

Swansea & District Beekeepers' Society
Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 17^h July 2018
at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

Present

Gertie Axtmann (GA), Martin Davies (MD), John Gale (JG), Mike Grinter (MG), Sue Lawrence (SL), Gill Lyons (GL), Paul Lyons (PL), Nicola Oulton (NO), David O'Carroll (DOC)

1) Apologies

Received from Julian Caruana, Jean Salkilld, Karen Squires.

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

Updates on the *Native Bee Project* (arising from May meeting) - Robert Jones has been in contact with DOC and Robert has agreed to lead the Native Bee Project on Gower with members who have previously expressed an interest. Whilst the Committee agreed to support the project it was felt that Robert should contact the members concerned and take the project forward.

Asian Hornet Action Team (arising from May meeting) - The NBU are encouraging beekeepers to put up monitoring traps if they can check and empty the traps frequently and to notify the NBU on Beebase if they have already put up a trap. The advice of the AHAT is that monitoring traps should be put up in apiaries where there has been an unconfirmed sighting of an Asian Hornet. MG has not put up traps in the Society's Apiary as they would not be checked and emptied frequently enough to avoid compromising other insects. The Committee supported his decision as Apiary Manager. DOC agreed to remind members of the AHAT's advice.

4) Treasurer's Report

Our Account balances are:	No: 1 Account	£8,670.44	and
	No: 2 Account	£ nil	

The above balance takes into account a cheque paid to Arnia in the sum of £1,020.00 about which JG reports as follows:

On or about 18th June the Secretary forwarded to JG an invoice from Arnia for the above sum, which stated the payment was due 25th June and JG was requested to make payment. JG settled this by cheque dated 19th June which was posted immediately in order to catch the due date. To date this cheque has not been presented to Arnia's bank.

JG queried if we have received the equipment covered by this invoice.

JG intends to write to Arnia, c/o Harlands Accountants (whose name is at the head of the invoice) - specifically to a Mr Philip Murray at that organisation as he appears to be Arnia's Company Secretary. The content of this letter, in addition to a query about our cheque, will depend on whether the equipment has, at the time of writing, been received (or not). A copy of the letter will be sent to Mr George Clouston.

MG expressed his concerns regarding the lack of communication from Arnia regarding the delivery of the equipment and that there had been repeated delays in delivering the equipment which, to date, had still not been received. MG confirmed that he had expected the delivery of the equipment by the end of May 2018 but, despite several attempts to contact Arnia, he had not received any reply.

The Committee agreed that it was now too late in the season for the delivery of the equipment to serve any useful purpose and it passed a vote of no confidence in the company's ability to deliver the equipment in a timely manner or in providing subsequent back-up and support. It was agreed that the company had breached its contract with SDBKS and that JG should stop the cheque and write to the company to explain the reasons why we were withdrawing from the UK Honeybee Observatory initiative.

5) Sub-Committee Reports

Apiary

MG reported that there are currently 15 colonies plus 1 Top bar hive in the Apiary. NO, SD and MG will discuss a suitable date to take off the honey. Members will be asked if they want to participate.

MG suggested that he would use varroa boards later in the season as the weather is too hot at present.

MG suggested that it would be a good idea to offer for sale, to members in the Beginners' Class, a number of colonies at the start of next season. The Committee agreed this would be a good idea.

The price will be agreed at a later date.

Bee Tent

MD reported that Pontarddulais & Hendy Carnival on 23rd June raised £73.39 and that he felt it was worthwhile the Society attending this event in the future.

Education

NO reported that three members have put themselves forward for the Basic Assessment, which will be carried out on 11th August at Llys Nini.

The Taster Day which is due to take place on 28th July are fully booked with 9 people attending.

Gower Show

GL advised that we need to recruit more volunteers for the show as the number is down significantly on last year.

All Committee members agreed to volunteer their help at the show and that an email should be sent out to members requesting volunteers.

The prices for honey to be sold at the Gower Show are to be discussed by email.

6) Events

GA confirmed the following dates/events:

11 September – SD - Winter Preparation
9 October – Education Opportunities
11 November – Honey Show
1 December – Society Xmas Dinner

GA said that she was researching Peter Tompkins to give a talk to us sometime next year.

The Committee agreed that organisers need to know the costs of speakers before they are engaged.

7) Correspondence

None received

8) Any other Business

Secretary's Role - As JC will be leaving Swansea shortly the Committee discussed how best to manage this position given that we currently have no volunteers prepared to take on this role as it stands.

It was agreed that the role could be divided up into a number of smaller roles that members may feel able to take on. DOC will liaise with JC about these roles and will send an email to members to request their help.

In the absence of a Secretary, PL suggested that more than one person could have access to SDBKS Secretary's email.

Fees for 2019 - The Committee agreed an increase of £5 for the annual membership (for both early payers and others).

NO was asked to break down the cost of running the Beginners' Course, so that we ensure the course is run at a break even cost. DOC asked NO if we should consider giving the school a larger donation for use of their premises.

9) Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on 18th September, 2018 (in the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon).

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)
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