

Honey Bee Health Strategy
Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP)

17 March 2020 – Battleby, Perth

Attendees:

NAME	ORGANISATION	POSITION
Luis Molero	SG	Lead Bee Inspector
Fiona Hight	SG-SASA	Senior Entomologist
Karen MacKenzie	SG	Bee Inspector
Angus MacAskill	SG	Bee Inspector
Jackie Quigley	SG	Secretariat
Gavin Ramsay	SBA	Bee Health Convener
Alan Riach	SBA	President
Matthew Richardson	SBA	Observer
Margaret Ginman	BFA	General Secretary
Murray McGregor	BFA	Representative

Apologies:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Phil MacAnsepie	SBA
Bron Wright	SBA
Margaret Thomas	BFA
Graeme Sharpe	SRUC

NOTE OF MEETING

Item 1: Welcome and apologies

- Apologies received from Phil MacAnsepie, Bron Wright, Margaret Thomas, Graeme Sharpe.

Item 2: Minutes and Actions Points (28th January 2020)

- Previous minutes were approved.

Item 3: Lead Bee Inspector update

a: Terms of Reference, purpose and functioning of this group:

- Agreed that the group should have Terms of Reference.
- Updates should be sent prior to the meeting and sent out with the Agenda so they can be looked at beforehand.
- There is a need to review membership to ensure that all stakeholders and Operational Partners are fairly represented.

ACTION POINT 21: Group to seek previous ToR for the group.

b: Presentation of EFB Control Plan 2020

- Draft version of the EFB Control Plan 2020 was sent out to the BHIP members for them to review.
- Discussion around the EFB plan ensued. Comments to be sent to the LBI who will collate and review the plan for its final version.
- **ACTION POINT 22 – Margaret Ginman to give Luis a form of words regarding heather honey**

c: Update on Disease Strategy for 2020

- Update on disease strategy for 2020. Expectation is that infected businesses which are part of the EFB Control Plan will self-inspect and comply with the Plan, allowing the inspectorate to focus on the 3 kms risk contacts, reports of notifiable diseases and controlling spread of disease from the infection zone.

The purpose of 2020 inspections must also be to gather sufficient evidence to make a purpose fit disease strategy for the Honey Bee Health Strategy. The group must consider the future of EFB controls in Scotland based on disease prevalence, distribution, possibility of control, efficiency and adherence to the EFB control plan, and new scientific methods of detection and control.

d: Activity Log: Not covered at this meeting.

e: Update on Bee Health Advisory Forum

- Strategy moving forward 2020-2030. Document need to have comments by end of March.
- **ACTION POINT 23- Luis to circulate document if allowed as comments need to be received by end of March**

Item 4: SASA Update

- All meetings in SASA have been cancelled until June as they are using the facilities for Covid Resilience. We will need to see how this impacts the training days.
- SASA was meant to have a University Student start on the sub-clinical developmental work, but due to unforeseen circumstances they have not been able to take up the post. However, SASA are still keen to progress with the sub clinical work.
- SQA Nat 5 Beekeeping (details below) take-up is increasing from 2 to approx. 20 schools from 2020-2022. Support options discussed.. Unfortunately SG don't have the resources to provide direct support with this, but a proposal to team up with Roslin and EBSOC (who have expertise in teaching STEM to young people) and seek external funding to cover a bee health workshop for students gaining this qualification was positively received
- Continuation of Scottish Sentinels important but not sure what resources we will have. These will be across Scotland and focus on SHB and AH.

- PHD studentship has been accepted at Aberdeen University. This will cover honey bees and pollen, starting September 2020.

Item 5: SBA Update

Board of Trustees

- In addition to 17 trustees and two advisors, one covering IT and one insurance, the SBA has a development officer, who is self-employed, supplying services on a sub-contract on a part time basis.

SBA Education/ Examinations.

- A full education program is again planned to run throughout 2020
- It is envisaged that there will be some disruption to the exam program this year due to Coronavirus restrictions.
- Module exams due to run on Sat 21st March and a Microscopy exam on Sat 18th April.
- Exam fees. All fees stay the same for next year.- Junior Beekeeper £5, BB £20 , Modules £23 and the more senior exams £35

International Meeting of Young Beekeepers 2020.

- The IMYB due to be held this year in Slovenia has been cancelled and will be held in Slovenia in 2021.

Courses and workshops

- Workshops are started with a wax workshop held in Newburgh on 7th March.
- Again it is likely that workshops will be disrupted this year.

SQA Level 5 Beekeeping Courses:

The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), in association with Inverness Beekeepers Association and the Scottish Beekeepers Association, has developed a Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) approved course in Beekeeping. This is a National Progression Awards (NPA) course at National 5 level, covering 3 areas – The basics of beekeeping theory, The identification and use of associated equipment and Understanding the subduing and manipulation of colonies of bees. It will be awarded at Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) Level 5 (about old O level/standard grade -ABR's estimation) The course is designed to be run in conjunction with local beekeeping associations in order to cover the hands-on part of beekeeping. It has been based on the SBA Basic Beekeeping Syllabus BB) and should, in conjunction with local beekeeping association practical coaching, take students to the point where they could sit their BB exam. Several schools are planning to run these courses.

Schools have asked that we consider creating a course to teach teachers how to teach beekeeping in support of the N5 course.
The SBA has advised that the ideal is to get teachers to attend local association beginner classes.

SBA Autumn Convention

Planned to be held at Kinross but dependant on conditions pertaining.

Lecture Tour,

Planned but dependant on conditions

Promotion of Beekeeping:

Engagement between the SBA and the public is recognized as vital and much time is spent by Trustees and our Development Officer on attending agricultural shows, food festivals, community and schools' groups, The Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) have now included beekeeping in their open farm days program and the SBA and ABA's have been supporting these days, where schoolchildren are shown where their food originates. The beekeeping tent at these events is always very popular. The 7 video clips for children which can be accessed on the SBA website at Learn/Beebasics are still proving popular. Plans have been made for the 2020 Highland show but we have no indication yet as to the Highland Associations contingency planning

SBA Moir Library

Several favourable international responses have been received regarding the digitized back copies of the Scottish Beekeeper (back to the first copy, published in 1924) and also regarding the material on the SBA website.

SBA Supported Research

Varroa research: a study 'To create an off-host culture system for the parasitic mite Varroa destructor', continues at the University of Aberdeen, part funded by the SBA.

2016 COLOSS CSI pollen project

The project continues with the volunteer beekeepers now working on pollen analysis.

Meetings: Updates

The SBA AGM scheduled for 28th March has been cancelled due to the Kinross centre cancelling outside meetings – contingency planning is underway ABR March

Item 6: BFA Update

- Bumblebee Conservation Trust published a report stating that managed honey bees can be detrimental to other pollinators. There was a feeling from the group that there should be a response to this report.
- **ACTION POINT 24- FH to share previous literature review with MG and LM**

- Murray McGregor is planning to move away from the Scotland rep role. He would still like to attend the meetings as an independent if possible.

Item 7: NDB Update

- Two people have been accepted on the NDB Advanced course later in the summer, hopefully running. This course always has access to live comb and familiarisation of foul brood is stressed during the week.

Item 8: Bee Health Strategy. KPIs and looking towards a new strategy

- Not covered at this meeting.

Item 9: Date and Venue of next meeting

- Date of next meeting is 12th May at Battleby

Previous Action Points			
ACTION POINTS FROM MEETING – 17th March 2020			
1	LM to write an article for SBA magazine	Ongoing	Luis (LBI) to write an article for the SBA Monthly Magazine
2	SBA and BFA to recommend to their members to carry out at least two disease specific inspections this year, if they bought a nuc within the last two years, and to re-issue guidelines and standards for nuc production. SBA and BFA should promote record keeping of sales of nucs for at least 2 years.	Completed	No mention of people who have collected swarms. Biosecurity should be done when collecting swarms. Can swarms be inspected more?
3	LM to consider putting record keeping of nuc sales into the EFB Control Plan.	Completed	Ties in with Action Point 2. Trying to get away from sending EFB notifications out to only 2 or 3 beekeepers within the 3KM. Beginners are vulnerable as it's new to them and don't know what they are looking for.
4	LM to draft new 'Good practice for selling nucs' guidelines & standards and will circulate for comment	Ongoing	This is in the Restocking Options report produced by Gavin Ramsay
5	MG to consult with the BFA and see if she can share the code of good practice from the BFA members with LM	Ongoing	There has just been a meeting. MG will update us shortly
6	MC to find out how many EFB kits are sold by Thornes to Scotland.	Completed	Mairi contacted Thornes and was told that no EFB kits had been sold in Scotland, They are having problems with manufacturing them and England seems to be buying all stock.
7	MM asked MG or LM to write article for BFA magazine for maximum publicity.	Completed	
8	MG to invite LM to next BFA meeting	Ongoing	
9	MG to consider to invite Robert Field to speak to the BFA members, with emphasis on EFB	Ongoing	

	control plan group, on his biosecurity and compartmentalisation methods.		
10	BFA to seek clarification from VetoPharma regarding use of Apivar with honey supers. BFA to discuss this with their members and raise awareness.	Ongoing	
11	LM, MC, GS and Fiona Highet to discuss options for second bee health day.	Ongoing	Luis and Fiona are going to Roslin. They will need to see what happens on the 16 th May – all May training postponed due covid
12	Jackie Quigley/LM to invite Matthew Richardson to next BHIP	Completed	
13	SBA to contact Jim Jeffrey with a piece on emerging solitary bees for spring blog	Ongoing	
14	MG to provide an update for the BFA and LM to circulate	Ongoing	
15	LM to ask Nick about mechanism for funding	Completed	
16	BW to put the request for funding in writing to LM	Completed	The IYMC has now been postponed until 2021
17	GS suggested each stakeholder group writes a section on their inputs to the Strategy over last 10 years and sends to LM.	Ongoing	
18	LM to circulate Key Point Indicators and proposed format to BHIP by March.	Ongoing	
19	Jackie Quigley to send out dates to group	Completed	
20	MG agreed to co-ordinate this and get back to the organiser of the event.	Ongoing	This has possibly been cancelled.
21	Group to seek previous ToR for the group.	Actioned	Actioned by LM and distributed for comment with agenda for meeting on 8 th June 2020
22	Margaret Ginman to give Luis a form of words regarding heather honey	Completed	Words added to introduction on EFB control strategy
23	Luis to circulate document if allowed as comments need to be received by end of March		
24	FH to share previous literature review with MG and LM	Completed	

