

# ROSELAND BEEKEEPING GROUP

Chairman - Patrick Wharton

Treasurer - Geoff Hodgson

Secretary - Caven Hammock

Higher Dowgas Farm, Coombe, ST AUSTELL, Cornwall, PL26 7LU

Tel: 01726 883621

Email: [secretary@roselandbeekeeping.org](mailto:secretary@roselandbeekeeping.org)

---

## MINUTES

### Officers Meeting

Polmear Farm, Charlestown

Wednesday 17 October 2012

5.30pm to 8.00pm

Present:- Patrick Wharton (Chair), Rose Hardisty (minute taker), Caven Hammock, Geoff Hodgson, Gregory Leach, Jennie Leach, Liz Murphy, Michael Perry, Bajka Pratt and Colin Rees

Apologies Received:- Matthew Buchan, Ian Buchanan, Julie Howes and Tim Howes

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the officers meeting held on 25.04.2012 were approved and signed by the chairman.

### 2. Change of Officers - Succession Planning

The officers formally welcomed Caven Hammock as secretary. Whilst it is accepted that the change will need to be formalised at the next AGM all agreed that the practical change has immediate effect. Rose will remain on-hand for advice and information if required. The officers also formally acknowledged the breaking down of the secretarial role and the creation of three new positions - Swarm Co-ordinator, Mentoring/Group Equipment Co-ordinator and Safari Organiser. Jennie Leach is to be Swarm Co-ordinator and Tim Howes has taken responsibility for arranging mentoring and the group equipment. Rose Hardisty will act as the safari organiser but wishes that this role be an administrative one and should not have "officer" status. The new roles will be formalised at the next AGM.

Patrick Wharton also indicated his intention to stand down at the AGM in February. He feels now is the right to make way for someone new. He has enjoyed his time as Chairman but has other activities to which he would like to dedicate more time. Patrick asked that Caven give consideration to whether there is anyone within the ranks with whom he could form a good team before seeking nominations from within the group for Chairman. Experience would dictate we are unlikely to find a volunteer but will have to actively recruit someone to the role.

Colin Rees took the opportunity to say that Rose and Patrick will be a "hard act to follow". That they have both worked hard for the group and steered it well through significant changes and an explosion in membership. The officers hope that they will both continue to participate actively in the group and will enjoy the slightly more relaxed position of being "ordinary" members.

### 3. Finance

Geoff Hodgson updated the officers on the group's financial position. Currently there is £1298.01 in the group account. We are making quite a reasonable amount from the small uplift on group purchases because the orders for ambrosia and jars have been so large. Raffles continue to be a good source of income. A slight loss was made on the bee safaris and we will have to charge more per head next year if we are to ensure the days completely cover their own costs. The summer social broke even this year. Spending on a number of items was agreed at the last officers meeting and it looks as though most of these things will come in under the agreed budget.

Thought must be given to how to spend some of this money. As new secretary, Caven is going to look at the matter with fresh eyes and feed back to the officers on ways in which the group might use its resources. At the AGM spending on books and group equipment was raised by members and both these issues need considering as to their practicality.

It was agreed that both Jennie Leach (as swarm co-ordinator) and Caven Hammock as secretary be permitted to purchase a suitable map from group funds to assist them in their roles. Receipts to be submitted to Geoff for reimbursement.

### 4. Social Events

Julie Howes was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report which was read to the meeting

Buckfast - 21 people attended with 17 taking the beekeeping tour and lecture. The abbey and gardens were a bit disappointing but the bee related part of the day was very good. Liz Murphy has already approached Clare Denley with a view to using her as a speaker at a future winter meeting. Transport was by way of car sharing as coach hire was cost prohibitive.

Summer - Feedback for the summer social 2012 was positive. 61 attended (including 13 children). The food was super and the chefs were thanked. The weather was exceptionally kind to us and Caven's home was a brilliant venue. With regards to 2013, Rose and her family have indicated an early interest (although Rose admitted she was now getting cold feet about this). It was clear to the officers that Julie had her portfolio well under control and Rose will ring Julie to discuss whether or not she can definitely provide a venue or whether other offers also have to be investigated.

Winter - The Barley Sheaf in Gorran has been booked for 13 December 2012. Julie already has 18 booked before the menus have even been circulated. Julie is in close communication with the owner and staff at The Barley Sheaf and will be getting the menus circulated as soon as they are available. There is a maximum of 50 on a first come, first served basis. It was agreed that the venue for 2013 will have to be reviewed if membership continues to increase and we are getting in excess of 50 members wishing to participate this year. Julie is planning a quiz and a secret santa style raffle.

Additional - Consideration will be given at a later meeting as to whether there is a call for additional social gatherings.

### 5. Group Purchasing

Gregory Leach informed the meeting that the sale of Ambrosia and jars has been extremely successful again this year. There was some discussion about trying to get beesuits via Kit Hill group and Gregory is going to look into this. There was a brief discussion about whether the scheme could be extended to other items but this has not proved successful in the past.

## **6. Publicity/Events**

Colin Rees was able to provide feedback about this year's activities. It has been a hectic time with variable success. High points were the Tregony and St Ewe Shows (which are always popular and well attended) and the Cbeebies Mr Bloom event at Heartlands in Redruth (jointly with Carrick/Kerrier). The Mr Bloom event saw 7000 people through the gates over two days and the observation hive and candle rolling were very popular with the young attendees. The Garden Truro, Britain in Bloom and Cornwall Young Farmers events were less successful with the numbers taking an interest much lower.

Finding volunteers to help has been better but Colin and Ian would like to recruit someone to take over the organising and setting up of these events, although this does not mean they will not help as volunteers. The observation hive that we currently use is kept by Colin but is actually CBKA property. The recruitment of a new events co-ordinator in time for the AGM in February is appropriate and Colin will retain the publicity function.

Ian Buchanan is also stepping down as CBKA events co-ordinator this year but there is no news yet on who his replacement might be. Roseland Group was well represented at BOAD this year. There was discussion that perhaps some of our funds should be spent on equipment to support our stands at these events. There has also been significant attendance at talks/schools/etc by Colin and other members of the group spreading the beekeeping word.

## **7. Website**

Matthew Buchan was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute. It was agreed that Caven should liaise with Matthew and discuss the progress of the website. Work needs to be done on raising the profile and encouraging use.

## **8. Membership**

Membership is healthy and increasing. The impact of this increase on our meetings at the Comrades Club was discussed. It was definitely felt there was a need for more chairs and also microphone equipment. Geoff Hodgson thinks he can access a microphone to borrow for the next meeting and it was agreed that this would be a good trial. The group will invest in its own equipment if this is a success. Caven will liaise with the Comrades Club about additional seating and also ask what the maximum capacity of the room is.

## **9. Mentoring and Group Hives**

Tim Howes was unable to attend the meeting but Rose confirmed that a hand over meeting has taken place and that Tim has already started work on addressing those members who need a mentor urgently. Tim's task will intensify in the Spring and it will be a case of reviewing progress as time goes on. Tim has taken possession of the spare group equipment (frames and foundation) and is aware of where everything else is. Tim will report back to the officers in due course about his views on group equipment, mentoring and the way forward.

## **10. Safaris**

Rose Hardisty confirmed she was happy to undertake the safari organising the RBG for 2013. The dates have been fixed and liaison with the bee inspectors will commence in early spring. Adam Vevers has indicated that he is retiring as RBI and this will result in a change of leadership from FERA. Rose is optimistic that the new RBI will be supportive of our bee safaris but there is no guarantee. As soon as the identity of the RBI is known Rose will make enquiries and will report back to the officers as soon as possible if she thinks there are going to be any issues. From a practical point of view Rose will need the secretary to supply the up-to-date membership list in March from which she can proceed with the organisation.

### 11. Swarm Coordination

Jennie Leach and Rose Hardisty have liaised about this role. There are changes at the CBKA and BBKA levels about how swarm collector information is collated and distributed and Jennie may well have to create systems which respond to these changes as they become clear. Rose will advise by email those currently aware of her role as swarm co-ordinator of the change and copy Jennie into that correspondence.

### 12. Winter Programme

The officers expressed thanks to Liz Murphy for the super winter schedule she has come up with. In respect of the next meeting there was discussion about what Richard Ball will need. Liz is going to get in touch with Richard to check if he needs anything (laptop, projector, etc) and also get a bit of background info for Patrick's introduction speech. Liz stated that she will not be here for November meeting (Honey Show) or February meeting (AGM). It was agreed that Caven form a back up contact in case of last minute problems with those meetings. Liz and Caven are to liaise so that he has access to all the necessary information and contact details.

### 13. Education

Four passes have been achieved in the basic assessment this year. It will be necessary to canvas for members interested in taking the basic assessment in 2013. Bajka is happy to lead revision sessions again and Caven indicated that he would like to take the assessment in 2013. Bajka and Caven are to liaise about how to take this forward. It was agreed that information about the basic assessment should be included on the website and Bajka is to liaise with Matthew Buchan about his. Rose indicated that she was happy to loan her brown book to anyone taking the assessment.

### 14. Microscopy

Bajka Pratt has attended BBKA microscopy training and a course given by Sue Hoults locally. There was a discussion about whether Bajka is able to offer a microscopy service for RBG. This is a possibility in relation to nosema but the testing for acarine is more time consuming and complex. Mike Somers is also trained in microscopy and it was agreed that he should be approached about whether he would like to become involved in offering a service within the group. It is clear that Sue Hoults is unable to cope with the demand from across the CBKA and if we wish to have access to microscopy services we are going to have to do something in-house. It was agreed that funding from the group should be offered for equipment/consumables needed for microscopy. Looking to the future, Bajka and Mike will also need to consider the possibility of training other group members to undertake their own microscopy and increasing the skills base within the group. To this end a suitable venue will need to be sought (a college or school lab would be appropriate). This issue is to be kept under review and be given further consideration at a future meeting.

### 15. CBKA

Michael Perry was able to give an update. Things are changing - significantly. A new membership secretary has been recruited and Steve Morey will be formally stepping down at the AGM to be replaced by Lynda Evans. Geoffry Davis is also standing down and Caven Hammock has agreed to take on the role of treasurer. Work is taking place on updating the computer systems so that they are compatible with each other and with the BBKA and individual groups. Ian Buchanan is retiring as events co-ordinator but a replacement has yet to be found. It was not clear whether Ian wished to remain as Roseland representative or whether he is looking to leave the council altogether. Rose raised (again) her concern that the CBKA constitution does not allow for the groups to have reps independent of the main roles on council ie because Colin is president and Caven is treasurer RBG is not entitled to any further reps. When the dust has settled from the recent changes Michael Perry is keen to relinquish his role as CBKA rep and a new rep should be sought from within the membership. There was discussion about how the group could support the CBKA and ensure that the changes

continue to be positive for beekeeping at a county level. Michael Perry urged attendance by RBG members at the CBKA AGM in March as numbers will be essential when it comes to matters which need voting upon.

**16. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that the main topic which needed further discussion was group direction and the FUTURE! It was agreed that the formal meeting be brought to a close and that this discussion take place over dinner. The thrust of that discussion is that there are several important strands to the functioning of the Roseland Group. The social function of the group has a formidable reputation, much of our popularity comes from the fact that we are an open and diverse group and that we do not restrict our activities and interaction to beekeeping alone. We compare very favourably to other groups in this respect. The support and development of new beekeepers is essential. It is hoped that with the appointment of a new mentoring co-ordinator that new life can be breathed into this initiative. There is a strong education function to be fulfilled. This is a two part function, the education of beekeepers and the education of others about bees and beekeeping. It was agreed that there are a multitude of possibilities for improving on these functions (premises, materials, equipment, etc). The issue of a group apiary or a beekeeping centre was discussed. This would require significant outside investment and fund raising and it is a challenge for the new officers to consider whether this is the right way forward for the group and how to go about achieving such a goal. Caven was keen to get some initiative going straightaway and it was agreed that he (together with the support of other members experienced in fundraising) would set about trying to secure a small grant to create education packs and fund a programme of school visits.

Minutes prepared by Rose Hardisty on behalf of Caven Hammock (Secretary)

Minutes adopted on 00.04.2013 and signed by .....

- Chairman