

**Minutes of the 685th Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm**

Virtual meeting Google Meetup

**Present:** Warwick Francis, Patrick Brennan , Ray Nicol, Chris Betley, Candida Williamson, Ted Chatley  
Jane Sachdev, Sarah Crofton, Irek G, Alex Lawrence, Harvey Kirk, Ted Chatley

**Apologies:** Jean Loveland

**1. Minutes and Matters Arising**

Committee to consider a suitable memorial to Michael Foster, a stalwart of the "Tuesday Club" at the Apiary to discuss at next meeting

**2. Apiary and Mole Works**

**Mole:**

Fence (discussed at last meeting) to be erected in the off season.

**Twickenham Apiary:**

1. Extractor is working well, there are now updated instructions, including a slow cycle before main spinning. The door frame of the Honey Prep room has been made "bee tight". Once the HPR bookings have stopped, a thorough cleansing of the room needs to be undertaken to remove mould.
2. Bank Holiday Honey Market was a success, although footfall was lower, more money was taken. Apiary honey was not sold, this is to be saved for Open Day 2021

**3. Coronavirus pandemic**

**a. Training plan 2021**

May have to either hold a Winter course (Web sessions only) with no chance of a follow up practical course, or cancel the Winter course

Practical course for last year's group would have to be limited to 5 people to one trainer until social distancing rules change.

Committee discussed "taster weekends" also for the people who have done the Winter course, although there is then the problem of not being able to open all the hives on a Friday. Other options are use of Education hives/Hives at Mole Apiary.

**Proposed by Ray : Online Winter course + option of Practical weekends at**

**Twickenham/Mole with Friday night for last year's winter course**

**Christine seconded. Motion carried with one against the proposal.**

- b. All new beekeepers to be encouraged to purchase own suit for Friday evenings, together with own gloves/ facemasks and staying outdoors, Value jackets to be purchased for about £15.
- c. **Plans for Basic Examination:** 5 people plus trainer as maximum, there is a backlog at present.
- d. **Shop:** To run as it is at present with pick up point at the front of the covered area. Miller Hall to remain closed
- e. For Wet Days a Whatsapp will be in use for all group communication.
- f. **End of Season Event :** To replace the President's Evening a Web Quiz has been suggested with beekeeping/ gen Knowledge mix of questions. For next meeting.

**4. Correspondence**

- a. Group subscription of Beecraft magazine as an option next year as part of membership subs. (cheaper through the Association) Proposed by Warwick, seconded by Candy, motion carried with one exception.
- b. National Honey Show affiliation discussed, £300-£400 donation as one off payment sponsorship to promote our good name. Warwick to come back about this.
- c. Digital version of BBKA news now available (Warwick)

**5. Membership Secretary (WF)**

No changes to membership at present

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**6. Treasurer's Update (Warwick)**

- a. BBKA capitation/BDI payments all paid. Gift aid estimate updated £1745.69  
Expenditure: Water/ electricity  
Income: Honey prep room bookings  
£7000 expenditure with £12,000 income, with no Honey Show/Open day/education visits
- b. Auditor has been sent some minor queries, the accounts should be finalised in next few weeks. To schedule a Friday night meet .
- c. Proposed change the association rules to comply with Charity Commission to accept accounts online. Accounts need to be approved by membership, but AGM elections to take place next year. Proposed by Warwick, seconded by Ray. Unanimously carried.

**7. AHAT**

- 1. Sighting picked up by the team was European hornet confirmed by photograph. Nothing reported UK wide ? reduced movement of people James Mackenzie wants to join the AHA team.

**8. AOB**

- a. Volunteering: if reduced access to the apiary in the near future. Michael is a big loss and Malcolm now need support. List of apiary tasks to be reinstated together with cleaning rota.
- b. Membership directed to the website to find information about shop. Online shop to be set up in future with option to click and collect. Paying via "Sum up" cost increased from 1.69% to 2.5%. The drawback to this is that quantities/stock control cannot be put online Last year the "sum up" cost £100 in total. The percentage increase would cost an extra £70. This can be prepared over the winter months.  
£1549 sales revenue this season.
- c. Annette Duckworth has reported MAQ use this year has caused death of bees/queen.
- d. Speakers for next season: Ray has been in contact with the social secretary of Somerset beekeepers, no reply yet.
- e. Kennedys, authority on bumblebees, possibility for speaker, His grandfather bought the land on which the Twickenham apiary was built.

Meeting concluded at 9.21pm

Next meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 7.30 pm