

THE DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, TORBAY BRANCH.
BBKA website: devonbeekeepers.org.uk Branch web site: www.tbkk.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 27067

**Minutes of the Torbay Branch Executive Committee Meeting held at Sainsbury's
Restaurant, Yalberton Road, Paignton at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2017**

Present:

Liz Westcott	Chair; Education Officer; Honey Show Secretary; Microscopist
Gerry Stuart	Vice-Chair; Librarian
Di Hatherley	Branch Secretary
Glyn Davies	Apiary Co-ordinator
James Schindler-Ord	Branch Web Administrator
Doug Westaway	Editor: BUZZ; Swarm Liaison Officer; Branch Spray Liaison Officer
Lynette Taylor	Treasurer
Mike Ticehurst	Membership Secretary; BUZZ distributor
Alan Barrett	
Maureen Brown	
Jim Mogridge	

1. Apologies for absence

Di reported that Lindsay had offered her apologies via Mike.

2. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: approval & signing

Liz advised there were no minutes provided from the previous meeting.

3. Chairperson's Report

Liz commented favourably on the nosema testing event; the Gerston venue met our needs very well and is likely to be booked in 2018. The Committee considered that the information provided was useful to members in the management of their colonies. Liz mentioned that it may be worthwhile to provide an information leaflet should nosema be discovered in an apiary, for example with advice on the importance of replacing comb on a regular basis.

She considers the apiary management to be very good especially with regard to supporting new members and initiatives such as queen rearing. Liz advised that although she will be prepared to stand for the position of Chair at the next AGM, members should be aware that she cannot guarantee 100 percent attendance at all apiary events in view of her current and ongoing other commitments.

4. Treasurer's Report

Lynette reported the following:

£166.35 paid to BDI and the rental of Gerston Chapel is £480 (32 hours @ £15). The account balance, currently £7376.78 will reduce to £6896.78 when Gerston Chapel rental has been banked. Honey sales are progressing well @ £96.

Lynette reported the inefficiency of HSBC in the transfer to a new treasurer.

5. **President's Day: Proposed Changes**

The Committee welcomed the move to involve members in the organization of President's Day and agreed that the following proposals be sent to Tony Lindsell, Chair of DBKA who has requested ideas to be considered to improve the event.

- President's Day could be a day event including an afternoon activity (World Class speaker?) to justify travel from the far reaches of the county.
- The activity could be an auction/sale of surplus equipment probably in alternate years and alternating with a symposium/conversazione and DBKA policies. Officers should accept questions, comments, suggestions from members without prior notice and encourage debate on the 'floor' of the meeting
- A report from BBKA delegates and SWCJCC delegates on national and regional policies and controversies
- A report from NBU of disease status of Devon, inspectorate appointments, SBI area coverage, colony losses, and previous year' production, ideally presented by RBI or SBI.
- Statistics of previous year's weather by county region. Locally appointed data collector's?
- County organised education programme. Holsworthy and Totnes Conventions are fine but are filling a gap. Is this sufficient?

Di will respond by email to Tony Lindsell and bcc Liz and Glyn **(A/P 231)**.

6. **Apiary Management**

Saturday afternoon sessions normally begin with frame-making. Mike agreed to source a tool box equipped with relevant tools to aid the process and also two blow torches all within a budget of £150. **(A/P 232)** Glyn is very pleased with the way members are working as a team on the Saturday afternoon sessions. We hope to address improvements in the following during this season:

- Welcoming and managing the numbers of visitors (covered by insurance for two sessions) through Maureen taking on a front of house role while she sells honey;
- Ensuring apiary suits are bee-proof;
- Any Committee members attending to arrive by 2 p.m. in order that roles can be discussed
- Groups allocated according to experience with a designated note-taker;
- A 'Flying Bees' (or similar) sign created for the netted entrance;
- A regular mid-week session for those able to attend **(A/P 233)**

7. **New Beekeepers: Further Training; Basic Assessment**

Liz considered there are enough members ready and who have owned a hive for 12 months to take the Basic Assessment. She proposed that she leads four weekly sessions to take place in June with the assessment in July. Mike will email members to advise them of this opportunity. Gerry will check on the availability of Sainsbury's café. Glyn is happy to lead a practical session at the Apiary, Liz will approach David

Corney-Walker to check his availability to assess candidates. **(A/P 234)**

8. Sourcing of Nucs for Beginners;

There are seven members on the waiting list for a nuc. Procedures have begun in the Apiary to provide as many as possible. The nucs will cost £95 to members and £150 to non-members. Glyn will look into the purchase of 5 polynucs to transport the bees to their new apiaries. **(A/P 235)**

9. TBKA AGM

The agreed date for the AGM is 25th November with a 2.p.m. start at St Paul's CofE Church Preston. Members to consider a suitable speaker at a future date.

10. B4 and Bees at Paignton Zoo

Gerry reported that the hives contain very good queens and new hives will be installed later this year. The observation hive will be reconditioned. Gerry will provide honey for HRH Prince Edward to use in his tea when he visits Ocombe in the near future. A letter of consent and new equipment is being organized for Declan Shroeder's research work into viruses at Cockington Apiary (control hives) and Cockington Manor Apiary. The Mount Edgecumbe Black Bee Reserve will be opened on May 25th 2017

11. Any Other Business

Mike stated that Gerry has agreed to attend EC Meetings as the appointed Torbay Branch delegate in Lindsay's absence. He also advised that parking permits for the Cockington Apiary are due to expire. Glyn expressed his disquiet that for the foreseeable future Torbay Branch, although allowed to make proposals, will have no vote at EC meetings.

Alan was concerned at the potential danger posed by a tree sited near the Apiary hives. Gerry will advise Damian Offer, Director of Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust about the trees and also the parking permits. **(A/P 236)**

It was agreed that Ron Baker should be allocated a budget of £250 to purchase a new barbecue. Liz will advise him. **(A/P 237)**

It was agreed that Mike should purchase a new folding table for honey sales and Gerry a new picnic table and also a dustbin to store sugar collected from Tesco's. **(A/P 238)**

Doug queried the usefulness of the BUZZ magazine; members were fulsome in their support of the continuation of BUZZ which is a longstanding, integral and high quality communication tool.

Gerry advised members of the possibility of hiring a Cockington Court Market Stall @ £20 on the last Sunday in the month from April-September. Gerry advised that on May 13th there will be a stall at Stokely Farm Shop promoting beekeeping and selling hive products.

The Committee agreed that a float should be provided for honey sales.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 13th, 2017 at Sainsbury's Café, Yalberton Road, Paignton at 7.30 p.m.

ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING

RESPONSIBILITY

A/P

231	Respond to Tony Lindsell re: President's Day	Di
232	Purchase of tool box and 2 blow torches	Mike
233	Further improve organization of Apiary	All
234	Organize Basic Assessment	Liz, Mike, Gerry, Glyn
235	Explore purchase of 5 polynucs	Glyn
236	Consult Damian Offer re: tree and parking permits	Gerry
237	Advise Ron Baker about budget for barbecue	Liz
238	Purchase dustbin, folding table and picnic table	Mike and Gerry

Di Hatherley (Hon. Secretary)

Wednesday, May 3rd 2017

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