

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 2014/15 TORBAY BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE
 GERSTON CHRISTIAN CENTRE, PAIGNTON, ON SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2015.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

The Chairperson opened the 2014/15 Annual General Meeting by welcoming the Branch members and their families to the Meeting and also the DBKA General Secretary, Barry Neal and the Devon County Show DBKA Secretary, Ruth Neal.

Twelve registered and partner members were present. The secretary confirmed the meeting was quorate. See Appendix 'A' for details.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Secretary reported that apologies for absence had been received from Wendy Ashley, Maureen Brown, Sarah Gosney, Zarah Hannaford, Kingsley Law, Pam Lee, Pete Nicholson, Gerry Stuart, Lynnette Taylor; Marion Tucker and Steve Westcott

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM. (15th November 2014)

The Secretary confirmed that the minutes of the 2013/2014 AGM had been distributed to all Branch members. No proposed amendments to the minutes had been received prior to this Meeting. See Appendix 'B' for details.

There being no corrections or amendments to the minutes proposed by the members present, the Chairperson signed the minutes of the 2013/2014 AGM to indicate that they formed a true record of that Meeting.

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

A/P No.	
A/P AGM 52	Carried forward
A/P AGM 66	Completed
A/P AGM 67	Completed
A/P AGM 68	Completed
A/P AGM 69	Completed

4. THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE

In his report, the Chairperson, Jim Mogridge, advised members that as he had been Chair for 15 years, he had decided to stand down from the role. He made mention of the well-organized and very successful honey show, anticipated the next show in January 2016 and described the events which had taken place this year including winter meetings, the Devon County Show, Cockington Apple Day, the Beginners' Winter Course and fortnightly meetings at the Apiary, including two barbecues. He expressed thanks and appreciation to the Secretary, Di Hatherley and Treasurer, Lindsay Ticehurst, for their work over the year, to the Education Officer, Liz Westcott for the courses and her writings in 'Beekeeping', to Mike Ticehurst, webmaster and also compiler of 'Beekeeping', to Doug Westaway the editor of BUZZ, to Gerry Stuart, librarian and to Clare and Ron Baker for organizing refreshments at the Apiary. He concluded by thanking members who had brought refreshments for the AGM and indicated that changes to Committee members were likely to be made later in the Meeting. See Appendix 'C' for details.

Acceptance of the Chairperson's report proposed by Doug Westaway and seconded by Liz Westcott.

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

5. THE SECRETARY'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE

The Secretary, Di Hatherley, 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. See Appendix 'D' for details.

Meetings: 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. The Branch was represented at the 2014 Branch AGM, DBKA Executive Council and DBKA AGM and President's Day.

Education: Nineteen students are currently attending the Introduction to Beekeeping Course. Students who completed last year's winter course continued to develop their understanding and skills at the fortnightly sessions at Cockington Apiary. The experience also usefully demonstrates the high level of team work among members and generosity of time necessary for the running of a successful apiary. In order to encourage and retain students who completed the 2014/2015 course, they are invited to site one hive at the Apiary while they source their own site. Liz also led preparation for Module 6 (Honey Bee Behaviour) which was attended by three members of the Torbay Branch and four from Totnes and Kingsbridge.

Lectures and Demonstrations: In the winter programme, our 59 members have been invited to enjoy talks and demonstrations from experts both in-house and invited, for example Richard Ball (Swarming Control Measures); Gerry Stuart (Everything You Wanted To Know About Swarming and Swarms and Invasive Species of Hornets, Wasps and Bees) and Glyn Davies (An evening with Glyn Davies).

Communication: The Torbay Beekeepers' Website which features the monthly on-line magazine, BUZZ continues to provide Torbay beekeepers with a diary of events, high quality topical tips from the editor Doug, chair Jim, members, BBKA and DBKA and newspapers and magazines. It is regularly updated by webmaster, Mike Ticehurst.

Branch Honey Show: The first Torbay Branch honey show for many years was organized by the Secretary of the Honey Show, Liz Westcott and other members on January 13th and was a resounding success with 81 entries, including some from Newton Abbot, Kingsbridge and Totnes.

Other Matters of Interest:

A strong band of Torbay Branch members offered their services at the honey marquee throughout the Devon County Show on May 21st-23rd and a committed group created a very original exhibition piece about the Asian hornet and its accompanying challenges for beekeepers, as the Torbay Branch entry for the Stevenson Trophy.

The library contains a variety of new well-reviewed books which are catalogued on the website. The librarian, Gerry Stuart, responds to requests for new books and brings the mobile library to all winter meetings.

Community Links: Regular updates are provided to the committee on the work of B4 at Paignton Zoo which works to reverse the decline of the black bee as well as educate the local community and involve them in the project and of which Gerry Stuart is co-director. Gerry is also the beekeeper at Occombe Farm and opens up the world of beekeeping to its many visitors. Liz Westcott and Jim Mogridge attended the Apple Day on 18th September selling honey and other products of the hive and were pleased to announce that all the honey sourced from Cockington Apiary was sold.

Social Events: These included: the Branch Christmas Social Evening featuring quizzes, games and the legendary Punch Bowl on December 9th 2014;

The Branch Annual Dinner at the Paignton Club on January 23rd 2015;

The Apiary Barbecues on June 20th and September 28th.2015;

Acceptance of the Secretary's report was proposed by Mike Ticehurst and seconded by Jim Mogridge

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

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

See Appendix E, pages 1-2 for the full statement of the Branch Accounts. A copy of the Accounts was distributed by the Treasurer, Lindsay Ticehurst, to each member present at the Meeting. The Treasurer clarified various aspects of expenditure and changes to membership and responded to a question from the DBKA General Secretary with regard to the reduction in Gift Aid during 2014-2015 which is attributable to recent, more stringent regulations reducing the amount of Gift Aid refund. The Treasurer also advised members that 2015-2016 would be her final year as Treasurer, having already served four years in the role.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and associated Branch Annual Accounts was proposed by Doug Westaway. Seconded by Liz Westcott. The proposal was carried unanimously.

7. THE APIARY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE

The responsibility for the management of the Apiary has been distributed among a team including Liz Westcott, Mike Ticehurst, Gerry Stuart and Jim Mogridge. Claire and Ron Baker have regularly supported the Branch in the provision of refreshments. There are 12 colonies including one in an observation hive, provided by Russell Beach. All colonies have been fed and treated with Apiguard for overwintering. The colonies have yielded some 180 lb. for extraction and this small amount is likely due to the considerable swarming in the Apiary this year. The honey is sold to local shops, fetes etc. at around £5-£6 per lb. See Appendix 'F' for details.

Acceptance of the Apiary Manager's report proposed by Doug Westaway. Seconded by: Liz Westcott.

The Torbay Branch Annual General Meeting accepted the Apiary Manager's report unanimously.

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 and in his absence, the Committee requested that Doug Westaway deputized for him as 'Temporary Vice-President'. Doug spoke very eloquently and with great humour about the Branch's busy and successful year, read tributes to the Committee and in particular Jim Mogridge who for 15 years dedicated himself, as Chair, 'unstintingly to Torbay Branch and to the cause of beekeeping in general', to Liz Westcott, Di Hatherley, Lindsay and Mike Ticehurst and Gerry Stuart. He also praised the efforts of Colin Waymouth, Zarah Hannaford and Neil Hopkins who are no longer able to be committee members. Doug concluded by formally requesting the officers and committee members to stand down to permit the members to elect their new Branch officers and committee members. See Appendix 'G' for details.

10. ELECTION OF THE BRANCH CHAIRPERSON.

The 'temporary Vice-President stated that he would supervise the election of the new Chairperson who would then oversee the election of other officers and General Committee.

The Secretary confirmed that, with their permission, nominations for election to the new Committee had been received, with their permission, for Brian Thomas and Glyn Davies prior to the AGM. After discussion and confirmation from the DBKA General Secretary, it was agreed that Glyn Davies would be eligible to join the committee from January 2016. Zarah Hannaford, Neil Hopkins,

Marion Tucker and Colin Waymouth had expressed their wish to stand down from the Committee. All other Committee members had confirmed they were prepared to stand for re-election to the committee although not necessarily to their present positions. The 'Temporary Vice-President' requested nominations from the 'floor' for the post of Branch Chairperson.

Jim Mogridge proposed that Liz Westcott be elected Chairperson. The proposal was seconded by Mike Ticehurst.

There were no other proposals, Liz Westcott was duly unanimously elected as Branch Chairperson for the year 2015/16.

Liz gave a tribute to the dedication of the outgoing Chairperson, Jim Mogridge, for the past 15 years and with the hope that he would mentor and guide her in her new position.

11. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND BRANCH OFFICERS

(i) The Branch President

Jim Mogridge proposed that Kingsley Law be elected Branch President. The proposal was seconded by Liz Westcott.

There were no other proposals, Kingsley Law was duly unanimously elected as Branch President for the year 2015/16.

(ii) The Branch Vice-Chairperson.

It was proposed by Mike Ticehurst and seconded by Jim Mogridge that Gerry Stuart, in his absence, be elected Vice-Chairperson.

There were no other proposals. Gerry Stuart was elected unanimously Branch Vice Chairperson.

(iii) The Branch Treasurer.

Proposed by Mike Ticehurst and seconded by Jim Mogridge that Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst be elected as Branch Treasurer. There were no other proposals. Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst unanimously elected Branch Treasurer.

(iv) The Branch Secretary.

Proposed by Lindsay Ticehurst and seconded by Liz Westcott that Di Hatherley be elected Branch Secretary. There being no other proposals, Di Hatherley was unanimously elected as Branch Secretary.

(v) Branch Delegate to the DBKA Executive Council

Proposed by Liz Westcott and seconded by Doug Westaway that Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst be elected as Branch Delegate. There were no other proposals. Mrs. Lindsay Ticehurst unanimously elected Branch Delegate to the DBKA Executive Council.

12. ELECTION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It was proposed by Mike Ticehurst and seconded by Doug Westaway that Wendy Ashley, Maureen Brown, Glyn Davies, Jim Mogridge, Brian Thomas, Mike Ticehurst and Doug Westaway be elected 'en bloc' as general committee members. There being no objections, the named members were unanimously elected 'en bloc' onto the committee. Glyn Davies will be eligible to join the committee in January 2016.

The Branch Committee for Year 2015/2016. * Branch Officers

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

General committee members:

Mrs. Wendy Ashley
Ms. Maureen Brown
Mr. Glyn Davies (from January 2016)

Mr. Jim Mogridge
 Mr. Brian Thomas
 Mr. Mike Ticehurst
 Mr. Douglas Westaway

13. ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE TORBAY BRANCH

Proposed by Liz Westcott and seconded by Carl Ansell that, in recognition of their commitment and service to the Branch over many years, Jim Mogridge and Doug Westaway become Honorary Members of the Torbay Branch with immediate effect. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- (i) The Chairperson agreed to arrange a Branch Annual Dinner at the Paignton Club at the end of January 2016. **(A/P AGM 70)** The dinner will be advertised in BUZZ **(A/P AGM 71)**
- (ii) Carl Ansell, who is on the Torbay Swarming Register, expressed concern that he has not been contacted by the Torbay Branch nor by the police or Torbay Council with regard to collecting swarms this year. The swarm co-ordinator advised that neither the police nor council hold lists of current swarm collectors and could give no reason why individuals had not been contacted. The General Secretary of the DBKA advised that Swarm Liaison is an item on the next Executive Council meeting and advice will be provided to local branches. **(A/P AGM 72)**

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

The Meeting agreed to hold next year’s AGM at the Gerston Christian Centre on Thursday, 24th November 2016. The Meeting would commence at a time TBA, with an invited speaker. The details to be confirmed in Committee and published in the September, October and November 2016 issues of ‘BUZZ’. **(A/P AGM 73)**

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 Team
A/P AGM 70	Arrange Branch Annual Dinner.	Jim Mogridge
A/P AGM 71	Publicise Annual Dinner in ‘BUZZ’.	Editor
A/P AGM 72	Act on DBKA advice re: Swarm Liaison	Committee.
A/P AGM 73	Publicise 2016 AGM details in ‘BUZZ’.	Editor

Dianne Hatherley: Secretary Torbay Branch DBKA
 Email: Dianne.hatherley@btinternet.com
 Tel: 01803 844804
 Mobile: 07881467393

