

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

MINUTES OF BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at Sainsbury's Restaurant, Paignton on Tuesday, January 30th 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Liz Westcott	Chair; Education Officer; Honey Show Secretary; Microscopist
Doug Westaway	Editor: BUZZ; Swarm Liaison Officer; Branch Spray Liaison Officer
James Schindler-Ord	Branch Web Administrator
Lynette Taylor	Treasurer
Mike Ticehurst	Membership Secretary; BUZZ distributor
Gerry Stuart	Vice-Chair; Librarian
Alan Barrett	Assistant Quartermaster
Colin Lodge	AHAT Co-ordinator
Maureen Brown	Quartermaster
Wendy Ashley	Fund Raising Co-ordinator

In attendance: Jane Schindler-Ord (taking minutes)

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from Di and Glyn.
- 2. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: approval & signing**
The minutes of the previous Committee Meeting were agreed as accurate and signed by Liz.
- 3. Matters arising**

A/P

256 Investigate BBKA Disabilities/Equal Opps Policy	Ongoing
257 Module 1 Course starts on Friday 2 nd Feb at 7.30	Complete
259 South Devon Honey Show	Complete
260 Advertise Introduction to Beekeeping course	Complete
261 Ascertain day for Module 1 Study Group (02/02)	Complete
262 Advertise Annual Dinner on web site	Complete
263 Approach Alison Lodge re: support for BUZZ, Alison was approached and declined.	Complete
264 Di invite Deb Rylands to speak at next meeting. Di invited Deb to tonight's meeting but had no response. Liz also tried to phone her but no answer, she will keep trying. Idea was to talk to her about using the land for beginner bee keepers to keep their hives on, or use as a second TBKA Apiary.	Ongoing

265 Collect bee equipment of late Heather Walker.
Equipment no good. Complete

266 Investigate sourcing of banner and gate sign. Gerry has spoken to Apollo signs. Quoted £90 for a gazebo-sized sign. Gerry asked James and Mike for photos. Liz also has some nice photos of beekeepers. Sign to include web address. Also changing the names and adding web address to the gate sign. Ongoing

4. Allocation of TBKA roles

Roles agreed as follows:

Buzz	Doug Westaway (also see minute 12)
Quartermaster	Maureen Brown (Alan to assist)
Meet and Greet at Apiary	(Not yet determined)
Refreshments	Doug Westaway (Lynette to assist)
Sentinel Apiary coordinator	Jane Schindler-Ord
Grounds maintenance	(Not yet determined)

Several ideas from committee members regarding grounds maintenance:

- To have a mid-season clean-up day, or maybe one Sunday a month. Perhaps make it a social occasion to encourage more members to join in.
- Alan said he is happy to turn up every month to facilitate maintenance.
- Gerry suggested we could do a bit just before meetings, tools are kept at the apiary. Grass cutting to be done at separate times.
- Alan said he would be happy to get a few bedding plants and dig in a few new beds for bee friendly plants. **A/P 267 Alan**
- There are 21 bee keepers on the course, several of which will need stands for their hives in the middle apiary field.

Ideas relating to the quartermaster role:

- Glyn has bought some frames and foundation in the Thorns sale, available to members only. Prices to be published on website. **A/P 268 James and Mike**
- A keypad access to a cage in the store shed where goods to be sold will be kept, so only authorized people will have access.
- Liz offered to get other stock from the Spring Conference (such as smokers, queen marking pens, queen cages, crown of thorns, magnifiers, hive tools etc) **A/P 269 Liz**
- James to make a sign for the shed about the sale of goods to members. **A/P 270 James**

5. Winter Programme

Gerry to talk at the February meeting (13th February). Doug to investigate possible speakers for the March meeting. Possibly Dave Packham or Claire Bethune. No speaker for April. **A/P 271 Doug**

6. Honey Show Update

We were joined by Newton Abbot and Totnes and Kingsbridge branches. There were only four people who submitted entries from each of Newton Abbot and Totnes branches, resulting in a total of 8 entries from Newton Abbot branch and 16 entries from Totnes branch. There were 47 entries from the Torbay branch making a total of 71 entries altogether. Liz had suggested that we take it in turns with Totnes and

Newton Abbot to host the Honey Show but a decision will be made in the late autumn. It was also suggested we look at changing the time of year and/or day for potentially a better turn out. For example, a Saturday afternoon in October.

7. Introduction to Beekeeping Course Update

We attended this year with 23 enrolled on the course. We discussed the possibility of making installment payments available for those who ask, but membership to the BBKA should always be paid upfront.

8. Asian Hornet: Update: Team for dealing with Hornet Incursion

Update from Colin.

- A member from Newton Abbot, Vic Willmington, has enquired about the possibility of receiving support from Torbay to set up an Asian Hornet Action Team for their branch. We are very happy to do this.
- There has been contact with someone living near the Tetbury site who was unhappy with how they were treated by the NBU at the time of the Tetbury incursion. Beekeepers were kept out of the process.
- There was discussion about an 'honorary contract' where civil servants can co-opt public services and therefore brought beekeepers in.
- The idea of the Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) is to provide a team who can go and identify hornets and advise the next step.
- Colin is setting up the initial team in Torbay, other areas are interested too including Tetbury, Avon and Woolacombe.
- Colin is currently completing an application for the Mayors Fund Grant for basic equipment such as wildlife cameras and starting up a website. There may be funding available from club funds if he has no luck with the Mayors fund. **A/P 272 Colin**
- The cost of the bait is £40 for 5 litres.
- As a club we need to:
 1. Get the website up and running. James offered to host the website and be the admin, Mike will supply the content. **A/P 273 James and Mike**
 2. To form a sub-committee consisting of Colin, Mike, Gerry and Glyn who will feed back to the main committee meetings.
 3. Gerry will present a PowerPoint and talk on the 13th February. He will also offer information, advice, talks etc to Schools, Tor 2, Devon and Cornwall Police, gardeners, tree surgeons, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust and rangers. **A/P 274 Gerry**

9. Stephenson's Trophy

Mike explained that the idea was to have a camera outside filming the bees as they come and go from the hive, projected onto a screen inside the marquee. Also, to have a display, information and a quiz for children to do. Another idea was to have information about what TBKA are doing as a club with regards to the Asian Hornet and the Small Hive Beetle.

10. Display for President's Day

To be held on 3rd March at the ISCA centre in Exeter. Suggested that the display is entitled 'Reflections of Torbay' and how we are at the forefront of things such as the discovery of varroa, the Asian Hornet Action Team, information about the small hive beetle. Gerry has material for the display which he will email to Liz so she can

laminated them after his talk in February. James will provide display boards for the display. **A/P 275 Gerry, Liz and James**

11. Cockington Sculpture Trail

Liz and Gerry have both spoken to artist Janet Verity who wants to decorate hives with mosaic and use parts of Liz's poems for the sculpture trail. She has asked for help from someone from the branch to put together a flat packed hive. **A/P 276 Mike**

12. BUZZ: Update re: Apprentice Editor

Alison Lodge didn't wish to take up the post of assistant editor, more club members will be asked.

13. Change of Day for Winter Meeting

Liz proposed that from October 2018 the winter meetings will be on the second Monday of every month as the large hall is used on Tuesday evenings and parking can be difficult. All agreed.

14. B4 and Bees at Paignton Zoo

Gerry to speak to staff at the zoo about the Asian Hornet. The bees are doing very well. There will be a B4 two-day event on the 17th and 18th February at The Eden Project in Cornwall. Gerry will speak about Torbay's approach to the Asian Hornet. There is a PhD student on a four-year programme looking at bee genetics and aggressive behaviour. Mike is creating a bee counter which will count the number of bees in a hive, temperature, light etc.

15. Updates on Funding and ADM Proposition: Gerry

Gerry has spoken to Marissa and we should have the landlord's agreement for this.

16. Any Other Business

- Doug has the dates and times of the summer programme:

7 th April	Apiary clean-up
21 st April	First club apiary meeting (weekly thereafter)
5 th May	Beginner's introduction to practical beekeeping
30 th June	Mid-season BBQ
15 th September	End of season BBQ
29 th September	Last meeting / apiary clean-up
- Gerry has spoken to the manager at Cockington who has said we can hold a Bee event. We need to have a think about dates (perhaps sometime in June or July). We can have the use of Cockington court maybe have stalls outside and the use of rooms inside. We could have a couple of displays, videos and photos showing what we do, leaflets etc.
- James asked about spoons for trophy winners. Liz to ask Jim. **A/P 277 Liz**
- James asked about Nosema day. To be held on April 17th at St Pauls Church Hall at 7 pm (6 pm for set up). Offers to help from Mike, Liz, James, Jane, Judith, Alan and Colin.
- Mike suggested that we support the nomination of Barry Neal to be awarded the Downing Bowl at Presidents Day.
- Gerry has secured 8 or 10 parking tickets for the Coast and Countryside cycle hub carpark at Cockington to run from April to September.

- Gerry has been approached by film producer Danny Cook who would like to film us at Cockington Apiary.

17. Date and time of next meeting
Tuesday, March 27th, 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Sainsbury's Café, Yalberton Road, PAIGNTON

The Meeting closed at 10 pm

ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING

RESPONSIBILITY

256 Investigate BBKA Disabilities/Equal Opps Policy	Liz
264 Di invite Deb Rylands to speak at next meeting	Di
266 Investigate sourcing of banner and gate sign	Gerry and Mike
267 Source bedding plants for apiary	Alan
268 Publish price list on website	James and Mike
269 Buy items for resale at Spring Conference	Liz
270 Make sign for shed about goods for sale	James
271 Arrange speaker for March winter meeting	Doug
272 Complete funding application for Mayors fund	Colin
273 Set up AHAT website	James and Mike
274 Talk and inform about Asian hornet	Gerry
275 Create display, get boards for Presidents day	Gerry, Liz and James
276 Help Janet Verity to assemble hive	Mike
277 Ask Jim about the trophy winner spoons	Liz