

# ROSELAND BEEKEEPING GROUP

Chairman - Patrick Wharton

Treasurer - Geoff Hodgson

Secretary - Rose Hardisty

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## MINUTES

### Officers Meeting

Polmear Farm, Charlestown

Wednesday 25 April 2012

5.00pm to 8.00pm

Present:- Patrick Wharton (Chair), Rose Hardisty (secretary and minute taker), Matthew Buchan, Ian Buchanan, Geoff Hodgson, Julie Howes, Gregory Leach, Liz Murphy, Michael Perry, Bajka Pratt and Colin Rees

Apologies Received:- None

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the officers meeting held on 05.10.2011 were approved and signed by the chairman.

### 2. Finance

Nothing has changed significantly since the AGM held in February with £1183.79 in the bank account. A number of spending matters were authorised. It was agreed that Matthew have a budget of £100 for the website (see 4 below). It was agreed that Rose be permitted to purchase a new OS map covering the group area for use in safari organising (see 9 below). It was agreed that spending of up to £300 be permitted on speakers for the schedule of winter meetings (see 11 below). It was agreed that spending of up to £100 be permitted on the group exhibit for Royal Cornwall Show (see 15 below).

### 3. Social Events

Summer - Caven Hammock has offered his home as a venue for this year's summer social. It may be necessary to hire tables/chairs from Coombe and this was approved. The arrangements were discussed and there was confidence that Julie has all matters in hand.

Winter - It was agreed in principle that we return to The Barley Sheaf in Gorran this year. Some concern was expressed that the venue might not prove large enough if we have take up in excess of 50. It was agreed that this would be reviewed after the summer social as we might have a better idea of possible numbers after that.

Additional - Arrangements for the trip to Buckfast are well in hand. Currently there are 24 participants and it has been decided that coach hire is not cost effective. There is going to be a system of volunteer drivers and car sharing. The question of whether any further events should be arranged was raised but it was agreed to wait and see the outcome of the Buckfast trip and review again in the future.

#### **4. Website**

Matthew had already circulated to the group suggested domain names. There was some debate before it was agreed that we adopt the name [www.roselandbeekeeping.org](http://www.roselandbeekeeping.org). It is the intention to purchase the domain name and webspace for a three year period. It was agreed that spending of up to £100 on the website be permitted. There was a discussion about what aspects the website should cover and Matthew was left with plenty of ideas to get started with.

#### **5. Group Purchasing**

There was a discussion about what aspects of group purchasing have been successful and what hasn't. Jars were definitely a success and there is already interest for this year. Due to various issues there is to be a price increase but Gregory is still able to obtain a very competitive £36.80 per gross and this includes standard lids. It was agreed Gregory should proceed as soon as possible with organising the jar purchasing. The other success was Ambrosia. There was some discussion about whether buying in bulk would be more cost effective than jerry cans but there would be considerable capital outlay on the equipment needed. It was agreed that Gregory should proceed with organising an Ambrosia order (in jerry cans) later in the season. It appears Kit Hill Group is obtaining beesuits at a very competitive price and Gregory is to investigate whether it would be possible for us to tag on to these savings.

#### **6. Publicity/Events**

Ian and Colin need more support at events. St Ewe, Tregony and Stithians are all on the calendar for this year but other events may also arise as the season progresses. There was some discussion about how best to obtain volunteers. It was recommended that for each event a schedule be prepared offering suitable time slots for helpers. There could then be a general call for help and if after this there are still slots needing to be filled a more targeted approach made to individual members. Generally it was felt that RBG attendance and support at events is a very positive thing and every effort should be made to ensure our presence is continued and that Colin and Ian are adequately supported by other group members to do this.

#### **7. Membership**

Membership numbers remain extremely healthy. A very good proportion of those on the RBG mailing list are paid up members of the CBKA, although the number of non-affiliated numbers tends to increase as the year progresses. Rose reviews the mailing/membership list in January/February in liaison with Steve Morey (CBKA membership secretary) and removes names of individuals no longer interested.

#### **8. Mentoring**

There are still issues with the proportion of mentors to prospective mentorees. It was agreed that Rose should just continue to do her best to match up newbees with mentors if possible.

#### **9. Safaris**

Rose reported that all was in hand but her OS map is suffering as a result of all the safari planning and it was agreed she could purchase a new active one. The first safari on 28.04.2012 is all organised and all that can be hoped is that the poor weather will improve sufficiently for inspections to go ahead. Inspectors are booked and most of the preliminary planning has been done for 21.05.2012 and 16.06.2012.

#### **10. Group Hives**

There was a very brief discussion about group equipment. Rose is to seek candidates to take the hives this year and to organise a hand over with Mike White and Sue Tonkin who are currently using the equipment.

### 11. Winter Programme

Liz Murphy was welcomed to her new role as programme organiser. There was quite a lengthy discussion about ideas for winter speakers and discussion about a budget which was eventually set at £300. The following dates were agreed for the schedule : 27.09.2012, 25.10.2012, 22.11.2012, 24.01.2013, 28.01.2013 and 28.03.2013. Liz is to take all the ideas and suggestions and investigate possible speakers. It was agreed that she could continue to use Matthew, Patrick and Rose as a sounding board for the finalisation of the programme but ultimately she is free to make the decisions about the schedule.

### 12. Education

Basic Assessment - This is to take place again this year. Patrick is co-ordinating in consultation with Bajka and a number of candidates from Carrick/Kerrier group are also involved. It is hoped that we can build on the successes of last year and encourage more and more RBG members to take this first level assessment.

Further Education - There was some discussion about higher levels of qualification and the BBKA examination path flow-chart was considered. It is complicated to say the least and it was concluded that until we have a good proportion of members through the basic assessment there is not likely to be a huge calling for the higher examinations and assessments.

### 13. CBKA

Ian reported that the new format AGM was an improvement on previous years and it is hoped to further improve this for 2013. CBKA is the link with BBKA so it is important that RBG keeps up its involvement in CBKA business. Patrick expressed the view that RBG should continue to lend all possible assistance to Ian and Michael in their roles as our CBKA reps and also to Colin who is now the President of the CBKA. Everyone agreed with these sentiments.

### 14. Succession Planning

Patrick raised the issue that some of the RBG officers and he himself as chairman will be looking to stand down and move on to new challenges in the future. It is important that the officers continue to encourage the wider membership to get involved in group business and consider themselves for committee roles in the future.

### 15. Any Other Business

The group exhibit for Royal Cornwall Show was discussed. Tim, Julie, Bajka, Patrick and Di have all been beavering away on this project and the concept was explained and a prototype shown. Spending was agreed of £100 and the hard work done so far was praised.

Minutes prepared by Rose Hardisty (secretary)

Minutes adopted on 17.10.2012 and signed by .....

PATRICK WHARTON - Chairman