

North Somerset Beekeepers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on 23th May 2019 at the George Inn, Backwell

1.0 Present

- Jenny Wakenshaw
- David Welham
- Heather Pitch
- Annabel Lewis
- Janet McCulloch
- Eric Sortwell
- Tony Slater
- Rob Williams
- Paddy Brading

Apologies were received from Garry Packer and John Banks.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 Action: Wax entry at Winscombe Michaelmas Fair: display or entries – AW. Not present

Delete this action from future agendas.

3.2 Action: Obtain a list and prices of other new essential items and share with committee. JB

JB is liaising with Jamie Llewelyn

3.3 Action: Liaise with AW regarding recording branch swarm collectors on the R2 system. HP Completed

3.4 Action: Explore insurance options with NFU or BDI. ES. Completed

4.0 Chair's report

4.1 Action: Update on possibility of developing nucs for member. TS and ES Covered below

4.2 Action: Ask members if they are prepared to foster a nuc and on which frames. JM

Not completed as other actions are being undertaken as alternatives. For example, JW and Phil Clemente are planning to produce 5 frame nucs.

4.3 End of terms of office in 2019

- Garry Packer
- Annabel Lewis
- Janet McCulloch
- Adrian Wells

David Capon has expressed interest in secretary.

5.0 Treasurer's report

TS tabled the report. We have around £14k in the bank account. For the period 1 November 2018 to 23 May 2019, net income was £3476.00 and expenditure was £3299.

- 5.1 Action: Provide JM with the dates of the Avon Exec. DW Completed
- 5.2 Action: Try to coordinate our meetings with Avon meetings. JM Completed
- 5.3 Action: Implement changes to operation of our bank account. TS Completed
- 5.4 Action: Write to Anne Rowberry to request provision of traps to members by ABKA. DW Completed
- 5.5 Action: Continue to encourage use of a suitably modified trap in gardens, monitored daily and native species released. JM in newsletter, JB on website. Completed.

Action: Send Sandra Slater's North Somerset show update. May need an extra marquee. JM

6.0 Membership secretary update

HP reported that we have 180 members. Fifteen members are lapsed. Associate members are now categorised as non-BBKA members. She is required to identify all lapsed members going back 7 years.

- 6.1 Action: Consider an appropriate deputy for HP. All. No action as yet
- 6.2 Action: Present how E-Return2 works at a future meeting. HP
JM asked for confirmation that we can use ER2 for emailing members, including forwarding messages from BBKA. This was confirmed.

7.0 Secretary's report

- 7.1 Action: Share revised welcome pack information with the committee for approval. HP
Action: forward to all JM
- 7.2 Action: Share constitution with the committee by email, revise in line with comments received. JM
Completed awaiting comments. However, Avon is revisiting the constitution upon which ours is based. Send email address to HP
- 7.3 Action: Advertise branded garments on the website. JM and JB. In hand
- 7.4 Action: Update on cloud provider, e.g. Google Drive. JM. In hand
- 7.5 Action: Explore costs of new badges and share by email. JM. Completed.
- 7.6 Action: Decide whether to support new badges based on costs. All It was agreed to order from the cheaper provider.

Action: Order badges from the cheaper provider. JM

- 7.7 Action: Email past committee and AGM minutes to RW. JM. In hand

8.0 Apiary Manager's report

- 8.1 Action: Ensure name badges are available for all apiary helpers. Completed
- 8.2 Action: Update on future apiary site. ES.

The site is being prepared for the housebuilding, so we need to move by the autumn.

North Somerset offer – possibility of toilet facilities and other kind of transportable storage facility. No follow up as yet.

Langford site – ideal site, PB, ES, AL visited David Barrett and the estates manager at Langford. They are very keen. Agreed a small piece of land on edge of field with a hard drive and hard standing for a shed. Showed teaching facilities which are excellent, including microscope room. They need to discuss with Bristol University and draw up a contract, including good access to site including out of hours. Waiting for draft contract. Langford wants student involvement.

Action: Follow up potential apiary development with Langford team. AL

Action: Explore potential for a quarantine apiary. AL

Three new beekeepers still need colonies.

Action: Talk to them to find out their needs. ES

9.0 Programme Manager's report

9.1 Action: Explore options for home apiary visits and arrange them. RW

One Bees and Teas event has been held and the second timetabled. A group is being set up in the South.

10.0 Education Co-ordinator's report

10.1 Action: Ask RF what the result of discussions with Anne Rowberry re course developments. JM

AL had spoken to AR and there is no action for developments at the Avon level.

10.2 Action: Purchase an additional projector and screen. RW.

No action as yet but RW will go to PC World. DW suggested asking Avon for funding.

Action: Ask Avon Treasurer or Secretary for funding. TS

PB has written to AL about pressures of time and had to cancel some school visits. RF has offered in the short term. Will need additional support.

Action: Ask members is any interested in supporting PB and doing some school visits. JM

11.0 Swarm Liaison report - AW not present

11.1 Action: Consider required changes to website on swarm collection. JB, AL, JM.
Revisit when website is finalised.

11.2 Action: Liaise with AW regarding collection of swarms for the apiary. ES, AW

Completed. They are kept in quarantine for a week. Need to check sealed brood to check for AFB/EFB may take longer especially if they are a virgin queen.

It was agreed that we need a site to quarantine swarms or to put difficult bees for a period of time. David Hounsell has some land that may be free.

Action: ask David Hounsell if his land could be used as a quarantine apiary. JM

12.0 ABKA Rep's report

Key points discussed at the AKBA meeting:

1. Discussed the ABKA Rules and Constitution various amendments made.
2. Committee vacancy for a Publicity Officer.
3. Rob Francis thanked for his newsletter which is a great success.
4. Bath & West Show, (29/05 -31/05) Anne had a rough rota for attendance but is looking for more helpers. Attendance on the stand gives half day free to roam the show.
5. Spring Day School, although fairly well attended (46) the event ran at a loss of £232.36
6. Treasurers Report, Avon capitation fee will remain the same.
Total 2019 Spring Capitations BBKA £8640, BDI £1481, ABKA Received £2237
Balance of current acct. £12,008
Current Membership Bath 199 Bristol 159 NS 148, WsM 28, Keynsham. 17
7. AGM The ABKA AGM is set for 28th March 2020 Bath will be hosting.
8. The next Avon Spring Day School is scheduled for 25th April 2020
9. ABKA have supplied each branch with a gallon of attractant for trap monitoring (*Trappit*), and two Asian Hornets in acrylic. DW is currently holding these. It was agreed that this could be kept at the apiary and members could collect some in a labelled jar for use in monitoring traps.

Action: Publicise the availability of Trappit in the newsletter. JM

10. Bristol branch have received planning permission for their new apiary building. We could put in claim to Avon for items as they have plenty of cash.

13.0 Web-Master's report

In his absence, JB reported:

1. Website – current website is working satisfactorily, although he has been liaising with Rob Williams over the “Pharma Hack”. It isn't clear what the problem is but RW may need access to website and needs the password.

Action: Send Steve Robinson's email address to RW. JM

Action: Contact Steve Robinson. RW

2. Essential items Purchase Scheme – still liaising with Jamie Llewellyn over this matter.

13.1 Action: Table a short report with proposals for new website. RW

This is by way of a report to the NSBK Committee to summarize the recent activities undertaken around the club website and other channels of media communication. Potential future changes to the website are proposed for approval.

A group of final year UWE students was briefed by RW and given the opportunity to meet with the committee to discuss the various needs of the club

and its members. They were instructed to consider the full range of needs and facilities before developing a new prototype website for the committee to review. On 12th March the group delivered their final presentation and carried out basic user training on the Weebly platform, before handing over access and passwords. Those members of the committee who could attend the presentation were impressed and fully positive about the students' proposal.

In addition to the general dissatisfaction with the facilities offered by the original web site, it has recently been targeted by the unfortunate "pharma" hack which is aimed at all WordPress sites. This situation was discussed recently with the students, and other internet experts, who pointed out that WordPress will always be a popular target for such activity, and this might be an additional reason to migrate off the GoDaddy platform. Different platforms offer differing levels of security and recovery if a hacking attack takes place. The security situation with Weebly needs further research.

One question that the students raised during their research concerned the number of bee club websites within the North Somerset district. Each branch of ABKA has set up independent sites, unlike Somerset which offers an excellent, single site for all its branches. As Martin Gate (ABKA web master) was involved in several meetings with the students, he immediately agreed that a single Avon site, based on the new work carried out by the students, would be a good step forward. Each branch would be offered its own area within the new website, and this would reduce platform costs, eliminate duplication of effort, encourage club cooperation and highlight the role of ABKA as the principal beekeeping authority in the district.

Martin Gate also noted that the annual fee paid by ABKA to its web host has recently increased and was imminently due for renewal.

The proposal is to reorganise the new website to fit with Avon's requirements and build in space for all the local branches to insert their own pages. This could save hundreds of pounds every year and ease the jobs of the various web masters.

It is further proposed to incorporate PayPal as the preferred method for funds transfer between members and the club.

A first attempt to arrange a meeting with the web masters from ABKA, NSBK, Bristol, Bath, Keynsham and Weston was not successful. However, if the committee approves the proposal, a further attempt will be attempted.

It is possible that GoDaddy would not allow us to keep the domain name.

Potential to rationalise all the websites across Avon, plenty of benefits. Martin Gate is keen but little feedback from webmasters across Avon. It was discussed at the last Avon meeting Anne Rowberry is in support.

Action: Contact other webmasters and set up a meeting. RW

Action: mention in newsletter the need to access website via link or domain name cannot be googled. JM

14.0 Shows 2019

14.1 Action: Accept David Hounsell's offer of the observation hive on behalf of the committee. JM

Not yet completed.

15.0 Members without portfolio

15.1 Action: Outline a procedure for collection, rendering and exchange of members' wax, minimising any risks of contamination. JW.

None received as yet. There will be an event later in the year. What is process for rendering wax to benefit the apiary and exchange with Maisemore.

Action: Repeat information re wax collection in the newsletter. JM

16.0 Any other business

16.1 Options for taster sessions for 2019 JM

Three people are attending the apiary prior to attending the course in January. One has joined (full) others will be invited to join as non-BBKA members.

Action: Invite interested members of the public to attend the apiary. If continue to attend the apiary they should join as non-BBKA member. JM

Action: See if there are any interested members to take on taster session (theory and practical) with apiary move. Fee £30 JM

Action: Ask Andy Scarisbrick if anyone has signed up for the January course and invite to attend. JM

Action: New leaflets to be printed in readiness for the shows. PB and

AS

16.2 Club Honey RW

When thanking Guest Speakers at a NSBK club event it could be considered appropriate to present the speaker with a jar of local honey to take back home. RW gave jars of honey to the 6 UWE students who worked on the new club website, which was appreciated by them.

It is proposed that some of the honey harvested from the club hives should be bottled and labelled to serve this purpose in the following year. If there hasn't been a successful year at the apiary, such as 2018, could each committee member consider donating a jar for this purpose? During 2019 there will be about 12 lecture events, but only 3 occasions when such gifts would be appropriate; no point in offering coals to a Newcastle miner!

ES reported that there should be some club honey produced in the apiary. DW agreed to provide some honey as thanks to Mark Gompels. DW was thanked for this donation.

Action: Set aside some honey from the club apiary for future donations. ES

Action: DW to give honey to HP who will pass it on to Mark Gompels

16.3 Club business cards

It was agreed that it would be useful to order some business cards to give out at shows, meetings etc. The cards should include:

- Website domain address (new)
- Logo
- Apiary address

Action: Contact printer to obtain costs and arrange printing. PB

17.0 Dates of next meetings

- Tuesday July 9 **Please note change of date**
- Monday September 9
- Monday October 7 - Pre-AGM meeting
- Monday December 2nd - **Please note this additional date**