

HDBA Committee Meeting Minutes 4th October 2017

Present

David Norton, Tim Syddall, Nikki Monaghan, Andrew Shaw, Nick Davis, Neil Sandison

Apologies

Sandra Crawford, Gordon Smith, Sandy Abel, Colin Campbell

1. Financial position

There is a balance of £1,526.30 in the bank and £16.95 in cash, total £1,543.25 Proceeds from the sale of honey and apiary expenses are still to come. In the near future the Winterfest stall charge of £60 and Insurance of around £62.50 are to be paid.

We have 49 members at the moment.

2. Apiary Update

We discussed how to encourage members to properly support and use the apiary. When looking to 2018 the purpose of the apiary should include training, somewhere for members to mate queens, and possibly the production of Nucs.

The records we have about the use of the Club Apiary need to be more complete so that its' value to the members can be assessed, as it would be a shame to lose it.

Nick agreed to do an updated statement about the use of the apiary and send it to the committee for comment, then speak about it at the next Association Meeting.

The Committee agreed with Tim's plan to have a Polyhive at the Club Apiary next year. He intends to let members see and work with it alongside the wooden Association Nationals that we use there. Those learning can also see the WBC's there.

3. Colony Survey

Andrew put out a simple form, about half the members have replied. Andrew is going to tweak the form slightly for next year. He will put an item together with the results for the next newsletter.

4. Beekeeper Development

Given the positive response at last week's meeting the committee is happy to support running the Basic Beekeeping course from 20th February to 20th March next year. Sandra Juster to be contacted about booking the hall.

There needs to be 5 sessions to cover the syllabus. These are aimed to be run by Association members using their experience and Ian Craig's notes. Next meeting we will ask for volunteers to take on a session with the aim of building material that lets us do this training each year. Tim is happy to organise the course but not run it as he wants to take the course.

The charge for the course will be £15. Those wishing to take the course must be members of the Association, and given the insurance issues when practical work starts also members of the SBA. (New membership for 2018 to the SBA is £20 for an individual, and £6 for additional adult at the same address, 16 and over). We will see if we can take the money for all three elements at the same time.

Nikki agreed to look at pricing and getting the recommended books for the Library, and will liaise with David about ordering.

5. Members Meetings

Colin has contacted Fiona Hight about the October meeting. If she can't make it then we'll look at trying to get Steve Sunderland, our Bee Inspector.

The November meeting is to include a social in the Church Hall, and we hope Mike will lead a talk about planning varroa treatment.

Colin to deal with the content for the meeting for next year, particularly where external speakers are involved. March will be themed "the Beekeepers Year".

6. Our Committee Work

It was agreed that there should be a time set for the minutes to be reviewed and then circulated to the committee for approval. We then want to be able to post them on the Association website where they will be available to members.

7. Winterfest, Sat / Sun 2nd & 3rd December

Colin has booked the stall. Nikki will be Stall Manager and will organise volunteers to help over the weekend. David to check if he has leaflets about the Association, if not see what Michelle Berry has regarding Beekeeping. Nikki will organise the float with David, Tim and Eddie will provide the tables.

8. SBA Local Association Awards

It was agreed that we would not make a nomination this year.

9. Invasive Species

Tim had picked up some useful leaflets about Invasive Species (Asian Hornet and Small Hive Beetle) and has laminated them, one for the Secretary and the other for Sandy for the Club Apiary. He will see if he can get more leaflets for the rest of the Association Members to be given out at a future date.

10. Austrian Beekeepers Visit

We have been asked to host a one hour meeting with a group of Austrian Beekeepers on 11th October. We understand there are 31 beekeepers, some with partners, and a translator. A room has been booked at the Ardencaple Hotel and Nick, Colin, Nikki, Sandy (with Helen) and Tim will meet with the visitors.

11. AOCB

Ben Bellamy has asked about the plan discussed earlier this year getting member information together in relevant groups for items such as varroa treatment. Nick and David will get together and to make up group lists where members have given their permission for their data to be shared.

Ben Bellamy has offered to gift his Leitz microscope and slides to the Association providing that it is managed by a member who will take the Microscopy Course. Nick will speak to Ben about bringing the equipment to the next meeting and if we are not able to book a speaker then

members could have the opportunity to look at some of the slides, better understanding the value of these techniques in practical beekeeping.

Colin sent an email to the committee to say he will be attending the SBA Members and Delegates Meeting in Perth on the 4th November, and Neil will also be attending. Andrew may be able to include something about this in the next Newsletter.

David is looking at applying for Internet Banking. Neil asked how secure this would be, David said only three people max would have access to PINs and passwords, and hopes it would make transactions easier.

Circulation of the minutes of last meeting was incomplete, so the Committee was not able to confirm approval.

Next Committee meeting Wednesday 6th December.