

Minutes of the 691st Meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7.30pm

Virtual meeting Google Meetup

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

Apologies: Jonathan Palmer

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

New member list omitted, corrected on minutes by CB

Sarah proposes minutes as true and correct,

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

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

1. Fence panel at side of entrance gates has been strengthened by Alex
2. Toilet seat in portaloo reported as flimsy to look into replacing it

Twickenham Apiary:

1. Solars in the apiary are not in a useful place, ideally they should face south, angle 56 degrees, to look at relocating solar and trimming trees so it has more direct sunlight.
2. Colonies in the apiary: 9 colonies, 5 nucs some of these were caste swarms and may be queenless.
3. The rotten featherboard panels for the side wall have been replaced, old boards ready for burning
4. The rambling rose on wall next to car parking area needs trimming and tying up once flowering has finished.
5. Gardening jobs to get Jonathan on board to help out.
6. Jenny Wilkinson has had trouble with the boiler, Alex to check this.
7. Harvey suggests we have 2 steamers we can use , a stainless steel pressure vessel. Tuesday 25th May meeting to set this up, to video so it can be part of practical training in the future.
8. Patrick advises that he has lost keys to the apiary but they have no ID on them.

3. Correspondence Received (Sarah Crofton)

-Most correspondence from the BBKA, including lots of petitions. These are not forwarded to membership as these are contained in BBKA news.

-Beecraft and Honey Show representatives required, will ask for volunteers at the AGM.

-BBKA AGM held at the Spring Convention. Voting programme built in BR2 which worked well at the ADM.

Chris happy to be BDI rep, Ray happy to be rep for Beecraft.

-World Bee Day on 20th May. Livery company of London together with Wax Chandlers working with other associated groups. Warwick to put this on the Facebook page.

-Photographer interested in taking pictures of beekeeping in action, to forward their details to Irek and his basic group

-Margaret English, a longstanding member of the Association died in 2018. Her family have her beekeeping books to donate to the association. The committee have only just been informed.

4. Membership Secretary (WF)

2 New members: Tony Bull, Drew Huber. Committee has no objections to these new membership

143 Registered members

8 partners

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3 County

19 Family members

3 Associate

6 Honorary

Total 182. There are lots of lapsed members, Covid and no access to the Friday eve meetings possible cause, also lots of transfers from Partner to Family membership.

5. Treasurer's Update (Warwick)

1. £314 donations from Winter Course is less than last year, possibly caused by lack of personal touch as it has all been online this year.
2. BDI/capitation has been paid. Water readings required for Twickenham and Mole. Electricity £127 only this year.
3. Expenses £5050.78, income £8184.00. Open Day/Honey Show together are a big income generators which we have lost out on.
4. Accountant has the final figures, Patrick expects this in 2 weeks' time.

6. AHAT

Nothing to report this year.

7. AOB

1. COVID: Keeping up to date with the guidelines we could expand the size of the groups for the beginners.
2. Warwick suggests a case for online learning for general membership eg Friday. Ray suggests purchasing one license for cloud based video conferencing £120/year, 1GB of recording (aprox 2 hours) included in this. Any recordings can then be put on our Youtube channel. Ray proposes the go ahead to purchase, Harvey seconded. Motion passed with no objections.
3. With the passing of Margaret English, there are 3 trustees: Ted Chatley Neil Hilbury and Chris Deaves. Further trustees need to be appointed at next AGM or make the Association an incorporated charity, engage a solicitor and set up as a company which would hold the deeds of property etc. Warwick indicates that this could be a one year project and a presentation at the AGM would be pertinent. The BBKA became an incorporated charity last year. We would require a new constitution, register with the Charities Commission and change our "Raison D'Etre".
4. Margaret English passed away in 2018. She was a stalwart of the Association and her involvement spanned many many years. The beekeeping equipment room is named after her. Also Tony Enos passed away in 2020. He was instrumental in setting up microscopy at the Association.
5. Irek: 8 students are wanting to take the basic exam this year, 4-5 students can be accommodated per day. Ray has the list of students who have paid for the exam. 5 hives in Twickenham to be made available.
6. Harvey wants to know if it is possible to include a 13 year old in beginner beekeeping group. At present the groups are working under Covid guidelines and a parent would have to be a chaperone (safeguarding), Junior members usually join with a full adult member.
7. AGM date to be set once Covid restrictions are ended.
8. Date for diary: September 4th Molesey Eco-Fair. Jane to confirm once Covid restrictions end.
9. Mike Scotton has given up beekeeping and has an observation hive which may be useful to the Association. This would be a formal donation with his name on the hive.
10. Still having problems locating adrenaline auto injector (Epipen/Emerade) due to worldwide shortage.
11. Alex has performed a bleach deep clean in Miller Hall.

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12. The new hide mesh is more inclined to fill with wind than the old mesh so Candy and Alex to find a way of holding its skirts down on a windy day, possibly with extra bungees, without tearing the new mesh.

Meeting concluded 9.05 pm Next meeting Wed 30th June at 7.30pm on Google meet