

THE DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, TORBAY BRANCH.
BBKA website: devonbeekeepers.org.uk Branch web site: www.tbbk.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, June 13th 2017

Present:

Liz Westcott	Chair; Education Officer; Honey Show Secretary; Microscopist
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	

1. Apologies for absence

Di reported that Lindsay had offered her apologies via Mike and apologies had also been received from Jim Mogridge, Gerry Stuart and Maureen Brown.

2. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: approval & signing

There being no proposed amendments, Liz signed her copy of the minutes to indicate that they form an accurate record of the above Meeting.

3. Matters Arising

ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING

STATUS

A/P

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

4. Chairperson's Report

There were only two entries for the Stephenson's Trophy at the Devon County Show. Liz was disappointed with the numbers of entries from TBKA overall and would like to encourage more for next year. By contrast, she feels the take-up for the Torbay Honey Show is as good as can be expected.

She feels the running of the Apiary is commendable and the team works very well together and with great spirit.

5. Stephenson's Trophy 2018

Mike proposed putting up a webcam at the entrance to the Bee Chamber and the

magnified live images relayed to the Honey Marquee, possibly projected into a darkened gazebo. A snappy 'strapline' will be required; viewers will be challenged to spot different aspects of bee behaviour. James and Mike will investigate the suitability of a variety of webcams **(AP 239)**.

6. Winter Programme

James will contact Mick Male to try to organise a skep-making class **(AP 240)**. Liz suggested a speaker for the December session but the consensus was to retain the current social format. Glyn is prepared to speak when required and suggested Bees' Eyes as a topic. Liz suggested David Packham as a skilled, interesting speaker and Jack Mummery who can advise on preparing exhibits for shows, perhaps in October session. It was suggested that the Bare Foot Beekeeper, Phil Chandler, is a potential speaker and also Claire Densley. Doug will contact Clare Densley to discover her range of topics and ask Adam Vevers to lead a session on Queen Rearing in November **(AP 241)**. Liz suggested we consider the small room at St Paul's as an alternative venue. Lynette will find out the availability and costs. **(AP 242)**.

7. Winter Honey Show

The format will be similar to previous years. James suggested there should be various categories of mead.

8. Swarm Collection

There is a waiting list for bees and Mike is prepared to manage the distribution of bees, either nucs or swarms appropriately and will email members to ascertain interest. James will add a local swarm collector's list to the TBKA website **(AP 243)**. Mike will request that Colin Sherwood update the DBKA list to include swarm collectors as well as the swarm co-ordinator. **(AP 244)**

9. Introduction to Beekeeping Course

This will commence on 15th January 2018.

10. Cockington Observation Hive

Russell Beech will refurbish the Apiary Observation Hive.

11. Multiple visits to Cockington Apiary by non-members

After discussion about TBKA's liability, Mike will ascertain to what extent our insurance covers non-members who regularly attend Apiary sessions. **(AP 245)**

12. EC Meeting Report

In Gerry's absence, Mike read his notes from the last EC meeting. The main points referred to included:

- Chairman Tony Lindsell's active encouragement of Branches to feed back to the EC more fluidly and to bring a discussion topic to meetings.
- There was ongoing discussion about a date and venue for the AGM.
- A welcome pack for new members to be added to the website.
- No decision was made on the future of Spring and Autumn lectures.
- Ruth Neal will resign as Show Chairman in the autumn 2017.
- Ideas to change the format of President's Day, including those submitted by TBKA, were made known to the Executive Committee.

Di read a letter from Lindsay advising of her wish, with immediate effect, to resign from her roles as Branch Delegate to the DBKA Executive Committee and also the TBKA Branch Committee for reasons of ill health. Committee Members expressed their understanding of Lindsay's decision and wished to mark her valued service both as past Treasurer and Branch Delegate. Di will write to Lindsay on behalf of TBKA **(AP 246)**.

With Gerry's prior assent, Liz proposed and Mike seconded that Gerry Stuart become the TBKA Branch Delegate to the EC. Although the proposal was carried unanimously by Committee Members, Barry Neal has since advised Liz that we need to wait until a 'General Meeting' before Gerry can be elected as official Branch Delegate, thus becoming a Trustee. Meanwhile, Gerry would be able to attend EC meetings and vote on all non-Trustee matters.

13. B4 and Occombe Farm

Gerry also provided updates on B4 activities which were read out in full to the Committee. These included: information on the official opening of Mount Edgecumbe Dark European Honey Bee Haven, a request from the Botanic Garden of Wales for samples of zoo honey for DNA profiling, B4 representative Norman Carrick spoke at European Parliament on 29th May at request of MEP Julie Girling, Gerry's discussion with local councillors on B4 issues in Belfast with a return visit planned.

14. Any Other Business

It was unanimously agreed that TBKA's no smoking policy should include the use of electronic cigarettes.

Lynette reported £252 honey sales since May.

Gerry hopes to acquire up to £5,000 for TBKA through a funding request and asked for ideas from the Committee. The Committee agreed unanimously on a replacement members' apiary shed, appropriately kitted out with refreshment facilities, storage, to replace our present ageing, unsatisfactory structure which would cost at least £5,000.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday July 25th, 2017

ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING

RESPONSIBILITY

A/P

236	Consult Damian Offer re: tree and parking permits	Gerry (parking permits) Alan (tree)
239	Investigate webcams for Stephenson's Trophy	Mike James
240	Contact Mick Male re: skep making sessions	James
241	Contact Clare Densley and Adam Vevers	Doug
242	Investigate hall hire at St Paul's Church	Lynette
243	Add local swarm collectors' list to website	James
244	Update DBKA swarm collectors' list	Mike
245	Ascertain insurance cover for Apiary visitors	Mike
246	Write letter of thanks to Lindsay	Di

Di Hatherley (Hon. Secretary)
Tuesday, June 14th, 2017

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