

# North Somerset Beekeepers



## **(Draft) Minutes of Committee meeting held on April 11th 2022 at 19:30**

**Present:** A Lewis, D Capon, G Packer, H Pitch, T Slater, J Moger, E Sortwell, P Brading, J Davies

**Apologies** R Williams S Ames

- 1.0** The minutes of meeting held on Feb 14th were approved.
- 2.0 Matters arising:** Heather had spoken Anne Rowberry about running a queen rearing group in the summer, possibly at the branch apiary, numbers expressing interest were currently ten.
- 3.0 Treasurer:** Tony reported the balance currently stood at £7600, compared to c£4k last year. We were in a healthy state as we once again had income from the Introductory Course. We should anticipate slightly less income in 2023 as we are paying for full membership for course members, and we have already published the cost for the 2023 course. It was agreed to review the course charge prior to advertising the 2024 course. Tony had clarified insurance matters.
- 4.0 Membership secretary:** Heather had contacted members who had not renewed their membership and had received 10 responses. 5 had given up beekeeping, 3 had moved away, 1 had suffered a sting reaction. Membership numbers are currently: 12 country, 1 hon, 2 junior, 41 local, 14 partner, 136 registered. 206 in total.
- 5.0 Secretary:** David had provisionally agreed that we fund the prizes at the Tickenham show to the tune of £50. This was agreed.

David also reminded the committee that some of the committee terms of office were ending in November and that we need to start thinking about how we can fill the potential vacancies. It was agreed to put the future shape of committee on the agenda for the June meeting.

Tony has ordered a feather flag and small banner for the North Somerset show and other future events. David had not progressed the purchase of a gazebo, but Tony agreed to take this forward.

- 6.0 Education:** Paddy reported that deposits for the Introductory course would be required in June.

Show display: the 'We need bees' posters and labels had been printed, 500 copies for £75. David had produced a leaflet to go alongside the

pictures for the 'We need bees' display. The current banner header for this display was borrowed from Avon, but we agreed we could easily buy our own if needed. Paddy informed the meeting that she has updated her DBS check to allow her to work in schools.

- 7.0 Apiary Manager:** All colonies had survived the winter, and Eric was initiating hive inspections. He raised the issue of the 30 bee suits that we currently have at the apiary and what to do with. It was agreed to keep some for casual use and maybe sell some on.

All arrangements for the opening are in hand.

The apiary has nucs for sale at £180.

There was a discussion of how we might organise apiary meetings more efficiently. Eric and Jodie to have oversight of apiary. Eric and Jodie to produce a brief for apiary session.

- 8.0 Programme Manager/ Web-Master:** Rob had sent a report in his absence,

40 names signed up so far on Eventbrite for the Grand Opening. I suspect we have to treat this cautiously with some dropping out on the day, and others just turning up.

I enquired of Rob F. about submitting a piece for the ABKA Newsletter to advertise the event, but discovered that we had missed the print date. I suggest I submit an after-event report instead to gain some publicity. This would be required for our website blog page, too.

The woodworking display is ready.

I will sort out some shelving for the Wall of Honey.

Please mention our "Cooking with Honey" event Sat 23rd April. We will be trying some oven baking on the spot for the first time which could be interesting!

- 9.0 Chair:** Stephen Brain had offered topics for talks for the Basic Course

Bee safari has good variety of offers of apiaries

- 9.0 ABKA Rep:** No Avon meeting had taken place since our last meeting.

- 10.0 Members without Portfolio:**

Sandra asked that we encourage people to enter the North Somerset Show.

- 12.0 AOB** Tony said it was nice to have a meeting!

**13.0 Date of next meeting.** Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> at The Dungeon.