



North Somerset Beekeepers

(a Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association Reg Charity No 271717)

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting held on 18th November 2023 at 2.00pm, Churchill Memorial Hall

Prior to the business of the meeting Ken Basterfield gave an illustrated talk on “Global Warming and Bees”.

Ken also made the following presentations:

Stan Bailey Shield for best novice at Branch Show: **Tom Francis**

Hans Wilson Trophy for the most point at North Somerset Show: **Tom Francis**

George Simms Cup for most points at Portishead show: **Tom Francis**

Roly Hazell Cup for most points at Winscombe show: **Michael Batchelor**

BBKA Basic Assessment Certificates: **John Ancill, Mike Brooker, James Dean, Stuart Millard, Jennifer Stallwood, Simon Thatcher, Richard Branston-Davis, Susan Cullis, Warren Riches.**

Welcome: Garry Packer (President) welcomed members to the meeting.

Present: Heather Pitch, Tom Francis, James Dean, Jane House, Bob South, Rob Francis, Claire Banwell, Sheila James, Michael Batchelor, David Johnson, Jen Stallwood, Jacqueline Lee, Neville Lee, Chris Harvey, Mark Hunter, Tony Slater, Martin Gate, Annabel Lewis, Garry Packer, David Capon.

1. **Apologies received from:** Tom Leimdorfer, Janet McCullogh, Dawn Keedwell, Eric Sortwell, Jodi Moger, Belinda Kumpel, Zdenek Kumpel, Susan Carter, Clare Eden, Stephen Brain, Ivor Davis, Paddy Brading.

2. **Approval of minutes of 70th AGM held on 18th November 2022:**

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting

- a. Approval proposed by: Tony Salter
- b. Seconded by: Rob Francis

Approved unanimously.



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3. **Officers' Reports:** These were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Garry introduced the reports; he highlighted the work that was going on with Ashfield prison, and the need for vigilance in Asian hornet monitoring. It was noted that the branch's finances are in a stable position.

- 3.1 **President's Report:** Garry Packer
- 3.2 **Chair's Report:** Heather Pitch
- 3.3 **Secretary's Report:** David Capon
- 3.4 **Membership Secretary's Report:** Heather Pitch
- 3.5 **Education Officer's Report:** Paddy Brading
- 3.6 **Apiary Manager's Report:** Eric Sortwell
- 3.7 **Programme Manager's Report:** Rob Williams
- 3.8 **Swarm Liaison Officer's report:** Adrian Wells
- 3.9 **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2021/2:** Tony Slater

These reports were submitted en bloc to the meeting for approval

Proposed by: Rob Francis

Seconded by: Bob South

Approved unanimously.

4. **Branch subscriptions:**

Heather reported that membership currently stood at a total of 244, and thanked the 46% who had already paid their subscription for 2024.

5. **Election of new Officers:**

Rob Francis has been nominated as President to succeed Garry Packer.

Michael Batchelor has joined the committee to shadow Tony as Treasurer and to assume the role in 2024.

Tony Slater will shadow David as Secretary and assume that role in 2024.

Tom Francis and Roz Kiley have been co-opted onto the committee as members without portfolio.

Adam Evans has offered to manage the branch website and it was agreed he should be co-opted on to the committee.

Proposed by Heather Pitch, seconded by Annabel Lewis



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Passed unanimously.

Heather Pitch nominated Stephen Brain for honorary membership, in recognition of his contribution to North Somerset Beekeepers over many years. Passed unanimously.

Rob Williams has stepped down as programme manager and no one has offered to take on this role; the committee collectively will hold the fort until a permanent replacement for Rob can be found.

6. Any Other Business:

Rob Francis paid tribute to Martin Stickland, who recently passed away.

Heather Pitch thanked Garry Packer for his many years as President, preceded by a term as Chair.

7. **Date of 72nd AGM** was set for Saturday 16th November 2024 at 2.00pm

8. **Meeting closed** at 3.48pm.

D Capon