



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

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the New Lodge Social Club, Alexandra Road, Gorseinon, Swansea, SA4 4PE
on Tuesday 14th February, 2017

1) Welcome

Regrettably Nicola Oulton was feeling very unwell and, with Stephen Davies, had to leave before the meeting started. In Nicola's absence David Salkilld agreed to chair the meeting. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including one or two new members.

Present:- Ian Algie, Gerti Axtmann, John Bellarby, Adrian & Miriam Bowen, Jonathan Bowen, Matt & Maddy Carroll, Julian & Marilyn Caruana, Geoff Corbett & Diane Harrison, Dexter & Jackie Ford, John Gale, Barry & Wendy Garrard, Michael Grinter & Joan Power, Phil Jennett, Philip Johnes, James & Marion Lyall, Paul & Gill Lyons, Rev. David & Julie Martin, Bob Naylor, Helen Phillips, Peter Pullham, David & Jean Salkilld, Karen Squires & Martin Davies, Eric Thomas.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Kush Budha & Usha KC, Elaine Gale, David & Elizabeth O'Carroll, Sarah Passmore, Rod & Maxine Sewter, Lyn Thomas.

3) Minutes of last AGM (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 were agreed to be an accurate record. Acceptance proposed by Eric Thomas and seconded by Martin Davies.

4) Matters arising from Minutes of last AGM

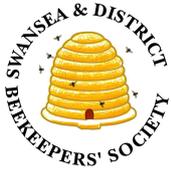
There were no matters arising.

5) Annual Report

The Society's Annual Report (prepared by Nicola Oulton) was presented by the Chair. The Annual Report is appended to these minutes

6) Annual Accounts 2016 (previously circulated) and Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by John Gale. The Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report are appended to these minutes.



7) Elections

Nicola Oulton (Chair) and Stephen Davies (Vice Chair) have served their two years and are standing down. Julian Caruana has indicated that, if any member wishes to take over as Secretary, he would be happy to stand down as he is likely to be moving in the coming year.

Nominations have been received as follows:

Chair – David O’Carroll (nominated by Gill Lyons, seconded by Dexter Ford)

Vice Chair – Paul Lyons (nominated by Dexter Ford, seconded by Jackie Ford)

No other nominations having been received and nobody having put themselves forward to take over as Secretary it was agreed that the Officers for 2017 will be:

Chair	<i>David O’Carroll</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Paul Lyons</i>
Secretary	<i>Julian Caruana (incumbent)</i>
Treasurer	<i>John Gale (incumbent)</i>

8) Honorary Members

There are currently two Honorary (Life) Members – Tom Davies and David Salkilld – and no other nominations for Honorary Members have been received.

9) Delegates to the WBKA

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

David Salkilld (incumbent)
Paul Lyons (incumbent)

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

10) Delegates to the MSWCC

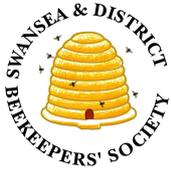
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David Salkilld (incumbent)
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There having been no other nominations or volunteers received, David Salkilld and Paul Lyons were re-appointed.

11) Proposals from Members

There were none received.



12) Membership Fees for 2018

The Committee is recommending that membership fees remain as they are for 2018 as there is no reason to change them. Mike Grinter suggested a small increase (possibly in line with inflation) be applied to avoid a larger increase some time in the future. Julian Caruana reminded members that the fees had been increased three years previously following many years without any increase. Julian Caruana also reminded the meeting that whether or not to vary the fees was not open to discussion at the AGM but was only on the Agenda as the Committee were required to notify members of their decision regarding the fees. Should either the WBKA capitation fees and/or the BDI fees be varied the fees could be reconsidered by the Committee and an EGM called should it be required.

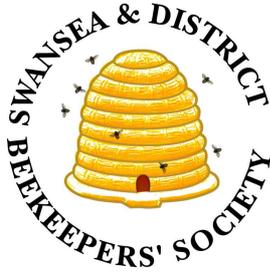
It has been agreed to keep membership fees at £25 (Single) and £30 (Joint) with a £5 reduction being applied to membership payments made prior to 31st December.

13) Questions from the Floor

Nobody present raised any questions. Ade Bowen wished to advise members present that the Welsh Game Fair, which the Society has attended for several years with 'The Bee Experience', will no longer take place.

14) Date of Next AGM

The next AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 13th February, 2018



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Annual Report

Unfortunately we seem to be having a running theme, 2016 was another poor year for honey production. Though this did vary across the county. As always we hope for better this year.

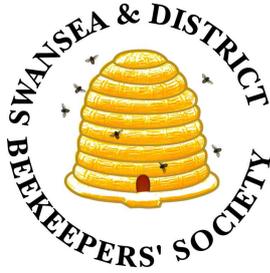
Our social evenings hit a small snag in the Gowerton Con Club, when the upstairs venue was double booked, but this did not stop us holding a number of well attended talks. From anaphylaxis, to low level frequencies, beekeeping in the Kingdom of the Clouds, as well as our annual beekeepers question time, preparing for a Honey Show and the Society Honey Show which had an amazing 28 entries this year. Our venue moved from the Con Club to the Gower Golf Club and to our new home here at The New Lodge Gorseinon. Thank you all for your attendance. This year we are kicking off our talks right after this meeting. I'd like to thank Jean Salkilld, as she stands down as Events Secretary, for all her hard work over the past few years, and welcome Gertie and Karen who have taken over from her.

MSWCC Conference The Society hosted the MSWCC conference this past October. A small dedicated committee worked for 2 years putting together a full and varied programme of events for the weekend. The conference took place in October at the King Arthur in Reynoldston and those of you who attended will know what a great event it was. And I would like to thank Jean and her team for putting on such a splendid event, which also made a surplus, of which the Society gets half.

The Society's 'Bee Experience' had a difficult start to the year as someone had completely removed the tow hitch assembly from the bee tent trailer – an unexpected expense. However all was fixed in time for another very successful year. We were once again invited to attend the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Spring Festival, the South Wales Dog & Family Fun Day, the Welsh Game Fair, the Vale of Glamorgan Show and, of course, our local and biggest event the Gower Show. 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 either through lack of resources or inappropriate times of 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 £1240 in donations this year, from the organisers of events and the 771 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.

However I need to make you aware that we have no one in place to oversee the running of the Bee Experience this year and as such can only guarantee it being at the Gower Show. With invitations already being received we welcome anyone who would be interested in running one or more events to see us at the end of this meeting.



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In 2016 we had another 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, up again last year to 156 entries. We were fortunate to have Bernard Diaper judging again this year and he brought a trainee judge along as well. David Salkilld won the Dorothea Cup and was awarded the blue ribbon for his outstanding wax block. Dexter Ford won the novice award and a ticket to get into the National Honey Show. 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.

This year will be the 100th Gower Show so we are hoping to put on something special. I hope you will all support us with your entries and your time.

The Apiary continues to do well. 11 colonies survived the winter last year with just one loss. The colonies were slow to build up due to a poor start to the year, pollen patties were used to help build up their strength. Very little honey was produced and those colonies that did, shared with those that didn't. Though there were some failures with mating, 12 colonies are overwintering and all were flying when stores were inspected in January.

A number of demonstrations were held at the apiary from making nucs, swarm control, running with no queen excluders, acetic acid and oxalic acid using a vaporiser. The beginners had the first session in the apiary prior to it being opened to all members. A new addition to the apiary is a top bar hive purchased by the apiary managers Stephen and Mike, but to date it does not have bees. Once again the Basic Assessment was held at the apiary with Lynfa Davies and Andy Ryan coming down to do the assessments.

There are many plans for the apiary this coming year including clipping and marking queens, using a demaree for swarm control and queen rearing, Basic Assessments and a Husbandry group. Watch your emails for dates.

Educationally, the Society has done well again this year. The Beginners' Class was another success though the number of beginners did drop off at the apiary as the year progressed. Five of our members took their Basic Assessment and all five passed and were awarded their certificates at our social meeting in November, we congratulate them all. Though we didn't get to present his certificates, Stephen Davies passed his Advanced Husbandry exam and became a Master Beekeeper. Amazing achievement and we congratulate him. Stephen has held a microscopy class this year, focussing on what microscope you need, parts of a microscope, making pollen slides and identifying pollen. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed and look forward to the dissection class. The Basic Assessment study group started last week but it's not too late to join - see Stephen afterwards if you are interested. The Beginners' Class starts tomorrow night and, don't forget, if you have done the Beginners' Class with us previously you can revisit all or some of the classes for free.

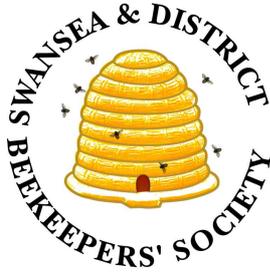


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I am after some extra bodies to support the education side of the Society, particularly those who have their Basic Assessment.

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 Jackie and Dexter Ford for all their help as they step down from the Committee. Thank you all for your support during my two years as Chairman.

Nicola Oulton (Chairman)



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Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016. These have been sent to all members by email. Due to other commitments our auditor, Roger Thomas, Accountant, has not yet signed them off but he has confirmed to me that the figures shown are correct and it is in that light that they have been distributed.

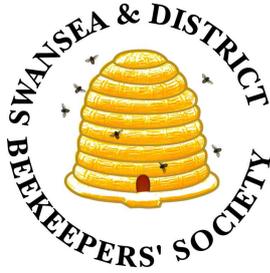
The copies sent out are consolidated but should you wish to see the breakdown of the figures please let me know and I can email the full 3-page edition which goes into more detail.

I have treated this report in a slightly different manner to previous years with a view to presenting what I call a "Record of Trading". This means I have deducted any income that is not directly related to the general activities of our society, and which I deem to be Extraordinary Items. They are detailed below, with explanation.

1. A greater number of members, and prospective members of the forthcoming Beginners Class, paid their 2017 subscriptions and/or other fees by Bank Transfer (BACS) before the 31st December. At that time these naturally went into our general Current Account. This figure was £751.55
2. At the Committee meeting held on 18th October 2016 it was agreed that we should close our Deposit Account and transfer the money into our general Current Account. This Deposit Account was set up many years ago when interest rates were more beneficial and over the last seven years the amount earned has been £0.40 per annum. It is for this reason that the Deposit Account does not feature, as in previous years, in these Annual Accounts. The sum transferred was £807.23
3. As our members should be aware, and any who will be starting the Beginners' Class tomorrow evening (15th Feb) and are here tonight may be interested to hear, our Society is a member of the Midlands and South Western Counties Convention of Beekeepers (MSWCC) and it was our turn to run the annual conference in 2016. This was very successful and as a result we were able to transfer 50% of the revenue in excess of the expenditure - the sum of £1,323.09 - into our Society's Current Account;

In spite of these deductions the "trading" result was a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £125.25. This is not the greatest surplus we have produced but it is still gratifying. I have compared both the revenue and expenditure figures of 2016 with previous years and there are no excesses of either I can attribute to this result.

From the Accounts you will see that the credit balance in our General Account at 31 December 2016 was £7,047.08. By adding in the those Extraordinary Items the credit balance from 1st January 2017 was £9,928.95



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The Conference does not feature in this report it being a totally separate activity. Those Accounts were handed to the MSWCC Chairman and Management Committee in November. For your information, I set up a totally separate bank account, which I deemed a sensible and prudent thing to do. The situation now is that I am awaiting some cheques, paid out to speakers and others, to be cashed but when this is concluded, and there is a £Zero balance, I do not intend to close the account as we may need it for future Grants or other purposes. It will also be used for payments of subscriptions by BACS at year end in order to avoid having to treat them as Extraordinary Items at financial year end.

It is the duty of the Treasurer to present the Accounts to members but it is the standard convention that the substance is not open to question. However, I am willing to take questions on the content.

John Gale (Treasurer)



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Officers Agreed at the AGM 2017

Chairman David O'Carroll (1st year) **Vice Chairman** Paul Lyons (1st year)
Secretary Julian Caruana **Treasurer** John Gale

Committee members: (includes Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer)
Ian Algie, Gerti Axtmann, Martin Davies, Stephen Davies, Gill Lyons, Paul Lyons,
Nicola Oulton, David Salkilld, Jean Salkilld and Karen Squires

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