

out a proposal on MG's behalf. The proposal was to move the apiary inspection day from Saturdays to Sundays as MG felt it was a struggle to get people to attend on Saturdays. JC advised that this was not really a Committee decision but was one for MG as he is now the Apiary Manager. SD pointed out that previously it had been held on a Sunday but attendance dropped off. It was suggested that if MG wanted to change the day he should just monitor the outcome.

SD reported that the hives were all in reasonable shape and he needed to check fondant levels. Some pollen patties have been added as well as the fondant after the Oxalic Acid treatment in early January. MD still has one of the Society colonies and will return it at the start of the new season.

JC will arrange for Llys Nini to sign the Use of Land Licence Agreement (covering the period 2018 to 2020) and has already provided them with a copy of the current Insurance Certificate. A new Risk Assessment (based on a document SD had obtained) has also been given to Llys Nini and JC will add this to the Society Apiary File and give file to MG. The matter of vehicle access to the Society Apiary across the footpath has not yet been responded to but JC will discuss it when he visits Llys Nini with the Licence Agreement.

Bee Tent:

MD has drawn up a list of all this year's event requests received to date and will forward to JC to send to members and add to the Events page.

MD has checked the trailer and everything seems to be in order. Other members prepared to tow the trailer to events will need to be found as JC will be leaving and JG is trying to do less and would therefore prefer not to have to do this. IA said he has previously done it as has Ade Bowen.

Education

NO confirmed that the Beginners' Class will commence on 22nd February and response to date has been good. JC advised that he had emailed anyone who, during 2017, had enquired about the Beginners' Class or expressed an interest in starting beekeeping but had, so far, had no responses. Forms will be taken to the class so that people can complete them and pay on the night. JC advised that following the email offering a 'refresher' to last years beginners only a couple of them had indicated that they would be taking up the option. JC also advised that half of last years beginners have not renewed their membership in 2018.

NO asked for a copy of the insurance certificate for the school. JC advised it was downloadable from WBKA website but he'll send a

copy to NO.

NO reported that 2 members have expressed an interest in doing the Basic Assessment this year. SD will run the class again if there is sufficient interest. JC has sent out an email reminding members of this opportunity. There is also interest from some members to do some of the BBKA modules.

JC was also asked to send out a reminder email to members regarding the NDB short courses. NO reminded Committee that if it wasn't full then the NDB may not run any more courses in our area. GA reported that she had had problems registering for the course online.

There have been several enquiries about taster days during 2017 and it was suggested that, unlike previous years where the morning sessions have been held at a location remote from the Society Apiary, we might be able to use a room in Llys Nini and then just move to the Society's Apiary in the afternoon. MD said he would help out. NO, IA, MD and MG to discuss and agree dates and advise JC who will add to website.

Gower Show

JS stated that Gill had nothing to report other than that the Gower Show Sub-committee will start meeting on Mondays from March.

- **Events**

GA stated that after the success of the recent Skep-making Workshop she has arranged for another one for 20th October, 2018. KS suggested that an article could be put in the Newsletter. JC passed on Sue Lawrence's comments about the workshop and GA was thanked for organising it.

GA proposed booking the 2018 Christmas Dinner at the Rake and Riddle, Penclawdd again. Those present agreed that the last one had been a success and that GA should make the booking for either the 1st or 8th December, depending on their availability.

- **Website**

JC has received no further update from Jonathan Bowen. JC reported that Jonathan has reserved a couple of generic email addresses, which are linked to the website, and will find out if others can be reserved. The one JC currently uses would be difficult to transfer as it would still be in his name although he would no longer have access to it once the password has been changed but would still receive the notifications from Google regarding non-use and subsequent closure of the account.

- **Correspondence**

Royal Welsh Agricultural Society – A letter has been received requesting us to consider the usual contribution of £20 towards the

Honey Show prize awards at the Welsh National Honey Show (referred to above in the Treasurer's Report). This was agreed although, as a reply was required by 16th February JG had raise a cheque prior to this meeting, brought it for signing and will send it to the RWAS.

- **Any Other Business**

WBKA Lecture Sponsorship - Following David Salkilld's proposal to sponsor a lecture at the WBKA Convention in July, JC had written to Jill Wheeler (WBKA Events Sec) informing her of our decision and requesting a list of the lectures together with an indication of which ones had already been sponsored. Jill's reply indicated that they had set the amount for lecture sponsorship at £250 (or £100 per workshop). JC read out the list of lectures and it was agreed to sponsor one of the lectures being given by Prof. Tom Seeley. JC to ascertain whether an invoice will be issued or if we are to just send a cheque for the agreed £250.

Asian Hornet Action - Following a suggestion at the AGM that the Society should have in place a policy and action plan in the event of an Asian Hornet incursion, David O'Carroll has drafted a policy for discussion. JC has ascertained that some of those involved with the Woolacombe incursion have drafted a number of guidance documents and Devon BKA has these on its website and are trying to get BBKA approval for them. An Asian Hornet Action Team website (ahat.org.uk) has also been set up and it is hoped that all BKAs will add relevant information to this site as and when they agree it. It was agreed that the Society needs to have an action plan in place but not to re-invent the wheel if someone else has already put something usable together and to possibly add to it if we have something we feel would do this.

Sue Lawrence (via JC) advised that Sue Poole has written a set of children's books about honey bees aimed at helping to teach primary school children personal and entrepreneurial skills, through the exploits of a family of bees. Sue Poole would be visiting 15 Primary Schools and would welcome our participation in any way we wish. Sue Lawrence suggests that this could be a way of educating children (and teaching staff) about the Asian Hornet and the threat it poses.

It was also suggested and agreed that, rather than the whole Committee, a small working group be set up and that WGBKA be contacted and invited to join this working group. Initial suggestions for members from SDBKS were David O'Carroll and Sue Lawrence and MD indicated that he would be prepared to be part of the group. Membership has not been formally agreed and could include one or two others.

Purchase of Equipment with Society Funds - IA asked how the proposal made by Claire Miller at the AGM, and specifically Claire's

suggestion to purchase a wax foundation press, should be taken forward. SD pointed out that the Society already has a Vaporiser and an Extractor which are rarely used. The Committee agreed to purchase new equipment but that suggestions for what should be considered for purchase should come from members. NO suggested that an email could be sent to members reminding them of the 'loan' facility and listing all the items the Society presently holds for this purpose – as well as the two items above the Society also has a laptop, projector, exhibition display stand, bee suits and a virtual hive. The email could then also ask members for their suggestions of what they might wish the Society to purchase, but remind them that the member making the suggestion would need to be prepared to store the item and co-ordinate the loans. DS suggested that members could also be reminded about the library resource (probably about £2000 worth of books) at their disposal.

- **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on 20th March, 2018 (in the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon).

Officers (as at the AGM 2018):-

Chairman	David O'Carroll (dsocarroll@yahoo.co.uk)
Vice Chairman	Paul Lyons (sd_bks@btinternet.com)
Treasurer	John Gale (johnhgale@hotmail.com)
Secretary	Vacant *

is
capacity only.

* Julian Caruana (sdbks.secretary@gmail.com)
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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:

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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)
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Webmaster	Selina Taylor

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