

## **AGM Minutes @ Churchill Memorial Hall** **On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 @ 3:45pm**

(AGM Papers given to branch members via email, available on the branch website and were posted to the two members who have no internet access prior to the AGM date. Copies were also available at the AGM if required).

1. Apologies: Bob South, Pat South, Mark Crosby, Andrew Moore, Sandu Baker-Hellings, Tom Francis, Steve Robinson, Mike Edwards, Ashley Grist.

2. Matters Arising:

Last AGM minutes (2012) – Proposer David Welham, Seconded David Capon.

3. Officers' Reports:

**Chair:**

Attendees have a copy of the report. Nothing to add. Thanks given to Jan Davies for the BCD newsletter.

**Secretary:**

Attendees have a copy of the report. Nothing to add.

**Treasurer:**

Attendees have a copy of the report.

Income down from 2012 – partly due to reduced membership. £6,000 income. Income in already for introduction course for 2014 (26 signed up). Excess petty cash has been deposited in the bank so only holding a small amount. Expenditure – apiary set up (cost less than expected). Stationary – paid for advertising and leaflets. The accounts auditor has been invited to the BCD xmas meal as a thank you. Budget meeting held for next year – education officer and apiary manger attended to discuss expenditure planned for 2014. £3,000 put aside for education.

Assets – new equipment has been purchased.

Membership stands at 152 members (135 full members).

Now able to put membership details on an online record that holds insurance and membership details. This will also enable the treasurer to print off insurance certificates if needed, for example those that may have hives in allotments.

Gift aid = 25% income from gift aid goes to ABKA. The vast majority of the members are now signed up. As we are a charity we have to be seen to be spending our income.

Q/ Adrian Wells asked whether there was a demographic showing in regards to lost membership.

A/ There are no details kept. Lost members were contacted via phone and email. It seems that the average is those that joined 3-4 years ago and have had several bad years of beekeeping. This is a national “drop-off”. We as a branch are trying to improve support and mentoring to reduce this loss. Taking the basic exam – the number are at their highest for this branch this year.

Only 1/3 members are really “getting involved” in the activities of the branch. This year and next we are really investing in our education service and apiary.

Proposer Phil Clemente, Seconded Ian Cooper.

Hans Wilson (member) –Has paid for the North Somerset show stand this year and is paying for a larger stand for 2014 also. This was a very successful show for the branch this year in sales, sign -ups for the introduction course and general public exposure. Thanks from the membership and committee.

### **Apiary Manager:**

Attendees have a copy of the report. Tom Salter would like to say thanks to David Capon for his work this year on the apiary. David Capon would like to pass his thanks to Annabel Lewis and Steve Robinson for their support and help. Next session is a pruning party next weekend Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Appeal to the membership to help with Sunday morning apiary sessions for 2014.

### **Swarm Liaison:**

Attendees have a copy of the report. Nothing to add.

### **Programme Manager:**

Attendees have a copy of the report.

Being advertised – skep making session = names needed to show commitment of attendance.

Honey Farm Ottery St Mary – names needed to show commitment of attendance and to know numbers for booking the coach.

Looking for ideas for Saturday sessions – e.g. topics = contact via the web or directly to the programme manager via email.

Question / comment – Ian Cooper = can we reduce changes to the programme after printed as he works shifts and has to request days off to attend.

A/ The changes will always be kept to a minimum.

### **Education Manager:**

Attendees have a copy of the report.

Module 1 self-directed / distance learning course from BBKA – study group has 8 people and will meet for the first time on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013.

Novice course will commence on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 – alt weeks.

Winter Cluster group – meet for lunch on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013.

### **ABKA:**

Attendees have a copy of the report. Nothing to add.

Bath and West Show 2014 – help needed. A ticket for the day will be given to the volunteer with only a half days help needed on the stand. There will be a

bumblearium at the show this year. Honey is also needed for to sell at the show as well as honey to be entered into the show.

All Officer Reports (excluding the Treasurer's) Proposer Tony Scarse, Seconded Tom Salter.

### **Branch Subscription for 2013 / 2014:**

BBKA subscription has increased by £2.00 per year. ABKA is absorbing £1.00 of this increase.

The BCD element will remain the same for this year. Tom Salter stated that the branch is "living within its means".

### **Election of new Officers:**

Tom Salter - thanked the officers -Wendy Welham for 3 years' service as Chair - over the period of the new apiary site (from searching for a site to it being opened to the branch this year); And the 60th anniversary birthday party.

Thanks given to Helen Fordham in the role as Secretary.

Phil Clemente has completed 6 years in post as Swarm Liaison - Stirling effort. Also as ABKA delegate - thanks for attending the meetings.

Tom Salter as President - thanks from Wendy Welham. 15 years of membership - sharing his experience, knowledge and his overall commitment to the branch. Also his support given to members taking their modules. Now Tom is an honorary member of the branch since the grand opening of the new branch apiary.

Tom Salter added that since recently moving house and branch he has realised what a successful club BCD is and how fortunate we are to all be members.

New Officers in post:

President = David Welham

Chair = Gary Packer

Secretary = Janet McCulloch

Swarm Liaison = Adrian Wells

ABKA = David Welham

### 4. AOB

Xmas meal - 23 signed up. Anyone wanting to go - to contact Phil Clemente.

Wood working course - to be organised and run by Phil Clemente and Steve Wilmott.

Those interested to contact Phil Clemente with what they wish to make. The Solar extractor sessions are now full with 15 signed up.

Branch Honey Show Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 - Tom Salter will judge. The schedule will be going onto the website. Please keep some honey back to enter into the competition.

Date of the next AGM meeting: **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014**

Meeting closed at 4.38 p.m.