

**Minutes of the 705th Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**  
on google meets/hybrid at Miller Hall

**Present:** Warwick Francis , Chris Betley, Harvey Kirk, Ray Nicol, Jane Sachdev, Alex Lawrence, Julie Hill, Patrick Brennan, Alex Lawrence

**Apologies:** None

**1. Minutes and Matters Arising**

Julie proposes the minutes as a true representation of the meeting, Patrick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Amendment, remove Irek/ Julies name from correspondence in relation to member's disagreement (correspondence received last meeting)

**2. Apiary and Mole Works**

**Mole:**

1. Base for new shed to be put down in New Year once tidying has been carried out. Provisional date 18<sup>th</sup> Feb for Mole apiary gardening and tidying day. 18<sup>th</sup> March is open day, which gives us a deadline for finishing base. Brambles overhanging pavement have been kindly cut down by Jane.
2. 1st March is WI talk to be given by Jane and Chris with help from Diane. Meeting to sort out format in due course.
3. Mick's funeral 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, reception at Esher Rugby club. A bench has already been purchased, to be assembled on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb as a memorial to Mick.

**Twickenham:**

1. Only one person has come back to Ray regarding the sheds. Robert (Julie's friend) will pop round to visit the Apiary.
2. The gazebo water butts are overflowing onto the posts with a risk of future rot, need to get hose to deal with overflow. Ray to sort.
3. All hives have had apibioxal treatment.
4. March 4<sup>th</sup> earmarked for Apiary tidy and clean to get ready for new season. Ray to draw up email inviting all membership to the tidy weekend.
5. Honey prep room needs a professional cleaner. Patrick to organise in due course.
6. Julie to follow up on sandwich donations from local shops/supermarkets for Apiary teas on Fridays.

**3. Library**

Patrick is due to do an audit of all library books, and sort out the app, so books can be ordered in advance. Demand is not there at the moment. A member will have to be there on a Friday to give out/take back books ie a witness. Most beginners are now buying their own reference books. Julie is willing to check the inventory, Patrick to send Julie the link. A stock take is also required.

**4. Education Group**

- a. Shaun has emailed Jane in preparation for the upcoming season. Eventbrite was set up for school booking, difficult to manage and tally with volunteers/no. of school visits. There is a core group of volunteers, Candy, Jane, Julie, Melanie and Ewan, the Sylvesters, and Jane has a list of prospective new volunteers for the Apiary and also for Sat/Sunday events.
- b. It is proposed to "shout out" what we do, ie to submit to BBKA news/Beecraft, to increase our Social media presence. We have an Instagram account which we have not made use of. BBKA appear to just retweet others' activity , no original tweets. The association should create content for our association in the future.

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- c. Outside visits: Jane has a list of people willing to go out into the community eg May Fair/Street Markets/ School open days. All volunteers are reminded they can claim expenses e.g. travel for outreach work.

**5. Correspondence Received**

Warwick has passed on all the relevant correspondence to membership where appropriate.

**6. Membership**

No change to membership at 168

Renewals going out next week. New beginners will get 3 months free trial of Beecraft

15-16 paid up for the winter course already, £75 per person.

**7. Treasurers update**

Electricity bill not received yet, so to appear on next years account. Still in credit with Water company.

Total income £18695.93 (gift aid £1162.26)

Expenditure £8584.50

End of year totals £115,000 (£68.06 in interest with £78,000 in bank!)

Mole stands: we received £300 last year at £12 per stand. Increase to £15 for this year with a maximum of 2 stands per person. , increase with permission.

£4000 in shop account, with more trade than the previous year.

**AHAT**

No other sightings apart from the one reported sighting in Rayleigh, Essex.

**8. Asian Hornet Action Group**

No reports/feedback. Ray is attending the NBU forum in London and will report back next meeting.

**9. AOB**

1. 17<sup>th</sup> March start of season,
  2. Jane/Julie to give Education group /recruitment talk at AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> March
  3. Record keeping talk 14<sup>th</sup> April
  4. Swarm night 21<sup>st</sup> April
  5. IPM/Varroa 28<sup>th</sup> April
  6. "Bees in Garden" 17<sup>th</sup> May
- Next talks to be arranged next meeting including pollen slide demo/bee genetics/Asian Hornet

Meeting ended at 9pm.

Next meeting in 5 weeks' time on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30 pm hybrid, Google meets/Miller Hall