

## Medway Beekeepers' Association

### Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 21 March 2018 at 28 Wallace Road Chatham at 2pm

**Present:** J Chapman, Mrs S Stunell, Mrs J Ferry, M Ballard, J Hendrie  
Tony Edwards

**Apologies for absence:** Paul Lawrence, Mrs E Laight

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2018:** John Hendrie queried the mention of honoraria in the minutes. It was agreed that these were in fact, payments towards routine expenses. The Treasurer, Secretary and Website manager would all receive £150 towards such expenses and additional expenses incurred would be paid in the normal way. With this amendment the minutes were agreed and signed.
2. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2018:** Annual Dinner – it was agreed that having once again failed to find a suitable venue with catering at a cost that would be acceptable, it was agreed that we would look into a less formal affair that would be a social and buffet/bring a bottle with a presentation of certificates and cups. 13 October was suggested as the date.
3. **Finance and Membership:** John Hendrie had prepared an income sheet for the meeting.  
**Membership:** The last day for advising total association membership to BBKA is 20 March 2018. John agreed to provide a list of non-payers  
**Bank Account Signatories:** As Santander are now providing cheques John planned that we should use them in preference to Barclays Bank. The signatories for this account would be John Hendrie, John Chapman, Mark Ballard and Sheila Stunell. The forms would need to be signed at the Maidstone Branch and John Hendrie would make arrangements for the signatories to attend.
4. **Correspondence:** Following the changes to the Data Protection legislation we will be required to ask our members if they are happy to receive messages from us via email. They will have to opt into this and we will have to make changes to the membership form to reflect this. We are not allowed to send open data nor to store personal information without good reason.
5. **Website:**
  - Training page has been updated drawing together three training areas, with individual information sheets prepared by Bob Jen and Sheila
  - Factsheet 5 has been deleted and Factsheet 2 (varroa control) has been re-written
  - Thanks to Sonia MBKA Facebook and Instagram are linked to website

- Apiary site calendar and dates have been added to the training page
- Opening dates and times of the apiary opening are listed in latest news
- Details of practice to be followed by swarm collectors is listed under swarm control. We now have an iphone for the swarm collectors. The number 07399 823948
- New email for Bob Smith [education@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:education@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk). John Hendrie does not use his email address so it is currently dormant.
- Events calendar is up to date with a few details to be confirmed
- The publicity leaflets had been done and as there was no date these could be re-run as needed. It was suggested that an A4 version might be useful for libraries. The question was asked whether we wanted a leaflet advertising MBKA.

#### 6. Education:

- Beginners Course – 6 people so far. The hall is booked, we have a team of providers. We have had an inquiry from Wincanton at Kingsnorth who are interested in keeping bees to check their greed/environmental credentials. 6 – 8 people have expressed an interest - and it would probably be an in-house course charging £75 +£100 tutor expenses. In order to accommodate work shifts this might be done over two days.
- Basic Assessment – Dates are arranged for the prep and there are 6 so far. Adverts are out on the website and Bob will do a paragraph for the newsletter.
- We have been approached by the Pentagon Centre in Chatham. They have five members of staff interested in the introduction course with a view to keeping bees on the Pentagon roof. John Chapman will make initial contact.
- BBKA has been notified that Bob has taken on Education/Exams officer
- Winter studies: this year it has been suggested that we do module 2. Ten sessions fortnightly from October to March excluding Christmas. We need to book the hall.

7. **Apiary site:** Mark reported that he had three quotes coming for the fence. Currently there is a temporary repair on the fence. The mower was in for service and WBC lifts had been painted and two can be used. Boxes had been cleaned and sterilised. Super frames had been waxed and Jen had brood wax. The pond lining is deteriorating due to the sun and it is not cost effective to repair so Mark would do a fix. Following the cancelled clear up a new date of 7 April had been arranged. Clear up in the morning and open apiary in the afternoon.

**Possible new site:** Andy Mackness has agreed to a meeting on 19 April. Mark, Bob and John will attend.

8. **Swarm Phone:** The swarm phone has been set up and there is a list of people who are prepared to hold it during the season. There is also a list of collectors and receivers of swarms. We need to discuss quarantine of swarm bees – next agenda

9. **Future events:**

10.

**Spring programme:**

- 20 April 2018 – English Festival
- 24 May Thursday – outdoor meeting at Bob's apiary Chattenden
- 16 June – John Potter's apiary
- 7 July – Open Apiary
- 14 July – Summer meeting
- 22 July Chapel Down Vineyard
- 4 August - Open apiary
- 8/9<sup>th</sup> September Honey show
- 22 September Ploughing Match at Tudor Farm
- 13 October – Trophies and Buffet evening
- 20 October – Autumn Fair at Wainscott

11. **T Shirts:** The logo competition is underway. There is a minimum order for T shirts/sweatshirts of £100 for the first run. The colour decided upon was blue,

12. **Any other business:** John Hendrie asked that we confirm the fee for the auditor of £25. This was agreed.

John also reported that there would be a price increase for Beecraft Magazine. There were various discounts to be had but he felt the best solution was for people so set up individual subscriptions.

Jen Ferry expressed her dismay at the cancellation of the meeting for March. It had been very short notice and many people had turned up for it at some inconvenience. It was felt that a policy for cancellation should be drafted.

13. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24 April at 2pm to 4pm** at 28 Wallace Road Chatham

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_