

SWANSEA & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 16th October 2018
at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

MINUTES

Present

Gerti Axtmann (GA), Ian Algie (IA), Julian Caruana (JC), Martin Davies (MD), Stephen Davies (SD), John Gale (JG), Mike Grinter (MG), Sue Lawrence (SL), Gill Lyons (GL), Paul Lyons (PL), Nicola Oulton (NO)

1) Minute Secretary

GL was confirmed as Minute Secretary and Karen Squires, the previous Minute Secretary, was thanked in her absence for all her hard work.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from David O'Carroll and Jean Salkilld.

3) Minutes of last meeting (held on 18th September 2018)

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

4) Matters arising from the last meeting

JC asked NO if she had any further thoughts on the fees for the 2019 Beekeeping Classes as this was raised in a previous meeting and several enquiries have already been received – see below.

5) Treasurer's Report

Our Account balances are: No: 1 Account £ 11,112.63

No: 2 Account - £ nil

JG confirmed that in accordance with the decision taken at our September meeting he has written to Lloyds Bank about the money re-funded to us by Arnia Ltd. JG received a late telephone call from Claire Lakin, a Business Manager at Lloyds, Birmingham, who has asked him to send a cheque for the re-imburement.

JG has requested a receipt for this payment.

6) Sub-Committee Reports

Apiary

17 colonies have been treated and 3 are currently being fed. MG advised that they will be checking the equipment over the winter and highlighting anything that needs doing.

Bee Tent

MD advised that the bee tent, trailer and all the equipment would be checked and anything that needs doing highlighted. The sides of the tent have been washed down and all the wellingtons are in the process of being thoroughly cleaned and another box is being purchased to store them in. JC commented that the roofs were starting to delaminate and would have to be checked regularly with a view to replacing. MD asked IA about getting 4 blocks of wood to stand the trailer on, 2 to be used and 2 as spares.

The Vale Show was the busiest of the 6 events the Bee Tent attended this year. MD has given the bee tent figures to David Salkilld for the newsletter. MD advised he is also looking at rearranging the booking forms, so it is easier to regulate the numbers of people per session.

Education.

It was agreed to put fees up for the 2019 Beekeeping Classes to £90 (single person and £160 (joint). Society membership will again be included in the class fee but this will be reviewed to see if membership is included for those taking classes in 2020. The Beginners' Classes will start the week commencing Feb 18th 2019, day and time to be confirmed, at Pontarddulais Comprehensive.

Certificates for the Basic Assessment will be presented to the three candidates, who all passed, at the Society Honey Show. NO advised that a summary of her talk on what education is available to beekeepers has been passed on to David Salkilld for the Newsletter and that it would be great to see more people studying the modules even if they do not want to sit the exams. SD advised that they hope to run some microscopy classes, probably on a Saturday, with a small fee to cover expenses. (Details to be confirmed.)

Gower Show

GL confirmed that there was no Gower Show report

7) Events

The next event is The Society Honey Show on the 13th November run by Ade Bowen and Claire Miller. There will be classes for light, medium and dark honey/other. People can enter one jar of any size, weight or shape. There is also a class for 2 one ounce wax blocks and for 2 candles. GA confirmed that she has booked a buffet for 8.30pm, it is for 30 people and will be £2 for members and £5 for non-members. Booking forms for the Christmas Dinner will also be available. The Christmas Dinner is on Saturday December 1st, 30 places are available on a first come basis and the meal will cost £26, including tip. MD will organise the raffle.

On the 9th April Peter Tompkinson will talk on 'The Evolution of a Beekeeper'. GA confirmed that his expenses would be £100 to cover his travel expenses and 1 bed and breakfast for 1 night. In May, there will be a talk on 'The History of the Penclawdd Cockle Basket'. As there have been problems with other people using the room when we have already booked it, GA will ensure the room is booked for the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

8) Asian Hornet Update

SL confirmed that the National Bee Unit is investigating a confirmed sighting of the Asian Hornet in Dungeness, where they have been seen foraging on Ivy. It is important to continue to monitor for any hornet activity, especially on flowering forage.

To date there have been 13 confirmed sightings of the Asian Hornet in England and six nests destroyed. Nine of the sightings were in 2018 - Lancashire, Hull, three in Cornwall, two in Hampshire, one in Surrey and the latest in Kent. Any possible sightings should be reported as early as possible so that the experts can take quick and effective action to eradicate the Asian Hornets.

9) Correspondence

JC had received correspondence about a special offer for bee suits from BB Wear and to ensure the Society got suits at the special rate the suits for the bee tent were agreed by email and have been ordered by JC.

An email about the WBKA meeting 3rd November 2018 was received by JC and PL. PL will attend the meeting as a delegate. JG will confirm that the travel expenses for the society delegates is 45p per mile with Rob Jones the other delegate and will ask for feedback on the meeting.

10) Any Other Business

PL confirmed that the MSWCC meeting has been changed to the same day as the WBKA meeting. David Salkilld will attend the MSWCC meeting, for the society as a delegate. There will be no convention in 2019 but Worcester hope to hold one in 2020. £20 will be due in December for us to remain members. We agreed to remain members of the MSWCC and JG will arrange for the payment to be made.

David Salkilld has a WBC hive which is free to anyone who wants it. MG will take it for the Society apiary.

After a discussion the Committee decided not to offer beginners' training at a reduced price for young people. GA will sponsor 4 places on the Beginners' Class for 16 to 25 year olds, so they will only pay £45 each. This will be done on a first come basis. JC will include a suitable paragraph on the Education webpage.

11) Date of next meeting – 20th November, 2018

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