



Chairman: Geoff Hodgson Treasurer: Geoff Hodgson
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MINUTES

Officers Meeting
Zoom Meeting
Thursday 7th January 2021

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

Present ; Bajka Pratt (BP) , Simon Kellam (SK) , Ian Tanner (IT) , Geoff Hodgson (GH) , Tim Howes (TH), Jayne Spenceley(JS) , Martin Wayman(MW),Colin Rees(CR), Marcus Pilling (MP)

Apologies ; Robin Villis (RV)

1.CBKA Membership

ACTION

- MP reported that RBG 2020 Final Membership stood at 93 which is our highest Membership total to date. At present the 2021 membership stands at 60 but with CBKA membership still open for the next month the final figure remains to be seen.
- Discussion was had if the limited support offered to newbees in 2020 due to meeting restrictions would have a reducing effect on 2021 membership.
- CR also advised that this year he will not be running his Regular Beekeeping Introductory Course again due to the current restrictions on meetings. This traditionally leads to a number of new members to the Group. However conversely it was Suggested that maybe the Group would see more enquiries from potential Beekeepers turning to Beekeeping as a result of the current climate.
- MW highlighted the importance to maintain a high Group Profile to encourage membership And Zoom Meetings would be an important avenue towards this.

2.GROUP APIARY

- SK advised that the Group Apiary has relocated at Heligan to the Orchard Area.
- A 5th Hive has been introduced
- 70LB of honey was sold through the Heligan Shop and proved to be very popular.
- No Group inspections carried out this year in the Apiary due to restrictions,
- It was noted that the Apiary inspections are an important part of what the Group Offers And hopefully inspections will resume later in the year
- SK advised that a new frameless 'Trenton' Hive will be introduced into the Apiary this year

3.FINANCE

- GH advised the following ;
The current Bank Balance currently shows a healthy increase on last year. This a Result largely due to the inactivity of last year, a gift aid rebate and good honey sales from the Group Apiary. As a result the balance of the account increase by almost £1100 and currently stands At £ 3697

GH proposed that for the coming year we retain the budgets for Group Activities similar



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To Last Year . Consequently , budgets for Events (£300), Programme Speakers (£300) Group Apiary (£300) and Safari (£ 100) were unanimously approved.

It was acknowledged that it is possible that some of these budgets will not be spent due To potential restrictions but equally it was agreed that should we need to increase Expenditure on Zoom Speakers then this would be favourably reviewed if it was to the Benefit of the Group.

-IT advised that RBG was entitled to a grant balance from the CBKA of £360 and that If this is not used then there is a possibility that the grant will be removed. It was thought That as the Group have no immediate needs for the Grant and given the current Healthy Group Bank Balance RBG should not make a claim

-IT advised that the CBKA were considering a £2 rise in membership for next year but it Was unanimously agreed that this could only be seen as acceptable if the CBKA/ RBG Were to offer increase support to members and that with the current reduced support this Was not really acceptable . IT to relay RBG views at the next CBKA Meeting (IT)

4.EVENTS

-MP welcomed MW as Group Events Coordinator

-MW highlighted the benefits of Zoom Meetings given the restricted activities in the Events and Winter Programme Meetings calendar.

-MW advised that other Groups such as Liskeard Group have already engaged a number of Zoom Meetings with great success and it was agreed that it would be good idea to arrange some Zoom topics for the Group whilst we cannot meet at the Comrades Club.

MW & MP to look at potential zoom meeting topics to replace winter programme (MW &MP)

This to be debated further at the RBG AGM on the 28th January to assess support

Would be good to receive suggestions on topics of interest and any leads (ALL)

For the season ahead SK advised that currently the Heligan Wednesday Events are Still a possibility if the covid rules are relaxed in the summer but this would also depend upon The Heligan Management .

GH suggested that the other Events which RBG are traditionally linked to including Caerhays, Tregony,St,Ewe & Sticker may also be a possibility but again this will be dependent upon Covid and the respective Show Committees .

If these Shows do progress this coming year RBG attendance to be reviewed

5.MENTORING

-RV was unable to attend the meeting . MP advised there were limitations on what Mentoring the Group was able to offer Newbees in 2020 due to Covid and that Hopefully this summer mentoring would be subject to less restrictions.

6.SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- MP advised that the post of Social Secretary is vacant

-It was discussed that the Group could still hold a seasonal BBQ and it was proposed To move the BBQ to September which would hopefully fit in with easing of Covid Restrictions, Provisional date to be confirmed

-TH kindly offered to host the BBQ should this go ahead

7.GROUP PURCHASES

-TH gave a resume of purchasing which was one of the few activities that continued With some normality. Big orders for jars,syrup and fondant resulted in big saving for

Members as well as amassing a £166 profit for the Group



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8.WINTER PROGRAMME

The Group was unable to attend meetings at the Comrades Club in 2020 which currently remains closed.

- As discussed under Events MW &MP to look at some options on Zoom Meetings and To be discussed further at the AGM (MW&MP) .
- This years AGM to be held via Zoom 28th January. (SK &MP)

9.AHAT

- MP advised that this post is currently vacant. Post to be advertised (MP)
- There were no call outs in 2020

10.CBKA REPRESENTATIVE

- Mike White has stood down from post. MP to advertise (MP)
- IT offered to continue as the RBG rep and attend CBKA Zoom Meetings. (IT)
- A second representative to be engaged from the Group

11.SAFARI

- The 2020 Safari did not happen
- This year consideration to holding the Safari in June instead of May as hopefully less Restrictions.MP to enquire on SBI availability (MP)

12.RCS

- JS advised that currently the CBKA have made no arrangements for the September Royal Cornwall Show . Situation to be monitored (JS)

13.Education

- BP advised that due to Covid there were no volunteers for the Basic Assessment and It was thought that this year would be a similar situation

15.AOB

- With Mathew Buchan standing down as WebMaster the need for the RBG Website was discussed. It was agreed that the Website remains important for the Group Profile.
- CR to contact Emily Scott with a view to rebuilding and managing the RBG Website and Group Funds provisionally to be made available for setting this up (CR)

- With regard to the AGM not all Officers will be producing reports due to limited activity As there will be no supporting feature at the AGM it would be better that reports are read out At the AGM for discussion . Reports for the AGM to include Secretary , Accounts, Purchasing , Apiary , Proposed Events/ Winter Programme (MP , GH , TH , SK , MW)

There being no other business meeting closed at 8.20pm

Minutes Prepared
Marcus Pilling 8th January 2021





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