

Minutes of the 690th Meeting held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.30pm

Virtual meeting Google Meetup

Present: Jonathan Palmer, Warwick Francis, Patrick Brennan, Ray Nicol, Chris Betley, Candida Williamson, Jane Sachdev, Alex Lawrence, Jean Loveland, Irek G

Apologies: Ted Chatley

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Matters arising : Jean and Ray attended the AHAT meeting, Patrick did not attend
Issues arising: none.

Jane proposes minutes as true and correct,

Ray seconds the proposal. No objections/abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Apiary and Mole Works**Mole:**

1. Di, Mick and Alex have done a sterling job of tending to the apiary garden.
2. The gas cylinder has now been replaced by Alex.
3. Fence replacement to be done in due course (Alex)
4. Alex has some hives and Nucs donated by the family of a member who died.

Twickenham Apiary:

1. Shingle has been laid, garden mowed.
2. Patrick has a willow screen to distinguish between the garden and apiary to be fixed between gazebo and hedge.
3. Hide is now in the footprint of the gazebo
4. Solars in the apiary are beyond repair, Ray suggests we buy one solar for now.
5. The benches need cleaning/oiling and staining. Alex has purchased oil £10 per 5 litre (lidl)
6. Colonies in the apiary: 4 viable colonies for teaching. 2 colonies are being merged. Warwick has a 6 frame nucleus ready to install.
7. The rotten featherboard panels for the side wall need to be replaced. The new boards are now ready once painted.
8. A combination lock for the side gate to the shingle pathway is replacing the old key lock, same combination as the main gate.

3. Coronavirus

1. Teaching protocols put in place, timetable for trainers matched with students.
2. Training taking place on Monday eve/Thursday eve/Wed Afternoon/Friday Eve.
3. Irek's basic exam group Wed afternoon and Sat.
4. Antibac wipes requested by Shaun. Soap/wipes/bleach and washing soda all now available.
5. Warwick suggests for accounting purposes that the budgets split into Apiary/Education budgets

4. Correspondence Received (Sarah Crofton)

All forwarded to Warwick from Sarah.

There has been a change to the BBKA module exams. There is now no deferment possible, cancellation only.

BBKA spring convention letter regarding importing of Bees sent out to membership.

5. Membership Secretary (WF)

New members: Simon White and Tracey Carroll from 2020 course.

No objections to list of new members

Capitation has been paid up to and including 31st March.

6. Treasurer's Update (Warwick)

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1. £3227 capitation paid out. No other outgoings. Accounts to be forwarded to the auditor asap.
2. Beecraft 14 people joined to get the discount, receiving the magazine from mid May (June Edition)
3. Income consists of membership/Donations/ Rent at Mole apiary. Missing the Open Day normally early June. There is honey to sell from the Apiary and members. Awaiting the relaxation of covid restrictions.

7. AHAT

Conference on 7th March, not much in the way of progress, only one confirmed sighting last year. The conference speakers were the same as last year

8. AOB

1. Open day this year not confirmed, 21st June earliest we can go ahead (Covid restrictions) Warwick feels it should be cancelled. Awaiting for confirmation from Government. A Saturday in June or July is the target.
2. Honey from the warming cabinet needs to be jarred. The labels are normally ordered from Thornes. Harvey to liaise with Ted regarding lot numbers and sell by dates.
3. AGM: Cannot hold in person meeting at present. There are a number of alternatives. Zoom licences can be bought: £119/ year for up to 1GB recording or £159/year for up to 300 people with streaming/recording. Ray and Warwick to investigate, committee gives authority to purchase if deemed suitable.
4. Jenny Wilkinson has donated some of her dad's equipment including nuc box for the association's use.
5. Ray took part in the BBKA forum zoom meeting. Ray proposed a database of websites worth looking at, ie a BBKA "badge of Honour" website. Other associations are not holding meetings/practical sessions at all, others eg Somerset Beekeepers have had talks by guest speakers. Ray suggests Q and A sessions via zoom and third party talks.
6. Harvey has requested access to the membership database for trading purposes. VClick and collect ongoing, payment by BACS.
7. Alex together with the Tuesday group have been working through the task list to get the apiary ready for the teaching groups. The plastic awnings requires cleaning.
8. Dedication of the new gazebo and hide: the inscription has been sent off to the printer's, Jean has a copy of the inscription
9. Warwick has a copy of the swarming list

Meeting concluded 9pm. Next meeting Wed 19th May 2021 at 7.30pm on Google meet