

SWANSEA & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 21st May, 2019
at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

MINUTES

Present

Gerti Axtmann (GA), Martin Davies (MD), Stephen Davies (SD), John Gale (JG), Mike Grinter (MG), Sue Lawrence (SL), Gill Lyons (GL), Paul Lyons (PL), David O'Carroll, Nicola Oulton (NO), Jean Salkilld (JS)

- 1) Apologies for Absence
Ian Algie (IA)?

- 2) Minutes of last meeting (held on Tuesday April 16th, 2019)

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

- 3) Matters arising from the last meeting

JS commented that there is need for a written document when lending the Bee Tent to Society members, confirming that they are liable for any damage to the tent when it is in their care. MD will arrange for this to be done.

- 4) Treasurer's Report

Our Account balances are: No 1 Account £11,624.41

No 2 Account £ nil

Lloyds have confirmed that the requested signatories for the Bank Mandate have been accepted and are: Paul Lyons, Nicola Oulton, Sue Lawrence and John Gale.

- 5) Sub-Committee Reports

Apiary

With 20 colonies at the site now there is a desire to reduce numbers and sell colonies to the beginners. MG is going to discuss with those who have already shown an interest.

Bee Tent

The RWAS Smallholder Festival was a success again this year. Numbers were slightly higher than last year and donations were far better. Only issue was that one of the bee tent zips broke and needs to be fixed. MD has arranged for this to be done locally and hopes to get the tent repaired and returned soon. Next planned event was to be the Neath Steam and Vintage Rally on June 8th/9th but this has had to be scaled down due to the repairs on the tent. It is hoped that someone will take an observation hive to the event instead. Members will be asked if they can support it in that way shortly.

Education

NO advised that the classes have now finished. There was a very low drop-out rate on the course and those that finished received a certificate and some chocolates. The feedback forms contained constructive comments which will be looked into for future courses. The beginners were encouraged to visit the apiary and also to consider taking part in the up-coming Gower Show.

Gower Show

GL requested to be able to purchase £30 of Joe's vouchers for the children's prizes, which was agreed. Preparation for the Gower Show is going well.

Events

The Cockle Basket Talk was very successful. The next talk is on the 11th June and is "Show Preparation" by Emyr Jenkins.

GA has booked the Society Christmas meal at the "Rake and Riddle " on Saturday 7th December.

6) Correspondence

None received.

7) Spending Rules & Guidelines

JG confirmed that each section can spend up to £50 but permission is needed for larger amounts to be spent. In an emergency the Education, Apiary and Bee Tent sections can seek retrospective authority.

8) Any Other Business

MG stated that there are a lot of requests to remove bee swarms that turn out to be bumbles through the swarm page on the web site. It was discussed and NO has agreed to look at the page to see if we can improve the existing instructions/guidance concerning bumble bees and reduce the number of requests that have to be reviewed/dealt with.

GA advised that despite paying for the room for the second Tuesday of the month, until April 2020 and passing on the dates someone else was still given the room last week. MG advised to check the New Lodge's constitution and then a fitting letter can be sent to them.

MD has now taken over as Acting Secretary and thanked MG on behalf of the Society for his hard work as Acting Secretary.

JG commented that the cost of the beginner's course for next year will have to be reviewed.

The membership forms will be looked at to simplify them.

9) Date of next meeting – Tuesday , 18th June, 2019