



SWANSEA & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 20th November 2018 at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

Minutes

Present: Gerti Axtmann (GA), Julian Caruana (JC), Martin Davies (MD), Stephen Davies (SD), John Gale (JG), Paul Lyons (PL), David O'Carroll (DOC), Nicola Oulton (NO), Jean Salkilld (JS),

- 1) **Apologies for Absence:** Ian Algie, Mike Grinter, Sue Lawrence, Gill Lyons,
- 2) **Minutes of last meeting (held on 16th October, 2018):** Peter Tompkins (name spelt incorrectly). Minutes accepted
- 3) **Matters arising from the last meeting:** David Salkilld requested that MD sends him the information on the bee tent, he was only told in passing.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:**
Account balances: No: 1 Account **£ 8,907.27**
 No: 2 Account - **£ nil**

Arnia Ltd: As reported in last month's Committee meeting JG had been contacted by Clare Lakin, Business Manager, Lloyds Bank Birmingham, who had requested that the cheque be sent to her. This was made out to "Halifax 117654" and JG received a letter acknowledging receipt of the cheque on 18th October and "appreciating our honesty". This cheque was to be passed to the relevant subsidiary of Lloyds to repay their suspense account.

On 5th November Clare Lakin telephoned JG to inform him that she had been monitoring the progress of the cheque and had put a "STOP" on it as it appeared that somewhere in the Bank system they had lost the cheque.

JG agreed that the money would be deducted from our account, something that should have been done in the first place.

The money was deducted on 6th November.

JG did not put in a formal complaint but commented by email "that this had not really filled us with confidence in the Bank". Clare thanked JG for his email and agreed the service had been poor and said she had arrange a payment to be made into our account "for the inconvenience caused to us".

On 6 November the sum of £100.00 was credited to the Society.

All being well, this matter should now be closed – finally.

5) **Sub-Committee Reports**

Apiary: All colonies have been fed and Mike Grinter (MG) will be going to the Society Apiary regularly to check the feed on the colonies. There will be an Oxalic Acid demonstration in the apiary end December beginning of January. Ade Bowen will be bringing a new oxalic acid industrial vapouriser to demonstrate.

Bee Tent: Nothing to report. MD will send figures to David Salkilld for next newsletter

Education: Certificates for the Basic Assessment were presented to DOC and Kush Budha at the Society Honey Show. NO will be sending out e-mail to all persons who had contacted the Society in regard to the Beginners' Class, to inform them when the class is starting and will attach the enrolment form.

Gower Show: Nothing to report

- 6) **Events:** The Society Honey Show was well attended with 42 honey entries, as well as several entries for the new sections of wax blocks and candles. Our thanks to Ade Bowen, Claire Miller and George Tonge for all the hard work they put in. Committee agreed to buy them all a drink at the Christmas dinner to show our appreciation. JG will e-mail GA the names of people who have paid for the Christmas Dinner by BACS. MD and Karen Squires (KS) will set up spreadsheet of menu choices for the people coming
Events Sec buddy. GA has lost KS as assistant, and would like to announce at AGM for someone to join her as Events Secretary with a view to taking over in 2 years' time. GA has already completed the majority of events for 2019.
- 7) **Annual General Meeting:** DOC enquired if we could change the date of the AGM as he will be unable to attend on that day. It was agreed that the AGM date will remain as scheduled as this date was announced at last AGM and coincides with the Society social evening, when we have a booking with The New Lodge. DOC will write a report for PL to read. PL will chair AGM as incoming chair. DOC requests that Sub-committee leads provide him with short report on the year.
Requests for nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary will go out as part of the formal notice of the AGM in December.
- 8) **Asian Hornet Update:** nothing to report
- 9) **Equipment Purchases:** GA asked whether the Society had purchased any equipment after Claire Miller proposed it at last year's AGM. JC informed her that an e-mail requesting suggestions was sent out to all members but there was no response. MG had purchased a small tangential tabletop extractor for the Society as an alternative to the large radial extractor. This is housed with MG and has been hired out several times.
- 10) **Asset Register:** JG has an asset register from 2012 but this needs to be updated, this will be done after AGM. JC will forward the information he received from NO and SD earlier in year.
- 11) **MSWCC AGM:** Please see attached outline report of MSWCC AGM as chaired by David Salkild. The date of the AGM was changed at short notice and then clashed with the WBKA Council meeting; this was apparent from the lack of representation at the AGM. The views and intentions of the other member BKAs are needed before they can move forward and will be sought by the Secretary.
- 12) **WBKA Council Meeting:** PL reported back from the meeting. No increase in capitation for next year. WBKA has £35k in current A/C and £10K in reserve. The 75th Anniversary Summer School made a loss of £6000 though they are hoping to get a grant to cover loss. In Wales 17 people took their Basic Assessment and 11 took Modules. There is a push to encourage more learning. Average hive in Wales made 55lbs of honey this year. Low instances of disease. Wales missed the Young Beekeeper event this year. Looking for 3 people aged 12 to 16 to represent Wales next year. WBKA are producing polo shirts at £10 and WBKA patches at £3.50. Minutes of meeting will be circulated by JC once they have been received.
- 13) **Correspondence:** A request was received from Charlie Dunnill, on behalf of two Swansea University students, to circulate a short survey questionnaire relating to the

work they are doing to develop hive sensors. It was agreed that JC should send out the link to the survey.

14) **Any Other Business:**

Website – JC reported that Jonathan Bowen has been working on a development site and will shortly be in a position to update the structure of the current site. There will be a different banner on the top of each page more relevant to the page. If anyone has images that they feel are appropriate please forward to JC. There are now several generic e-mails for different Committee posts available for those wishing to use them. JC will be publishing all Society documents on website but for now the Society Constitution, the Society's Privacy Policy and a copy of the Public and Product Liability Insurance Certificate have been uploaded. Jonathan also believes that the current website is not backed up JC advised that Jonathan would speak to Selena to clarify the situation and if this is the case he should be able to create a backup.

Use of School Premises - JG reminded Committee that the cheque for Pontarddulais Comprehensive is due, £300 was agreed, the same as previous year.

Member Expenses - JG requested that all expenses for this year are sent to him as soon as possible so that he can arrange payment and payees receive and bank cheques before end of year JG will then not have to carry anything over into 2019 as unrepresented.

Hive Sponsorship - MD attended the National Honey Show and has seen a sponsor a beehive scheme. MD suggested we contact schools to see if they had any young people who would like to look after one of the Society's hives for a year, receiving any honey produced for their trouble - a way of inspiring a younger generation of beekeepers. MD will draft a letter to be sent to (initially) a small number of schools.

15) **Date of next meeting:** 15th January, 2019 (no meeting in December)

Officers (as at the AGM 2018):-

Chairman	David O'Carroll (sdbks.chair@gmail.com)
Vice Chairman	Paul Lyons (sd_bks@btinternet.com)
Treasurer	John Gale (johnhgale@hotmail.com)
Secretary	Vacant *

* Julian Caruana (sdbks.secretary@gmail.com) is covering the role in an Acting capacity only.

Other Committee Members:

Ian Algie
Gerti Axtmann
Julian Caruana
Martin Davies
Stephen Davies
Mike Grinter
Sue Lawrence
Gill Lyons
Nicola Oulton
Jean Salkilld
Karen Squires

Committee Roles:

Apiary Manager	Mike Grinter (michaelgrinter@sky.com)
Bee Tent Lead	Martin Davies (minarimartin@outlook.com)
Education Officer	Nicola Oulton (nikoulton@yahoo.co.uk)
Events Secretary	Gerti Axtmann (gerti.axtmann@gmail.com) & Karen Squires (kes.llanelli@virgin.net)
Gower Show Secretary	Gill Lyons (gillml@btinternet.com)
Librarian	Paul Lyons (sd_bks@btinternet.com)
Membership Secretary	John Gale (johnhgale@hotmail.com) & Sue Lawrence (kslawrence@virginmedia.com)
Newsletter Editor	David Salkilld (d.salkilld1936@btinternet.com)
Webmaster	Selina Taylor
Web Administrator	Jonathan Bowen