



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 12th February, 2019

1) Welcome

The Acting Chair Julian Caruana, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including one or two new members. (Forty two people attended the A.G.M)

Present:- Ian Algie, Gerti Axtmann, Sue Black and Peter Volbrecht, John Bellarby, Adrian & Miriam Bowen, Chris Bown, Matt & Maddy Carroll, Julian Caruana, Jonathan Coombs & Julia Davis-Coombs, Jeff Davies & Linda Bowen, Martin Davies & Karen Squires, Stephen Davies & Nicola Oulton, Barry Doyle, Dexter & Jackie Ford, John Gale, Barry & Wendy Garrard, Andrew & Elinor Gilbey, David Griffiths, Michael Grinter, James & Marion Lyall, Gill Lyons, Claire Miller, George Parsons, Peter Pullham, David & Jean Salkilld, Eric Thomas, Peter Thomas & Claire Lake, Philip Turner, Andrew Wright.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marilyn Caruana, Elaine Gale, Rob Jones, Sue Lawrence, Paul Lyons, David & Elizabeth O'Carroll, Rod & Maxine Sewter and George Tonge.

3) Minutes of last AGM (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2018 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

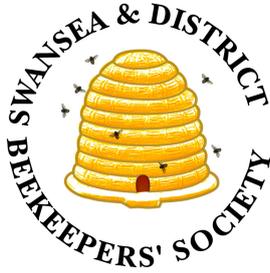
There were no matters arising.

5) Annual Report

The Society's Annual Report was written by the Chair and presented by the acting Chair. The Annual Report is appended to these minutes.

6) Annual Accounts 2018 (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.



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7) Committee Officer Nominations

David O'Carroll, who having served his 2 year tenure is stepping down as Chair, was thanked in his absence for his work. Paul Lyons having served his two year tenure as Vice Chair will step up to become Chair. Nicola Oulton was Proposed by Claire Miller and Seconded by David Salkilld to become the new Vice Chair and took over the meeting.

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. Nicola Oulton asked everyone present to join her in thanking him for all the work he has done for the society especially over the last 4 years as Secretary and wishing both Julian and Marilyn a safe and successful move. No nominations for the role of Secretary had been received prior to the AGM and nobody was nominated or nominated themselves at the AGM. Sue Lawrence has taken over the role of Joint Membership Secretary. Martin Davies and David O'Carroll will cover the Swarm Liaison element of the Secretary's role. Gill Lyons has agreed to take over the role of Minutes Secretary. The role of Secretary therefore remains vacant.

In the absence of any nominations for the Secretary role having been received it was agreed that the Officers for 2019 will be:

Chair	<i>Paul Lyons</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Nicola Oulton</i>
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	<i>John Gale (incumbent)</i>

8) Honorary Members

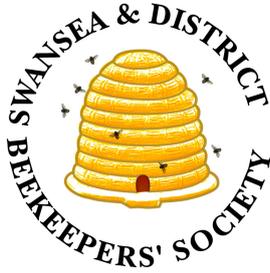
There are currently two Honorary (Life) Members – Tom Davies and David Salkilld – and no other nominations for Honorary Members have been received.

9) Delegates to the WBKA

The current members are prepared to continue as the Society's delegates for the WBKA. 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 2019-20:

Paul Lyons (incumbent)
Robert Jones(incumbent)

Nicola Oulton reminded Society members that they are also members of the WBKA and are welcome to attend their AGM, which is on Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 11am.(Dolguog Hotel, Felingerrig, Machynlleth, SY20 8UJ)



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10) 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 2019-20

11) Proposals from Members

No proposals were received.

12) Membership Fees for 2020

The Committee is recommending that membership fees remain as they are for 2020 as there is no reason to change them. Membership fees are not open for discussion at the AGM but are on the Agenda as the Committee is 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, BDI Premium, and SDBKS Membership. 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 2020, the Membership fees will be reconsidered by the Committee and an EGM called should it be required.

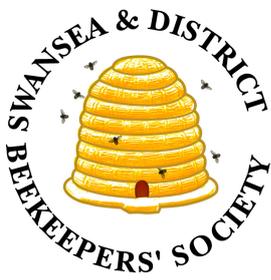
Membership fees for 2020 will remain at £25 (Single) and £30 (Joint) with a £5 reduction being applied to membership payments made prior to 31st December.

13) Questions from the Floor

There were no questions.

14) Date of Next AGM

The next AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 11th February, 2020.



ANNUAL REPORT

THE SDBKS YEAR 2018





Chairman's Introduction

It's good to see that the public are becoming more aware of the need to love our bees but perhaps the bus shelter on North Gower Road is not the best way to express it. The graffiti started as a Valentine Day expression of fidelity to Bess but over the years has become Bees!

I have been very pleased to represent the Society as its Chairman for the last two years. The Society thrives because of the huge amount of voluntary work that the committee and so many members undertake. Martin tells me that 43 members of the Society were involved in at least one outing of the BeeTent - many I suspect did them all.



Bus shelter on Gower

I hope that I have encouraged members to become more involved during my tenure of the Chairmanship and that I have encouraged the work of the Society in promoting its educational work. I can only claim to have led by example by taking the Basic Beekeeping Assessment under the tutelage of Stephen. Everything else is down to the training team led by Nicola and Stephen. I take great pleasure in being able to report the continued expansion of this aspect of the Society's work.

I will be handing over the Chair to Paul Lyons who has been Vice Chairman for the last two years (and was previously Secretary for several years). This means that we need a new Vice Chairman in addition to Secretary to be elected at the AGM.

The highlight of my beekeeping year was attending the WBKA 75th Anniversary Summer School in Aberystwyth. I thoroughly encourage all members to attend one of these events at least once in a while.

David O'Carroll
February 2019



Education

The Society is very fortunate in having an educational team led by Nicola Oulton and Stephen Davies. It is they who organise and deliver training for people wishing to learn about beekeeping, as well as providing opportunities for members who already have their own hives.

The Beginner's course is a well established service that the Society provides to people wishing to learn about beekeeping and mostly who want to become beekeepers. The course could not be run without the help and support of other members of the Society who deliver sessions, contribute to parts of sessions or who are just there to answer the myriad questions that all people new to beekeeping have. All those who have helped out during the course have told me about how they benefit themselves from taking part in this activity. The next course begins in mid- February 2019.

The Society is pleased to support the initiative of the Welsh Beekeepers Association to provide nationally recognised training and assessments. Three members of the Society were supported by Nicola and Stephen in preparing for taking the Basic Assessment. Ciaran O'Brien, Kush Budha and David O'Carroll were amongst the 17 candidates across Wales to take the assessment in 2018. Congratulations to them all for passing. Any member who has a year or more experience in managing bees is encouraged to take the assessment. Our thanks to Mike Grinter who provided hands on experience in the apiary before the assessment and for preparing the hives immediately prior to Assessment Day. Thanks also to our assessor Greg Nuttgens.

If you are interested in any training, learning or supporting the teaching team please speak to Nicola Oulton.



Apiary

Training is not confined to the classroom and the Society has been able to use its own apiary at Llys Nini to give members hands on experience of beekeeping. This is restricted to beginners for the first few weeks after the end of the classroom sessions of the course but then open sessions for all members are provided on subjects as diverse as swarm control to closing down for winter and applying treatments against Varroa.

Our thanks go to Mike Grinter who has been Apiary Manager for the last year and his team of experienced beekeepers – Claire Miller, Ian Algie and Martin Davies; of course not forgetting our very own Master Beekeeper Stephen Davies who is always to hand to provide help and support not just to the team but to the society in general.

This year we have had to manage the concerns of the Llys Nini management team after a number of members of the public and a member of staff were stung by bees in 2017. The Committee accepted the recommendation of the Apiary Team to extend the apiary into the field below the existing site. The hives are now further away from the public pathway where members of the public can walk the dogs which they are hoping to adopt. With the help of the Llys Nini ground staff the lower section has been fenced off and 10' high netting fixed around the whole site to ensure that bees have to fly high - hopefully above the heads of the visiting public. This appears to have resolved the immediate problem and no further incidents were reported in 2018.

We were able extract some honey this year but emphasis has been on consolidating stocks after the disruptions of 2017. There are currently 17 colonies overwintering in the apiary, fingers crossed they're all doing fine so far.

We held a successful Oxalic Acid demonstration in January when experienced beekeepers were able to show how this process can be undertaken safely by two main methods.

2018 saw the Society hold two taster days. We would have liked to have held more but personal commitments and the weather beat us. Due to the hard work of Nicola both were a success and a number of people have gone on to enrol on the Beginners' course, though one attendee did leave the Apiary part of the session early "I don't like this, I'm off". We were not sure if she meant Mike or the bees - how can anyone not like bees?



Social Events

February - AGM and making an Asian Hornet monitoring trap

March - Arnia's hive monitoring system - George Clouston

April - Ecology of Bats – Matt Carroll

May - Queen Excluders – Stephen Davies

June - Preparation for the Gower Show – David Salkild*

July - Bees on the Marsh – Kate Davidson

August - no meeting

September - Preparing for Winter - Stephen Davies

October - Education Opportunities- Nicola Oulton

November - Society Honey Show - Ade Bowen & Claire Miller

December - Society Christmas Dinner

January - Preparing for Spring – Ade Bowen

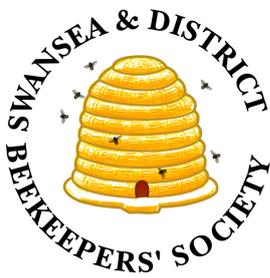
The Society meets twice a month at New Lodge Independent Social Club, Alexandra Road, Gorseinon. On the second Tuesday of each month we have an “educational evening” organised by Gerti Axtmann and Karen Squires. Karen has had to stand down during the year but thanks to them both for organising a wide range of social, educational and practical activities:



Wide range of honey at the Honey Show 2018

The Society also has an informal meeting at New Lodge on the fourth Tuesday each month. There is no set agenda for these gatherings but they are a good opportunity to meet other members and there is usually someone there who can provide advice. Our thanks go to Paul at New Lodge who has been providing buffets at several events during the year.

Gerti also organised a further Skep making workshop in October, when a further eight people sampled this old art of producing a beehive.



Bee Tent



Martin Davies has continued to organise the “ Bee Experience” tent. The Society took the tent to six events including our regular trips to BUILT Wells, Gower and the Vale of Glamorgan Show and new venues of Go Wild in Tredegar, Pontarddulais Carnival and the Heart of the Valley Show in Pontardawe.

43 Society members helped out at these events including many new faces.

We had 815 visitors including 493 children. At the Vale Show the Society won the trophy for best Trade Stand. The demand for the bee tent was so great this year that it has been decided to purchase more bee suits including one XXL!

Gower Show

This year we were again allocated a 60ft x 40ft tent, the same as we had enjoyed during the Centenary year. This enabled the Society to cater for the interests of the Show’s visitors of all ages.

Many parents were grateful for the range of activities we provided for children – the Bee Experience Tent being the top place to visit.

Nicola Oulton won the Dorothea Daniel-Jenkins Cup, while the best in show award/ blue ribbon went to Emyr Jenkins.



Nicola’s winning photograph at the Gower Show 2018



Honey sales were up on last year and the public were very pleased with the prices of all the goods and products that we had for sale.

If anyone is interested in being the Judge's Steward this year could they please see Gill Lyons after the A.G.M.

Our thanks goes out to the Show Committee for arranging the event, to Bernard Diaper the Show's Judge and all members who helped on the day as well as the two previous days getting everything ready for the Sunday event, without your help it would not be possible to make the Honey Section the place to be at the Show.



Asian Hornet Action Team

At the AGM last year Eric Thomas suggested that the Society should be taking action on the Asian Hornet. I was pleased to be asked to head a joint working group with West Glamorgan BKA on handling the threat of invasion by the Asian Hornet.

The Committee has accepted the recommendation of the working group that an Asian Hornet Action Team be created with the aim of helping members to confirm whether their sighting of an Asian Hornet is correct. In this way a member's sighting can be notified immediately to the National Bee Unit and then confirmed by the Team. It is expected that the National Bee Unit will give such confirmed sightings priority and swiftly arrange a visit to the member's apiary to locate and destroy any nests in the area.

General Data Protection Regulation

The Committee has taken advice on the introduction of the GDPR and is required under this legislation to ensure that we only ask for and maintain securely the personal information necessary for the running of the Society and to use such information only for legitimate Society business or to forward relevant emails. The Society's privacy policy is published in our website

Newsletter

The Society is well-served by its Newsletter ably edited by David Salkilld. He manages to keep the content topical and includes timely hints on beekeeping throughout the changing seasons. This is now sent to most members by email.



Society Clothing

Sue Lawrence has taken over the ordering of Society clothing. She has secured a range of items including sweatshirts, hoodies and polo shirts in a wide range of colours to suit all tastes and most important, all with the Society logo; as can be seen in the cover photograph.

Society Equipment

The Society has acquired a wide range of equipment ranging from a laptop and projector to honey extractors. We need to make sure that this is well-used and keep it safe and (as appropriate) well maintained. We will be publishing a list for members to know what can be borrowed or hired.

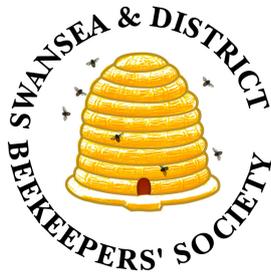
Website

Julian has been working with Jonathan Bowen to restructure the website and improve and increase the content. Julian has done his best to keep as many of the pages as possible up to date - in particular the Membership, Education and Events pages. We are looking for a member to become the website manager. It is hoped to launch the revised website in a couple of weeks.

Secretary & Treasurer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society's Officers, Julian Caruana our Acting Secretary and John Gale, our Treasurer, together with members of the management Committee for their continued hard work during the year. We have tried to hand over some of the tasks that Julian manages to cover to other members of the Committee. The new Secretary will not have to cover the same heavy commitment which Julian had acquired. We now have a separate Membership Secretary (Sue) who acts jointly with the Treasurer and Minutes Secretary (Gill). The role of Swarm Officer is shared between Martin Davies and David O'Carroll. The remaining role for the Secretary is not onerous, essentially ensuring the smooth running of the Society and overseeing communication with the public and beekeeping organisations, as well as the Society's communication with its members.





Outside Events

Society members have been involved in or attended many outside events during the year. The Society sponsored one speaker at the WBKA 75th Anniversary Conference in Aberystwyth. Many members attended the WBKA conference as delegates and Nicola and Stephen provided a microscopy workshop there.



Society members on the Promenade in Aberystwyth



Swansea & District Beekeepers Society
Annual Accounts (Summary) - year ended 31 December 2018

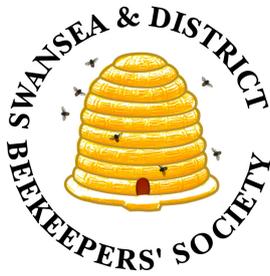
<u>Income:</u>		<u>Expenditure:</u>	
Subscriptions (incl Basic BDI & Donations)	2,929.85	WBKA Capitation & RWAS:	1,660.05
Publications:	580.00	Publications:	598.75
BDI Additional Premiums	285.55	BDI Premiums -	735.05
Bee Tent Donations:	1,088.68	Bee Tent Costs	763.58
Apiary & Education	2,125.00	Apiary & Education	1922.34
Apiguard & Candipoline	506.13	Apiguard/Candipoline, etc	375.93
Honey Sales:	2,039.00	Paid to Sellers at Gower Show	1753.08
Christmas Dinner incl. Raffle	699.00	Christmas Dinner:	670.75
Sundry Items:	392.01	Sundry Items:	720.96
Bank	150.00	Gower Show Costs:	442.63
		Officers Expenses:	102.00
		Meeting Costs:	630.00
TOTAL INCOME:	£ 10,795.22	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£10,375.12

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

Opening balance 01 January 2018	£ 7,902.31	Total Income	£10,795.22
Closing Balance at 31 December 2018	£ 8,322.41	Total Expenditure	£10,375.12
Increase / (Decrease)	£ 420.10	Increase / (Decrease)	£ 420.10

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 2018. These have been sent to all members. They have been “audited” by Kim Lawrence, a retired Chartered Accountant who has acted as scrutineer, and I once again thank him for his close attention.

This report is relatively short and really reflects on a year that ran to plan and without any real problems or disasters. Overall I believe 2018 was a very satisfactory year. That is a very bland statement but you have heard in detail from our Chairman’s report the true reflection of the work done by many to achieve this state.

The first thing you will note from the Accounts is that the income exceeded the expenditure by £420.10 which is a better result compared to last year.

Subscriptions have increased which is, of course, the result of an increasing membership. Bee Tent donations tripled last years as the team covered a total of six shows.

Education/Apiary section increased by about 75%. Which included two Skep making classes At Committee it was decided to consider the Education and Apiary generally as one entity as they are so closely entwined.

Weatherwise the year was better than some in the recent past and the Bees produced more honey, this was reflected in the total sales which increased.

On the expenditure side Education/Apiary costs were considerably reduced as we happily did not incur any high expenses at the apiary site itself, although a number of additional suits were purchased.

All other costs were at a level expected.

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/scrutinised 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. We have a buffet to consume and we must welcome Frank Gellatly, Regional Bee Inspector, who will update us on the Asian Hornet in UK. As I said last year, we must not be complacent about the threat from this insect..

John H. Gale
Treasurer



Officers Agreed at the AGM 2019

Chairman Paul Lyons (1st year) **Vice Chairman** Nicola Oulton (1st 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, Sue Lawrence, Gill Lyons, Paul Lyons, David O'Carroll, Nicola Oulton, Jean Salkilld

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
Gower Show Sec: Gill Lyons
Librarian: Paul Lyons
Membership Sec: John Gale & Sue Lawrence
Minute Sec: Gill Lyons
Newsletter Editor: David Salkilld
Spray Liaison Officer: (Secretary)
Swarm Liaison Officer: Martin Davies & David O'Carroll
Society Clothing: Sue Lawrence
Webmaster: Selina Taylor
Web Administrator: Jonathan Bowen