



## **Agenda for Committee meeting 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022, The George at Backwell at 19:30**

- 1. Apologies** were received from Heather Pitch, Paddy Brading, Garry Packer, Sue Ames, John Davies
- 2. Approval of minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022:** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting
- 3. Matters arising (not covered below):** There were no matters arising
- 4. Treasurer's report:** Tony reported that we currently have approximately £4k more in our account than this time last year; the current balance stood at £8354. A reminder had been sent out to the membership to make clear what payments are for when making BACS transfer
- 5. Membership secretary update:** Heather had provided updated membership stats for the meeting as follows

### **Total number of members:**

	<b>On Roll</b>
Country	12
Honorary	1
Junior	2
Local*	52
Partner	17
Registered	
**	157
School	<u>1</u>
	<u><u>242</u></u>

\* Includes 23 who have paid their £20 deposit for the 2023 Introductory Course

\*\* 13 Local members upgraded to Registered

She also reported a small fall in the amount to be charged for BDI insurance next year.

**6. Secretary's report** David had nothing specific to report

**7. Education Co-ordinator's report:** Paddy reported that the Introductory course was full, with a number of reserves. She mentioned that she had done, and also had planned, a number of talks to various groups. It was mentioned that Garry had also been doing a lot of educational sessions and there was discussion as to whether we needed to hold a central database of who was available for talks.

Paddy mentioned a young person with additional needs that she had engaged with at the Tickenham show, and was keen to explore ways that we could reach out more. It was agreed that the 'Jamie's Bees' initiative at the apiary had not really worked, as the person awarded this slot had not really engaged. Paddy to investigate how we can take this forward.

**8. Apiary Manager's report** Eric reported a successful year, as indicated by the number of people with hives at the apiary. It was generally agreed that the apiary had been at full capacity this year. It was agreed that we need to try to build up a bigger pool of trainers, Tom Francis has proved a valuable addition. Simon Thatcher potentially a new helper. Eric had helpers to unload fondant at apiary, and hopefully things like this would get more people involved at the apiary. The second-hand sale had also been successful in getting people down to the apiary. Eric would like to restock the apiary with newer hives, the meeting was in agreement with this. There was ongoing general maintenance required, Jodi suggested having dedicated people to take on specific tasks at the apiary and wondered if we could engage a few more people to help. Agreed to consider what has worked and what we need to do before next year.

**9. Programme Manager/ Webmaster's report**

Rob reported that the Bees and teas had been successful in three of the four locations planned. There had been positive feedback from those who did it.

Blackbury honey farm had also had positive feedback, although only a small number attended.

After brief discussion it was decided not to hold a quiz this year.

The AGM venue was agreed as Churchill, Rob would see if he could get Christophe Gunter, to speak to the meeting.

Brains Trust, it was agreed to defer this until January 2023, it was agreed that a face-to-face meeting was preferable, and that we should aim to invite some experts from a wider area to form the panel, Rob to pursue.

Christmas Supper provisionally agreed for Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, Rob to explore venues, possibly The George or The Old Farmhouse Nailsea

Rob would also investigate the possibility of a club outing to the Welsh Beekeepers Convention 2023, and possibly a return visit to Buckfast.

- 10. ABKA Rep's report** there had been no Avon meeting since our last meeting
- 11. Members without portfolio** neither were present
- 12. Chair's Report** Annabel reported that both John Davis and Sue Ames had decided to stand down from committee due to other commitments, but will continue with practical help. Committee needs to tell members about what the committee does, as there is possible lack of awareness. Garry has been president for some time, but will stay on for another year, Annabel suggested that Rob Francis to be invited to take on presidency from Nov 2023, which was agreed. There is a vacancy for Secretary from November, as David is not continuing in this role, it was felt we should send out an email to invite expressions of interest. We should also consider if is

there a role for a first-year beekeeper on the committee, without portfolio to represent newer beekeepers.

Annabel informed the meeting that it will be National Honey Day on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, as a club we could do something.

### **13. Any other business**

Rob W wondered whether the club should purchase a 10-frame electric extractor for hire to members, as he had found this much better than a manual one. The mood of the meeting was that this would cause problems of storage, transport and electrical safety, and that any members with sufficient need for such an extractor would probably buy their own. The club would continue to offer entry level extractors to those with only one or two hives, and those starting out.

Tony had made an enquiry to North Somerset Council as to whether he needed to register for food hygiene, the response was that there was no need for a primary food supplier such as a beekeeper.

**Date of next meeting Monday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>** David reminded Officers that their reports for the AGM should be with him by the end of September.

**Meeting closed 9.05pm**