E Brown	(Kinross)

Dr P Moss proposed by Gavin Ramsay, seconded Ben Bellamy

Other Conveners proposed by Alan Riach, seconded Peter Stromberg

Nominations accepted unanimously by the Meeting.

Area Representatives

The following Members were nominated:

Aberdeen and Moray	Mrs H MacKenzie	(2003)	(Aberdeen)
East	J Tout	(2009)	(Dunfermline)
North (confirmed)	Mrs S Barnard	(2010)	(Mull)
West	Dr P Stromberg	(2008)	(Houston)

Nominations accepted unanimously by the Meeting.

Officers

Two of the Officer positions, Audio Visual Aids and Spray Liaison, have been discontinued.

The following Members were nominated by the Executive:

Promotion of Beekeeping	A Smeaton	(Aberdeen)
Webmaster	A Joyce	(Forres)

Proposed Barbara Cruden, seconded Enid Brown

Nominations accepted unanimously by the Meeting.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE 2010 COUNCIL MEETING and LOCAL ASSOCIATION SECRETARIES' MEETING

1 Direct Debit, PMcA

The move to a Direct Debit scheme, voted for at Council, is progressing. Due to the size of the SBA we will be acting through a third party. Notification will be sent to all Members as the year goes on. Claude Wilson (CW) asked how the payment would appear in Members' bank statements, would it be clearly recognisable as a payment to the SBA? PMcA can't say yet, it would probably be the company's name rather than the SBA, but he will make sure members have all the details needed to recognise the payee.

2 Increase in Subscription, PMcA

This has been covered in item 6b Treasurer's Report. IC asked if the payment would be for the whole year, and PMcA said yes, this was the cheapest way of doing it.

3 Business from the LA Secretaries Meeting.

Mike Thornley (MT) thought BW's suggestion that areas organise their own LA Secretaries' meeting, if they want a second one, was a good one. He feels it is important to use as many ideas as possible to get Members together for discussion. PMcA agreed that the Area Reps could take this forward.

4 Bee Diseases Day(s)

Steve Sunderland (SS) said he hoped days to identify the issues of Foulbrood would be organised in June/July at EMBA's apiary (on SASA's land) and at Auchincruive. Half the day will be spent in the classroom, and half in smaller groups doing practical work in the apiary. In future it is hoped to hold similar days at other locations round Scotland. IC

suggested a weekend rather than a weekday, as not all would-be participants were retired. SS said the courses were likely to be over-subscribed so there might have to be one held mid-week and one at the weekend as well.

11. REPORTS

1. CONBA (Council of National Beekeeping Associations of United Kingdom and Ireland) PMcA

CONBA's role is to represent the interests of beekeepers within the UK and Ireland. By rotation, the Chair is held by a representative of one country, for two years at a time. CONBA works here and in the EU, for the promotion of beekeeping. Some of the European funds go to Graeme Sharpe, Scottish Agricultural College. Money for each country is awarded depending on its number of honey bee colonies. There is some interaction with the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA). PMcA will disseminate information from the meetings through the Magazine.

2. Scottish Government - Honeybee Health Strategy IC

IC said he was not quite ready to report on this. The four sub-committees set up had been reduced to two, he was on the Education sub-committee. SS had done a huge amount of work getting money from the Scottish Government and also Bee Farmers for sponsoring the Course in a Case, so that it was being offered to Local Associations at £50 instead of £150. (FERA funds 'Course in a Case' for England). IC said today's Scottish Government was much more supportive of beekeepers than previously, he had no complaints now.

3. BIBBA (Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association), EB

3.1 Preservation of the Black Bee: BIBBA's main aim is to preserve the black bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera* (A m m) and to strongly discourage importation of honeybees. Their 'Project Discovery' is trying to establish where the black bee can still be found: beekeepers who think they may still have black bees are invited to send a sample of at least 30 bees to Alan Jones (AJ), Belfast. He does morphometry tests on them and if the results look promising sends them for DNA testing. Morphometry can be carried out manually, or with computer programmes BeeMorph and DrawWing. AJ's expenses are paid by the Co-op.

3.2 Identifying A m m in Scotland: GR thought we were trying to do this ourselves, but EB said there were already too many imported bees here to get true A m m. JD said he and GR had worked out a way of surveying large numbers, and could set up area surveys. He said there had been no feed-back from AJ, but EB said individuals who had sent AJ samples had received their test results.

3.3 Possible Candle Making Course: EB said there might be another 'wax' day, held again at Thorne's, Newburgh.

12 AOCB

1. Chris Connolly's (CC) Research Project, JD

100 volunteers are needed over 3 years to fill in record cards, designed by CC and beekeepers, recording hive treatments, forage, colony development, mite fall, and a yearly summary.

New electronic hive monitors, not yet commercially available, will also be trialled and 25 volunteers are required to have these fitted to their hives, starting the third week of April. The monitors should provide a huge amount of data; they are unobtrusive and will require infrequent battery changes. There are 15 volunteers so far.

IC asked if a single hive was enough for a record card. JD thought it probably is, but at least 4 hives are required for the monitors which would all be linked.

JD said CC had shown himself very adaptable to suggestions, as a result of which he has significantly modified his first suggestions.

CC has also offered participants Nosema testing and his laboratory will be able to distinguish *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae*.

PM asked how far west CC would go. JD said for the monitors he'd be concentrating on the central belt for logistic reasons, but for the record cards he understood CC wanted a balance, and to include some areas without Varroa. He does not want bee farmers.

PM asked whether splitting colonies would affect the research. JD said normal beekeeping activities would carry on, so some colonies would be split.

PMcA said this was really interesting research. Good bee-husbandry was all that was required from us. Anyone interested in taking part should give their names to JD and he would forward them to CC. In 2008 several had noted from this floor that there had been no mention of any research into pesticides. Now we've got it, and we should support it.

CC will be talking on his research project, '*Are Pesticides and Miticides Contributing to Honey bee Decline?*' on 7 April at Portmoak Hall, Scotlandwell, and on 28 April at Ayr DBKA; Fortingall and Peebles have also offered to host a talk.

2. 2012 SBA Centenary Celebrations: PMcA

- 2.1 These are planned for September 14-15-16 2012. UAR will be reminding us regularly in the Magazine. PMcA and IC emphasised it is a very special event. Three world class speakers had been invited, Professors Seeley (USA), Pickard and Paxton. With this quality of speaker we need good support. It will cost us money, but will be well worth it.
- 2.2 The celebration will replace the 2012 Autumn Convention.
- 2.3 It will be held in Stirling University's Management Centre on the Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday. There will be a dinner and ceilidh on the Saturday evening. There will be displays from Local Associations.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm

accepted as correct Minutes:Chair

.....Secretary

The 2011 Council Meeting will be held at Dewar's Conference Centre Perth on Saturday 26 November 2011

The 2012 AGM will be held at Dewar's Conference Centre Perth on Saturday 17 March 2012