

Border Beekeepers Association



Minutes of Meeting 10th December 2014 – Christmas Social

Chairman

Finlay welcomed the 50 Members, new Members and friends with a special welcome to the musicians and the dancers of The Rag Bag Morris Team who, having provided such excellent entertainment last year, are here again to start our festive evening.

The season had been good with most Members reporting excellent honey yields. Our Association continues to expand and we must all take credit in the fact that we are seen as a most friendly and welcoming club. Thanks to Anne and Norman for providing the superb Beginners Training. All of our 15 beginners of this year are now proud beekeepers and it looks as though there will be a similar size class starting next February. The support provided by the more experienced beekeepers has been invaluable in ensuring that we provide an effective mentoring system. Good progress is being made towards establishing a permanent site for the Association Apiary and it is hoped that an announcement will be able to be made at the next meeting.

Bethany Matthews was welcomed. Bethany is a sixth form pupil at Kelso High School and gave us a presentation on research she has carried out on the identification of pollen grains in samples of honey. A very professional and well researched topic from which we all learned a huge amount. A letter of appreciation has been sent to The Rector of the school.

The Rag Bag Morris Team brought immediate brightness to our evening with some lively, yet sometimes lethal looking, stick bashing. From traditional to Rag Bag created dances the evening progressed with some inspiring dancing when we were invited to join in.

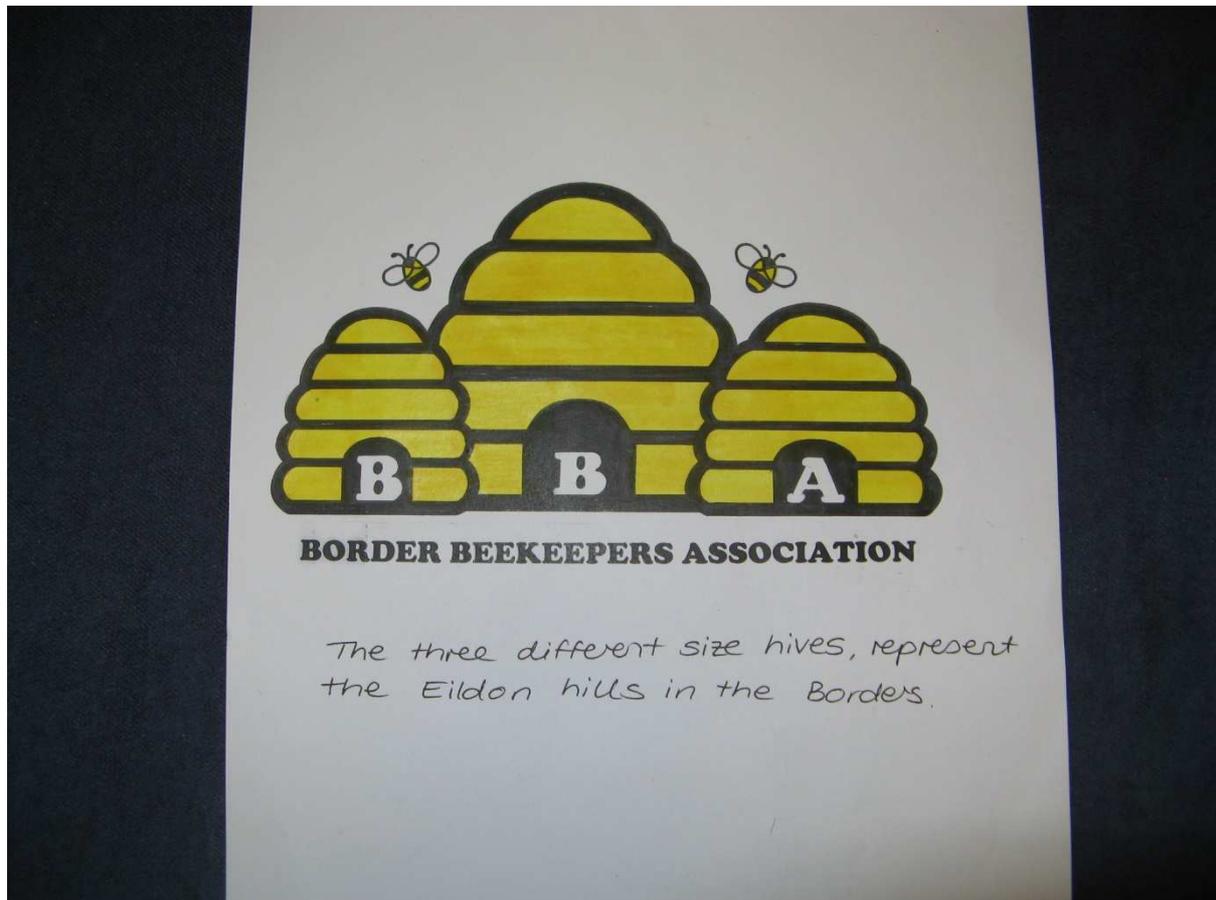
Chiropodists and chiropractors were in for some good business the following day!

The dancers were well accompanied by Tom on the accordion and guitar, Mark on mandolin and violin, Russell on penny whistle, Alan on clarinet, Judith on concertina and David on guitar. The dance team were all leaders when we were involved but their lead man was Crow Feathers otherwise known as Charlie. A brilliant range of music played with much style, energy and pure quality.

Sincere thanks Tom and Dorothy for taking the lead in arranging the entertainment, and your involvement throughout the evening ensured a smooth yet lively flow to proceedings. Well done.

Richard gave us a reading of a marvellous poem that he had written on the life of a colony of honey bees. Much appreciated Richard. Are there any more poets amongst us?

The competition for the design of an Association badge was well supported. Finlay, Norman and Liz retired to a quiet, well not so quiet, corner to judge the entries and chose Heather's design as the winner. A most appropriate design, with everyone in agreement that this truly represented the Association. Congratulations Heather, great 'colouring in'.



As we rested our feet and limbs we all enjoyed the marvellous spread of food provided by Members. Thanks to everyone.

The raffle took on a new approach, with all in attendance being given a ticket. This proved a great success so thanks to all who provided another fantastic array of prizes, and thanks to Norman for the idea.

Thanks were extended to the musicians and dancers and to all who had helped make this evening a truly memorable start to the Christmas season.

Photos will be added to our website.

Happy Christmas and a grand healthy New Year to all our readers.