

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

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Torbay Branch Executive Committee Meeting held at the Paignton Club, 2, The Esplanade, Paignton on Tuesday, 12th May, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Jim Mogridge	(Branch Chair)
Mrs. Liz. Westcott.	(Branch Vice-Chair & Education Officer)
Mr. Gerry Stuart	(Branch Librarian)
Mrs. Di Hatherley	(Branch Secretary)
Mr. Douglas Westaway	(Editor of BUZZ)
Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst	(Treasurer)
Mr. Mike Ticehurst	(Web Master)
Mrs. Wendy Ashley	
Ms. Maureen Brown	
Ms. Zarah Hannaford	

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

The Chair reported that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. Marian Tucker and Mr. Colin Waymouth. Mr. Waymouth has indicated verbally he no longer wishes to be a member of the Committee.

2. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting and Extraordinary Committee Meeting. Approval & Signing.

There being no proposed amendments, Jim signed the minutes to indicate they formed an accurate record of the above meetings.

3. Matters arising. Action Points arising from Previous Committee Meetings

AP 667	<i>Completed</i> although no volunteers are forthcoming
AP 714	<i>Ongoing</i>
AP 745	<i>Ongoing</i> Apiary spaces, one per member for beekeepers who have completed the initial beekeeping course, will be advertised in BUZZ
AP 746	<i>Carried forward:</i> to be advertised in BUZZ
AP 747	<i>Completed</i>
AP 748	<i>Completed</i>
AP 749	<i>Completed</i>

4. Chairman's Report.

Not a lot to report on this month; most of my thoughts are printed in the BUZZ and We are discussing the remainder later in this meeting. We have the Devon County Show and our entry into the class of the Stevenson Trophy to look forward to. We are working hard on this but it will be tough to win two years in succession, I think that May is a good month for beekeeping with plenty to keep us occupied. We need to be having good laying queens to provide us with the eggs that will give us the workforce we require in early July ready for the main honey flow. And of course we have to bevig ilant for signs of swarming. So it's a balance between many points. This Saturday sees our Nosema Day at the apiary. We are looking forward to this meeting so bring along your sample of bees. *Jim Mogridge*

5. Treasurer's Report.

In February the bank balance was £5,228.26. Since the last meeting, I have paid out:

BDI	£ 168.85
Rent for Gerston Hall	£ 375.00
Rent for Cockington Apiary	£ 25.00
Capitation fees for Devon	£1,095.00

I have also paid out several officers' expenses and received subscriptions fees for three new members. The balance is now £3,530.19.

Our membership is 34 full members, 8 associates, 4 country, 4 partner members and 3 junior members, making a total of 53.

I have also applied for the refund of Gift Aid which I calculate will be about £280.00

Lindsay Ticehurst

6. Education.

Four members from the Totnes and Kingsbridge Branch and three from Torbay have completed the Module 6 course. The three Torbay members are likely to take the examination in November 2015. Fifteen people have attended the winter course and will be offered the possibility of keeping bees at Cockington Apiary and preparation for the Basic Assessment. The Nosema Day will provide another educational opportunity on Saturday, May 16th 2015.

7. Cockington Apiary

Feedback from Gerry from recent inspections indicates that the hives are doing well with reasonable stores but there is a need for more equipment. Experienced and new bee keepers have inspected hives for signs of swarming and removed excess wax. Maureen has updated the records so we know the state of each hive. There is a strong recommendation that the summary record on the door of the apiary hut is maintained each meeting.

8. Future management of the Branch Apiary

It was agreed that there is capacity within the Torbay Branch to carry out maintenance responsibilities at the apiary with Committee members ensuring that essential tasks are carried out. It is likely that Brian Thomas will put out parking bollards at 8.00 on Saturdays when the apiary is open; Gerry advised he will attend every meeting if possible; all Committee members will be provided with a key to the apiary; Mike and Ron Baker have recently maintained the grounds. The summary record on the hut door will provide the main avenue of communication and will be referred to at the start of each meeting by Committee members to ascertain tasks to be undertaken during the meeting and updated at the end. Jim agreed to source 3 keys **(AP 750)** and carry out the initial update to the board. **(AP 751)**

9. Devon County Show 21-23rd May 2015: Torbay entry for the Stevenson Trophy

Gerry reported he had contacted Otter Nurseries to request flowers for the display with a negative response but good wishes for the entry. Both Gerry and Liz had been unsuccessful in obtaining further copies of 'Alert!' and other relevant information and posters from the Non-native Species Secretariat, These will need to be downloaded from the web site. There was a discussion about the sufficiency of

numbers of stewards at the Show; Mike agreed to ask Brian Thomas if he would be available.

10. B4 Paignton Zoo and Occombe Farm Update

Gerry and Maureen provided updates. An observation hive is now in place between the Gorilla and Rhino areas and is doing well. There has been a major maintenance programme with comb removed, new frames and window installed. The bees in the Giant Tortoise enclosure are thriving. Gerry is anticipating an extension of Heritage Funding; he is also involved in a programme of talks about the project, for example to the Brixham Soroptimists and in Paignton Zoo and is working with Plymouth University to investigate the genetics of species across the UK

11. Executive Council meetings. Reports by Branch delegates.

14th March 2015 Di provided summary notes taken at the meeting:

- Devon Green Ribbons for 'best in show' will be produced by a rosette company and will be available, together with an agreed protocol for honey shows;
- Only two nominations had been received for long service awards of 50 and 60 years;
- The Committee had not received a response for their request for an audio recording of the Special Delegates' Meeting;
- Work on the wording of Constitution of the DBKA is progressing thanks to the efforts of Barry Neale, with two outstanding areas to be completed concerning membership and Branch Officer tenure;
- Simon Jones in association with East Devon Branch, will lead a Healthy Bee Day at Axminster Guildhall on 11th July from 9.30-4.30. Costs, chargeable to branches are likely to be between £3 and £5 per person ;
- Two vacancies exist within DBKA: Spray Liaison Officer and County Microscopy Co-ordinator
- There has been a general deterioration in Central Funds as expenditure has exceeded income while funds in Branches are overall increasing;
- A lined shipping container has been procured which will provide a permanent storage solution at Westpoint. The Committee agreed a levy of £2 per branch member to cover the overall cost of £2760 inclusive of VAT;
- The autumn lecture will take place at Holsworthy BKA on Tuesday, November 4th;
- BBKA officials hope to talk to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to the removal of VAT on beekeeping hardware;
- DBKA intends to produce its own Safeguarding Policy within 12 months; meanwhile the current policy will be adhered to

12. Branch library report

Recently, only 3 bee keepers have borrowed books. After discussion it was agreed that Gerry should provide general details to Doug to advertise in BUZZ and that an ongoing catalogue of books and DVDs should be available on the web site.

(Aps 714 and 752)

13. Any Other Business

- i) Di has been contacted by Shelley Castle, representing the 'Museum of Now', a new arts/crafts project, to ascertain whether the Branch could contribute to its work. After discussion it was agreed that, currently, members do not have the capacity to be involved. Di will advise Shelley of the decision **(AP 753)**
- ii) Joe McGuckin, the events manager at the Totnes and Kingsbridge Branch, hopes to Organize an inter-club quiz and has invited Torbay, Plymouth and Newton Abbot Branches to participate. The consensus was positive and Joe will be advised that a Tuesday in October or November (not 2nd in month) would be preferable.

- iii) Jim expressed a wish to raise funds for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal through showing footage of film and a talk about Nepal in conjunction with his church. Members were very pleased to support this event which is likely to take place at the Gerston hall and to advertise it in BUZZ. **(AP 754)**
 - iv) In response to Doug's request for ideas for speakers for the winter programme, members suggested the following: the NFU on the use of neonicotinoids and also local street pastor Christine Morey as a possibility for the AGM. Barry Neale is developing a comprehensive list of speakers, including Gerry; Doug will contact Barry for advice. **(AP 755)**
14. **Venue & date of the next committee meeting**
 The date for the next meeting is Tuesday, September 1st at 7.30 p.m. and the venue will be The Paignton Club, 2 The Esplanade, Paignton.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AP No.	ACTION POINT DETAIL.	OWNER
AP 714	New library titles to be advertised in BUZZ; ongoing; see also AP 753	Doug; Gerry
AP 745	Advertise in BUZZ and initiate apiary arrangements for new beekeepers' hives	Doug; Liz; Gerry
AP 746	Advertise in BUZZ and arrange Basic Assessment preparation	Doug; Liz; Jim Gerry

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM PRESENT COMMITTEE MEETING

AP 750	3 new apiary keys to be sourced	Jim
AP 751	Initial apiary board update	Jim
AP 752	Set up a catalogue of books and DVDs on web site	Gerry;Mike
AP 753	Advise Shelley Castle of decision with regard to 'Museum of Now'	Di
AP 754	Advertise Nepal fundraising event in BUZZ	Doug
AP 755	Contact Barry Neale re:Speakers	Doug

Di Hatherley (Hon. Secretary) 31st May 2015
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