

**Minutes of the 663rd Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm**

Miller Hall, 41, Whitton Road, Twickenham.

**Present:** Chris Betley, Jenny Band, Patrick Brennan, Kim Coles, Neil Hillbery, Ray Nicol, Alex Lawrence, Irek Gajowniczek, Ted Chatley, Candice Williamson, Warwick Francis, Michael Foster

**Apologies:** Harvey Kirk

### **1. Minutes and Outstanding issues from last meeting**

- Alex has taken photographs to draw up a schedule of works for the Mole Apiary.
- Joe Potter contacted Paul from Nicobuild regarding works to rear of Miller Hall, we have been provided with a quote for the works.

### **2. Apiary and Mole works**

- a. Patrick to chase up timings for tree works to go ahead.
- b. 24 plots at the Mole apiary are paid for, 4 plots are without bees. Ray counted 27 stands with boxes and of those, 13 had activity. Vegetation has been removed from public areas around Mole Apiary.
- c. Patrick to contact the council regarding potential road closures on Open day, 2<sup>nd</sup> June. It was thought to be very unlikely.
- d. Ben Taylor normally contacts the Masonic Lodge with regards to free car parking for members.
- e. Harvey was keen to call a meeting of the plot holders at Mole apiary to talk through ways in which the Apiary can appear to be pro active in preventing potential problems for households in the near vicinity i.e moving some of the hives away from fences, reducing "defensive bees". Alex indicated that the fence is now 2m high and the gap present in the fence will be dealt with by Alex. Warwick suggests an outline plan for reducing "defensive bees"
- f. The Hide committee (Education group) is being set up, to include Alex.

### **3. Membership secretary's update (Warwick)**

Current membership:

Full members	127
Partners	16
Country	2
Associate	5
Hons	8
Family	4
Total	174

Two new members: Mr Richard Bretton and Ms Gabriella Bergman –Chornick (Junior)

There are now four mentors in place if the need arises.

### **4. Correspondence received (Sarah Corfton)**

- Sandra Grey from NBU has indicated that there is no seasonal bee inspector in London this year, one has stepped down from the post and one has health problems. It was suggested with this in mind that we write to Sandra Grey to ask if some EFB/AFB lateral flow devices can be supplied to the Apiary
- Asian hornet group has been set up, members are Julie, Ray, Patrick and Chris B.
- Charity fundraising pack sent, not needed.

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**5. Treasurer's update (NH )**

Via attached email from Neil

**6. Honours Board (Claire Toberty )**

Neil is concerned that there is no plan B with regards the Honours board preliminary costing of £5500. There was a very lively discussion regarding positioning of boards, sizing , costing. A decision will be made in the near future.

**7. Health and Safety Policy**

Jenny Band has drafted a new Health and Safety policy.

**8. Parliamentary Group visit 8<sup>th</sup> May**

To take place between 10 and 11 am. A group of MPs to have a talk and tour round the apiary on issues related to beekeeping. No more information has been received, Jenny to write back and confirm the visit.

**9. AOB**

- a. Plant stall for open day: Some people have shown an interest, Warwick has information on where to buy the plants. Alex is willing to erect the stands a few days before. Jenny can source a van.
- b. Warwick has purchased the bee-suits, Candy has labelled and listed the various sizes. The list will be laminated so it is readily at hand on Friday evenings. £132 was spent on 17 suits and a smoker. Beginners will be encouraged to buy their own suits. Patrick will unlock all the lockers for the season start.
- c. Nosema clinic for testing of apiary bees is booked for 22nd April.
- d. The BBKA membership system will be compliant with the revised data protection act. Ray is to get more details at the Spring convention.
- e. Jenny is putting together a list of speakers eg BDI research/Ray . The schedule is to be put on the website.
- f. Diane and Mick have volunteered to help with the gardening at Mole Apiary. More volunteers will be needed. This will be broached at the Mole Apiary meeting.
- g. Ray suggests setting up an area in Mole apiary for people interested in taking the general husbandry examination. He suggested changing the rules so members can have 6 colonies for a two year term.
- h. Alex has requested polish for the brass plaque. Cleaning of the floor in Millar Hall was discussed, because of the nature of the non-slip covering, buffer pads cannot be used.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 8.15pm

Meeting concluded at 9.20 pm

Next meeting 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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