

Minutes of the 709th Meeting held on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.30pm
on google meets

Present: Warwick Francis, Harvey Kirk, Ray Nicol, Jane Sachdev, Patrick Brennan, Irek G, Phil, Jonathan Palmer, Julie Hill, Christine Betley,

Apologies: Alex Lawrence, Candida Williamson

1. Minutes and Outstanding Issues from last meeting

Minutes accepted, proposed by Warwick, seconded by Patrick, unanimously accepted.
Software requirements \$69 for hiring extractors/observation hives for the website. **RN to sort**

All queens to be clipped in apiary hives.

WF to prepare paperwork for CB signatory.

Outstanding issues:

2 umbrellas available (£30 each) used at open day.

Ted Chatley Cup, no progression, **Warwick on the lookout**

Warwick owns the domain name "Twickerbees.co.uk" wants to transfer to the apiary
RN updated the website.

Colleague of Patrick has experience of incorporation, also Neil is keen for this to go ahead as he is a trustee. A working group to be set up in due course. **Patrick to get availability re a talk**

2. Apiary and Mole Works

Twickenham

a. Open Day

Reduced revenue, plants £450 last year, only £190 this year, but no purchases.

£1622 in honey sales up 17%, tombola £133, down from £185 last year.

Teas £328, last year £498. Footfall was down, due to hot weather, other things going on in Twickenham, cost of living.

Overall takings £2900. Down 23%

For next year: do better with plant stall, ask members to plant seeds at start of season, and make it an exhibition of plants for pollinators, include seed bombs. No one went to the Dunkirk nurseries this year to buy plants. Also to contact allotment groups/garden societies in the area. Victoria (in beginner group) is keen to get involved next year, re a list of things to grow from seed.

- b. Greg kindly helped with the strimming of the apiary. He is keen to help with the gardening at the apiary, to be encouraged. He also suggested we should replace the huts rather than getting them repaired.

c. Shop

Patrick to liaise with Harvey regarding wax recycling. The shop has been busy, need to get more volunteers in the long term.

d. Refreshments Rota

This has been going well thanks to Julie/ Jane and Andy.

Mole

- a. Petrol mower to be taken to repair shop in Surbiton for quote.
- b. Neil Cooley has taken on the equipment left by Keith McArthur and is sorting/cleaning
- c. Small garden shed to be placed on slabs in the area at the side of the portaloo. £350-400, already agreed at past meetings. Tongue and groove rather than shiplap.

3. Education Group

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

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4. Correspondence Received

1. One novice beekeeper contacted , invited to Friday evenings.
2. Holiday Inn cluster engineer contacted re information on setting up hives. Corporate responsibility tick box required. Needs to encourage gardening for pollinators.
3. Ben Donaldson has been in touch with Feltham Young Offenders site, they wanted beekeeping help.

5. Social Media & Website

Facebook page only. Instagram page fed by facebook presence. Twitter avoided as this is like "wild west". To use facebook for open days/honey show/honey sales only. We don't publish for other people. We have 1300 followers on facebook. We can notify these.

We have no concerns about lack of media presence unless close to shows/sales.

6. Membership

128 Registered

7 Partner

2 Country

8 Family

5 Associate

6 Honorary

New members: Peter Hammer, Rupak

New members accepted by the committee.

7. Treasurers update (WF)

£2250 takings on open day, costs £137.44. Warwick to update spreadsheet as some discrepancies.

8. AHAT

Sightings in May in Ashford (Kent), Canterbury and on cross channel ferry. **RN to give talk on Asian hornet traps in coming weeks.**

9. AOB

- a. Ray: Donated nucs are flat pack so need constructing, session to be organised for a Friday evening.
- b. The basic assessment: candidates and assessors prefer weekends, but the June assessments mean that the basic group is likely to disband when we need the help to continue at the apiary on Friday evenings.

Meeting ended 9.05pm. Next meeting 26th July at 7.30pm via Google meet.