



Committee Meeting Wednesday 10th January 2024 @ 7.30pm On Zoom			
Minutes			
1.	Welcomes/Apologies and Agreement of previous minutes (20th September 2023 Zoom). Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Angie Dunn (Chair)▪ Roger Piercy▪ Dave Thomson▪ Barbara Gray▪ Julia Garrison▪ Stuart Young▪ Jane Thomson▪ Don Fraser	A. Dunn	Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sam Smith▪ Elsbeth Neil▪ Bill Cormack Minute :20/9/23 Adopted by JT Seconded: DT

2.	<p>Outstanding actions from previous meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pravin has taken over the library. Committee to recommend new books. • Train the Trainer was cancelled and is now a 1-day course on March 12th • Virkon and display boards still to be purchased AD • Bee suits purchased from Loch Ness Honey for £45 each (XXL, XXS and child suit (free)) 	A. Dunn	BG/AD
3.	<p>Membership/Treasurer's Update</p> <p>SS reported a bank balance of £2275.71 with a membership of 58 plus families SS asked that we encourage dd/bank transfers. SS can investigate direct debits/standing orders and the ability to change the amount.</p>		SS
4.	<p>SBA AGM 27th April 2024</p> <p>D&DBKA will co-host the SBA AGM with Inverness-shire at the Spectrum Centre in Inverness. Gino Jabbar was our Association's first choice of speaker and has been asked to talk about Diversity in the Apiary. Our second choice on Bees and Trees was Bron and David Wright and they have also been invited. AD/BG are to clarify whether non-SBA members are allowed to attend the talks. Our Association commitments will be to welcome and direct attendees and we hope that AD gets her wish to do this in a bee outfit!</p>	AD/BG	AD/BG

<p>5.</p>	<p>Meetings Review and Future Winter Talks The Honey Monitoring Service will give us a talk on Zoom on 17th January.</p> <p>We hope Lorraine Johnston will talk to us again in Feb but alternatives would be an Association chat on varroa treatment, asking Lorraine to do a Zoom, asking Alan Riach or Ann Chilcott to talk on Zoom.</p> <p>Bryce and Elizabeth Reynard will come to talk about Hive Products Beyond Honey on 20th March.</p> <p>AD will organise a quiz for the AGM.</p> <p>Andrew Card will do a queen rearing apiary visit on 26th May.</p> <p>Ann Chilcott is happy to do talks on Zoom and also suggested an apiary visit. Apiary to be decided.</p> <p>Black Isle Show 1st August</p> <p>Black Isle Food Festival 23rd/24th August</p>	<p>All Members</p>	<p>BG</p> <p>BG</p> <p>AD</p> <p>AD</p>
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6.	<p>Education Basic Beekeeping Certificate (BBC) AD suggested a more formal approach for our novice beekeepers (and beyond novice) and thought that studying for the BBC would be a way to promote this through group study of an evening supported by practical sessions. BG felt that the BBC prompted her to fill gaps in knowledge. JT thought it would be a struggle to find time and to stick to the syllabus. DF suggested giving the curriculum to mentors as an aid to study rather than trying to do an actual course. There was a worry that, if advertised, a formal course could attract people without a real commitment to learning and long-term bee-keeping and would be too onerous. RP suggested strengthening the mentorship system. A Zoom meeting for mentors was suggested. Timescale for the BBC exam is to apply in February. Discussion widened into the existing mentorship arrangements and AD will survey members to find out how this is going and to gauge interest in more formal learning. RP said that he had been speaking to Arthur Hill who has now handed all of the paperwork of his bees over to his granddaughter. Beginner courses at Fairfield Apiaries may not now be possible so we will need to find an alternative venue.</p> <p>Honey Judge Course Enid Brown and Ann Chilcott had had discussions on a Honey Judge Course because of a shortage of honey judges. Enid may be willing to run a course in the north if a minimum of 6 people is interested. Nairn may have one person. BG will write to Enid to see what would be involved e.g. existing modules, how long, etc.</p> <p>Train the Trainer Course A 1-day course will be held in Nairn on 12th March. AD and BG are booked and Jo Young was also invited to attend.</p>	All Members	AD
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7.	<p>Honey Show</p> <p>Two options were presented to the committee – an evening or a full Saturday. It was decided to try a full Saturday event with entries between 10-12 and judging between 1-3pm and a prizegiving at 4pm on 5th October. DT pointed out that the St Clement's Church Hall could be difficult if the football is on so BG will investigate Strathpeffer Community Centre.</p> <p>The Association (AD) will purchase a box of 1lb jars with gold lids and a box of crystal cut comb containers to be re-sold to members who don't have their own supplies. JG will store these.</p>	All Members	BG/AD
8.	<p>Expenditure Suggestions</p> <p>AD suggested buying a card machine for honey sales. This is to be investigated to see how easy it would be to link to multiple accounts but not purchased at the moment.</p> <p>BG asked that we purchase a Zoom licence and this was approved.</p>	All Members	BG
9.	<p>A.O.C.B.</p> <p>Various members have enquired about Bill Fraser post op and AD will enquire.</p> <p>AD is going to survey members on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treating for varroa • membership of the SBA • membership of Beebase • mentorship (do they know their mentor and have they used them) <p>We would also like to find out why people leave the Association.</p>	All members	AD
10.	Date of Next Committee Meeting	7.30pm	27 th March 2024