

THE DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, TORBAY BRANCH

DBKA website: www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk

Branch website: www.tbbka.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, June 21st 2016

Present:

Liz Westcott	Chair; Education Officer; Honey Show Secretary
Gerry Stuart	Vice-Chair; Librarian
Glyn Davies	Apiary Co-ordinator
Di Hatherley	Branch Secretary
Doug Westaway	BUZZ Editor
Mike Ticehurst	Branch Web Master
Maureen Brown	

1 Apologies for Absence

Mike reported that Lindsay was unwell and unable to attend.

2 Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting

There being no proposed amendments, Liz signed her copy of the minutes to indicate they formed an accurate record of the above meeting.

3 Matters Arising

A/P

780	Purchase stainless steel hive tools	Ongoing
781	Create Apiary Stickers	10 permits sourced by Gerry
782	Research cost of apiary shed	Completed
783	Advertise weekly apiary sessions in BUZZ	Completed
784	Request speaker list from Barry Neal	Completed; none available
785	Arrange summer walk	Ongoing
786	Source stands for Devon County Show	Completed
787	Contact Gerry re: response to emails and dates for next two meetings	Completed

4 Chair's Report

Liz thanked all who worked hard to construct and transport our informative and attractive Stephenson's Trophy exhibit to the Devon County Show. The standard was very high and although we did not win a prize, the general public are currently enjoying the exhibit at Cockington Court before it is transferred to Occombe Farm in

July. Only four of a minimum requirement of six stewards were available to steward the exhibit at the County Show which has implications for earlier recruitment in 2017. Liz noted that the number of Branch entries across the wide range of categories was disappointingly low and new beekeepers in particular should be encouraged to enter the Novice Classes both at the County Show and at the Torbay Honey Show in January 2017.

Liz expressed her thanks also the Committee for their hard work and support of the TBKA. We do need to develop strategies to encourage beekeepers to attend meetings and in particular to join with us all in learning from Glyn, a Master Beekeeper as he expertly attends to and manipulates our colonies, sharing his knowledge and expertise.

Our bees are doing well and the apiary is well organised and equipped. Liz finished by thanking everyone who goes out of their way to ensure everything is working so smoothly.

5 Treasurer's Report

Since the last meeting there has been very little movement on the account with the exception of receipts of £573.90 for Honey Sales and £292.56 for Gift Aid.

Our membership is 40 full members, 3 associate members, 6 social members, 7 partners, 1 honorary and 3 junior members making a total of 60

The balance at the bank is £5172.75

Lindsay Ticehurst

6 Education and Training, to include Winter Education Course

Liz reported that the attendance at the apiary of people who attended the Introduction to Beekeeping Course over this and previous winters had been disappointingly low. It would be good to have a course for the Basic Exam but at the moment very few of the qualifying beekeepers attend meetings. She felt that we could possibly organise our Introduction to Beekeeping Course where the price is higher but includes practical sessions at the apiary through the following season. If people feel they have paid for practical sessions they would be more inclined to attend and learn.

After discussion, it was agreed that 8 winter sessions (November 14th and 28th, December 12th, January 16th and 30th, February 13th and 27th and March 13th) will be held at the Gerston Christian Centre, Paignton at 7.30-9.00 p.m. They will be led by Liz, Glyn, Mike and Gerry. The advertised cost will be £120 to include a year's membership of the BBKA from January 1st 2017 and an invitation to attend apiary sessions from April 1st 2017. The course should be advertised as soon as possible.

(A/P 788)

7 Executive Council Meeting Report from Branch Delegate, Lindsay Ticehurst

The main points from the meeting on May 7th, 2016 are as follows:

- The date of the DBKA AGM will be March 11th 2017.

- The Information Commissioner's Office (IOC) responded to one complaint about the digitalised DBKA yearbook with the information included in the Yearbook is within IOC regulations. The password will be changed at random dates to be advised by the Delegate. The current password is foundation5. Mike has emailed all entitled members.
- The Autumn Lecture will be held in the north of the county.
- Beekeeping magazine will continue to be produced in a full colour printed paper format by Newton Print. Double issues will be produced in December/January and June/July. The cost of printing will be paid by DBKA and the cost of handling and mailing billed to Branches.

8 Apiary Co-ordinator's Report

Glyn thanked committee members for their recent invaluable support and noted the following:

- There are 14 colonies and several bird boxes of bees.
- 10 colonies will be targeted for overwintering.
- No swarms have been lost to date.
- 3 tubs of Ambrosia purchased from Colin Turner in Newton Abbot.
- The apiary sheds have been re-organised with support from Mike and Gerry.
- Parking in the triangle on the roadside of the apiary remains an issue. Gerry agreed to speak to Marissa, Director of Cockington Court with regard to the possibility of erecting a sign requesting that the general public do not park there on Saturday afternoons. **(A/P 789)**
- Glyn will acquire a quantity of surgical gloves in a range of sizes for apiary use. **(A/P 790)**
- The solar wax extractor is working very well and Glyn recommended the wax be traded in for foundation.

9 Apiary Matters

The Committee agreed the following:

- An inventory of TBKA equipment will be compiled at the end of the season. **(A/P 791)**
- Di will contact the NFU Mutual to request a copy of our insurance policy **(A/P 792)**. **N.B. Lindsay has contacted Di to say there is a copy available which she will email to Di for next meeting.**
- Glyn, Maureen and Gerry will extract apiary honey later in the season. **(A/P 793)**
- 4 nucs (five framed) will be available to TBKA members who have completed the introductory course @ £90. They will be advertised in BUZZ. **(A/P 794)**
- The Committee agreed to the purchase of a substantial 10' X 6' shed which includes delivery and 6 bearers for the floor, a padlock and membrane at an overall cost of approximately £900.00. Mike, Alan Barrett and Gerry will erect the shed at the apiary. **(A/P 795)**

10 Social Calendar to include Winter Talks and the Engagement of Beekeepers in TBKA Activities

A Branch barbecue will be held on July 9th.

Speakers to be invited to lead the 2016-2017 Winter Talks include: Mick Male (skep maker); David Packham and Martin Hann (seasonal bee inspectors); Clare Densley from Buckfast Abbey; Dan Basterfield. It was suggested that Adam Vevers, Martin Hann and Glyn be invited to provide a question and answer session at the Honey Show. **(A/P 796)**

11 Update on B4 at Paignton Zoo and Occombe Farm

Gerry reported that a recent bee talk at Occombe Farm could result in the recruitment of would-be beekeepers for our Winter Course. The Stephenson Trophy display will be moved from Cockington Court to Paignton Zoo to coincide with Pollinators' Month. Zoo honey will be on sale in the Paignton Zoo shop and there is the potential for TBKA beekeepers to sell produce there. The observation hive has been re-queened and there are new colonies on the Tortoise Lawn.

12 Any Other Business

It was agreed that BUZZ archives on the website should be removed. **(A/P 797)**

Notices will be placed in BUZZ and on the DBKA website that, when queens become drone layers, beekeepers should contact Glyn or Liz. **(A/P 798)**

Mike agreed to cost a new apiary bench table. **(A/P 799)**

13 Venue and Date of the Next Committee Meetings

The next meetings will be held on Tuesday, July 19th and Tuesday, August 23rd at Sainsbury's Restaurant, Yalberton Road Paignton at 7.30 p.m.

Action Points from the Meeting

A/P		RESPONSIBILITY
780	Purchase stainless steel hive tools	Mike
785	Organise summer walk	Jim
788	Arrange Winter Education Course 2016-2017	Liz, Glyn, Gerry, Mike
789	Seek permission to erect parking sign at apiary	Gerry
790	Acquire quantity of surgical gloves	Glyn
791	Compile apiary inventory at the end of the season	Apiary Team
792	Request a copy of insurance from NFU Mutual	Di (cancelled; item 9)
793	Extract apiary honey when available	Glyn, Maureen, Gerry
794	Advertise nucs in BUZZ	Doug
795	Erect new shed in apiary	Gerry, Mike + A Barrett
796	Begin to organise speakers for Winter Meetings	Doug
797	Remove BUZZ archives from TBKA website	Mike
798	Insert notices re: drone laying queens in BUZZ and DBKA website	Doug; Mike

799 Research cost of apiary bench and table

Mike.

Di Hatherley Branch Secretary

23rd June 2016

Mobile: 07881467393

Landline: 01803 844804

Email: Dianne.hatherley@btinternet.com