

Blagdon, Clevedon and District Beekeepers

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2014 at Tickenham Village Hall

1.0 Present

Garry Packer, Rob Francis, Annabel Lewis, Richard Ellis, David Capon, Ian Cooper, David Welham, John Banks, Steve Robinson, apologies from Adrian Wells.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting were accepted

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 Welcome pack/letter for new members

DW to email to all for comment

3.2 Branch clothing

GP contacted Monsoon and others. The set up costs are £55 for logo and awaiting costs of polo and teeshirts. Could be made available to purchase and for show volunteers to wear.

3.3 AL make contact with bungalow owner

The problem seems to have been resolved.

3.4 Branch bulk purchasing scheme

Proposal has been drafted but a decision needs to be taken. Glass bottle, ApiGard and MAQ strips were suggested, using the website to order supplies, paying by cash/cheque on collection. **JB to liaise with SR re information on website.**

4.0 Chair's report

4.1 GP to send letter to Hans Wilson thanking him for his support Done

4.2 GP to write to WW thanking her for organising the NS show Done

4.3 President's BBQ There won't be one this year but possibly next year

4.4 Bee diseases day went well, thanks to all the organisers, including Annabel Lewis, Sandu Henning-Baker, Ginny Gibbs for hives, Ian and Ann Cooper.

The branch took £225 from the event and spent £8.45 for refreshments and £109 for hire of hall plus £30 to Sidcot School. There is potential to apply for a grant from BDI. AL to speak to Simon Jones and put in an application **AL.**

5.0 Treasurer's report

The finance report was tabled.

A second-hand extractor has been purchased for £50. It was suggested that the branch could buy a capping knife, honey bucket etc.

The branch and BBKA run to different financial years which can be a problem sometimes. Consider options for membership year: RE to discuss with Garth **RE**

It was agreed that membership badges would be provided to new members attending the apiary sessions and made available when members are renewing at the AGM **JM**

6.0 Secretary's report

6.1 Request to purchase honey from members

It was agreed the request would be emailed to members **JM**

6.2 Art and craft of natural bee-keeping - weekend event

It was agreed the information would be emailed to members **JM**

7.0 Apiary manager's report

7.1 Purchase of apiary equipment and National observation hive
Outstanding

7.2 Purchase of new lock Done

7.3 Draft protocol for use of observation hive

A section on cleaning after use, e.g. washing soda needs to be added. The protocol should be read in conjunction with Risk Assessment. It was agreed that requests to use the observation hive should be coordinated. A procedure to be drafted **DC & RS.**

It wasn't clear if the branch observation hive will be needed at the Portishead Show **JM to enquire**

The apiary sessions are going well, several club hives have been split. A self-propelled mower has been bought. Feeding sessions on Wednesday evenings at 7pm are being arranged to support new members, next week there will also be a gardening session.

It was suggested that a hedge trimmer (multi-tool) is needed **DC to investigate**

8.0 Programme manager's report

The skep session was very successful. Paul Fitzsimons had given considerable time for this and provided refreshments. It was agreed to offer a gift voucher in thanks **DW.**

It was agreed the session should be run again next year but consider running it more flexibly over a shorter period and during the autumn.

Volunteers are needed to support the Portishead show – message to go to members. If not enough come forward we will contact members who have volunteered to help the branch **JM**

Forthcoming shows:

- Tickenham Flower Show Phil Clemente
- Winscombe Michaelmas Adrian Wells

9.0 Education Officer's report

RS had not received any suggestions for library to date. The latest edition of bee diseases book was suggested. RS will compile a list for discussion at the next meeting **RS**

The purchase of a skep and books from Helen Fordham had been completed

The system to coordinate supply of mated queens had been very successful

The schools leaflet had been completed and 2000 copies purchased. One school had purchased £20 worth. The leaflet can also be used for shows but storage of the leaflets had yet to be agreed.

Several talks to schools had been delivered by members of the committee. It was agreed that this should be coordinated and documented. It was also agreed that the compilation of a core set of resources would be useful. RF is happy to coordinate. All to send ideas to RF for discussion at next meeting **RF/All**

It was also suggested that it could be possible to put together a bid to deliver a service to schools.

The queen rearing group met last week, and there has been varied success. The group plans to have an open evening in October for others to learn from this in readiness for another group next year.

Include a queen rearing session in next year's programme – **JB**

10.0 Swarm liaison No report

11.0 ABKA Rep's report Nothing to report

12.0 Web-master's report

The website has had 12,000 hits. Martha Kearney retweeted about the site

There had been several requests from members of the public for local honey. It was agreed that outlets where local honey can be purchased can be added to the website **SR**

13.0 Show coordinator's report

13.1 Record of show resources

JM had visited the apiary and compiled a list of show resources. This will be used to record items booked out for shows.

13.2 Chew Stoke show

Wendy Welham had been approached about the offer of a stall at the Chew Stoke Show in September. It was agreed to support this if someone offers to coordinate it **JM email members**

14.0 AOB

Taster sessions – Stephen Brain is reducing these and it was suggested that the branch could hold some at Solar Sense. **SR and RF to coordinate**

14.1 Shows

It was agreed that volunteers to help at shows should be sought earlier in the year. Specifically help to set up and take down show equipment should be sought. **JM**

Check posters and candle making from DC **JM**

14.2 Following up interest in beekeeping expressed at the Bath and West Show

It was agreed to send an email with the website link, application forms, leaflet, and link to the beginner's course page. **JM**

15.0 Date of next meeting **2nd September at 19:30 at Tickenham Village Hall**

Meeting closed at 10pm