

# ROSELAND BEEKEEPING GROUP

Chairman - Ian Buchanan

Treasurer - Geoff Hodgson

Secretary - Caven Hammock

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## MINUTES

### Officers Meeting

Comrades Club, Probus

Monday 9th September 2013

7.30pm to 9.30pm

Apologies:- Liz Murphy, Tim Howes, Gregory Leach, Jennie Leach

#### **1. Winter Programme**

The winter programme was approved and has been sent to members. The officers thanked Liz Murphy for pulling together an excellent programme. We will try to issue it a little more in advance of the first meeting next year. Liz has prepared a back-up talk on the subject of different hive types, should any speaker cancel at the last minute, and will contact a few people to contribute should that occur.

Caven Hammock to email members re questions for the first meeting, our Q&A session.

#### **2. Group apiary**

Caven Hammock updated the officers on progress with setting up a Group apiary at The Lost Gardens Of Heligan, and will post an update for members on the website.

The officers will discuss how the apiary will be used, its aims, its management, and a number of other issues raised by the officers. A questionnaire may be sent to members to canvass their views on how the group apiary might be used to maximum benefit.

The officers would like to review what equipment the Group holds, and to establish what new equipment will be required for the new season. In that regard Tim Howes has been asked to pull together an inventory of Group equipment, in order that a shopping list can be prepared for consideration.

#### **3. CBKA**

CBKA have offered the Group £500 towards the costs of setting up a Group apiary at Heligan, and the officers gratefully accepted this offer. It was noted that based on current membership RBG members contribute in the region of £700 - £800 per annum to CBKA coffers. A discussion took place as to the costs and benefits of affiliation to CBKA, and the benefit derived by RBG members for this contribution. The officers have asked Caven Hammock to consider this issue and report back to them.

#### **4. Finance**

The group currently holds £1,530.76. There will be some costs relating to the winter programme. Those aside the main area for future expenditure are the costs of setting up/improving the Group apiary/inventory, which will become clearer following the exercise mentioned above. Matthew Buchan has spoken to National Bee Supplies and believes that Group purchases for the apiary at Heligan will attract up to a 25% discount. In addition the officers thanked Matthew Buchan for the super new logo he has developed for the RBG. Matthew has a more or less permanent wish list of items he would like to better brand the RBG and for additional materials to enhance our displays at events. These will be considered over the winter period in time for next season.

#### **5. Social**

Penny Hodgson confirmed a successful summer bbq enjoyed by all who attended. The Xmas dinner will be held at the Barley Sheaf, Gorran Haven and Penny will progress with the arrangements. The initial attempt to hold some summer apiary meetings didn't really get off the ground, and there was a bit of summising as to why this might be. We will try again in 2014, and consider the possibility of holding some at the Group apiary at Heligan.

#### **6. Updates:-**

**Publicity/Events** - Matthew provided an update on the events that we attended this year. Rather than extend the minutes Matthew will post an update on the website. Similarly Colin updated us on his many activities publicising both the RBG and bees in general, and will post a summary on the website.

**IT/Social Media/Website** - Matthew reported many hits on the website, but little use of the forum and his intention is to remove the forum and focus more any time saved on news and updates. The updates mentioned above will be posted, and the website will be used in future to keep members abreast of developments. The winter programme will be posted on the website now that it is has been adopted.

**Fund-raising** - There has been no progress over the summer period. The Group apiary "shopping list" will be sent to Nichola Sherriff, and this will form the basis of initial fund-raising attempts.

**Education and Microscopy** - Bajka Pratt updated us on developments in the area of education, and the officers will consider in future how we might encourage and support more members to take the various courses and exams available. The officers were pleased to note that 3 members passed their basic examination this summer, and offered their congratulations.

Plans to set the Group up to do its own microscopy are still on the agenda but have not been a top priority at this point.

**Group purchasing** - this has all gone well this year, with both individual members and the Group benefitting.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

Swarm Control - no issues arising.

Mentoring - no issues arising.

Safaris - once again these were a great success and we look forward to the next round in the spring.

Lobbs Farm shop - have expressed an interest in selling honey from the Roseland area. The Group will not be involved but any members interested can contact Lobbs directly.