

THE DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 270675. FOUNDED IN 1875

TORBAY BRANCH, DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Torbay Branch website: www.tbbk.co.uk

**MINUTES OF THE 2013/14 TORBAY BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
 THE GERSTON CHRISTIAN CENTRE, PAIGNTON, ON SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2014.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

The Chairperson opened the 2013/14 Annual General Meeting by welcoming the Branch members and their families to the Meeting.

Seventeen registered, partner and associate members were present. See Appendix 'A' for details. The Secretary confirmed that the meeting had a quorum.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Secretary reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cherry Lyons, Liz Westcott, Kingsley Law and Peter Nicholson. An apology for the absence of Carl Ansell was received from the floor of the Meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM. (9th Nov. 2013)

The Secretary confirmed that the minutes of the 2012/2013 AGM had been distributed to all Branch members with the October 2014, issue of the 'BUZZ' newsletter. No proposed amendments to the minutes had been received prior to this Meeting.

There being no corrections or amendments to the minutes proposed by the members present, it was proposed by Mrs. Wendy Ashley that the minutes of the 2012/2013 AGM be accepted as a true record of that Meeting. Seconded by Dianne Hatherley. All present being in favour, the Chairperson signed the minutes to indicate that they formed a true record of that Meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES - ACTION POINTS, ETC.

A/P AGM 50 *Cancelled.*
 A/P AGM 52 *Carried forward.*
 A/P AGM 53 *Cancelled.*
 A/P AGM 58 *Completed.*
 A/P AGM 59 *Completed.*
 A/P AGM 61 *Completed.*
 A/P AGM 62 *Completed.*
 A/P AGM 63 *Completed.*
 A/PAGM 64 *Completed.*
 A/PAGM 65 *Completed.*

4. THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT.

We dream that the world is warming up but I also think that it is getting faster. Another season has passed; where did it go? I think that we have had a reasonable year with shows, barbecues, a good day out at Cockington Apple Day - the result of Gerry booking us a site. To top it all we have had our big achievement of winning top spot with our Stevenson Trophy exhibit at the Devon County Show. Well done to all who helped with that.

Our winter meetings have got off to a good start with our own Liz and Bill Finnemore from Plymouth speaking to us - both very interesting meetings. We have our social evening coming up next

month. Do come along to that.

AGMs are traditionally times for thanking those who have helped to keep the Branch on track and running. So to start with, we have our Secretary, Doug, who has worked tirelessly for Torbay. He has always done his job well and has done his best for all of us. He is, as you will know, editor of our magazine, 'BUZZ' which he strives to keep interesting. So well done, Douglas, and many thanks from all of the membership. More about Doug later.

We also have Lindsay, our excellent Treasurer, who does her best to keep us in the black and the finances in order. Thank you, Lindsay.

We have Liz, our Educational Officer, who is currently running our winter course on beekeeping and puts in a lot of work on this. Many thanks, Liz. We also have many other good officers with Mike, Gerry, Wendy, Colin, Ron and Clare. All work hard in their respective roles within the Branch. Plus, of course, the other members of the committee, Di, Neil, Maureen who also do their bit for the members. Thank you all; it is much appreciated.

As most will know, our Secretary, Douglas, has finally decided that this year is to be his last in the post and will not listen to pleas to stay. We shall all miss him.

The Chairperson then read a tribute to the Secretary and concluded by presenting a floral bouquet to Mrs. Dorothy Westaway and a gift of a book from the Branch membership to the retiring Secretary.

5. THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary explained that DBKA's 'Rules' require the Branch Secretary to prepare an annual report giving full particulars of Branch meetings, lectures, demonstrations and other matters of interest which have occurred during the past twelve months. This has to be presented to the Branch AGM for its approval prior to it being sent, within seven days, to the DBKA's General Secretary.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The 2012/13 Annual General Meeting was held at the Paignton Club on Saturday 19th November 2013. The meeting confirmed Mr. John Kingsley Law as its President. The Meeting also elected Mr. Jim Mogridge, Chairperson, Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst, Treasurer and Mr. Douglas Westaway, Secretary. A general committee of nine members, including the vice Chairperson, Mrs. Liz Westcott, was also elected. All 'Action Points' arising from the previous AGM were found to have been addressed and satisfactorily completed by your committee.

During the year, the Branch committee held four formal meetings at the Paignton Club. These meetings were supplemented by the more informal meetings at the Branch's Cockington Apiary during the summer and at the evening talks held at the Gerston Centre during the winter. As usual, your committee discussed a wide range of Branch issues and made decisions affecting several key aspects of the Branch's affairs.

The Branch was represented at the Devon Beekeepers' Association Executive Council meetings by our Chairperson, Mr. Jim Mogridge, and by our named representatives, Lindsay and Mike Ticehurst - Lindsay and Mike replacing your Secretary who, for domestic reasons has for some years past, been unable to attend these most interesting and important meetings.

As for several years past and, despite advance publicity both in Beekeeping and our own 'BUZZ' newsletter, it is again disappointing to report that only one of our members, our Chairperson, attended the Association's AGM and President's Day. Unfortunately, this disinclination to attend this excellent event, is reflected in a similar reluctance to support our own Branch AGM. This, despite it being held at an excellent venue and being preceded by a most interesting talk by a well-known local speaker on the history of the Brixham fishing fleet.

Torbay Branch members and the Branch's 'Stevenson Trophy' exhibit again made an important contribution to this year's Devon County Show's DBKA honey marquee. Our members helped to staff the live bee-handling demonstrations, candle-rolling, honey sales and honey-tasting stands. The glass-cased live bee exhibit provided by Torbay, proved to be a major attraction for the public. Of particular mention, the Branch entry for the Stevenson Trophy which featured a WW1 tank as its centrepiece, was awarded the first prize. Additionally, several of our Branch members entered their hive products into various classes in the competitive honey show with considerable success. Both before and after the County Show, our members

were involved in transporting the DBKA marquee contents to the Show ground and recovering them back into storage following the disappointing but inevitable early closure of this year's County Show.

Following on from the decision made at last year's AGM, postal distribution of our Branch monthly newsletter, 'BUZZ' was immediately reinstated to those members without access to the internet. This has, I trust, placated the fifteen members who expressed their strong disapproval over what proved to have been an unwise decision on the part of your committee. Throughout the past year the Branch's website featuring the monthly 'BUZZ', up-to-the-minute Branch news plus information from our own Association, BBKA, FERA and, of course, the ever-positive and challenging, monthly 'Chairperson's Chats', has been regularly updated by our Branch webmaster, Mike Ticehurst. As the 'BUZZ' editor, I express my thanks to the several members who have provided a regular supply of bee-related articles from national newspapers and magazines which has helped supplement the main items in 'BUZZ'

The Branch has again had a very full and active year. Your committee arranged six formal winter evening talks at the Gerston Centre. Experts were invited to speak to members on a variety of bee-related topics. It was pleasing to see a good attendance at all of the meetings. Additionally, we had a Christmas social evening in December and a formal Branch dinner in January. The present winter's series of talks commenced in October with a talk from our vice-Chairperson, Liz Westcott who both described and demonstrated the processes required to convert honey-soaked cappings into prize-winning exhibits for the show bench. Subsequently, in November, Bill Finnemore president of Plymouth Branch, gave, in his inimitable style, tips on easier beekeeping for our newer - and older - members.

At the Apiary, our Apiary Manager arranged 15 fortnightly summer meetings to demonstrate a variety of practical beekeeping skills to members - particularly our newer members. A full report on the Apiary and its progress throughout last winter and summer will be given to you later at this AGM by the Apiary Manager. The planned summer queen-rearing and student training programmes were made difficult by what proved to be a national orgy of swarming which made the usual queen-rearing and nucleus-building procedures impractical. Additionally, the honey-producing hives were also seriously weakened by the determination of the colonies to swarm throughout the summer months with the inevitable consequence that they failed to gather sufficient strength to produce the hoped-for large summer honey surplus. This, for the third year in succession, has had a significant impact upon the Branch's finances which are heavily dependant upon selling the Apiary's honey to support both the Apiary and our various other Branch activities.

In March, at a cost of over £1200, a high-quality wooden fence was erected by a contractor along one boundary of the Apiary. This unexpected expense was incurred following the decision by our landlords, the Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust, to construct a large public car park closely adjacent to the Apiary on ground that had previously been an open field. Ironically, the car park has, during this past summer, remained largely unused! Additionally, a considerable sum was also expended upon repairs to the Apiary's elderly wooden hut. This received a new roof covering, extensive repairs to the wooden framework and a considerable amount of replacement timber cladding - followed by two coats of paint!

The two microscopes purchased by the Branch at 'Harper-Adams' in 2013 were fully utilised at the Branch 'Nosema day' held at the Cockington Apiary in July. Samples of bees from the Apiary colonies plus those from Branch members were examined and the levels of infestation successfully determined.

As is now usual, two well-attended barbecues were held at the Apiary - one in mid-summer and the final one in September to mark the end of the active beekeeping season. Additionally, a successful public 'open day' was advertised in the local press and radio. This provided an opportunity for members of the public to experience beekeeping at first hand.

In April, although not strictly a Branch event, several of our members undertook the long journey to the British Beekeeping Association's Spring Convention held at the Harper Adams University College in distant Shropshire. The Convention, now in its third year at this venue, was judged by those who attended to have been an outstanding success.

Following on from four years of success, the committee decided to again advertise to the public an evening introductory course in beekeeping. Eight lessons were held at fortnightly intervals throughout last winter and spring at the Gerston Centre, the course being built around the BBKA's video-based 'course-in-a-case'. Additionally, follow-on practical tuition was offered to the students at the Apiary throughout the summer. The course was well-supported by those members of the public who had an interest in bees and beekeeping with seventeen students enrolling for the course. Subsequently, several of the trainees joined the Branch to become enthusiastic members. I trust that these members found their first year's

beekeeping experiences rewarding and enjoyable, several already being confident enough in the beekeeping knowledge to have acquired their own colonies of bees. This winter, the introductory course, again based upon the BBKA's 'course-in-a-case', is being repeated and has attracted a complement of 15 students.

At a higher level, a party of more advanced Branch members formed a small group, mentored and encouraged by Mr. Glyn Davies, to study the BBKA's Module 6 syllabus.

During the past year, the Branch library has been improved and updated by judicious purchases by our librarian, Mr, Gerry Stuart. Additionally, by perseverance and determination, he has also managed to recover several more of those Branch's books which had been on loan to members for inordinate lengths of time. The Branch committee again allocated a budget to the librarian to continue the policy of progressively updating and rationalising the library's stock of books and CDs.

Branch membership has, after rising steadily over the past four years, fallen slightly to stabilise at 55 members. Many of our new recruits to beekeeping are both young and enthusiastic and it is now a challenge for our more senior and experienced members to teach and encourage our 'newcomers'. The future of the Branch depends upon our attracting and retaining within beekeeping, well-trained and knowledgeable people able to take on, in future, the responsibilities of Branch officers and committee members.

Financially, despite the much-reduced income from the Branch apiary over the past three years, the Branch remains in a satisfactory financial position. A significant contribution to the funds is derived from those members who ensure that they 'sign-up' to Gift Aid on their annual subscription forms. I have no doubt that our Treasurer will shortly be urging you to do so on this year's subscription forms! Your committee last year, acted upon the advice of the Treasurer, and allocated a substantial portion of its reserves to a Building Fund in anticipation of the eventual need to replace the existing ageing, wooden Apiary building. The wisdom of this decision was demonstrated during these past twelve months when unplanned expenditure on the Apiary's infrastructure amounted to some £1900.

Douglas Westaway. Hon. Secretary, Friday, 14th November

2014.

Acceptance of the Secretary's report proposed by: Mr. James Mogridge. (Chairperson)

Seconded by: Mr. Gerald Stuart.

The Torbay Branch Annual General Meeting accepted the Secretary's above report unanimously.

6. THE TREASURER'S REPORT, ACCEPTANCE OF THE BRANCH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.

See Appendix B, pages 1-2 for the full statement of the Branch Accounts. A copy of the Accounts was distributed to each member present at the Meeting.

This was my third year as your Treasurer and it has now become easier, being more computerized.

We have had a very expensive year as far as the Apiary is concerned because we have had to pay out £1903.70 for a new fence and repairs to the shed. We were able to offset this expense by selling-off the silver trophies for troy value that amounted to £300.

We have reverted to sending out the 'BUZZ' to those members with no e-mail address to address the concerns raised in last year's AGM. Purchasing envelopes, stamps and printing have brought these costs up to £118.11 per year.

Thanks to Liz Westcott for taking the winter course as this provided a net income of £580.77 after taking out expenses for rent, equipment, refreshments, etc.

Gift Aid is £660.51 but this is for two years - £353.95 for 2013 and £306.56 for 2014. You may remember that it did not arrive in time to be included in last year's accounts. If you can sign up for Gift Aid please do as I can claim very welcome refunds.

We have had £50 for winning the Stevenson Trophy at the Devon County Show. Thanks to Jim, Colin, Liz and Mike for working so hard on this.

You will see from the Apiary account that Jim has given me £512.03 after expenses, for sales of honey and a nuc.. He has subsequently given me £126.00 for the net proceeds of the Apple Day at Cockington. The second payment will be included in next year's accounts.

Currently we have 55 members in the Branch.

Lindsay Ticehurst, Hon. Branch

Treasurer.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and associated Branch Annual Accounts was proposed by Mr. Mike Ticehurst. Seconded by Mrs. Wendy Ashley. The proposal was carried unanimously.

7. THE APIARY MANAGER'S REPORT.

The season has been a series of pluses and minuses. First, we have had some good, well-attended meetings, where newer members handled bees and - hopefully - learnt something. The barbecues were most enjoyable and blessed with good weather. We took off and extracted some 280lb of honey. Not a lot but it brought in some funds when sold. Against that we have had to spend out money on repairs to the shed, a new roof, etc. together with new fencing between the Apiary and the car park formed next to us for use by the Cycle Hub - which I haven't seen running yet! The new fence gives us and the general public some protection.

We go into winter with eight colonies, all fed and treated for Varroa. We shall treat again in January.

Thank you. Jim Mogridge.

*Acceptance of the Apiary Manager's report proposed by: Mr. Jack Richardson-Brown.
Seconded by: Gerald Stuart.*

8. ANY OTHER OFFICER'S OR COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORT.

No other reports were presented to the Meeting.

9. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AND STANDING-DOWN OF THE COMMITTEE.

The President was unable to attend the Meeting.

10. ELECTION OF THE BRANCH CHAIRPERSON.

The Chairperson stated that, in the absence of the President, he would disband the current committee and supervise the election of the new Chairperson, officers and general committee members.

The Secretary confirmed that no nominations for election to the new committee had been received before the Meeting. All the current officers and committee members, with the exception of the Secretary and Mr. Steve Westcott, had confirmed that they were prepared to stand for re-election to their present positions.

The Chairperson thereupon requested the committee members to stand down.

Mr. Jim Mogridge requested nominations from the 'floor' for the post of Branch Chairperson.

Mr Jack Richardson-Brown proposed that Mr. Jim Mogridge be elected Chairperson. The proposal was seconded by Mrs. Clare Baker.

There were no other proposals, Mr. Jim Mogridge was duly unanimously elected as Branch Chairperson for the year 2014/15.

11. ELECTION OF THE BRANCH OFFICERS & GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

(i) The Branch vice-Chairperson.

It was proposed by Mr. Ron Baker and seconded by Mr. Jack Richardson-Brown that Mrs. Liz Westcott be elected vice-Chairperson.

There were no other proposals. Mrs. Liz Westcott was elected unanimously Branch vice Chairperson.

(ii) The Branch Treasurer.

Proposed by Mr. Steve Westcott and seconded by Ms. Sarah Hayes that Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst be elected as Branch Treasurer. There were no other proposals. Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst unanimously elected Branch Treasurer.

(iii) The Branch Secretary.

Proposed by Mr. Mike Ticehurst and seconded by Ms. Zarah Hannaford that Mrs. Dianne Hatherley be elected Branch Secretary. There being no other proposals, Mrs. Dianne Hatherley was unanimously elected as Branch Secretary.

(iv) Election of the general committee members.

It was proposed by Mrs Marian Tucker and seconded by Mr. Ron Baker that the previous year's general committee members comprising Mrs. Wendy Ashley, Ms. Maureen Brown, Mr. Neil Hopkins, Mr. Gerry Stuart Mr. Mike Ticehurst and Mr. Colin Waymouth be elected en bloc as general committee members. There being no objections, the named members were unanimously elected 'en bloc' onto the committee.

(v) Election of an additional committee members.

It was proposed by Mr. Mike Ticehurst that Ms. Zarah Hannaford, Mrs. Marian Tucker and Mr. Douglas Westaway be elected to the committee as general members. Seconded by Mr. Ron Baker. The proposal was carried unanimously.

(vi) Appointment of the Branch President.

It was proposed by Mr. Jim Mogridge and seconded by Mr. Douglas Westaway that Mr. Kingsley Law be confirmed as the Branch President for a further year.

Agreed unanimously by the Meeting.

(vii) The Branch Committee for Year 2013/4.

Chairperson:*	Mr. Jim Mogridge.
Vice-Chairperson.	Mrs. Liz Westcott.
Treasurer:*	Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst.
Secretary:*	Mrs. Dianne Hatherley.

**Branch officers.*

General committee members:

Mrs. Wendy Ashley.
Ms. Maureen Brown.
Ms. Zarah Hannaford.
Mrs. Marian Tucker.
Mr. Neil Hopkins.
Mr. Mike Ticehurst.
Mr. Gerry Stuart.
Mr. Colin Waymouth.
Mr. Douglas Westaway.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) The Branch Honey Show.

The Chairperson reminded the Meeting that a Branch honey show had been arranged for the evening of 13th January 2015. The Show schedule, show rules and the show entry form would be sent out to members with the December 'BUZZ'. He reminded the Meeting that this would be the first Branch honey show for nearly a decade and urged all Branch members to give it their full support. There would be twenty classes and everyone needed to think about what they could enter into the various classes.

(ii) The Branch Social Evening.

The Chairperson confirmed that the annual Branch Christmas social evening would be held at the Gerston Christian Centre on Tuesday, 9th December.

(iii) The 2015 Devon County Show.

Mr. Steve Westcott reported that the 2015 Devon County Show would be its one hundred and twentieth. The DBKA Show Committee was insisting that all postal entries into the competitive honey show must be received by 23rd April. There would also be an on-line entry facility

Steve commented that Mr. Jack Mummery of North Devon Branch had just been awarded 15 prizes at the National Honey Show!!

(iv) The Branch Annual Dinner.

The Chairperson agreed to arrange a Branch Annual Dinner at the Paignton Club in mid-January, 2015. (A/P AGM 66) The Dinner details would be publicised in 'BUZZ'. (A/P AGM 67)

(v) The Resignation of the previous Branch Secretary.

The Chairperson read the following statement to the Meeting:

'During November at our Torbay Branch AGM, our much-loved, well-respected and hard-working Secretary, Doug Westaway, stepped down from the role he has held for approximately seventeen years. I say 'approximately' as neither Doug nor any of the members can recall the precise year he took on the task. During those many years he has shown much dedication and commitment to the Torbay Branch. He will be sorely missed!

A beekeeper for many years, Doug was forced to give up the practical side that he loved due to him becoming allergic to the venom of the bee sting. It was a sad blow for him but he thought it best to sell off his hives. He remained a staunch supporter of beekeeping, though. He has seen many changes in the Branch, different Presidents, Chairmen, Treasurers and committee members but Doug was always 'Our Secretary' He was also editor of our monthly magazine, 'BUZZ', which he faithfully produced each month on time - not an easy task to keep up-to-date and fresh. To his credit he will remain editor for a few more years for which we are all very grateful.

So thank you, Doug, for all the work you have put in as Secretary. It is most appreciated by all members of the Torbay Branch.

Jim Mogridge.

13. THE VENUE, DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Chairman pointed-out that holding the AGM at the Paignton Club - with supplied catering - incurred the Branch in an expenditure of some £200. The cost of holding the meeting at the Gerston Christian Centre with - self-catering - incurred a cost of £36.

The Meeting agreed to hold next year's AGM at the Gerston Christian Centre on a Saturday in November 2015. The Meeting would commence at 2 p.m. with an invited speaker. The details to be confirmed in committee (A/P AGM 68) and published in the September, October and November issues of 'BUZZ'. (A/P AGM 69)

14. ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

A/P No.	ACTION POINT DETAILS.	
OWNER.		
A/P AGM 52	Site an Apiary hive on scales.	Apiary Manager.
A/P AGM 66	Arrange Branch Annual Dinner.	Chairperson.
A/P AGM 67	Publicise Annual Dinner in 'BUZZ'.	Editor.
A/P AGM 68	Confirm 2015 AGM venue and date.	Committee.
A/P AGM 69	Publicise 2015 AGM details in 'BUZZ'.	Editor.

NOTES:

