

Present: Chris Betley, Jenny Band, Patrick Brennan, Neil Hillbery, Ray Nicol, Mike Scotton, Alex Lawrence, Harvey Kirk, Irek Gajowniczek. Clare Tobarty (Honey show debrief only)

Apologies: Ben Taylor, Tony Wilson, Michael Foster, Warwick Francis

1. Minutes and Outstanding issues from last meeting

Corrections required, Ted proposed and Ray seconded the minutes. Patrick signed as read. Matters arising-none.

2. Honey Show

Clare provided document with all matters arising with regards to the 98th Honey Show. The blue ribbon and Novice Award were given and there were many entries suitable for exhibiting at the National Honey Show.

It is hoped to reintroduce the Schools Cup in 2018, the prize money was discussed eg £100 split between prize winners depending on the number of entries too be spent on bee related education. It was decided to go ahead in principle with fine details to be pulled together before Open Day 2018.

Also suggested is to introduce a Mead award and create an Honours board for the 2019 Centenary Honey Show. The board to be displayed in the covered arch by the discovery centre, this would be made waterproof. Other ideas for the centenary show were indicated such as glossy cover for schedule and welcoming a local dignitary to open the show.

The committee thank Clare and the team for yet again organising a very successful show. Thanks also go to the Tuesday team for sterling work preparing Miller Hall. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mike and seconded by Neil.

3. Apiary and Mole works

Quotes from the builder have not yet been received for works at rear of Miller Hall. Water needs to be turned off at Mole Apiary (Alex turned it to low) before temps get too low.

Patrick suggests a schedule of works for 2018.

4. Membership secretary's update

Warwick is away, there is no change in numbers:

A spreadsheet

Full members 158

Partners 17

Country 2

Hons 9

Junior 1

Family 19

Total 206

5. Correspondence received

A spreadsheet of correspondence was given by Jenny. The vast majority relating to beginners courses. 36 people are interested in attending the winter course

A letter of resignation as librarian was received by Mike Scotton. Formal notice was given for a new librarian to take over in March.

The committee would like to thank Mike for his sterling service over the 22 years.

6. Treasurer's update (NH)

There has been considerable movement since last meeting

a. Honey Show Takings	£1575.20
Expenses	£ 678.89
Profit	£896.31

This is similar to previous years. The Honey Judge was accommodated this year producing higher expenses

b. Submitted claim for gift aid received from HMRC	£1805.70
c. Current available funds	£97000

Trading scheme stock take is in December so accurate sum will be produced at the next meeting.

Neil propose the account for water rates for both Twickenham and Mole Apiaries to be converted to Direct Debit when the next bills are received. There were no objections from the committee. The electricity accounts are already on Direct Debit. These are checked by Neil and these tend to even out throughout the year.

7. Professor M Brown- Lecturer from Royal Holloway University

Date not yet confirmed.

Timing of guest speakers was discussed. It was suggested that guest speakers would be invited on the first Friday of the month. There was a concern that if the talk took place after the beekeeping that people would disappear after 8.30pm. It was noted that sunset in April was 830pm so early (or later) in season should not be a problem. Jenny suggested booking him for the end of the season.

8. Trip for members

Patrick indicated that it has been two years since the last members trip.

Suggestions were:

- Mr Bumbles have 150+ hives(or a commercial beekeeper)
 - Meadery in Peckham
 - Return trip to Newbury Beekeepers or Reigate beekeepers (Possibly 2019)
- Ted suggests Paynes Bee Farm which also has a shop.
Patrick to write to Paynes or BFA for suggestions.

9. Future Visit by Dorset BKA

The visit has been confirmed as 22nd July 2018. They have a similar set up to Newbury BKA.

10. AOB

- a. **Beginners course.** It was felt there should be a list of participants who sign in each week and the limited number of practical course places should be dependent on participation in the theory course. It was also noted that there were a low number of donations last year for the free high quality course and also it was noted that there was a drop off rate on the practical course of 50%.
- b. **Replacement of the windows and doors at Mole Apiary.**
Three new quotes needed as old quotes for uPVC have expired (Alex). Patrick to get a quote.
- c. Ted has indicated that tree trimming is required in the Mole Apiary. Estimates are required from tree surgeons. Ted and Michael have some contacts they can get in touch with. The trees need to be treated before bees become active.
- d. President's evening on 24th November 2017

Winter course starts on 17th Jan, Next committee meeting is 10th January 2018
Meeting ends 9.20 pm

DRAFT Minutes of the 661st Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2017

Miller Hall, 41, Whitton Road, Twickenham.