

TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING
NO: 728

WEDNESDAY 9th JULY 2025 at 7.30pm

Miller Hall, Whitton Road, Twickenham

M I N U T E S

Present:

Greg Elliott (GE); Ray Nicol (RN); Warwick Francis (WF); Patrick Brennan (PB); Jane Sachdev (JS); Christine Betley (CB); Sally Ewen (SE); Phil Webb (PW); Candy Williamson (CA); Mandy Moss (MM); Alex Lawrence (AL); Julie Hill (JH).

Apologies:

Harvey Kirk; Irek Gajowniczek

1. MINUTES AND OUTSTANDING AISSUES FROM LAST MEETING 727 (28.5.25)

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

WF has now finished theory sessions with his group.

Suggested courses for members of the public – WF said we need to know what the general public want. To be discussed at a future meeting.

JS reported a visit from Age UK is planned for 30th July. The Powerpoint Presentation shown to the WI will be available and the Lab will be open.

Using the shop Sum Up to order goods is expensive (2.5%). The question was asked as to whether it was needed and will generate more customers.

The Ted Chatterly Memorial Cup is still being sought and it is hoped that one can be found in time for this year's Honey Show.

HPR – it was suggested that vents could be installed in the door. It was agreed the humidity of the room would be monitored. PW to research some form of heater / de-humidifier. **ACTION: PW**

2. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR COMMITTEE MEETING 728

Thanks were given to JS for organising the Education Group.

Jane

Education Group

- Season of school visits has now finished
- A review of the season's work planned for later this month (July 23)
- A report containing details of how many visits, how many volunteers, how much money raised, expenses incurred etc etc will be circulated after the review meeting
- Hives 3, 4 and 4A to be managed for the rest of the season by Jo Moore in liaison with Gia Pendred. Silvesters are lending their Apiary keys to Jo for this purpose.
- Jo has put together a schools' challenge for children who have visited the apiary this year to enter as entries to the October Honey Show. Competitions include Art and Gardening challenges. We are not sure if there will be much response but will give it a go.

Mole Users

- 6 outreach visits planned in the strategy document of Autumn 2024 have taken place – including taking bees to 2 schools (3 classes at each) and 2 Beaver Groups. The visits were well received.
- We did not attend Molesey Carnival this year.
- We may offer a honey sale and Open Afternoon at Mole in early September – to be confirmed.
- Christine has kept the grass mowing under control – many thanks to her and the petrol mower which is very good.
- Diane has kept the rubbish cleared and Jane has picked up litter from the lane.

Harvey

Shop Trading Centre

- Harvey on holiday – promote jar sales? HK is aware we may need to put another order in for jars.

Greg

Policies and Procedures

- Nothing to report (sorry) – will need to enlist members to write policies.
- Need hard copy storage location (sort out corner of discovery room) and liaise with Mandy over web based storage location for all apiary documents. MM has been adding documents.

Maintenance/Building/General Management

- Only outstanding remaining actions are to sort out sink and drainage at the outside corner of the building and get fire extinguishers checked and new hose installed. Also clean gutters.
- The tools board needs replacing. GE suggested one for hive tools, one for brushes.
- The Board down the side of the Hall needs replacing and the roof area above the walkway may need looking at.

Christine

Gardening Group

- The rambling rose needs cutting back as it has flowered. GE offered to help.

Patrick

Library

- Online and working but not great demand at the moment. GE added there are some duplications of books so removing some of these would free up space for new books - library Meeting to be convened with PB, RN and SE.

Honey Prep Room

- Problem with smaller extractor that Alex is looking into.

Member Talks and Workshops

- Have tried to get an update but people are not responding to confirm bookings

Sally

Laboratory

- Nothing to report – other beekeeping jobs have taken priority.

Warwick

Membership and Correspondence

- Comments awaited

Finance

- Comments awaited

Public Events

- Comments awaited

Mandy

Marketing Communications and Social Media

- Website visits continue to increase - visitors have increased by 166% on Sept. 24 numbers. New users have increased by 150% on same period.
- Social media - Successful promotion of Open Day
- Social media – 3,427 views, 257 positive interactions (clicks, attending event, shares, etc)
- Apr-June, 404 visitors to our Open Day web page, of which 276 (68%) were new visitors
- Website and social stats - [TTVBKA Social and website stats.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)
- Website – need to have more educational content on bees and pollinators – to discuss
- August Newsletter – Honey Show – other ideas please?
- Correspondence tracker - is everyone tracking? - [Correspondence and enquiry tracker.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

CIO Update

- First draft with sub-Committee for review and feedback by 12th July
- Had a problem with Transfer docs. CD has now signed. WF & witness to sign
- Memorandum of Choice and Appointment – in process of registration

Other items

- There is a shared file for Policies - [TTVBKA Policies - Google Drive](#) and a folder for Meeting Minutes & Reports - [TTVBKA Committee Reports - Google Drive](#)
- On Expenses & Budgets – I think each of these areas should have individual cost centres. This will help us to set Member fees, develop additional revenue streams (when we are a CIO), create budgets, etc
- Suggest categories are: Laboratory, Honey Prep room, Education - public/schools & groups, Education - Public events, Education – members, Marketing & Comms, Website, Apiary Management, IT, Shop/equipment centre, Asian Hornet support/co-ord, Mole - general maintenance/upkeep/equipment, Twickenham - general maintenance/upkeep/equipment, Talks & workshops, Operating costs – utilities, broadband, etc

Ray

Apiary Management

- This season seems to be 3-4 weeks ahead of schedule. Brambles have gone over as has the lime. Main flow may end earlier than usual which may extend robbing season. Could also be a wasp year. Need to make sure that all entrances are reduced and that the colonies are of a decent size. Small colonies may need to be merged.
- Burcow boiler (for frames) checked and OK but cable needs to be fully inserted into boiler body– still to be done – old frames to be cleaned and recycled.
- New frames (2025) increasingly being used. Running low on new frames – take up with the Trading Post.
- Number of colonies now up to 14 – move hives to reduce crowding and allocate hives to groups and set up 'apiary hives' to be done.
- Need to check possible honey crop. Begin to organise extraction for Fridays.
- Identify which hives (4 of them) can be used for the Honey Bee Health assessment on the 17th July.
- Need to check if Varroa treatments are available so they can be applied mid August.
- PB confirmed that treatments had been ordered for the Apiary.

IT Infrastructure

- Not much, if anything, done with IT infrastructure due to beekeeping and personal matters.
- Next action to check with Harvey and Warwick the status of putting the Trading Post onto the Sumup website.

Adult Education

- Beginners groups experiencing the usual dip in attendance for the Summer.
- Basic group exam dates organised - 14th and 21st August.
- Honey Bee Health assessment organised – 17th July.
- Warwick's shortened winter course – investigate other times if demand?
- Education Group has stopped for the season. Need to clarify who will inspect their hives for the rest of the season.

Asian Hornet Coordination

- Ongoing – no current actions. There have been 30 confirmed sightings in 2025 so far. Vast majority of these in Kent with a few in East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire
- Keep eye on Government website for latest information.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asian-hornet-uk-sightings>

3. Items to discuss / vote

Honey Prep Room – machinery

- AL reported the plastic pulley on the motor had melted as they were out of line. He had ordered the parts and will mend the machine as soon as possible. A sign to be made to ask people to close the gate when working at the Apiary or in the HPR.

TTVBKA Whatsapp site

- voting only or general interest eg Committee chat and it was agreed that this WA should just be used for polls. A more social Whatsapp for the committee will be setup.

Sumup units

- what do we have and where are they. It was agreed that no more machines were required. Phones can be set up to take payments at the Open Days. Existing machines would be stored in the shop.

Apiary Pizza night

- The night was successful. WF reiterated the point that the Committee had not agreed or approved a budget and it was felt it should have been made clear that the evening was intended as a thank you to the volunteers. A vote was taken as to whether the cost should be reimbursed. Majority in favour.

Expense claim forms and subcommittee budgets

- As we move forward to CIA cost centres need to be set up and expense forms linked to this. GE to send WF his expense form as a document. WF said he intended to stand down after we become a CIA. Once we become a CIO we will have to appoint Accountants.

Frames for students

- buy in bulk & store in shed /sign out? Currently the shop keeps a note of equipment needed for the Apiary but it is often requested in dribs and drabs. It was suggested that equipment could be set aside for the Apiary and put in the shed and signed out. A solution needs to be sought.

Apiary actions –

- woodwork, wax reclaim, stand numbering etc. GE and RN to sort.

Honey sale day

August Bank Holiday. This has never been an official thing but an event organised by WF. Last year bees were a big problem. It was agreed the event would once again go ahead on the Bank Holiday Monday at a cost to members selling honey of £20 per table.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE REPORT - WF

The Finance Report was circulated prior to the Meeting.

Membership:

Registered: 105

Partner: 7

Junior: 2

Country: 2

Family: 3

Associate: 2

Hons: 6

The Open Day was a real success but there have been large expenses this year from exceptional items such as new shed, storage, skips.

A second Open Day was suggested but the majority of funds come from the sale of honey.

Once the Sum Up is up and running properly the current account can be closed.

Annual Accounts from last year, still a discrepancy of £500 which cannot be reconciled.

5. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT – JH & MM

JH reported that all emails are replied to and forwarded to the relevant Committee Member as required. Emails from BBKA for circulation are forwarded to RN and GE as JH does not have access to membership emails. Most of the recent emails were from people complaining of bees in their properties. MM is tracking social media. MM to have access to the email account so she can include emails to the Association in her tracking data.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Honey Shows Classes - Discussion took place as to how the Classes for the Honey Show is described and it was felt this needed updating and simplifying. The honey cake recipe cooking temperature was also felt needed amending. It was suggested that a sub committee be formed with CC, GE, SE and JH to discuss.

Pollinators - AL suggested having books for children in the Discovery Room and a Pollinators section.

Honey Show Street Signs - to be reviewed

Newsletter – the Next Newsletter is to go out in August. Please send suggestions to MM.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20th August at 7.30pm in Miller Hall.

8 OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Provisional Honey Bee Health Exam – July

Basic Exam - August. No more Friday examination dates

Last night for members – Friday 26th September

Honey Show – Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th October

President's Evening – Friday 14th November. GE away

Committee Meetings (done) – Apiary schedule

Module Exams – done up to March

Spring Tidy – GE to set a date

Use of Car Park on Rugby days – 3 May, 27 September

GE thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 2150