

Present: Warwick Francis, Harvey Kirk, Ray Nicol, Jane Sachdev, Patrick Brennan, Irek G, Alex Lawrence

Apologies: Jonathan Palmer, Chris Betley, Alex Lawrence, Julie Hill, Candida Williamson

1. Minutes and Outstanding Issues from last meeting

Last meeting's minutes recorded CW as present, when in fact she sent apologies. Also, please amend to record that Ted Chatley's memorial party was organised by Ted's family, not by WF.

Maria Francisco is the name of the new member for membership records.

Proposed: RN Seconded: PB (subject to above amendments being made) – minutes approved

Software requirements to run an improved equipment hire scheme: **RN to research further**

2. Apiary and Mole Works

Twickenham:

a. Tidy up of the apiary

Thanks extended to Gia and Alex for their hard work tidying and cleaning the apiary prior to Ted's memorial party. Gia's work in the central courtyard and Alex staying late into the evening to get jobs done was going above and beyond. RN proposed that we give garden centre or other gift vouchers as a thank you to each of them. **JS to purchase John Lewis vouchers of £50 each.** Proposed: RN Seconded: WF. All agreed.

b. Swarm Control

There have been a few problems with numerous swarms in recent days, and there is a need to control/pre-empt the swarming better. Swarms have been gathering in the vents of the flats adjacent to the apiary, which should be covered in gauze to prevent the bees accessing them, but most are inaccessible due to their height. Alex managed to cover the vent of the flat affected. To improve our swarm management next year, it was suggested that a Saturday at the end of March should be set aside to inspect hives, even if the weather is poor. The beginners' group to be told that rain won't cancel their practical sessions. **RN to enter a Saturday into March 2024 calendar. WF will purchase 3 large golf umbrellas** to use when necessary. WF proposed that it should be an apiary requirement that all queens be clipped. There are scissors and a one-handed queen catcher to use. **(Was this agreed??)**

c. Chatley Cup

To be presented to "best in show" in memory of Ted. WF showed the meeting an image of a silver trophy cup for sale in an online auction, for which he will bid and aim to secure for this purpose. Maximum bid to be £175. A further trophy board will be needed for the Chatley Cup winners.

d. Shop

HK has provided the dates he is away and won't be able to run the shop and will need cover if the shop is to open. PB will help HK on Friday 5th May. 19th May might need to be closed with a Wednesday night opening instead from 5.30pm – 8pm

e. Refreshments Rota

JS has set up a rota for tea/coffee service on Friday evenings and a whatsapp group to aid communication about this.

Mole

a. Shed preparation works

The cement mixer has arrived. Work will be needed to mix and lay concrete base for a new shed. Some reluctance on the part of the committee members associated with Mole to undertake this job, due to lack of skill, lack of time, lack of energy! It was

Minutes of the 708th Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30pm
on google meets

proposed that further quotes for the work to be done by a professional should be obtained before the next meeting. **HK to obtain quotes??**

b. Unoccupied hives/untended hives

Due to the sad news that Keith MacArthur has died, Neil Cooley has kindly offered to take over Keith's hives and dismantle unused ones. A subsequent discussion between Mole beekeepers proposed a walk around informal inspection of the apiary to check for hygiene hazards and unused equipment/rubbish to be disposed of. **JS to facilitate this with RN.**

3. Education Group

The school visit programme is up and running – to date good feedback has been received.

4. Correspondence Received

Make a Difference Day – a request received from Radnor House School to offer volunteers to work at the apiary. It was agreed that we cannot supervise this on the day they requested, sorry no.

We have received the offer of a hand extractor which could be added to the hire equipment list.

5. Social Media & Website

Website to be updated with new course dates and info – **RN to action.**

WF owns the domain for T&TVBKA website and would like to sell it to the apiary.

RN and WF will discuss what is necessary (SSL certs?) for this transaction to take place.

6. Membership

122 Registered

7 Partner

2 Country

8 Family

5 Associate

6 Honorary

New members: Julie Brownbridge and Robert Taferner

New members accepted by the committee.

7. Treasurers update (WF)

COIF account has accrued £150 interest for 3 months (Jan-Mar)

£640 paid out for 7 new 6-frame wooden nucs – funds from Ben Taylor legacy.

Water account is in credit at Twickenham and in debit at Mole

Electric is in credit at Mole due to a rebate being received.

8. AHAT

There have been 3 sightings this year. **RN to update membership on Friday.**

9. AOB

1. Open Day being managed by Carl – Saturday 10th June 1pm-4pm and we are invited to sign up to volunteer for various activities.

2. A third signatory for the bank is needed – **Chris will be the third or HK??.**

3. Clocks in the Miller Hall. JS has purchased one new clock, installed above the kitchen and asked if a second clock is necessary. Agreed that one clock would do for now and the old clock should be removed.

Minutes of the 708th Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30pm
on google meets

4. RN mentioned that Neil Hilbery had asked whether the incorporation of the charity was to be proposed as he is keen to get this moving and **has offered to do some of the work involved (???)**

Meeting ended 9.15pm. Next meeting 14th June 7.30pm via Google meet.