

Swansea & District Beekeepers' Society
Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 19th June 2018
at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

Present

Gertie Axtmann (GA), Julian Caruana (JC), Martin Davies (MD), John Gale (JG), Mike Grinter (MG), Sue Lawrence (SL), Gill Lyons (GL), Paul Lyons (PL), Nicola Oulton (NO), Jean Salkilld (JS).

• **Apologies**

Received from Stephen Davies, David O'Carroll, Karen Squires.

• **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

• **Matters arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Updates on the Native Bee Project and the Asian Hornet Action Team were not given as David O'Carroll was unable to attend and an update on each will need to be provided at the July meeting. JC did, however, suggest that as West Glamorgan BKA had not put forward any of its members as volunteers for the AHAT, the latter, although covering the area containing WGBKA members would have to prioritise calls from its own members but should also consider some kind of charge (e.g. a travel charge, as a minimum) for any calls made to the AHAT from WGBKA members.

The list of Equipment for Member Use (AOB in May) has been drawn up by NO and JC will try to get it added to the website.

• **Treasurer's Report**

Our Account balances are: No: 1 Account - **£ 9,590.44** and

No: 2 Account - **£ nil**

Since the last meeting *the "Bee Experience"* tent has made two visits; the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Spring Festival, Builth Wells and "Go Wild" at Brynbach Park, Tredegar.

JG is sure MD will give us a more comprehensive report but the details of donations received are:

RWAS Spring Festival –	Day 1	£54.77		
	Day 2	£70.44	45 Adults,	37
Children				
"Go Wild"		£85.22	39 Adults,	54
Children				

The Society has also received £175.00 from RWAS, a £20.00 donation from a Mr Belcher through Gerti for the removal of a bumblebee nest, and Mark Rogers and Ioan Evans have rejoined as

members. JG has also banked £64.00 received from members in respect of the Buffet at the last social evening.

JG is happy to report that the cheque issued to George Clouston in March has now been cleared.

The Society has received an invoice from Arnia Limited in the sum of £1,020.00 for the Bee Observatory equipment which is ready to be signed but this has not been taken into account in the balances given above.

At the recent social meeting (12th June) we all enjoyed a buffet costing £175.00. However, JG omitted to take the cheque book so had to recourse to drawing cash in order to pay the bill. This JG will include in his expenses claim at the end of the year.

- **Sub-Committee Reports**

- Apiary**

- MG reported that there are currently six colonies, all of which are queen-right although one or two have non-mated queens. The migration of the colony in the Topbar hive (which needs work done to it) to a National hive has encountered a few problems but these are being worked on.

- It is hoped to produce some nucs from the colonies with the possibility of selling these to beginners by MG reported that beginner attendance at the Apiary has been a little disappointing. NO suggested that the way the options on which day to hold the weekly meetings was presented to the members may have resulted in the wrong day (of the weekend) being chosen for these meetings.

- MG commented on the fact that more schools have been asking for more information and talks about bees and suggested that the Society needs to have a policy on how we approach these requests, including what, if anything, could/should be charged. NO suggested adding educational visits to the 'Education' page of the website and it was agreed that NO and MG would discuss this matter and come up with a draft policy and information for the website.

- MG advised that, as in previous years, the Society has been invited to have a presence at the Llys Nini Dog of the Year 21st Birthday Party. MG suggested that we could and should attend but that, as it is being held on 15th July, it would not be with the full Bee Tent as many members might well be at the WBKA Summer School. The Society could, however, be there with one tent section and an obs hive as well as information leaflets etc. MG said that, following his talk at Clase Primary School, they had invited the Society to attend their Garden Party on 4th July.

- MG suggested that the purchase of a gazebo for the Society Apiary

would make it easier to carry out inspections or manipulations that were time critical in the event of wet weather. SD suggested using a large patio shade/umbrella as an alternative but JS said that they had a gazebo which they would not be using and the Society would be welcome to have this. MG thanked JS for her generous offer and would arrange collection.

Bee Tent

MD reported that visitor numbers to the Bee Tent at the RWAS Spring Festival were lower than in previous years. Despite the good weather the Saturday was very quiet but the Sunday was busier. Several of this year's beginners attended as volunteers, enjoyed the experience and were surprised at how much they knew and were able to impart to visitors. Go wild at Bryn Park was very good, very well attended and a lovely site. Next year the event will be held in Cyfarthfa Park.

The next Bee Tent events will be Pontarddulais & Hendy Carnival (23rd June) and then the Gower Show

Education

NO reported that three members have put themselves forward for the Basic Assessment. There has been a lot of interest in attending Taster Days with people contacting the Society through both the website and Facebook. NO has unfortunately been unable to consider any Taster Days until now but, if they were to be held at Llys Nini (i.e. first part in the Admin Building and the second part in the Apiary) with someone else taking responsibility for the afternoon (practical) sessions then she could offer two on 7th and 28th July. The possibility of others in August would also be considered. JC said that he would email all the people that had contacted him (via the website) about Taster Days to give them information about dates, what is provided and what they need to bring and to ask them to contact Nicola to book their places.

Gower Show

GL advised that there was nothing really to report other than that honey sale prices still needed to be agreed. These were usually based on the RWAS honey prices with an adjustment for the difference in commission.

- **Events**

GA confirmed the following dates/events:

10 July – Kate Davidson

31 July – Room booked for GL for Gower Show entry registration etc

11 September – SD Winter Preparation

9 October – Education Opportunities

11 November – Honey Show

1 December – Society Xmas Dinner

GA said that she was planning talks for evenings in 2019 and asked for any ideas. JS suggested asking Tina Cunningham and PL suggested inviting John Bowles (WBKA Chair) to give talks. MG asked if this should be opened to members for suggestions and JC said that this had been done before with no response. It could, however, be done again.

- **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

JC had circulated a proposed Privacy Policy, based on the model offered by the BDI, for comment and/or approval. PL suggested that the member information being provided to Seasonal Bee Inspectors should be sent to a permanent member of APHA staff and JC advised that the policy does not state a person to whom the information is sent but that we may send relevant information to APHA. Subject to a couple of minor corrections, the removal of the clause on the use of information outside the EU (which was agreed to be unnecessary) and the rewording of the clause on storage and security (as JG confirmed that the Society does not use either eReturn2 or Purely Solutions), it was agreed to adopt this as the Society's Privacy Policy.

- **Correspondence**

WBKA – Garth Evans has sent out the 2018 COLOSS Survey form but has this year sent it to Secretaries rather than delegates. Sending it to delegates was found to be flawed and response figures poor. JC has responded to Garth highlighting a couple of other issues – a misprint on the form and the inclusion in the randomly selected beekeepers of a significant number who were not beekeepers, or had no bees in 2016/17 – that would reduce the potential number of responses. Garth has addressed these issues but has also said that the survey does not have to be restricted to just those randomly selected by WBKA but can be sent to any or all of our members. JC has written to Garth to ask if, in view of the above and that time has moved on, the closing date for return of completed surveys can be extended.

Uwatch – An email was received from Louis Bennet about a computer based swarm reporting and collection management system. It was agreed that the idea looks good in principle but does rely on having a list of people who are prepared to respond to swarms and collect them and appears to limit the number of these to six.

- **Any Other Business**

WBKA Council Meeting – JC advised that he had received nothing from members to be referred to the next Council meeting. JC also advised that he had not received confirmation from either PL or Robert Jones that they would or would not be attending the next meeting. PL confirmed that he would be attending.

- **Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on 17th July, 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)
covering the role in an Acting

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

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