

Minutes of the 697th Meeting held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Held virtually on Google Meet

Present: Warwick Francis, Chris Betley, Candida Williamson, Irek G, Harvey Kirk, Sarah Crofton, Jean Loveland, Jane Sachdev, for laying the base for the new shed Ted Chatley, Ray Nicol

Apologies: Alex Lawrence, Patrick Brennan

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Warwick to replace old laptop (Correction)

Jean proposes minutes as true and correct, Warwick seconds, passed unanimously.

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

To schedule a date for working party to lay the base for the new shed (plastic matrix plus shingle, committee approved) depending on the weather.

Twickenham:

1. Apibioxal treatment (Oxalic acid) applied 23rd December. Hives hefted, fondant added to the light hives, 12 hives present.
2. Leaves still need removing. Candy and Jean suggest hiring a handyman to do main cutting back and upkeep when require on an ad hoc basis. Greg Eliot a past member is back from New Zealand and is a good volunteer for a Tuesday. Jean to enquire.
3. Candy has Education group as priority in the coming months, so maintenance on Tuesdays may have to give way to another day when needed.
4. Jobs to do spreadsheet to be sent before next meeting.

3. Education Group

-Meeting took place on 26th Jan. Attended by 8 hard core volunteers. May have 10 in total at the beginning of the season.

Minimum number of people to lead school group is 4, ideally 5. Need new members for school hours, who can commit to a few days ie they don't have to commit to every week

-Jane is reviewing the whole presentations to schools with an emphasis on "doing" rather than sitting and watching.

-Tuesdays and Thursdays are by far the best days for volunteer availability so it has been decided to offer these days to the schools. Irek to circulate to basic s group[regarding new volunteers and Candy to draft an email to send out to membership to drum up more volunteers.

- A number of people need to be entered onto the apiary calendar (Melanie and Ewan)This requires a gmail account.

Ray and Warwick to sort out a gmail calendar for members to access. It is noted that honey prep room hire and Education group rarely clash.

- The plan is to set up Eventbrite bookings 10-11am and 11-12, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 19th April to End of June, with one generic email sent to all schools which have previously visited so they can book on a first come first served basis.
- -A vote of thanks go to Shaun from the committee to thank him formally for all the hard work he has put in to making the Education group a vital part of the Apiary.
- Melanie and Ewan have some exciting ideas to refresh the schools experience, and now we are able to access video via Wi Fi/TV.
- Candy and the rest of the committee would like to thank Jane for all the input this ast year to improve the schools experience.

4. Membership Update (Warwick)

-30th March is the deadline for new members to be registered, as of 26th Jan, 51 members have signed up, most paying online

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-Winter Course starts 27th Jan, £560 received in payments for the course, 16 people, Also have sent out an email to include 2021 and 2020 cohorts who would like to use this as a refresher course

-Jonathan Palmer wants to rejoin with a view to becoming President at the next AGM

-Robert Monk wants to join as social member as he doesn't keep bees at present.

-To consider "friend of" membership to propose at the AGM. Say £20 per year with no BBKA news. £29.50 for associate (with BBKA news) restricted to members of other associations at present.

5. Treasurer's Update (Warwick)

-Electricity bills fixed rates for next three years at same rate as last three years for both sites.

-The association is absorbing the increase in BBKA capitation fees this year (Vote at AGM) we receive £23/person rather than £25

- End of year accounts are almost done (yet to do depreciation). Going to the auditor next week.

6. AHAT

Andrew Durham (from Cambridge) gave a zoom lecture on Asian hornet. He has been working with French beekeepers. Possibility of the lecture appearing online in the future.

7. AOB

1. Ted may need someone else to commit to running the shop as Harvey has had other commitments. To discuss next meeting.

2. Chris mentioned John White (from Thjornes in Windsor) willing to give a talk on "Checkerboarding" as swarm control method.

3. AGM to be pencilled in for 25th March

4. ADM took place in January, Warwick represented the association, nothing eventful to report.

5. Laptop priced at £590 windows 11 with 8GB RAM, good spec for the association to replace old laptop.

6. Carl would like to donate a "henry" Vacuum. Yes to that.

7. Ray has two beekeeping smocks to donate to the association, yes to that.

Meeting concluded 8.50pm. Next meeting March 9th at 7.30pm, hopefully in person at Miller Hall.