

Dunblane & Stirling Beekeepers' Association (SCIO)

AGM Minutes held in Dunblane Cathedral Halls, on Tuesday, 5th November 2019 at 7.30pm

Apologies: Peter Cartwright, Jacky Robinson, Rob McGowan, Anne-Marie Campbell, Dorothy Breckenridge Margaret Porter, Ian Fraser, Peter and Paula Moor, Bridget Thomson, June Petersen, Mike Craig, Mark Robertson and Victoria Paterson-Mackie

Minutes of previous meeting

Proposed by Rona Macleod and seconded by Les Slater

Matters Arising

Amendment of OSCR (in second paragraph) to read Association.

Chair's Report

Rona asked about the insurance. Where does it lie in the Association's accounts? The meeting was informed it came under Admin (premium of around £850).

She went on to ask which schools/groups had benefited from Association talks over the year:

- Dunblane Primary School – John Coyle and Morag Fraser
- RHET Food and Farming 9that day – 380 children – Magnus Peterson and Les Slater
- World Earth Hour, Dunblane – Christine Craig
- 4 presentations to schools in Edinburgh and Falkirk – Mike Nash

Each group had received very different talks. Mike Nash also offered to put his particular talk on a USB stick for others to use.

Rona asked whether she would be able to borrow the observation hive – yes.

Richard Haseltine pointed out he had two observation hives; one 2 frame which he has already given to the Association but currently has at home. The other is a four frame, double-glazed hive which he is happy for someone to take on.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts have been checked by an independent examiner but not yet sent to OSCR. This will probably occur next month.

Total Income - £16,726.06 and expenditure - £18,020.00

Answers to questions

- Insurance is a new expense. The hire of the hall has gone up. Expenditure on the apiary is large and ongoing (improvements).
- Subs – cannot be raised until the next financial year (October 2020).
- Budget group's recommendations – items provided by bulk order, beefed etc – members get at more or less cost price. A very minimal amount is taken off by the Assoc. We will need to add a handling charge to some of these items (Bulk, suits, feed) Eg, £400 on bulk order and £800 on bee feed. If we need further income, we will seek donations.
- John Hoskins's - £2,027 raised from beginners. This was split between 2 years.
- JH - Queried the large differences between col 2 exp - £1,125.70 and the same the previous year - £507.60. This was hall hire, module meetings and general admin costs.
- JH - 2018/19 - £1,694.66 – developing the apiary. He asked where the money has gone. Ewen would explain in the apiary report.
- JH – Insurance- Kenneth explained what was covered with the new insurance – Trustees' liability, premises, public liability etc.
- John Coyle asked about the income discrepancy for 2019/20 – an amount of £700 which we hope to get through donations. Do we have any ideas about how we plan to raise the £700 short fall? He went on to ask how many members we have. Around 180.
- Subs – this will be discussed at Board level before being put to the membership. Andy Lavery felt it prudent to point out that this was the first time the Association had come up with a budget.
- IBCs – Rona asked whether it would be worth contacting the council to get rid of these containers. The answer was no. However, John Wells (Doune Allotment Soc) will happily take 2 of the 1,000Ltr ones off our hands.
- Peter Hunt – still needs to apply for the Gift Aid.

Accounts proposed by John Hoskins and Seconded by Ian Mackie.

Apiary

- Ewen put forward his thanks to Elspeth, Morag, Kenneth, Ian, John MacIsaac, Eric Black and Tony Davy (Apiary committee) for all their help over the year.
- The beekeeping year has now just finished but work at the apiary is on-going.
- There had been 6 hands-on groups through the summer. Each group had been allocated an individual colony. This concept needs development.
- A beginners' survey was carried out and new training will be implemented due to the results.
- Infrastructure – 2 years ago £1,400 was put towards a new roof. Over the last year, an increased amount of storage has been added externally. The ground level was also raised to assist with drainage. This has proved very successful. This month will see the start of the next tranche of works.
- With these works now completed, extra space has been made available for 8 new colonies which will be supervised by one 'instructor' with 2 'watchers'

- Challenge for the new year is one beginner who is completely wheelchair bound. We are delighted to accept the challenge of accommodating her.
- John Hoskin asked how many colonies – 14. Not all belong to the Association. We went on to ask whether we had made any honey and whether we had had a visit from the bee inspectors. No to both questions.

Election of Trustees

Firstly, thanks to Magnus Peterson and Ian Fraser who are both standing down from the Board; Magnus, in particular, after many years' service. The following have been put forward to stand:

Christine Craig (Chair)
 Maggie Duncan (Secretary)
 Leila Scobie (Treasurer)
 Ewen Cunningham (Apiary Manager)
 Peter Hunt (Membership Secretary)
 Andy Laverty
 Morag Fraser
 Ewan McGeer (Beginners Rep)
 Kenneth Holden
 Victoria Patterson-Mackie

No one from the floor put themselves forward. On the vote – 100% for, no abstentions.

Awards

Val Johns Trophy (Honey Show) – Richard Haseltine

Mary Jenkins Trophy (for exceptional services given over the preceding 12 months – Magnus Petersen

Basic Beekeepers Awards

Jennifer Anton (Distinction)
 Ian Mackie (Distinction) – also awarded the SBA Ian Craig award for achieving 98% in his exam
 Jonathan Levin (Credit)

Module 3 – Diseases etc

Ilona Shilliday (Distinction)
 Aline Russell (Distinction)
 Ian Fraser (Credit)

AOB

- John Coyle put forward the need for an improved Association website. He was assured that this was being looked into at Board level already.
- Other suggestions about what was need included a Beginners Blog, Newsletters and other means of Social Media be considered.
- Catherine Chaffin asked that the Library details be put on the website.

Notices

The meeting was informed that on behalf of the Association, Fiona Fernie (now resident in Australia) had been presented with a Quaich which was presented at a small lunch party earlier in the year.

The annual dinner will take place on 27 November at the Birds and the Bees, Stirling.

The Oxalic Demo will take place on Sunday 1st December at the Apiary. A sign-up sheet would be put up soon. Those attending would have to have a fully functioning organic face mask or they would not be permitted to attend.

The next evening meeting would take place on Tuesday 3rd December and would consist of old Association videos etc. Also, a talk by Helen Mcgeer who has been practicing inverting sugar.

Rona asked whether we could have a Members Evening where members can discuss their personal beekeeping habits with fellow members (eg, do you feed Thymol in the winter?)

Rona also asked whether we could have a talk from David Evans. Maggie to get details for the 2020/21 season of talks.

Perhaps a talk on microscopy.

John Coyle asked how we planned to go forward with the second, third- and fourth-year beginners' education.

The meeting closed at 9pm.