

Medway Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 20 February 2018 at McGuires, Pumphouse No.5 Chatham ME4 4LP at 2pm

Present: J Chapman, Mrs S Stunell, Mrs J Ferry, Mrs E Laight, M Ballard, J Hendrie

Apologies for absence: Paul Lawrence, A Edwards

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2018:** were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting
2. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2018:** Raising raffle tickets price to £1.00 per ticket was agreed but limiting prizes to five only could be problematic. It was agreed that we would confine bought prizes to the AGM and the Annual Dinner. If we had too many prizes at any one meeting they could be carried over for the next meeting.
3. **AGM Matters Arising:** Payments agreed at the AGM were considered to be expenses as they are given in order to cover on going costs which are incurred during the management of the office. Other expenses would be claimed retrospectively upon presentation of a receipt. The payment for 2018 would be £150 awarded to the Treasurer, Secretary and Website Manager. John Belfield had raised an issue concerning the apiary management and a letter had been drafted in reply. Concern had been expressed at the AGM that, particularly following the Ian Homer affair, the BBKA was not doing so well in representing the views of the membership. Sheila Stunell would write to BBKA to express the concerns of the membership. Bob Smith was welcomed on to the committee following his appointment as Education and Examinations Officer.
Finance and Membership: John Hendrie had had prepared a list of people who had not yet paid their annual subscription and members were asked to make contact to remind them that March was the deadline. A full financial report was presented.
4. **Correspondence:** There was no correspondence to report
5. **ADM:** The report for the ADM had been presented to the AGM. The changes to charitable status for BBKA had been agreed, Ian Homer had not been suspended as a trustee and the votes cast on the proposals from the executive committee were not carried with sufficient majority.
6. **Website:** Sonia Belsey had been invited to manage the publicity through social media and had agreed to do this. She will liaise with Paul Lawrence to push membership and courses as necessary. Leaflets were being designed. Jen Ferry asked for a budget for leaflets etc. and £45 was agreed. Paul would be asked to update the website to accommodate the new education ventures.
7. **Education:** The education sub committee had met once or twice since the last meeting and had agreed that we could go ahead

with a six- week Introduction to Beekeeping Course which would start on 1 May 2018. The meetings would take place on Tuesdays from 7:30 – 9:30pm. An application form would be sent out by Sheila Stunell to those who had expressed an interest. Leaflets would be distributed at the English Festival. Payment would be made either by cheque to John Hendrie or by direct transfer to the MBKA bank account. Details would be on the application form. Bob Smith would be responsible for the organisation of the teaching programme

8. **Apiary site:** Elaine Laight had prepared the rota for the next few months. These would be weekly from 17th March and the rota would also include the open apiary days which would be fixed on the 1st Saturday of the month to enable some continuity for those wishing to attend. John Hendrie agreed to join the rota and agreed to do open apiary days as he had such a distance to travel.

The spring clean up day was arranged for 3 March. The fence panels should be propped up in some way if possible and we may need to get the fence posts out. It is hoped to be able to burn up the vegetation.

Mark Ballard volunteered to undertake the task of Apiary Manager and his offer was gratefully accepted.

9. **Future events:**

Winter/Spring programme: Bob Smith suggested that members might wish to attend the Bee Health Day on 28 April at East Malling from 10am to 4pm at a cost of £10 and bookable through KSRC.

- March 17 - Sale of second hand equipment
- April 28 - Bee Health Day

Summer Programme: So far John and Roma Potter had agreed to host a meeting at their apiary and John Chapman would confirm the date.

Jen Ferry had confirmed the plan to visit to Chapel Down Winery and had been pleased with the response. This is confirmed for 22 July

Annual Dinner 2018: Sheila Stunell and Jen Ferry had visited the Barnyard restaurant in Upchurch. They could offer a 3 course meal for £35. Members felt that this was still too expensive and we all agreed that members would investigate other venues.

10. **Any other business:** Jen Ferry suggested the possibility of corporate T shirts and Sweatshirts with an MBKA logo which would be designed by competition with the winner receiving a free T Shirt. Jen agreed to ask Paul to look into a logo competition.

Jen Ferry suggested that we might arrange a visit to Gotham's Packhouse. Tony might be able to point us in the right direction. Jen Ferry asked if it would be possible to revive the signed top bar competition. This was felt to be a good idea and top bars

would be procured. We would need 100 top bars and would ask if Thornes had seconds for this. Paul would be asked to put an item in the newsletter.

Swarm Liaison

Sheila Stunell would phone Leigh Sidaway to try again to get our members on to the BBKA swarm collection list. Our own system with the phone would be set up with a team of collectors and hopefully a list of those prepared to house swarms.

11. **Confidentiality:** There was no confidential items
12. **Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21 March at 2pm to 4pm** at 28 Wallace Road Chatham

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Confidential Minute

Bob Smith had contacted the committee expressing concern that MBKA had not entered candidates this year for the Basic Examination. It was agreed that this was not a common occurrence but he was concerned that while other Associations such as Thanet and Dover were increasing their membership ours had remained static and we did not seem to be getting members feeding through from the 10 weeks beginners course run by Terry Clare.

Concerns had been raised in the past that although names were collected at various events and passed to Terry they were not then referred back to the Association and Terry had been disinclined, when approached on several occasions, give us names so that we could arrange mentors.

The beginners course has been left to Terry for several years but following discussion it was agreed that we should set up another, perhaps shorter, course for those who were keen to start in the spring or early summer. Bob Smith would be approached to run this course.

A sub committee consisting of John Chapman, Jen Ferry, Tony Edwards, Mark Ballard and Sheila Stunell was set up to manage this.

A letter would be sent to Terry to inform him of this. Sheila Stunell agreed to put some words together for discussion at a sub committee meeting.