

ROSELAND BEEKEEPING GROUP

Chairman - Ian Buchanan

Treasurer - Geoff Hodgson

Secretary - Caven Hammock

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AGENDA

Officers Meeting
Comrades Club, Probus
Tuesday 2nd April 2013
7.30pm to 9.30pm

Apologies:- Liz Murphy, Colin Rees, Gregory Leach, Nichola Sherriff

1. Finance

The current cash balance stands at around £1,300, and it was agreed therefore that around £1,000 is "free" to be spent. As well as fund-raising, the Treasurer said that we could look to make a small profit from the annual BBQ or annual safaris if we wish to bolster funds at any point. CBKA are also holding funds and Groups can apply for grants from them. Matthew Buchan will prepare a draft application to CBKA for display equipment for the Roseland Group as it attends a lot of events and would benefit from up to date equipment, and information boards. In terms of current plans:-

- Bajka will investigate the cost of microscopes with a view to bringing some microscopy work "in-house"
- It was proposed and carried that Matthew pursue the purchase of a "Roseland" banner for use at events, with a maximum cost of £150. This will include a logo which the officers would like to review before the go-ahead.
- Caven will get details of the CBKA Group which runs a wax scheme. Tim will contact them for details, and investigate the costs involved in order for us to consider if we wish to run a similar scheme.

2. Social Events

The officers were supportive of Tom White suggestion that we run summer apiary visits, and thankful for his offer to oversee the programme. Members can expect Tom to be in touch soon, via a posting on the Group website.

Penny reported:-

- The summer BBQ will be held at Caven's for a second year. The event should cover its cost.
- The Christmas dinner will be held at the Barley Sheaf, Gorran.
- A trip to National Bee Supplies in Okehampton is being arranged. Details to follow.

The planned bee safari on April 27th has been cancelled. Rose has emailed members with the reasons for this, and with details of the two further safaris planned. The summer apiary visits should more than compensate for any disappointment.

3. *Publicity/Events*

Everything is in hand for the Family Weekend at Lost Gardens Of Heligan, May 25th - 27th , and the Tregony and St Ewe Shows. Matthew is always looking for volunteers to man the stands at such events, and members are asked and encouraged to volunteer. It is interesting to meet the public and garner interest in beekeeping. Matthew will be in touch with specifics in due course.

There is little enthusiasm for entering an exhibit into the Royal Cornwall Show "Group Competition", and with no volunteers it is likely that the Roseland will not partake.

Since the meeting the Truro Bee Day has taken place. There was a modest foot fall, but the event was deemed a success, and many thanks to those of you that contributed to the day. Matthew thinks there is merit in attending in future years should the event continue as is hoped.

4. *IT/Social Media/Website*

Caven advised that CBKA are setting up a Facebook page, and that one of its officers is starting a tweet. The view is that the Roseland should be doing this, in order to engage with younger and/or more IT literate members and potential members. Potential sources of fund-raising will almost certainly expect to see this as part of any application/bid made for funding. Matthew will consider.

We need to encourage further use of our website, and the forum that is set up on it. All officers will do their best to do things via the website wherever possible. For example - the dates for Tom's apiary visits, and the process for signing up will only be advertised on the website.

Any officers who have not yet provided Matthew with a photo, and a few words of introduction, will do so now following a number of appeals.

5. *Fund-raising*

Current focus is on making an application to the Sita environmental trust for funding towards machinery and other costs relating to the creation of wildflower habitat/s for bees. The Trust only accepts applications once a year, but there is a "pre-approval" process to weed out applications which don't meet the Trust's funding criteria. Caven has provided the application procedure to Nichola and Matthew, and a meeting will be held shortly to discuss and agree the way forward.

Nichola will also contact Julia Cooper, the CBKA secretary, to discuss what liaison is required with CBKA. Since CBKA is the registered charity, and any fund-raising is done under their umbrella, we cannot go ahead in complete isolation. However, I am hopeful that CBKA will as a minimum not be obstructive, and hopefully can offer some encouragement or support with our plans.

6. *Group Apiary*

It is now confirmed that the Group wish to set-up a permanent and static Group apiary. The details of how this will work will need to be laid out, and a key issue was identified, that of an Apiary Manager. The officers are confident that someone can be found, and it is suggested that the role be on a rotational basis.

As a first step, Caven will contact Trewithen Gardens, and Tregothnan, to establish if they have any interest in providing a home for an apiary, and if they have any land that could be given to us on a long term lease. If members have any other suggestions of potential sites then please let me know.

7. Winter Programme

The preferred subjects for talks are; Natural Beekeeping, Role of Drones by Clare Densley, Bee Stings, and bee friendly plants. If Liz can get the speakers confirmed then these are the subjects for the programme. However, there are many other topics and the programme will be issued in due course.

The officers are of the view that the annual "Honey Show" should be dropped for this year, unless there is a huge protest from members. It is not suggested that this be a permanent change, but perhaps not an annual event, and certainly not when people are struggling to keep their bees alive, let alone produce honey! If any members object to this, then please let me know.

8. Education

We have 7 candidates for the Basic Examination this year. Bajka's study sessions will be starting at the end of this month, and will be held at the Probus Club. If anyone would like to throw in their hat at this late stage then please let Bajka know....SHE HAS EMAIL.....hurrah!

9. Microscopy

This will still be going ahead, but is on the back-burner for a while. Bajka needs to focus on the BE sessions, and Mike Somers is unavailable for the time being. An update will follow in due course.

10. CBKA

CBKA are currently focusing on constitutional matters, which should result in a more efficient and dynamic set-up. Hopefully members will begin to see increasing benefits from their CBKA membership.

11. Any Other Business

- I reminded the officers that if anyone is prepared to take over the observation hive from Colin then they should let me know. It was also mooted that perhaps we should buy an up-to-the-minute observation hive for use at any events we attend, and to keep at the Group apiary. Perhaps Geoff can note this for discussion the next time we review spending plans?
- There were no specific issues raised regarding Group Purchasing and Swarm Control which are being managed by Gregory and Jennie Leach respectively, and Tim reported that the mentoring scheme is running well with everyone requesting a mentor having one.