



Chair: *Group Secretary: Marcus Pilling* Treasurer: Geoff Hodgson
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MINUTES

Officers Meeting
Comrades Club , Probus
Thursday 6TH October 2016

Present

Penny Hodgson(PH),Geoff Hodgson(GH),Matthew Buchan(MB),
Caven Hammock(CH),Bajka Pratt(BP),Mike White(MW),Julian Durell(JD)
,Jennie Leach(JL),Gregory Leach(GL),Marcus Pilling(MP)

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and apologies were received from Tim Howes & Colin Rees

1.CBKA

MP advised that current membership has levelled at around 80 members.

The 2017 Membership Forms have been emailed to Group Members and it is hoped that Membership Renewals will be in place by the end of December 2016 . MP to send out Reminders to ensure December renewal date is achieved

(MP)

2.Group Apiary

CH advised that it had been a bit of a disappointing year with regard to the Group Bee Colonies. Some of the colonies had re-queening problems but there had been some success with late re-queening. Hopefully these colonies will survive the winter given their relative small size.

CH advised there had been good attendance from Newbees at Apiary Inspections . Newbees ironically benefitting from the observations of colonies with queen problems.

CH advised that there had been a request at Septembers Winter Meeting for set monthly dates for Apiary Bee Inspections.This was discussed at length and it was felt that the more flexible approach of setting dates a week or so in advance of inspections was possibly better as it allowed inspections to be organised around weather windows and relative colony conditions.

Benefits of a website Link to Apiary Inspections was discussed and this is to be arranged (MB)

3.Finance

GH advised that the current Group Account Balance stood at £1959. Last year the Apiary , Programme , Safari and programme expenses were all within the anticipated Budget . Events actually also generated an income of £180 raised income.

The Group Accounts for the RCS showed a deficit of £173 but this figure excludes the value of surplus materials valued at £450(mainly candle making wax) purchased for the show & these materials will be used at future events with finances consequently recovered.

Finances of the Group are pretty Healthy and the budget for next year expenses were discussed and it was agreed that the following budget figures should be earmarked for next year . Safari(£200), Apiary (£400) , Programme(£300) and Events(£500).

Purchase of a Group Honey Extractor was discussed but the thoughts of the meeting was that this



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could likely have problems of storage & maintenance so the purchase of this is to be deferred subject to demand from group members. In the meantime there seems to be a number of group members willing to share an extractor should the need arise.

4.Events

MB advised that weather had adversely affected the success of the Events Programme and that sales were down as a consequence. However on the plus side there had been a number of requests for Roseland talks to various groups. Also a lot of leaflets, seeds & goodies had been handed out to children at events and this was seen as a big success and in line with the Ethos of the Group in promoting Bees .

Events attended included Grampound , Sticker(2 days),Tregony , St.Ewe and Grampound Brownies.

MB advised that he was pleased with the support from Group Volunteers in helping run the stands and wished to thank all individuals who helped out.

5.Mentoring

Tim Howes was unable to attend the meeting but it is believed that currently all individuals wishing to have a mentor have been catered for.

6.Request for CBKA Funding

MB still looking at purchasing of a lighter weight Observation Hive that would be easier for members to transport to various events. Once Price and Source confirmed a request for match funding from the CBKA to be made. (MB)

It was also discussed as to whether Asian Hornet traps were available to be purchased and Hazel Vallis (SBI) is to be contacted for advice on this. If they are then the Group may consider an application to the CBKA for a bulk purchase (MP)

7.Social Programme

PH advised that the Christmas Meal is to be held at Grampound Village Hall at a cost of £15/pp. Food will include a choice of 2 mains and a dessert. Members are welcome to bring their own choice of drinks. There is plenty of room for parking and PH will start advertising the Event to members at the next winter meeting and subsequently by email (PH)

8.Group Purchases

GL advised that uptake on Group Purchasing this year was disappointing . With the number of members expressing interest in Jars & Fondant being so low there was insufficient buying power to achieve any significant discounts. Many members delayed or failed to respond. Bulk Purchase discounts cannot be evaluated until all members responses have been received so it is hoped next year members will respond in a more timely fashion to make use of this valuable service. A specific date was agreed of mid-June for the initial request to go out next season. It would just be helpful, even polite, if members could just say when asked if they want or do not want to order. GL shall be the warehouse again as nobody else offered to provide this help. Perhaps the members could just reconsider as it is so much easier if the warehouse could be on the Roseland. So if members can help with this please can they advise GL & MP .

9.Winter programme

MP advised the Winter Programme is now in place and available on the website . The April Meeting Topic has now been secured with a talk & demonstration on Skep Making and MB is to update website.

(MB)



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10.Swarm Coordination

JL gave an update on the swarm co-ordination and advised calls were down on last year. There had also been a number of wrong calls from the public advising on wasps and bumble bees . Jennie advised the meeting that she will be standing down as swarm coordinator at the AGM and the Officers thanked Jennie for her input into the role .

MP commented that the role of swarm coordinator is an important role as it helps members with increase as well as providing a public service .

GL commented that collecting swarms does potentially involve risks with importing disease into apiaries and the importance of quarantining was acknowledged. Newbees should be particularly aware of the potential risk of hiving swarms and should have bees checked out .

MP advised Carol Morrison has offered to take on the role of swarm coordinator for the coming year .

11.CBKA Representatives

MW advised that the next CBKA meeting had been postponed until 12th October .

The main points from the last meeting were that a new CBKA Treasurer is being sought as Graeme Bullock is standing down in December. MW also advised that the CBKA are promoting the Winter Fayre at the Royal Cornwall Showground .

RV wishes to stand down from the CBKA Representatives Role and a new Representative is needed for the post . MP to canvas members for a volunteer to fill the post (MP)

15.AOB

-CH proposed that GH would be a popular choice to fill the vacant post of ‘ Roseland Chairman’ and this was unanimously agreed by the Officers present . This to be ratified at the January AGM

-BP advised that Julian Durrell and Anne Serpell had both passed the Basic Assessment with merit and the Officers applauded their achievement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Meeting Minutes taken by
Marcus Pilling (RBG Secretary)
8th October 2016



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