



SWANSEA & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY
GWENYNWYR ABERTAWE A'R CYLCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Gowerton Conservative Club, 57 Sterry Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3BN
on Tuesday 9th February, 2016

1) **Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including some new members

Present:- Ian Algie, Gerti Axtmann, Arthur Bevan, Adrian & Miriam Bowen, Jonathan Bowen, Chris Bown, Simon Bromham, Julian Caruana, Russell Davies, Stephen Davies & Nicola Oulton, Dexter & Jackie Ford, John Gale, Michael Grinter & Joan Power, Philip Johnes, Robert Jones, Paul & Gill Lyons, Claire Miller, Bob Naylor, David O'Carroll, Peter Pullham, Ian Roberts, David & Jean Salkilld, Karen Squires & Martin Davies, Eric Thomas, Philip Turner.

2) **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Marilyn Caruana, Elaine Gale, Barry & Wendy Garrard, Hilary Rose, Catherine Tansley, Lyn Thomas.

3) **Minutes of last AGM** (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2015 were accepted as an accurate record.

4) **Matters arising from Minutes of last AGM**

There were no matters arising.

5) **Annual Report**

The Society's Annual Report (attached to these minutes) was presented by the Chair.

6) **Annual Accounts 2015** (previously circulated)

The Treasurer informed those present that the Annual Accounts had been audited by Roger Thomas & Co and were therefore not open to challenge but if there were any questions regarding the content these could be addressed. There were no questions asked and the Annual Accounts were therefore accepted.

7) **Revised Constitution** (previously circulated)

Julian Caruana explained briefly the amendments being proposed (highlighted in yellow on the document previously circulated).

Clause 1 was more of a cosmetic change – to refer to "The Society" (as a defined term) throughout the document rather than having to refer to the full name every time;

Clause 4 – the removal of the word "hobby" as there was no clear definition of what constituted a 'hobby beekeeper';



Clause 6 – in the light of agreeing to David Salkilld becoming a Life Member at the last AGM – a position not actually covered by the Constitution but considered to be a type of Honorary Member - a further clarification of what constitutes an 'Honorary Member' be included with the option of awarding fixed term or permanent (life) membership.

Paul Lyons reminded the meeting that the reason the word "hobby" was included when the Constitution was originally drafted was because the latter would be used for a grant application. Julian Caruana pointed out that as it could not be defined it was inappropriate to refer to it and that, should the Society be in the position of applying for a grant in the future, it would have to reconsider the situation if this matter was raised by a grant awarding body.

Paul Lyons also suggested that "Annual General Meeting" could be reduced to AGM after the first reference. Julian Caruana pointed out that this is not quite the same as the proposed change in the Title clause which is the normal way of reducing the name of the organisation (named in the document) when this is long, and is not reducing the name of the Society to an acronym. Annual General Meeting is also referred to in its own right at Clause 9 and it would not be appropriate to reduce this to an acronym in references before this clause.

There were no further questions relating to the proposed changes and no objections to the changes. The changes (as tabled) were therefore agreed and the Constitution is formally amended.

8) **Elections**

The following officers have indicated that they are prepared to stand for these posts:

Chair	<i>Nicola Oulton (incumbent)</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Stephen Davies (incumbent)</i>
Secretary	<i>Julian Caruana (incumbent)</i>
Treasurer	<i>John Gale (incumbent)</i>

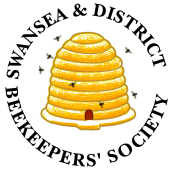
No other nominations having been received it was agreed that Nicola Oulton, Stephen Davies, Julian Caruana and John Gale continue in their respective roles.

9) **Honorary Members**

It was initially proposed that *Tom Davies* be made an Honorary Member for a further period of twelve months.

However, David Salkilld proposed, in the light of the changes to the Constitution agreed in this meeting, that *Tom Davies* be made a Life Member in recognition of his exceptional and long service to the Society. This proposal was seconded by Eric Thomas (and others). It was agreed that *Tom Davies* be made a Life Member and the Secretary will write to advise him accordingly.

No other nominations had been received.



10) **Delegates to the WBKA**

The following members are prepared to be the Society's delegates to the WBKA:

David Salkilld (incumbent)- for one more year only
Paul Lyons (incumbent)

There having been no other nominations received, David Salkilld and Paul Lyons were re-appointed.

11) **Delegates to the MSWCC**

The following members are prepared to be the Society's delegates to the MSWCC:

David Salkilld (incumbent)
Paul Lyons (incumbent)

There having been no other nominations received, David Salkilld and Paul Lyons were re-appointed.

12) **Motions for Change**

There were none received.

13) **Membership Fees for 2017**

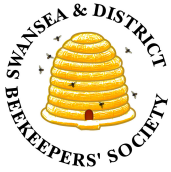
The Committee is recommending that membership fees remain as they are for 2017 as there is no reason to change them. Paul Lyons suggested that, if agreed, this should have a caveat allowing it to be reconsidered if the WBKA capitation for 2017 were to be increased. Nicola Oulton (Chair) proposed, and John Gale (Treasurer) agreed, that, with Society funds as healthy as they are, the Society should be in a position to absorb any likely increase in WBKA capitation. It was agreed to keep membership fees at £25 (Single) and £30 (Joint) with a £5 reduction being applied to membership payments made prior to 31st December.

14) **Questions from the Floor**

Nobody present raised any questions.

15) **Date of Next AGM**

The next AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 14th February, 2017



Annual Report

2015 wasn't the best year for honey. With a promising start the summer soon became wet and cool and the bees ate what they had stored. I don't think you can say we have had a winter and with the weather being so mild, we have had to be extra vigilant that our bees have enough stores as they continue to work rather than cluster.

But despite that we hope for a better year as we look back over the last.

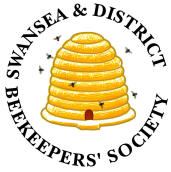
Our social evening talks on the second Tuesday of the month, right here in the Con Club have become a regular event. We have had talks on 'bees in nature', bumble bees, flowers. Demonstrations on making wax flowers, preparing for the honey show, as well as our annual society honey show where you get to be the judges. If you haven't made it to one yet there is always the Bee Whisperer in April...and if there is anything you want included, or someone you think we would enjoy. contact our wonderful events secretary Jean Salkild. (jsalkild@btinternet.com)

The Society's 'Bee Experience' had another very successful year. We were once again invited to attend the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Spring Festival, the Welsh Game Fair, the Vale of Glamorgan Show and, of course, our local and biggest event the Gower Show. A new show for us this year was the South Wales Dog & Family Fun Day where we were the guests of Cardiff Canine Citizens. The Society was also invited to a number of other events (either with or without the 'Bee Experience'). Regrettably there were one or two that we had to decline this year. The feedback from all of the events attended has been excellent with our 'stall' being referred to as one of the most popular. Invites have already been received from several organizers for this year.

The bee tent raised £1200 in donations this year, from the organisers of events and the 685 visitors. All this would not be possible without the help of members from our Society, and from other BKAs in Wales, who give up their time to help at these events and we really look forward to your continued support and to welcoming some new volunteers to help at this year's events.

In 2015 we had a very successful Gower Show. Gill's hard work over the last couple of years has seen a large increase in the number of entries for our honey show - 134 this year. And after some decent research she got our show recognised as a blue ribbon event. Just to explain if you want to become involved in judging you need to gain awards at blue ribbon events, so our show can be advertised as a blue ribbon event which hopefully will attract even more entries. We were fortunate enough to have the International Honey Judge Bernard Diaper judging who awarded the first Blue Ribbon to David Salkild for his outstanding wax candles. There was also lots of positive feedback about the marquee, displays, bee tent, honey show and sales section, which is wonderful as everyone who took part worked so hard. Our thanks go to everyone who gave up their time to make this event the success it was.

The Society Apiary has gone from strength to strength under Stephen's, and his apiary team's, watchful eye. A new addition to the apiary this year was the Langstroth hive and joining Stephen and Ian on the team Mike Grinter and Martin Davies. Many training sessions have been held on a weekly basis, starting with the Beginners' Class. We also held the Basic Assessment at the apiary this year.



There were 13 colonies going into winter and fingers crossed everything will be well when they are checked this coming Saturday. That's 1pm in the apiary this Saturday, see you there! There are many plans for the apiary this year with further Basic Assessments, a General Husbandry group and Queen Rearing. Stephen is also in negotiation with Llys Nini over acquiring an observation hut for the public to view the bees and a teaching area, through grant funding - so watch this space.

Educationally the Society has done well this year. The Beginners' Class was another success though more fell by the wayside, as the season progressed, than previous years; maybe the poor weather can be blamed?? However, 12 of our members took their Basic Assessment after a few months of study and Stephen putting them through a mock in the apiary, and all 12 passed and we congratulate them all. It has spurred them on as now they are studying for their General Husbandry exam, which they will take in a few years, so in the meantime they are also studying for Module 1, (and possibly Module 2) which they will sit in November. We also have another Basic Assessment group of 12 this year. For those of you who are interested in increasing your beekeeping knowledge it's not too late to join a study group - the exam is not compulsory.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society's Officers, Julian Caruana our Secretary, and John Gale, our Treasurer, together with members of the Committee and thanks to Chris (Bown) for all his help as he steps down from Committee.

Thank you.



Swansea & District Beekeepers' Society

Annual Accounts – Year ended 31 December 2015

Income :		Expenditure:	
Subscriptions	2,372.00	Class Costs	250.00
BeeCraft Subscriptions	640.40	WBKA Capitation/RWAS/etc	1,049.00
BDI additional premiums	194.30	MSWCC Affiliation Fees	132.50
General Donations	358.40	BeeCraft Subscriptions	603.62
Bee Tent Donations	1304.72	BDI Premiums	404.55
Honey Sales at Shows	1,616.41	Jars, Apiguard, Oxalic Purchase	1,843.70
Class Fees	1,260.00	Apiary Costs	1,378.63.
Honey Jars, Apiguard, Oxalic etc.	1,694.60	Bee Tent Costs	645.70
Apiary Income	175.00	Show Sales, Payment to Sellers	1,361.30
Christmas Dinner	550.00	Christmas Dinner Costs	499.80
Returned Sales Cash Float	180.00	Cash Sales Float	180.00
Sundry Receipts	139.50	Gower Show Costs	115.29
Savings Account Interest	0.38	Newsletter	84.27
		2016 MSWCC Conference Costs	250.00
		Officers Expenses	211.68
		Sundry Costs	232.50
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£ 10,485.71</u>	TOTAL Expenditure	<u>£ 9,242.54</u>
	Excess Income over Expenditure:		<u>£1,243.17</u>

Bank Accounts: Held at Lloyds Bank, Oxford Street, Swansea

	<u>Current Account</u>	<u>Savings Account</u>
Opening balance 01 January 2015	£ 5,679.04	£ 806.46
Closing Balance 31 December 2015	£ 6,921.83	£ 806.84
Increase / (Decrease)	£ 1,242.79	£ 0.38

Reconciliation :	Total Income	£ 10,485.71	Account Increases: Current	£ 1,242.79
	Total Expenditure	£ 9,242.54	Deposit	£ 0.38
	Increase	£ 1,243.17	TOTAL	£ 1,243.17

Accounts prepared by: John H. Gale
Treasurer

Audited by: Roger Thomas & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants



Officers Elected at the AGM 2016

Chairman Nicola Oulton (2nd year) **Vice Chairman** Stephen Davies (2nd year)
Secretary Julian Caruana **Treasurer** John Gale

Committee members: (includes Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer)
Ian Algie, Gerti Axtmann, Dexter Ford, Jackie Ford, Gill Lyons, Paul Lyons,
David Salkilld and Jean Salkilld

Sub-committee and other leads to be decided at next Committee meeting but currently

Apiary Manager: Stephen Davies
Bee Tent Manager: Julian Caruana
Education Officer: Nicola Oulton
Events Secretary: Jean Salkilld
Gower Show Sec: Gill Lyons
Librarian: Paul Lyons
Membership Sec: Julian Caruana & John Gale
Newsletter Editor: David Salkilld
Spray Liaison Officer: Julian Caruana
Webmaster: Selina Taylor