

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 13th February, 2018

1) Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including one or two new members.

Present:- Ian Algie, Gerti Axtmann, John Bellarby, Adrian Bowen, Chris Bown, Matt & Maddy Carroll, Julian & Marilyn Caruana, Geoff Corbett & Diane Harrison, Jeff Davies & Linda Bowen, Martin Davies & Karen Squires, Russell Davies, Stephen Davies & Nicola Oulton, Ross Donaldson, Jordan & Mike Everley, Dexter & Jackie Ford, John Gale, Barry & Wendy Garrard, Michael Grinter, Phil Jennett, Robert Jones, Sue Lawrence, James & Marion Lyall, Paul Lyons, Claire Miller, David & Elizabeth O'Carroll, Peter Pullham, David Salkilld, David Samuel, Eric Thomas, Kevin Williams. Guest – Keiran Kenny

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Elaine Gale, Gill Lyons, Jean Salkilld, Rod & Maxine Sewter, Gaynor Williams. Matt Carroll apologised that he would be late

3) Minutes of last AGM (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th February 2017 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 was presented by the Chair. The Annual Report is appended to these minutes.

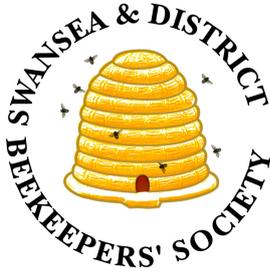
6) Annual Accounts 2017 (previously circulated) and Treasurer's Report

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

7) Constitution (previously circulated)

The Secretary explained the proposed changes to paragraphs 5, 13, 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

Para 5 – Having limited the tenure of office for the Chair and Vice-Chair to two years, it is considered prudent to have the person in the role of Vice-Chair



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becoming the Chair in order to retain continuity for both the Committee and the Society;

Para 13 – Increasing the number of signatories to five will provide more resilience and contingency;

Para 14 – The Society is an organisation that is not required to present audited accounts. With the person who audited the accounts having retired and no auditor required, it is considered prudent to at least have the accounts checked and verified by an independent person;

Para 15 – In the light of the change proposed for Para 14, this paragraph becomes redundant and should be deleted.

Changes proposed by Julian Caruana, seconded by Eric Thomas and agreed by all members present.

8) Committee Officer Nominations

The Chair (David O'Carroll) and Vice-Chair (Paul Lyons) hold their office for two years and remain in place for the second year. The Treasurer (John Gale) has agreed to continue in the role.

The Secretary (Julian Caruana) is standing down in the light of his imminent move from the area. However, no nominations for the role had been received prior to the AGM and nobody was nominated or nominated themselves at the AGM. It was confirmed that Julian Caruana is also the Joint Membership Secretary and, as Secretary, also deals with all the calls and messages related to swarms. Sue Lawrence volunteered to take over the role of Joint Membership Secretary and Martin Davies volunteered to take on the Swarm Liaison element of the Secretary's role. The role of Secretary therefore remains vacant and Julian Caruana agreed to maintain some of the duties in the very short term.

In the absence of any nominations for the Secretary role having been received it was agreed that the Officers for 2018 will be:

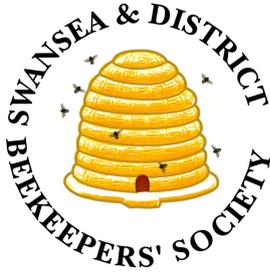
Chair	<i>David O'Carroll</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Paul Lyons</i>
Secretary	Vacant (Temporarily covered by <i>Julian Caruana</i>)
Treasurer	<i>John Gale (incumbent)</i>

9) Honorary Members

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

10) Delegates to the WBKA

David Salkilld has decided to stand down as a Society delegate on the WBKA Council and Robert Jones volunteered to replace him. Paul Lyons has confirmed that he is prepared to continue as the other delegate.



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There having been no other nominations or volunteers received, it was therefore agreed that the following members are to be the Society's delegates to the WBKA for 2018-19:

Paul Lyons (incumbent)
Robert Jones

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 or volunteers received, David Salkilld and Paul Lyons were re-appointed as delegates for 2018-19

12) Proposals from Members

Two proposals had been received and had been circulated.

Proposal 1 - That the Society uses some of its funds to acquire some additional equipment for use/hire by members;

Claire Miller provided some more information in support of her proposal and said that it was important that anyone suggesting equipment to be purchased should be mindful of the storage implications and be prepared to store the equipment and arrange the loans. Claire also said that, if the proposal was approved, it should be open to Society members to suggest the equipment to be purchased. Claire's own suggestion is for some foundation rolling equipment and Chris Bown suggested that the current Extractor is very big and heavy and a smaller lighter one might be of more use to beekeepers with just one or two hives.

The proposal was approved by members present and it was agreed that this would be taken forward by Committee and all members given the opportunity to suggest equipment for consideration with any shortlisting necessary to be done by Committee.

Proposal 2 - That the Society sponsors one of the lectures at the WBKA's forthcoming 75th Anniversary Event;

David Salkilld provided additional information in support of his proposal. The WBKA provided the Society with substantial assistance in 2009 when it was organising an MSWCC Conference and purchasing the 'Bee Experience' trailer. Members of the MSWCC usually sponsor a lecture or other activity at the annual MSWCC Conference. However, this year this conference will not be taking place and the MSWCC have agreed to support the WBKA's Anniversary Event. Within Wales the Society has a high profile and this would be maintained through the proposed sponsorship. The sponsorship that would otherwise have gone to the MSWCC event should now be used to sponsor a lecture at the WBKA event. Sue Lawrence asked how much this would involve and David Salkilld suggested that



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the amount might be £200-£250 with the Committee making the final decision on this. Sue Lawrence suggested that this would be good publicity for the Society.

The proposal was approved by members present and it was agreed that the Committee should discuss the actual amount of sponsorship and decide which lecture to sponsor.

13) Membership Fees for 2019

The Committee is recommending that membership fees remain as they are for 2019 as there is no reason to change them. Members were reminded that whether or not to vary the fees was not open to discussion at the AGM but was on the Agenda as the Committee were required to bring to members their recommendation regarding the fees. Members were also reminded that the membership fee is made up of three elements – WBKA Capitation (currently £9), BDI Premium (currently £2) and SDBKS Membership (currently £9 [single] and £14 [joint] pre-31st Dec or £14 [single] and £19[joint] post-31st Dec). At this point in time there has been no indication that the WBKA Capitation fees and/or the BDI Premium fees will be varied but, should either of these be varied for 2019, the Membership fees could be reconsidered by the Committee and an EGM called should it be required.

It was agreed by members present to accept the recommendation of the Committee and 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

Eric Thomas referred to the video films relating to the Asian Hornet incursion in Woolacombe, that have been circulated, and that one of the suggestions emanating from the Woolacombe experience was the setting up of local action teams as part of their problem had been in getting the initial verification – before which no action can be taken by the national team. Eric Thomas asked if the Society was planning to set up such a team. The Chair acknowledged this as an important issue and advised that the Committee should, as a matter of urgency, consider what could be put into place. Mike Grinter suggested that the Society needed to have a Policy and/or Action Plan on this matter. Robert Jones highlighted the particular 'walk' of the Asian Hornet and Ade Bowen added that the Asian Hornets in the UK have not been seen to hawk as much as expected, or experienced in other countries.

It was agreed that the Committee would take this forward as a matter of urgency and update members accordingly.

15) Date of Next AGM

The next AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 12th February, 2019.



ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

I have been very proud to be the Chairman of this Society. It has enabled me to see at first hand the huge amount of voluntary work that the management committee and so many members undertake, to do all the jobs that need to be done.

EDUCATION

The future of the Society and beekeeping in this part of Wales is underpinned by the educational activities that the Society is engaged in. These range from the Bee Experience tent to the support given to members, new and old, at the Llys Nini apiary.

I very much welcome **Nicola Oulton's** initiative to involve more members of the Society in the running of the Beginners' course. I am sure all who have volunteered for this year's course will learn many things from each other and from the questions asked by the beginners.

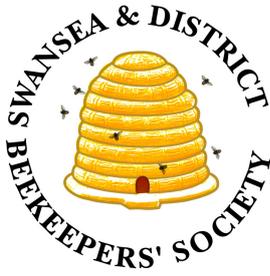
Nicola and **Stephen Davies** have been tireless in promoting learning opportunities for more established beekeepers. Not just encouraging members to undertake their Basic Assessment but coaching them to success. Hopefully by encouraging others to participate in the Beginners' Class they can devote more time to us more experienced beekeepers.

Education Report

The Beginners' Class was well attended but we were unable to hold practical sessions for them at the Society's apiary. The beginners were allocated mentors living close to them so that they could visit the mentors apiary during the summer. Unfortunately the beginners were not able to make the most of this opportunity, the weather last year hasn't helped much.

There was a small Basic Assessment group this year and both candidates passed their Basic Assessment. One has started studying for their module 1 exam and the other has volunteered to help out with this year's Beginners Class. Studying a module syllabus does not mean you have to take the exam but it will strengthen your beekeeping knowledge.

Although a microscopy class was offered we could not find convenient dates. The class will be offered again.



This year's Beginners' Class starts on Thursday 22nd February. Just a reminder that as long as you are a member who has attended the Beginners' Class you can revisit it for free at any time. And if you are interested in any training, learning or supporting the teaching team please see Nicola after the meeting.

Apiary Report

An important part of the Society's educational activities is centred on the Society's apiary at Llys Nini. We are grateful for the work of the Apiary Manager and his hard working team. **Stephen Davies** has asked to be relieved of the leadership of the team but will continue to be involved. I am very pleased that **Mike Grinter** will join the committee as Apiary Manager.

We had problems in keeping the apiary open this year after the first two visits of the Beginners' Class. We noted a couple of colonies were a bit more defensive than they had been during the first week. After members of the public walking passed got stung, we closed the apiary whilst the colonies were assessed. After another incident the decision was made to remove the bees from the site. This was to allow the apiary team to assess temperament of individual colonies and to re-queen where necessary. This also ruled out the possibility of a feral colony being responsible as no stings were reported once the colonies were removed.

A new site adjacent to the apiary was prepared during the summer. 12 foot high fencing has been put up on the two sides closest to public paths.

The apiary team have re-queened 4 colonies and one died out during the year. The bees were moved back into the apiary after the autumn treatments had been completed. An Oxalic Acid demonstration was held there on the first weekend in January. There are currently 8 colonies in the apiary - 3 at the bottom of original apiary site and 5 on the new site.

Bee Tent

I am very pleased that **Martin Davies** has agreed to continue to organise the bee experience tent for another year.

In 2017 he took the bee tent to the RWAS Spring Festival in Builth Wells, The Gower Show and the Vale of Glamorgan Show. Over 35 members helped out at one or more of the events and we had over 300 visitors participate in the experience over the season raising over £650 for society funds.



Unfortunately, we had to cancel a few appearances at short notice, Pontarddulais and Ammanford Carnivals, due to poor weather, and the normal attendance at the South Wales Dog Show didn't happen as the event was cancelled by the organisers.

We also attended an event in Pembrey Community Hall where we took an observation hive and some equipment.

Martin asked me to give his thanks to those who helped out and he looks forward to seeing them and others at the 2018 events.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

An important part of any club or society is the companionship and support we give each other. This doesn't "just happen" it needs a lot of work in the background. I think we are fantastically lucky in finding not just one but two members who have designed a series of social, educational and practical activities for our enjoyment on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. These include the annual favourites of the Honey Show and Christmas Dinner.

An average of 30 members have attended a wide range of events including practical talks on how to make soap using honey, how to assemble a wooden hive and local artist **Rhona Tooze** showed us how to master the art of Batik with the help of beeswax. **Stephen Davies** gave us an insight into the devastation Wax Moths can bring to an apiary. **Sue Black** gave her wonderful talk on Mead Making. The highlight was the sampling of the Mead. Anything to do with food seems to be well received by members.

Tonight we are going to learn how to make a trap for Asian Hornets and then will be rewarded by another buffet. So a big thanks to **Gerti Axtmann** and **Karen Squires**.

GOWER SHOW

2017 was a special year for the Gower Show as it marked its 100th event. The Honey Section put on a very successful show. **David, Dexter and John** created a remarkable entrance edifice for the Honey Tent, which was larger than ever. With electricity provided by generators we were able to light up a special focal point provided by **Bill King** and **Sue Carter** of Chalfont St. Giles and allowed Stephen and Nicola to put on a very well attended hands-on microscopy display, while Martin and those helping with the bee tent were kept very busy all day. The Gower Show team, led by **Gill**



Lyons, would like to thank all those who helped make the show such a success, we could not have done it without you.

SOCIETY CLOTHING

I am pleased that **Sue Lawrence** has been sourcing some new Society tops and she will be bringing some samples for members to see at various events so that you can see the colours available and the quality of the material used. It would be great if everyone helping at one of the Society's events during the year had a Society top so that members of the public can see who the beekeepers are.

SECRETARY & TREASURER

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 Management Committee for their continued hard work during the year. As you know we need to replace Julian tonight.

CLOSING WORDS

I am very sorry to see **David Salkild** standing down from the Committee and also to hear that he wishes to hand over the editorship of the newsletter. When I joined eight years ago there didn't seem to be any aspects of the Society in which he was not involved. And if that wasn't enough it was David who rescued Stefano and me when we experienced our first swarm in a bush up a bank. The ever resourceful Stefano had borrowed a local farmer's forklift truck and had secured onto this a pallet and a ladder. David was invited to show us how to retrieve the swarm whilst we kept our distance. He was nimbly up the ladder and in no time at all we had an extra colony to add to our new apiary.

Can we show our appreciation in the usual way to the "dream team" of Jean and David.



Swansea & District Beekeepers' Society

Annual Accounts - year ended 31 December 2017

Income:	£	<u>Expenditure:</u>	£
Subscriptions (including basic BDI premium) and Donations	2,907.35	Welsh Bee Keepers Association/ Royal Welsh Agricultural Society	1,164.80
Publications	849.00	Publication	849.00
BDI Additional Premiums	235.55	BDI Premiums	690.05
Bee Tent Donations	665.30	Bee Tent Costs	350.31
Apiary and Education (Class)	1,260.00	Apiary and Education (Class)	3,432.12
Apiguard & Pollen	621.30	Apiguard & Candipoline	693.30
Honey Sales & Gower Show	1,757.96	Paid to Sellers at Gower Show	1,529.59
Christmas Dinner including Raffle	649.00	Christmas Dinner	596.70
Sundry Items	393.37	Sundry costs	214.49
Gower Show Grant	1,000.00	Gower Show Coast Centenary Cos	1,003.95
		Gower Show Basic Costs	93.08
Bank Deposit Account interest	0.01	MSWCC Costs	173.00
		Officers Expenses	83.39
		Meeting Costs	740.15
TOTAL INCOME	£10,338.84	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£11,613.93

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

Opening Balance 01 January 2017	10,229.75	Total Income	10,338.84
Closing Balance 31 December 2017	8,954.66	Total Expenditure	11,613.93
Increase/ (Decrease)	(1,275.09)	Increase or (Decrease) over Expen	(1,275.09)

Accounts prepared by: John H. Gale
Treasurer

Scrutinised by: Kim Lawrence



Treasurers Report

I am pleased to present the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017. These have been sent to all members.

Our former auditor, Roger Thomas, has retired and through the good offices of one of our Committee members, Sue Lawrence, her husband Kim agreed to act as Scrutineer. He is a retired Chartered Accountant and fully conversant with our requirements. I, for one, thank him for his guidance and close attention to the task which he covered in some depth. I actually learnt a great deal.

The first thing you will note from the Accounts is that the expenditure exceeded the income by £1,275.09. This is the first negative result since 2012. There are, of course, reasons for this which I will explain.

Looking at the income: compared to last year the Bee Tent donations, although in excess of the expenditure, are modest. There were not as many shows visited and The Welsh Game Fair, and South Wales Dog & Family Fun Day were not run and other shows, for example Ammanford, were adversely affected by the weather. Generally the donations tendered were not generous being lower than last year.

However, the total sales at the Gower Show of members' honey, other bee related products and activities were up on 2016 and I think we must thank those who contributed.

We did, of course, receive a Grant of £1,000.00, through the expertise of David Salkilld, from Swansea City Council's AONB Scheme aimed at promoting Gower, which enabled us to celebrate the Gower Show's Centennial in the bigger marquee allocated to us. David's accurate calculation ensured that our costs only exceeded the Grant by £3.95

And, once again, we benefited from Lloyds Bank paying us the balance of interest from the deposit account which we amalgamated into our current account last year, a total of £0.01

Now on to expenditure: The first thing that might strike you is the disparity between BDI figures on the income and expenditure sides. For the benefit of new members and as a reminder to the older ones, your basic membership subscription includes the sum of £2.00 giving cover from zero to three colonies. If to this is added the Society apiary and Honorary Life Members, and the additional premiums, the total cost comes to £690.05.

Apiary and Education jointly was a greater cost than previous years. This was due to the purchase of another microscope, additional bee suits for use at the Society apiary, and approximately £1,500.00 through the need to realign and extend the apiary with suitable fencing, aimed to ensure that people walking near the apiary site are protected from bees.

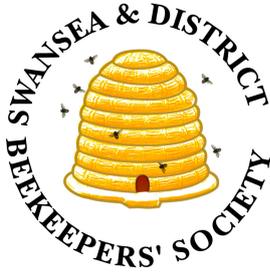


However, overall I believe that 2017 was a satisfactory year.

I will once again say that it is the duty of the Treasurer to present Accounts to members, and it is a standard convention that as they have been audited the substance is not open to question. However, I am happy to take questions, short queries, on the content.

Bear in mind, this evening is also a social event and we must give Ade Bowen time to instruct us in the construction of Asian Hornet traps. We must not be complacent about the threat. We may need the traps this year.

John H. Gale
Treasurer



Officers Agreed at the AGM 2018

Chairman David O'Carroll (2nd year) **Vice Chairman** Paul Lyons (2nd year)
Secretary Vacant **Treasurer** John Gale

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

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

Apiary Manager: Mike Grinter
Bee Tent Manager: Martin Davies
Education Officer: Nicola Oulton
Events Secretary: Gerti Axtmann & Karen Squires
Gower Show Sec: Gill Lyons
Librarian: Paul Lyons
Membership Sec: John Gale & Sue Lawrence
Newsletter Editor: David Salkilld
Spray Liaison Officer: **TBA**
Webmaster: Selina Taylor
Web Administrator: Jonathan Bowen