



Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting held on 13 November 2021 at 2.00 pm via Zoom

Present: Garry Packer, Tony Slater, Sandra Slater, Rob Williams, Annabel Lewis, Eric Sortwell, Rob Francis, Michael Batchelor, Belinda Kumpel, Claire Banwell, Stephen Brain, Jon Wheway, Sheila James, Malcolm King, Paddy Brading, Heather Pitch.

1. **Welcome:** Garry Packer welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if anyone objected to the Zoom session being recorded. As no-one dissented, the meeting was recorded.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** David Capon, Sue and Michael Ames, Jodi Moger, Martin Gate, John Davies.
3. **Approval of minutes of 68th AGM held on 14 November 2020:** The minutes of the 68th AGM were circulated to members in advance of the meeting. There were no comments or corrections and so they were approved.
Proposed by: Annabel Lewis
Seconded by: Tony Slater
Agreed unanimously
4. **Presentation of Certificates:** Rob Francis said that it had not been an easy season with candidates having to change from in-person to online examinations. The Basic Assessment was particularly hard this year with very little or no practical input. Modules 1 and 7 examinations had been postponed for 18 months because of the pandemic and the move to online assessment. Three members had taken their Module 2 this morning. Rob then read out the names of the successful Candidates:
Basic Assessment: Nicky Rylance, Trudy Jones, Kirsty Jones, David Johnson, Bevan Dickerson, Jonathan Wheway, Steven Read (Credit), Mark Hunter (Credit)
Module 1: Fran Frappell, Jane House, Charlotte Matthews, Ian Matthews
Module 7: Tony Slater, Rob Williams, Sandra Slater (Credit)
He congratulated everyone on their achievements and said he would pass the certificates on to David Capon for posting. If anyone wanted to collect their certificates they should contact Rob as soon as possible. Contact Rob for more information if you are interested in taking any of the modules. Garry also added his congratulations and said that part of the aims of the Branch is to encourage our learning and development as beekeepers.
5. **Officers' Reports:** These were circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
 - 5.1. President's Report - Garry Packer
 - 5.2. Chair's Report - Annabel Lewis

5.3. Secretary's Report - David Capon

5.4. Membership Secretary's Report - Heather Pitch. Garry said membership is very buoyant in the Branch and thanked Heather for her work on this.

5.5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2020/21: The accounts were circulated in advance of the meeting. Tony had traced back through the last 3-4 years' accounts to ascertain the situation in the light of COVID and a larger than normal expenditure on the Apiary. He reported that the Branch is back on track with a surplus of £2,000. It is financially sustainable and fulfilling all the aims of its charitable status. The External Examiner had seen the accounts and approved them. Eric congratulated Tony on the presentation of the accounts.

5.6. Apiary Manager's Report - Eric Sortwell. Eric said that a Sub-Committee will be meeting next week to discuss arrangements for the Grand Opening of the Apiary. He reported that there were rats under the shed and moles in the Apiary. Pest control was the University's responsibility and it had this in hand with Rentokil.

5.7. Programme Manager's Report - Rob Williams

5.8. Webmaster's Report - Rob Williams

5.9. Avon Beekeepers Association (ABKA) Delegate's Report - Eric Sortwell

5.10. Accounts for 2020/21: Approved

Proposed by: Heather Pitch

Seconded by: Belinda Kumpel

Agreed unanimously

Other Reports: Approved

Proposed by: Rob Francis

Seconded by: Eric Sortwell

Agreed unanimously

6. Branch Subscriptions for 2020-21: Heather thanked the 43% of the membership that had already paid this year's subscription. There had been an increase in the fees this year. The BBKA capitation had risen to £21 and the Branch element to £15 (from £11). The Branch fee had not increased for many years and there will be continuing expenditure at the Apiary. The Joining Fee would be abolished but a £5 Admin Fee would be charged if subscriptions are not paid by 31 January. The Committee agreed to the subscription increase at their meeting on 6 September 2021 as the AGM date fell after the start of the renewal year (1 November 2021). This decision needed to be ratified by the AGM.

Proposed by: Tony Slater

Seconded by: Annabel Lewis

Agreed unanimously

7. Election of new Officers: Garry Packer said that Officers serve a 3-year term after which they can be re-elected for another 3 years.

7.1. Re-election of Treasurer, Apiary Manager, Membership Secretary, Programme Manager/Webmaster. All existing post holders have been nominated by the Committee for re-election. No other nominations had been received.

Proposed by: Sandra Slater

Seconded by: Belinda Kumpel

Agreed unanimously

7.2. Education Officer: Paddy Brading had been nominated for this position and had agreed to fill this role.

Proposed by: Sandra Slater

Seconded by: Rob Francis

Agreed unanimously

Garry welcomed Paddy back to the Committee and thanked her for standing in this very important role.

7.3. Members without portfolio: Sue Ames and John Davies have been nominated.

Proposed by: Heather Pitch

Seconded by: Annabel Lewis

Agreed unanimously

Garry welcomed Sue and John to the Committee.

8. Any other business: Eric said that the bulk purchase of Invertbee and Fondant had proved very popular this year and wanted to extend the scheme next year to purchase jars, lids and other items. Rob Francis agreed that it had been excellent but was a lot of work to co-ordinate it all. When Tony mentioned Apiguard, Eric had been told that we should not be doing this because it is a medicine. Rob Williams said that when he looked at bringing Branch members together, the communal purchasing activity that we had before the lockdowns was the second most valued activity. However, it would mean finding space for storing a significant quantity. Jon Wheway said that if storage was a problem, we could approach the Bristol Bottle Company for a member discount when buying them direct from the company. As it was not a controlled medication, he could not see any issues with bulk buying Apiguard so long as it was fully traceable back to its original source. Belinda said that she bought the wrong type of jars last summer and was not able to return them but this may have been due to COVID restrictions.

9. Date of the 69th AGM: The date of the 69th AGM was scheduled for Saturday 12 November 2022 at 1400 hrs.

10. Closure of the meeting: Garry congratulated all those who attended the module courses and passed examinations. Building expertise within the Branch helps us to cascade it to the new beekeepers. He thanked all the Committee for their hard work over the last year in keeping the Branch running smoothly during these difficult times. He hoped that 2022 will bring us less

pressure and enable us to be more involved in the programme. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 14:32 hrs.

Heather Pitch
Acting Secretary