

Torbay Beekeeping Association
Minutes of a meeting at Paignton Club, Thursday, 5th March 2015

Present: Jim Mogridge, Liz Westcott, Gerry Stuart, Maureen Brown, Mike Ticehurst, Lindsay Ticehurst, Douglas Westaway, Colin Weymouth
Apologies: Di Hatherley, Zarah Hannaford

Nosema Day

Nosema Day will be held at the branch apiary on Saturday, 16th May, at 2 pm.
Mike Ticehurst will provide a generator and bring his laptop to record entries.
We will use the club marquee and the shed to prepare slides and examine them.
Liz Westcott to bring microscopes, buckets, mortar and pestle, two tables, polythene bags, kitchen roll and labels.
Ask Richard Boyles, Zarah Hannaford and Di Hatherley if they are able to help.

Stephenson's Trophy

We have decided to construct an exhibit which will be an information stand on the Asian hornet.
Gerry will: contact NBU and DEFRA for leaflets or posters; arrange for a video to be set up; contact Otter Nurseries to enquire about the possibility of loan of shrubs which will carry an acknowledgement.
Mike Ticehurst will: purchase board, make a display unit and paint it light green. Edges of boards to be rounded/wavy.
Jim will: arrange for the boards to be painted with an interesting background. Provide two WBC hives.
Colin will bring lavender and rosemary and any other plants which would be suitable for background and decoration.
Liz will make two model Asian hornet bees, approximately 30 cms long. Plant up some long troughs with plants for background or decoration. Write a poem. Provide an Asian hornet floor.
Jim will ask Carl Ansell if he can PAT test any electrical equipment.
The stand is to inform the public about the threat to bees from the Asian hornet. The danger it presents both to people and bees. How to identify it. What to do if you think you see one and who to contact.
Di Hatherley and Zarah Hannaford to be invited to contribute if they wish – possibly to make up pots of flowers/plants, visual display or model hornets.
Next Stephenson Trophy meeting to be held at Jim's workshop, on Tuesday, 31st March at 7.30 pm.

New Apiary Manager/Management Team

Gerry shared with us his plans for a beekeeping year calendar along with early spring tasks. He had laid out his ideas on how to proceed in the apiary to ensure training of new beekeepers and involvement of experienced beekeepers.
However, as far as apiary management was concerned Gerry felt that he would not get the support of the membership to keep black bees in the club apiary and was therefore unable to commit to taking on the post.
Jim has been apiary manager for 15 years and will retire at the end of this year.
The options we have are:
Wind down the apiary and close it.
Have a team of people who share the management of the apiary.
Retain the site and invite new beekeepers to keep their bees there.
Nothing was resolved and no decision was made with regard to the apiary management.
However, it was decided that we would assess the state of the colonies at the beginning of April and make a decision on the basis of the bees.
The meeting closed at 9.40 pm
Next meeting will be as previously arranged on Tuesday, 12th May at 7.30 pm at The Paignton Club.