

SWANSEA & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 16th April, 2019
at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

DRAFT MINUTES

Present

Ian Algie (IA), Gerti Axtmann (GA), Martin Davies (MD), Stephen Davies (SD), John Gale (JG), Gill Lyons (GL), Paul Lyons (PL), David O'Carroll (DOC), Nicola Oulton (NO) Jean Salkilld (JS)

1) Apologies for Absence

Mike Grinter (MG), Sue Lawrence (SL),

2) Minutes of last meeting (held on 19th March, 2019)

The minutes were accepted as a true record, with one provision (see matters arising).

3) Matters arising from the last meeting

JG advised he was unwilling to issue a cheque for £200.00 to the New Lodge to secure the use of the room, as requested by GA, as he had not been told of the results of any discussions GA may have held with the club and had advised the Acting Secretary. The cheque has now been paid but JG stressed that in future any potential expenditure must be noted in the minutes".

4) Treasurer's Report

Our Account balances are: No 1 Account £12,983.49

No 2 Account £ nil

In my last report I advised that our cheque to WBKA for Capitation had not been banked. I am happy to say that it cleared on 25th March.

5) Sub-Committee Reports

Apiary

Everything at the Apiary is progressing well with most colonies building rapidly. The Apiary team will be attending this weekend, the intention being to open the Apiary to beginners the following week.

An outline of the scheme to allow beginners to "adopt" a hive at the society Apiary has been emailed to all Committee members. It is proposed that this

year's beginners provide their own equipment to house the colony and after a mentoring period (and a payment of £100 to cover frames etc) remove their bees to their site. This will give confidence and support to our new members as well as giving the bees a chance to "assess" their new carers.

Bee Tent

1. Ian Roberts has requested if he can borrow the bee tent to carry out a teaching session for a local school in Neath. This was discussed and agreed by the committee provided that the usual conditions apply, i.e. donation to the society for the loan, a member of the society must be present and the borrower is liable for any damage etc. during their event.
2. We received a request from the Forest of Dean Beekeepers regarding the design of our bee tent. They wish to upgrade their existing tent and saw ours at a recent RWAS festival. After discussing with the committee, it was agreed to share details concerning the design and manufacture in order to assist in promoting beekeeping and bee education with a fellow society.

Education

NO reported that there are only 2 sessions of the beginner's class left. These are 'Honey and the Products' tomorrow and the quiz next week. Ian Roberts has offered to do a demonstration on putting hives together. A Saturday session is being considered if there is sufficient demand.

NO commented that if anyone wanted to mentor a beginner and have them in their apiary it would help out as we have a big class this year.

The closing date for sitting the Basic Assessment this year is 1st May, to date there have been no applicants from our society.

SD reported that the microscopy session was very successful with about 10 people attending. SD will send a photograph to David Salkilld for the newsletter and asked for someone who attended the course to send in a written report for the newsletter. JS commented she had heard it might be possible to get money from BDI to help with the microscopy sessions, SD will look into this.

Gower Show

GL commented that preparation for the Gower Show is going well. The Honey Schedule is now on the Gower Show web page and can be downloaded from there. There are 2 new classes this year a novice candle class and a honey biscuit class (following a provided recipe).

6) Events

GA handed out some New Lodge membership cards on behalf of SL and also passed on a Society membership application form and fee to JG.

It was agreed for GA to arrange the Society Christmas meal at the "Rake and Riddle" on Saturday 7th December.

The National Botanic Gardens are holding a bee disease workshop on 22 and 23rd June, MD will check if attendees have to pay the gardens' entry fee.

GA advised that the next talk is on 14th of May and is 'The History of the Cockle Basket' given by Claire Revera.

7) Correspondence

None received.

8) Swarm collection protocol

After much discussion it was decided to leave the point of contact for the swarm collection with the Acting Secretary for the time being.

9) Any Other Business

None

10) Date of next meeting – Tuesday ,21st May, 2019