



Web Master's Report to the Annual General Meeting for the period 1 January to 31 December 2011.

1 Usage

The web site has continued to provide members and other beekeepers with a range of information resources and services.

2 Guidelines

In May the Executive Committee agreed a set of guidelines governing the future management and content of the web site. These have proved useful to the web master in ensuring that the content and layout of the site meets the needs of users, and that it is managed in accordance with the wishes of the Executive Committee, on behalf of the members.

3 Web Master's Replacement

I intimated a year ago my intention to vacate the position of Web Master by March 2012, and accordingly the Executive has tried to find suitable person, willing and able to take over the full role. This has proved difficult, and to date no such person has been found. It is still my intention long-term to vacate the position, but I have recognised that it may take some time to find a new Web Master, and I do not intend to 'abandon' the role leaving the SBA Executive to manage the web site without an appropriately skilled person in place. I am prepared to continue in the short to medium term in a more 'back-seat' role with perhaps some of the day-to-day updating of the site being undertaken by a small number of other volunteers. While this approach would have been impossible a year ago, the implementation of a new web site has made this a practical possibility.

4 New SBA Web Site

It was already clear a year ago that the site was in need of significant re-design and modernisation. While I would have preferred to leave this task in the hands of a new Web Master I felt that, in the absence of someone suitable being found it was inappropriate to delay the process any longer. Therefore in late October I began the task of creating a new web site. This included adopting a new site management system and eventually moving the site to a new hosting company in order to take advantage of the most recent developments and improvements available in web hosting technology.

Although there were a few glitches to begin with, the new site now seems to have settled down. I have received a significant amount of constructive and very helpful feedback from members since then.

5 Members Only Site

In May the Executive Committee agreed to create a 'members only' area on the web site protected by a username and password, which would be changed annually. The user name and password would be sent to members in January with their new Moir card on payment of annual subscriptions. Further, the Council agreed in September that in the future, Annual Reports and AGM and Council Minutes will be published only on the web site. Accordingly, at the time of writing this report, the members only page has been created and the necessary papers are being published there as they become available.

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