

THE DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, TORBAY BRANCH.

DBKA website: www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk

Branch web site: www.tbbk.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 27067

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Torbay Branch Executive Committee Meeting held at Sainsbury's Restaurant, Yalberton Road, Paignton at 7.30 p.m on Tuesday, February 23rd 2016

Present:

Liz Westcott	Chair; Education Officer; Honey Show Secretary
Gerry Stuart	Vice-Chair and Branch Librarian
Di Hatherley	Branch Secretary
Lindsay Ticehurst	Branch Treasurer
Doug Westaway	BUZZ editor
Mike Ticehurst	Branch Web Master
Brian Thomas	
Maureen Brown	

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
Di reported that Glyn and Jim had contacted her to offer their apologies.
- 2. Minutes of previous committee meeting: approval and signing**
There being no proposed amendments, Liz signed her copy of the minutes to indicate they form an accurate record of the above Meeting.
- 3. Matters arising**

A/P 763	Completed
A/P 764	Doug will ensure a Basic Refresher Course reminder is included in March/April edition of BUZZ (A/P 776)
A/P 765	Basic Course Handbook will be available to people taking the Basic Assessment; Mike will digitize it and add to the Web (A/P 777)
A/P 766	Gerry, Jim and Mike to consider providing input into future introductory courses
A/P 767	Completed
A/P 768	Completed
A/P 769	Completed
A/P 770	Completed
A/P 771	Ongoing
A/P 772	Delayed but Gerry does not anticipate a problem for 3-4 parking spaces
A/P 773	Completed
A/P 774	Ongoing

4. Chairman's Report

Thank you all for coming out on such a cold night.

I am hoping that frequent, short meetings will be preferable to long, infrequent meetings. However, it is important that the system should work for us and not produce an extra work load. If it is not necessary to meet then we shall cancel the meeting.

Every three months we shall have a full Committee meeting when officers will submit reports. In between meetings will be minuted as 'nothing to report' for officers who have nothing relevant or significant to report.

I am delighted that Glyn has agreed to become Apiary Coordinator. Thank you, Gerry and Jim for agreeing to support him and be apiary assistants. The apiary management is a really important role for all sorts of reasons and your work, such as Gerry feeding fondant to the hives, is really appreciated. Also, thank you to Mike and Brian, for taking on the role of Groundsmen - once again a very important role that tends to be taken for granted.

We have an excellent cohort of new beekeepers about to 'graduate', all of whom seem to be enthusiastic to continue with their beekeeping education. In that respect, I am hoping to encourage them by offering a site to keep bees at the club apiary and beekeepers who will mentor a new beekeeper who lives in their area.

Liz Westcott

5. Treasurer's Report

Fourteen members have lapsed but there are nine new members. Fifty three members have renewed their subscriptions.

The current account balance stands at £6239.88

Lindsay Ticehurst

6. Education: practical training/experience of bee handling for new beekeepers

Liz outlined ideas which will encourage beekeepers who have completed the introductory course to develop their interest in beekeeping:

Some stands along the hedge on the lower part of Cockington Apiary will be reserved for new beekeepers' hives;

New beekeepers, if they have their own hive at the apiary, will be mentored while they go through their hive;

They will be taught good practice in beekeeping in a structured way, possibly through working in small groups, overseen by an experienced beekeeper.

7. Cockington Apiary Update

Maureen has transferred hive information, including which hives have been fed, onto new sheets. These will form an official record and be kept in the

apiary. Maureen has agreed to take on the responsibility of transferring any notes to the official sheets and members expressed their appreciation of Maureen's work. Beginners will be encouraged to fill in record sheets.

Glyn and Gerry have carried out a winter assessment at Cockington Apiary and Gerry provided photographic evidence of their visit. Colonies were fed as necessary and eight colonies deemed to be thriving. Two are suitable for queen rearing and considerable interest was shown in the hive built by Doug many years ago. There is no need to buy extensive amounts of new equipment although the following were agreed:

- Material will be sourced and Mike will build a solar wax extractor (A/P 778);
- Old frames will be burnt and wax extracted; netting replaced, queen cages, marker pens, posts and bearers for new beekeepers purchased, the safety of the handrail assessed (A/P 779)

8. Allocation of space for new beekeepers at Cockington Apiary

See Chairman's report above.

9. Swarm Collection

Di reported that Colin Sherwood, President of Devon Beekeepers, had requested secretaries to update the DBKA Swarm Collection list. Di will advise Colin that Doug Westaway remains co-ordinator and Carl Ansell, Di Hatherley, Jim Mogridge, Gerry Stuart and Liz Westcott are prepared to collect swarms in the area.

10. Stephenson's Trophy: update on Torbay entry

Judges from outside Devon County will judge the exhibits. The agreed theme for Torbay Branch will be: the Perfect Home Apiary. The following need to be sourced no later than the Wednesday before the start of the Devon Show: photographs, artificial grass, planters, bee equipment, skep, backdrops. An informal meeting to progress these ideas will be held after the Winter Meeting on March 8th at the Gerston Christian Centre, Paignton.

11. Update on B4 and Occombe Farm

Gerry reported that the Education Department at Paignton Zoo is keen to progress the Omo project and a Skype link will be set up. There are plans to promote beekeeping more actively with the public and sell honey. At Occombe farm, a bee friendly garden is being set up and there are discussions in place for sessions to introduce the public to beekeeping. Gerry is producing laminated sheets explaining what is happening in the hives throughout the year.

12. Any other business

An informal meeting with regard to Stephenson Trophy entry will take place after the winter meeting with Richard Ball at the Gerston Centre on March 8th

13. Venue and date of the next committee meeting

The next Committee Meeting will take place at Sainsbury's Restaurant, Yalberton Road, Paignton on Tuesday, April 26th 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

14. Action Points Arising from the Meeting

A/P	Responsibility
776 'Basic' Refresher Course Reminder in BUZZ March/April editions	Doug
777 Digitize Basic Course Handbook on Web	Mike
778 Build Solar Wax Extractor	Mike
779 Source items for Apiary	Apiary Team

Di Hatherley: Hon Secretary

27th February 2016

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