

Minutes of the 677th Meeting held on Wednesday 18th Sept. at 7.30pm

Miller Hall, 41, Whitton Road, Twickenham.

Present: Ted Chatley, Michael Foster, Warwick Francis, Jenny Band, Harvey Kirk, Jean Loveland, Patrick Brennan, Clive Harris, Ray Nicol, Candida Williamson, Jane Sachdev

Apologies: Chris Betley, Ben Donaldson, Sarah Crofton

Belated apologies: Irek Gajowniczek,

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Date on the previous minutes are wrong. It should be 7th August.

The T&TVBKA film. It was recognised that there is a misspelled and mispronounced name of a historically well known beekeeper ie Herrod-Hempsall. It was suggested that the comments section in Youtube should include an admission of the mistake and a correction.

Proposed: Jane S.

Seconded: Candy W.

Accepted unanimously.

No action as yet.

2. Apiary and Mole Works

a. Mole

- A brief summary was given by Jane S. the meeting on the previous Sunday went well. The honey sales also went well.
- Tree work: Clive is to meet with the tree surgeon (Ed Davis ??) and have the tree work done before 16th November, which is scheduled to be the working party day.
- Pear tree is to be kept but cut back to remove the dead and dying wood. Tomas Stehlik(?) has suggested that we fork the surrounding earth and mulch around the tree to prolong its health.
- Jen is to donate sapling(s) to Mole. We will wait to see after the trees are felled to see if we need new trees.
- We are to ask Tomas Stehlik. for advice re the trees. **Action: CH**
- It was suggested that we buy a poly nuc for Mole communal use primarily for collecting swarms that are issued within Mole apiary. Warwick to buy.
- Signage: Ray N or Patrick B to pick up sign when available. Cost is £130. The sign is to be attached to the gate.

Proposed: Jane S.

Seconded: Ray N.

Accepted:unanimously

- Working party: is to take place at Mole on Saturday 16th November 10am onwards. This is to :

- Replace fence panels to the right of the entrance
- Lay flagstones for the base of the new shed

The panels should be of featherboard as they are more robust.

Alex L to get quotes for both the featherboard and the flagstones. **Action:AL**

- Mission objective: lack of progress at Mole has long been put down to lack of direction. We now have a mission objective ie. over the course of 5 years to use Mole to educate the public in bees and beekeeping. This will bring Mole into line with Twickenham regarding the aims of the our charitable status and will help justify spending money on the development of Mole as an apiary.
- Offer by developers: Ray was approached by a developer at Mole saying his company would like to buy the Mole site. In exchange they would help find us a new site and build us a new clubhouse. Offers by developers are frequently received by members of T&TVBKA but usually rejected out of hand as being against the ethos of the association. However, it has been suggested that future offers should be made visible to the committee and given due consideration before we reject them.

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- 'Magical Molesey' is an event held in Molesey to promote Molesey. Jane S. has suggested that we take a stall there to promote bees and beekeeping. This is to take place in November.
Proposed: Jane S.
Seconded: Ray N.
Accepted: unanimously
- Addition to Mole rules: Wherever possible, when members of the public are visiting Mole apiary, hives shouldn't be opened for inspection. We don't want to risk members of the public being stung unnecessarily. This is the same rule that is in force at Twickenham. In fact, the Twickenham rule is more stringent in that we don't open hives the night before members of the public are due to visit.

b. Twickenham Apiary

- The new hide requires additional 30 metres of 'rip-stop' fabric. It is envisaged that the hide will need three sides to be covered. Including fittings this will need a budget of £500.
Proposed: Warwick F.
Seconded: Alex L.
Accepted: unanimously.

3. Correspondence received (SC)

- Spelthorne U3A gardening group would like a talk on bees. Ray N. to pick this up
Action:RN
- A school would like us to man a stall at their school event. This was declined in that we don't have the volunteers.
- A charity for vulnerable people has asked us if we would maintain their hives for them. The request was to be put to the membership to see if anyone wanted to do it.
Action:WF.
- Katie from Waldegrave school was looking to work alongside a beekeeper for work experience but we are not set up for this.
- BeeCraft magazine is looking for a suitable photograph to publish to commemorate our centenary. It was thought that Alice Cooper (centenary film producer) would be the most appropriate person to deal with this.

4. Membership (WF)

ER2, the new online, membership system can now invoice members directly for their membership of T&TVBKA

5. Treasurer's Update (Warwick)

- All capitation is now paid.
- Gift Aid : application has been submitted , Warwick F is chasing it **Action:WF**
- A further breakdown of 'Capital expenditure' in the accounts is required. **Action: WF**
- We have spent £10,000 this year. This is more than usual as this is our centenary year
- More toilet paper is required. It was decided to stick to the crap paper currently used.
Jen B to reorder. **Action:JB.**
- Auditor for T&TVBKA accounts: current auditor is standing down. A professional auditor is likely to charge somewhere between £400 - £500. Patrick is to approach his brother and/or sister-in-law to see if either of them will audit our accounts. **Action PB.**

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- Warwick has no backup as an Honorary Treasurer. Warwick and Patrick to make plans for Patrick to shadow Warwick. **Action: WF+PB**

6. Asian Hornet Action Group

Not much happening. There has been a recent sighting in Kent. Thought to be a single occurrence of a hornet and a nest not involved.

7. AOB

- Patrick would like a list of key holders for security reasons. The current known list is: Tuesday group (Michael Foster, Neil Hilbury, Ted Chatley, Alex Lawrence, Malcolm Bell), 2 in the Education group
Patrick Brennan, Jenny Wilkinson, Ben Donaldson, Jenny Band, Ray Nicol, Warwick Francis. Harvey Kirk has keys to the front gate and shop but not Miller Hall.
- Emergency Gate: has a padlock and only one key. Should we change the lock? To be discussed
- Toilet cupboard lock now works. Should we be concerned about locking the toilet entrance door? No, it can be left open. Less chance of anyone being locked in.
- Clare Toberty is standing down as honey show secretary after seven years. We need to recruit another honey show secretary. Jean L said she will shadow Clare.
- Any certificates to be awarded will be stored in the library area. Warwick F. will get card envelopes for the certificates to prevent them being damaged.
- Basic certificates will be awarded on the last night.

Meeting ended 9.25pm

Next meeting 30th Oct. at 7.30 in Miller Hall