

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 4 Sawyers Close,  
Wraxall  
On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Present: Wendy Welham, Chair, (WBW); Richard Ellis (RE); David Capon (DC); Helen Fordham (HF); Phil Clemente (PC); Rob Francis (RF); John Banks (JB); Janet McCulloch (JMC), Tom Salter (TS)

1. Apologies: Steve Robinson (SR)

2. Matters Arising:

DC is yet to collect the **mower** from PC but this is in hand. **Action = DC & PC.**

PC said that Stephen Brain has a microscope that belongs to the branch (this was originally held by Martin Stickland). Enquiries to be made. **Action = WBW.**

Minutes from August 20<sup>th</sup> signed by WBW.

3. Officers' Reports:

**Chair:**

Badge maker has been purchased and has been received. Thought is now needed in regards to the art work / designs to be used by the branch. **Action the committee.**

Letter of thanks to go to Han's Wilson - re tent paid for, for the 2014 North Somerset Show - To contact Tim Ledbury to confirm this is correct and paid for before writing the letter to Han's. **Action = WBW.**

Clive Bowell / Brackenwood Christmas Fayre - requesting help and honey supplies - to inform that BCD would not be attending, but if help was needed that Clive could request this via the branch website. This is now on the website. Letter to Clive to confirm this - **Action = WBW.**

Beginners course - 23 signed up so far. There is reportedly following a big boost from the North Somerset Show this year. Emails and addresses of the beginners to be forwarded to the apiary manager - **Action = WBW.**

**Secretary:** Nothing to report.

**Treasurer:**

Total membership now stands at 152.

Finances - balance £5,630.16

Receipt of BCD gift aid - remains outstanding.

The BBKA increase for next year - ABKA will be absorbing the £1.00 - confirmed.

New online BDI insurance records - treasurer to be able to keep records of membership with insurance details.

**Apiary Manager:**

Helen Fordham BCD Secretary

Sunday sessions are completed for this season.

Most colonies at the Solarsense Apiary Site are now fed for the winter. Two feeders now only remain insitu.

Observation hive - to consider purchasing a commercial type from Thornes winter sale.

Honey given to Solarsense as payment for rent - 30lb which Solarsense have passed onto their staff.

Noticeboard for apiary shed (noticeboard with doors) - £100-120 agreed by committee to purchase. **Action = DC.**

Plaques (Gerry Bissett and Co-Op) are yet to be put up at the Solarsense Apiary site. **Action = DC.**

Solarsense Apiary shed has been painted sage green by DC.

Excess honey from the Solarsense Apiary is to go to the North Somerset Show 2014 and will be labelled with the branch details.

Mentors list - beginners that have completed this year. Plan for the beginners to be assigned a mentor over the winter. **Action = DC.**

### **Programme Manager:**

AGM speaker - Prof Daniel Robert - confirmed is booked.

Projector screen purchase - discussed ration 16/9. No decision made.

2014 draft programme was discussed and received a positive response from the committee. Skep beekeeping dates and final confirmation remain outstanding - to confirm with Paul Fitzsimons - **Action = JB.**

### **Education Manager:**

Husbandry correspondence course is available via the BBKA. Supported by FERA and is co-ordinated by Ivor Davis.

"More than just honey" DVD - committee agreed to look into purchasing some copies as a training / education tool. **Action = RF.**

Book insurance for the branch - insurance value £1,500.

Queen rearing workshop - to have a group of 12, informal and to use the Solarsense apiary shed.

Veterinary School ½ day course - plans and discussion remain on-going. **Action = RF.**

Study programme for 2014 - no modules are booked to teach at this time.

Chew Valley School - apiary / beekeeping education. RF and Paddy Brading continue. It appears to be a success.

Bedminster School, Bristol - possible new apiary / education site. Early stages of discussion at this stage. **Action = RF & JB.**

The branch books will be put into colour coded boxes - type = specialist, historical etc. **Action = RF.**

Correspondence courses are available via the BKKA.

### **Swarm Liaison:**

Swarms collected = x2 in September.

Wood working course - to involve making a nuc, solar extractor and clearer boards. 28 enquires so far. It would involve several sessions. A decision on dates and details surrounding the sessions to be decided on by PC and then added to the website. **Action = PC & SR.**

Candle making materials - branch to buy own. Will cost approximately £50. **Action = WBW.**

### **Webmaster: Not present.**

The branch extractor has made £60 so far this year (12 times rented out).  
A varroa calculator is yet to go on the website. **Action = JB & SR.**

### **Show Co-Ordinator:**

To publicise the honey show at the AGM. **Action = JMc.**

Aim - as a branch, to become self-sufficient with regards to show equipment.

Role of Show Co-ordinator discussed - the point of contact for show equipment, to keep an inventory of equipment, register to be kept of loaned equipment, to ensure product is available to sell at the shows and to ensure equipment is in place for shows.

### 4. AOB

4.1 Post of Grant Czar - member Caroline Cherry has volunteered. Offer yet to be accepted.

4.2 Post of Chair remains vacant. This needs to be filled. **Action the committee.**

4.3 AGM plans - Tea and coffee + biscuits to be served at AGM. 2pm start. Speaker to go 1<sup>st</sup>. Then tea and biscuits followed by AGM at 4pm.

4.4 To send out the honey show schedule with the AGM details to the members by the end of Oct. **Action = JB.**

4.5 George Sims cup to be engraved by DC ready for the AGM. **Action = DC.**

4.6 Dye for BCD branch badges previously held by Tom Salter - was passed to Richard Ellis to be held on behalf of the branch.

4.7 The badge making machine has been passed from Wendy Welham to Janet McCulloch as Show Co-Ordinator to be held on behalf of the branch.

Date of the next committee meeting: **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Meeting closed at 10.06 p.m.