

Minutes of the 679th Meeting held on Wednesday 11th December at 7.30pm

Miller Hall, 41, Whitton Road, Twickenham.

Present: Ted Chatley, Warwick Francis, Harvey Kirk, Patrick Brennan, Clive Harris, Ray Nicol, Jane Sachdev, Chris Betley, Alex Lawrence, Ben Donaldson, Michael Foster

Apologies: Sarah Crofton, Jean Loveland, Irek Gajowniczek, Candida Williamson

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Accepted as read proposed by Ray seconded by Chris

2. Apiary and Mole Works**a. Mole**

- Clive is waiting for a date regarding thinning of and removing of two trees
- Candy has two saplings as well as Bee Bee tree saplings from London Woodland trust, to fill in gaps
- Two Nuc's for Mole have been donated by Jenny Band
- Work Morning: Site has been cleared for the new shed, thanks to Clive and team for their hard work. Flagstones are ready to be placed.
- The sign is ready to be placed on the new fence when this is erected.
- All the plots each have a flagstone and all are now numbered (1-34). The plan is to have a record of beekeeper, plot number and contact details
- A list of appropriate plants good for the spaces between the shrubbery will be costed and presented to the committee in due course
- Our presence at "Magical Molesey" was very successful with 60 buscuits and honey being sold out £37.30 added to income. This was a very good PR exercise for Mole Apiary
- Ray is reducing the number of hives at Mole.

b. Twickenham Apiary

- Candy and Gill are about to start on the netting for the hide.
- Patrick has received two quotes for the works (paving at the side of the Apiary buildings) The second quote is for painting the front and back railings as the side railings are galvanised.
- Electricity bill has been brought up to date: £787/yr to Oct '18, £863/15 mnths to Oct '19.
- Water Rates (Twickenham) £463, Water rates (Mole) £85. The Twickenham readings appear high so it was decided to keep a close eye on this with regular readings. Ray to do this every Tuesday.
- Internet will be live before Christmas.
- The new extractor has had a test run. It is difficult to clean without an extension to the HPR hose. Alex to provide quote for extension for tap. Clive to debur some of the sharp castellations on the cage. Ray has the USB with documentation for the extractor, so a simple list of instructions will be produced for the new season (Ray and Patrick)

3. Correspondence received (SC)

- WF to vet ant correspondence regarding selling to members.
- Speaker required for Thames Valley horticultural Club, Jose Green (Ashford) Ray to contact.
- BBKA newsletters are now in pdf format. This is copied and attached to email and sent directly to membership.
- Treaty shopping centre want advice re bees and planting WF to sort.
- EFB cases in Kent area were high in 2019 due to the apple harvest and subsequent movement of bees for pollination

4. Membership Secretary (WF)

No change in number of members.

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New BBKA system being used. Email for renewal of membership goes out in Jan. The system will not handle family membership or partner members very well.
A new payment for the used of the honey prep room will be looked into next season.

5. Treasurer's Update (Warwick)

£15,517.17 spent

£21,294.22 income.

Expenditure was higher than normal due to centenary expenses eg Video, honours boards, benches, and freezer.

6. Visit by Chiswick Horticultural Society

Ray did a talk, the members want to visit and "get amongst the bees". A date to be organised after Easter.

7. AHAT There is an Asian Hornet action conference in February. Ray and Warwick to report back.**8. AOB**

1. Education: Sonia has sent out an email regarding an educating children in beekeeping course at Sussex University (LASI)
2. Auditor is not required to be chartered accountant status to audit our accounts. Patrick to chase
3. Water heater manual should be in the apiary. It is now 3 years old. Patrick to talk to paulk at Nicobuild regarding putting a service contract in place.
4. ADM of BBKA attended by Warwick. Nothing contentious in the propositions.
 - One stand out proposition regards insurance for Asian Hornet nest site search (requires clarification)
 - BBKA want to reintroduce year book
 - Rename the "basic" exam to "foundation level" examination
5. Video needs rectifying at a cost of £500. Ray proposes to change it. Ben seconded the motion. Not carried
6. AGM on 20th March 2020

Meeting concluded at 8.55pm

Next meeting Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 730pm Miller Hall