## Swansea & District Beekeepers' Society

# Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 18<sup>h</sup> September 2018 at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

#### Present

Gertie Axtmann (GA), Ian Algie (IA), Julian Caruana (JC), John Gale (JG), Mike Grinter (MG), Gill Lyons (GL), Paul Lyons (PL), David O'Carroll (DOC)

**1) Minute Secretary** –\_Karen has advised the Committee that she will have to stand down as she is no longer able to come on Tuesdays. DOC issued a request for someone else to take on the role of Minute Secretary and GL has kindly volunteered to take this on.

# 2) Apologies

Received from Martin Davies, Stephen Davies, Sue Lawrence, Nicola Oulton, Jean Salkilld.

## 4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

## 5) Matters arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

Fees for 2019 – JC apologised as the request to consider future fees should have referred to the 2020 fees which will need to be considered now for any change to be notified to the 2019 AGM.

## 6) Treasurer's Report

Our Account balances are: No: 1 Account £ 11,463.17

No: 2 Account - £ nil

Since our last meeting there has been much activity by the Bee Tent team who have attended three shows resulting in the following receipts:

Gower Show	£ 124.92
Vale of Glamorgan Show	
Donations	£ 161.57
From their Committee	£ 100.00
From our Members Sales	£ 54.80
Pontardawe Show	£ 118.80

We also had the Gower Show, highly successful, with very good member support and with the following receipts:

Gross Sales	£1,778.80	
"Guess the Weight" by Ian Roberts	£	105.00
Candle Rolling	£	116.10

As agreed, at the last meeting, JG wrote to our Bank to STOP the cheque for the 'Honey Bee Observatory' and to Arnia informing of the same. The Bank were tardy in putting the STOP into effect which allowed Arnia to present the cheque. JG contacted the Bank and eventually, because JG lodged a complaint, the Bank agreed that their staff had not acted correctly and refunded the £1,020.00 plus £50.00 as recompense for our "distress and inconvenience".

The latest development is that Arnia, having contacted our Secretary and again been told that we had cancelled the order, decided to repay us the £1,020.00 – the proceeds of the cheque they had banked before Lloyds actioned the "STOP". JG proposes contacting Lloyds Bank to return the sum they credited to our account but retaining the £50.00 compensation payment. The sum repaid by Arnia is included in the account balance at the top of this report.

# 7) Sub-Committee Reports

## **Apiary**

MG reported that 5 or 6 supers of honey have been taken off and that some have been fed back to the bees as there was a high water content.

There are currently 15 colonies with 2 still to be treated with Apiguard, but all 15 are strong enough for the winter without further changes.

MG has identified 2 colonies that do not seem to like being under the trees and will manipulate the colonies to confirm this.

The proposed familiarisation session for Llys Nini staff will now be done next year.

#### **Bee Tent**

No Bee Tent report, other than the financial element in the Treasurer's Report (above) as MD away.

### Education

Report received from Nicola saying that all three members who took their Basic Assessment passed. Certificates will be presented to them in November Social Evening (Honey Show). MG also added that a second Taster Day had been arranged but it was not possible to open the hives as it was raining.

### **Gower Show**

GL advised that to date she had received no feedback from members.

## 8) Events

GA confirmed the following dates/events:

- 9 October Education Opportunities Nicola Oulton
- 13 November Honey Show
- 1 December Society Xmas Dinner
- 8 January 2019 Preparing for Spring Ade Bowen
- 12 February AGM
- 12 March "Bumbles of Honeywood" Sue Poole
- 9 April Title TBA Peter Tompkinson

The Honey Show will include a buffet and GA will discuss with Ade Bowen and Claire Miller whether they would organise the event again this year. GA did also suggest that one or two other members might like to 'shadow' Ade and Claire so that they could do the work another year.

GA also suggested that whilst Peter Tompkinson is a friend of David & Jean Salkilld they should not feel obligated to provide accommodation for him if it is the Society that is inviting him to speak. In this respect David & Jean are

aways very generous but it was agreed that alternative arrangements should be considered and GA would therefore discuss expenses with Peter.

GA reoported that all the places on Skep-making Workshop had been filled and would arrange for all participants to sned their payments to the Treasurer.

## 9) Asian Hornet Update

DOC reported that there is now a team of 8 members who are ready to respond to any possible sightings of Asian Hornets. An online system of reporting details of sightings has been set up and any reports will trigger an email to DOC who will then arrange for one of the team to visit. Details of recommended action have been included in the latest Society Newsletter and a page for the website is being developed.

Advice from the WBKA has been circulated to members at the same time as issuing our AHAT's Alert Notice following the discovery of Asian Hornets in Fowey, Cornwall.

DOC commented on the fact that there is not much information available on how to protect your bees from Asian Hornet attacks and will try to get something published as soon as possible. DOC also said that the AHAT were trying to keep all the information issued as simple as possible without compromising on content but acknowledged that there was already a lot of information 'out there' that members (and others) can access.

JC asked if details of our AHAT had been added to the National AHAT website and DOC confirmed that he had contacted them but had had no response – the website advises that any email received would be responded to personally within 24 hours, but this had not happened. JC said that he would contact them.

## **10)** Correspondence

None received

### 11) Any other Business

Secretary's Role – DOC advised that he had, to date, had no reponses to his email and is now considering approaching members personally.

Thanks - MG just wanted to add his and Jo's thanks to all the people who had sent them good wishes and kind thoughts following the death of his father.

## 12) Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 (in the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon).

## Officers (as at the AGM 2018):-

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary

David O'Carroll (<u>sdbks.chair@gmail.com</u>)
Paul Lyons (<u>sd\_bks@btinternet.com</u>)
John Gale (<u>johnhgale@hotmail.com</u>)

Vacant \*

\* Julian Caruana (<a href="mailto:sdbks.secretary@gmail.com">sdbks.secretary@gmail.com</a>) 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 (<u>michaelgrinter@sky.com</u>)

Bee Tent Lead Martin Davies (<u>minarimartin@outlook.com</u>)

**Education Officer** Nicola Oulton (<u>nikoulton@yahoo.co.uk</u>)

**Events Secretary** Gerti Axtmann (gerti.axtmann@gmail.com) &

Karen Squires (<a href="mailto:kes.llanelli@virgin.net">kes.llanelli@virgin.net</a>)

**Gower Show Secretary** Gill Lyons (<a href="mailto:gillml@btinternet.com">gillml@btinternet.com</a>)

**Librarian** Paul Lyons (<u>sd\_bks@btinternet.com</u>)

Membership Secretary John Gale (johnhgale@hotmail.com) &

Sue Lawrence (<a href="mailto:kslawrence@virginmedia.com">kslawrence@virginmedia.com</a>)

**Newsletter Editor** David Salkilld (<u>d.salkilld1936@btinternet.com</u>)

**Webmaster** Selina Taylor **Web Administrator** Jonathan Bowen