

Swansea & District Beekeepers' Society
Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 15th May 2018
at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

Present

Julian Caruana (JC), Martin Davies (MD), Stephen Davies (SD), John Gale (JG), Mike Grinter (MG), Sue Lawrence (SL), Gill Lyons (GL), Paul Lyons (PL), David O'Carroll (DOC), Nicola Oulton (NO), Jean Salkilld (JS), Karen Squires (KS).

1) Apologies

Received from Ian Algie, Gertie Axtmann.

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising

4) Treasurer's Report

Our Account balances are: No:1 Account - £9,230.07
 No:2 Account - £Nil

JG reported that the No:1 Account balance included the cheques issued to George Clouston for £100 in respect of his presentation in March which to date has not been presented to his bank. GA has contacted him and he advised that he will be dealing with it this week.

The increase in funds is due to two new members joining the Society and the banking of cash received from SD in respect of hire of the vaporiser to members.

There was nothing else to report.

5) Sub-Committee Reports

Apiary

MG stated that as the weather had been good, several members visited the apiary to assist with inspections.

With regards to the Top Bar hive recently acquired, it has not been inspected or managed for over 2 years and as such is in a somewhat chaotic condition. The bees have been inspected and are healthy but the interior of the hive needs a lot of work to bring it up to the condition required for the apiary. With this in mind IA has made a new roof board which incorporates a cut-out to fit a National hive into it. The intention is to entice the queen into a new national brood box and then transfer the whole colony to a National Hive instead of the Top-Bar.

MG reported that he had moved one of the other apiary colonies to his garden as it was a weak colony and he can monitor it better there. It will be returned once strong enough.

The colony that was split recently was inspected and appears to be acceptable, however the original hive has more sealed queen cells, the queen was found and marked and another Nuc box created. All other colonies are coming along very slowly. MG would like to maintain the number of colonies at the apiary to a sensible level and will speak to SD about it.

The location of the new apiary is causing some concern, as it was very damp during the winter and the candy pollen that was added during the winter became mildewed and discoloured.

With regards to maintenance of the site, strimming will be restricted to around the hives due to the number of toads on site. This will mean that the area surrounding the hives will be long grass and quite damp. JC advised MG to speak to Llys Nini to see if they are aware of the toads and whether they are migrating to the river or permanently in the area.

The location for the shed that was offered by DOC needs to be looked at and also the cost of replacing the floor. MG to speak to IA about building a new wooden floor.

Due to the RWAS Spring Festival, the Apiary would not be open on Sunday 20th May but will be open on the Monday 21st May (weather permitting) instead. Members will be informed of the change in days and it will be open to all members. MD stated that he would be there to help out.

Bee Tent:

MD reported that he had 22 volunteers for the first show of the year at Built Wells and has been distributing the tickets to the volunteers. JC had offered to take the trailer to the event.

JG asked if the RWAS Committee wanted an invoice as in previous years and MD to confirm this.

MD has already had the tickets for the Go Wild show on 9th June. The Trailer will have to be on site by 8.30am and set up completed by 9.30am, with the event running from 10am until 3.30pm. There are currently 8 volunteers for this event, however, 2 are only doing the morning session.

JC was asked if he could run Bee Tent at the Pontarddulais Carnival as MD is unavailable. There are currently 4 volunteers for this event.

There are a couple of volunteers already for the Vale of Glamorgan and MD to contact JC to send out an email for volunteers for the Pontardawe show that has been tentatively added to the calendar for September 1st.

MD has received correspondence from the "Go Wild" event organisers but didn't send out the policy process and risk assessment document due to size and inclusion of other stall holders details which are of no relevance to the Society.

Education

NO stated that the Beginners Classes have now finished and the responses received were fantastic, with the only negative on the feedback forms being that there was no decaf coffee, and that beekeeping is addictive. The format of the classes was thoroughly enjoyed and attendees believed that it was excellent

value for money. The various teaching styles and the fact that there was so many beekeepers there to talk to were a major advantage.

The NDB short course on Bee Handling took place over the weekend of 12th and 13th May and three members attended. Whilst it reinforced existing knowledge it also provided several improvements and tips on handling bees. The NDB staff liked the apiary location and the way it coordinated with the classroom. NO is trying to get them to run another course in the autumn or early spring, potentially another handling course or a botany course.

Gower Show

GL has a meeting with the Gower Show Committee to discuss space. There will be a limited number of lunch vouchers available, priority being given to those who Steward all day.

GL said that as several members attended the skep making course it would be good to have a display of them plus photos – SL volunteered to arrange this and also a display of photos/information relating to the Asian Hornet.

GL confirmed that the tent would be the same size as last year and that a generator would be available. NO enquired about the layout for the centre of the tent and GL asked if she would arrange a display.

6) Events

As GA was absent, JS said that Bernard Diaper was coming to talk about what he looks for in each category of a Honey Show when judging.

JC confirmed that all events are on the website and SL commented that GA has already started working on the 2019 programme.

7) Asian Hornet

DOC referred to the presentation he gave on 15th May and that everyone seems to be happy with the approach that is to be taken. DOC said that they had 7 volunteers and has written to them with the guide and decision-making diagram. The final way in which an alert is received/processed is still under discussion.

There were no volunteers from West Glam BKA at present and, whilst we will be covering our members, should a call come from a West Glam BKA member, then our members have said that they would respond to it. DOC said we are providing a service to our members and have a general responsibility to the whole area.

It was commented that members might like to know where any sightings were reported and JC said that a message would be issued within 24 hours of any potential sighting being reported to the society.

DOC has provided West Glamorgan BKA with the same information issued to our members, but not the names of the volunteers, and said we should contact other bee keeping organisations to promote what we are doing in order that they may copy what we have done if they wanted to.

The NBU had 4,000 notifications last year of potential Asian Hornet sightings but they only reacted to the positive sightings and having the Action Team will provide positive sightings in a more timely manner.

DOC to arrange a meeting in June with the AHAT and other members are welcome to attend to share information.

8) Native Bee Project

DOC has been asked by Robert Jones if the Native Bee Project is still running. This project was started some years ago. The Committee has always and does support the project, but it will need someone to coordinate and run the project in conjunction with volunteers from the membership.

JC said that Robert Jones contacted him in December 2017, with a view to contacting all our members and to re-energise the project. DOC agreed to respond to Robert and ask him if he will run/coordinate the project and to provide a project brief to make the membership aware of its aims and expectations.

PL suggested that it might be useful to run another bee wing morphology session for members.

9) General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

JC has circulated a variety of items to Committee members including the BDI privacy policy which could be used/modified by the Society. John Bowles (Chair, WBKA) has put together documentation after consulting with the Association/Society Secretaries. JC has, in advance of the new legislation becoming effective (as have hundreds of other organisations) contacted members to ascertain if they are happy to continue to receive the broadcast emails and has, so far, received 100% response saying they wish to continue to receive these emails with one or two opting out of being contacted by post or by phone. At the time of this meeting, half of the members have responded and JC will be sending out reminders prior to 25th May.

Several other related documents were discussed. These deal with how we enforce the privacy policy, what we might be able to put together for membership renewal, and whether we can pass details on where ever necessary. JC has been contacted by WBKA suggesting that the member information we provide them should be sent either as an encrypted/password protected spreadsheet or using a dropbox facility (WBKA preferred option), where every BKA has its own folder. The new data protection rules apply from May 25th and it is hoped that all members will have responded by then. Anyone who hasn't responded would be removed from the email list – members can change their preference at any time. SL would need to be involved as Membership Secretary in December.

DOC asked about Asian Hornet alerts and if we have to ask the caller about using the information, despite the fact that they are contacting us. It is still unclear what type of information will be collected and it is likely that no personal information will be required, and that the GDPR will not apply.

GL asked if we need a license to store data, JC has already checked and as the Society is a small organisation we do not need one.

JC said that we do need a Privacy Policy and the Society could adapt the one that John Bowles has sent. JC to use documents received to draft a Privacy Policy for the Society and circulate to Committee members for comment/approval.

MG hoped that anyone attending the apiary would inform him of any medical issues that could affect them during their time there and it is included as part of the Health & Safety briefing prior to any visits to the Apiary.

MD has amended the Bee Experience consent form to remove the full address and now just requests the postcode. Other amendments have been incorporated to bring in line with the new GDPR requirements and completed copies will be retained for 3 years and then destroyed as claims against the Society's insurance can be made up to 3 years after an alleged casual event.

GL stated that all information that she holds is governed by the Gower Agricultural Show's Data Protection Policy.

10) Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

11) Any Other Business

Equipment for Members Use - It was proposed and agreed at the AGM that members can recommend equipment that could be purchased by the Society for the benefit of the membership. MG has been offered a Thornes' manual, 4 frame table top, tangential honey extractor, used only once, for £150 instead of the RRP of £264. The current one owned by the Society holds 9 frames and is quite large and heavy and can be difficult to transport for many of the members. It was discussed by the Committee and agreed to buy the extractor as it would be beneficial for many of the members who only extract a small number of frames or who find it difficult to transport the current one.

NO suggested that the website needs to have details of what equipment the Society has available for hire/loan and JC suggested that this could be included during the current website re-vamp. This was agreed and a list of all equipment available for hire/loan and where it is will be put onto the new website.

12) Date of next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on 19th June, 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 *

* 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 Salkildd
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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