

Membership Convener's Report for 2011

(As at 31/12/11)

Phil McAnespie, Membership Convener

Membership

During 2011 we recruited 178 new members, some of whom were family members and increased our voting membership by a total of 210. During 2011 we lost 7 members through death and 24 through resignation. However I have also had to remove 134 memberships (including some family membership) from the database due to non payment of subscriptions in 2011.

As a consequence our membership has fallen from 1314 on 1 January 2011 to 1296 on 1 January 2012. This is the second year in a row in which our membership has declined albeit by a small amount.

I appreciate that when the Direct Debit scheme becomes operational this may impact on the loss of members who forget to pay or increase their subscription however at a time when beekeeping is uppermost in the mind of our population, this is a sad indictment on our association that we have been unable to capitalise on the current situation and increase our membership.

I am delighted however to report that we have three new associations in the SBA, namely Bute, Lamancha and Western Isles and also to report that there is a new association in Perth which will join us in the near future. We are delighted to welcome them and trust that their associations will go on from strength to strength.

Can I highlight again that the subscription has been raised to £30 for full membership with each additional family member, if required, being an additional £5.

I also draw your attention to the fact that subscription reminders are not sent out as a matter of course due to the increased work and postal cost that this incurs.

Notification of Deceased Members

Sadly I have to report the death of 7 SBA members, notified to me, since my last report.

Mr J. Bogle	Peebles Association
Mr J. Gleed	Nairn & District Association
Mr J.B MacKie	Fife Association
Mrs Nessie Smith	Edinburgh & Midlothian Association
Mr G.M Biggar	East Lothian Association
Mr E. Jardine	West Linton & District Association
Mr R. Robb	Ayr & District Association

I know that there will be local association members who have passed away this year together with loved ones of SBA members. We remember them also in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Current Membership Numbers

UK Full Members	1024
UK Family members (primary subscribers)	131
UK Family members (additional subscribers)	132
Overseas Full Members	1
Life Members	8
Total voting personal membership	<u>1296</u>

Further figures include:

Affiliate Members	7
Affiliated Local Associations	39
Free & Exchange	22
Library	11

Subscription Payments for 2012.

I would urge members to ensure that their subscription payment, which is due on 1st January each year, is correct. The subscription payment for 2012 is:

Full membership £30

Family membership £30 (plus £5 for each additional member living in the household)

If the correct payment is not received prior to 31st March 2012, the 40 day rule for insurance purposes will apply.

Direct Debit Payment Scheme.

At the Council Meeting in November 2010 it was decided that the payment of subscriptions to the SBA could be undertaken by a Direct Debit Scheme instead of the present standing order system.

Although it had been my intention to begin the Direct Debit scheme from 1 January 2012 unfortunately due to bank issues this has been delayed.

The scheme is almost functional now and I will be sending out Direct Debit Mandates for members to complete in the next few months. I urge members to make use of this system which will ensure more immediate and correct subscription payments to the SBA. This is a very safe scheme and will replace the existing standing order payment method.

Direct Debit mandates can be completed on the paper format which I will send out or can be initiated by contacting me by phone.

This system will entail a considerable amount of extra work for me in the first year or so and I would be grateful if members could be as forgiving as possible should normal service not be as smooth as anticipated.

SBA Compensation

The Compensation fee is still £4 for every 10 hives or part thereof in addition to the first 10 hives covered in the SBA subscription. This payment is due prior to the 1st May each year. The forty day rule for Compensation will come into effect for fees received after 31st May in any year.

Given the events of the last two years in beekeeping I would urge members to consider this payment seriously and submit the fee to the membership convener in plenty of time.