

TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING

NO: 730

WEDNESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2025 at 7.30pm

Miller Hall, Whitton Road, Twickenham

MINUTES

Present:

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

Apologies: Harvey Kirk; Irek Gajowniczek.

1. MINUTES AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM LAST MEETING 729 (20.8.25) & SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

Tea Urn – very successful purchase. It was noted that when using the large tea pot you need to pull the drip tray out.

Seats – One has been made. HK has the other to bring to the Apiary. Plaques are being made in memory of Neil and Ted.

TTVBKA brass sign – this has been moved to the doorway in the inner Courtyard and the brass plaque is now in the inner forecourt. GE advised that one company had offered to polish it for £200 but were unable to re-black the writing. A decision would be made in the future as to whether it was worth spending the money.

Coffee Stall in the Forecourt – this was a great success and it was hoped they would come back.

Last Night – There wasn't a huge crowd but it was successful. Publicise better next year. MM will follow up with this year's starters to encourage them to come back to the Apiary.

2026 – Setting up a proper speaker programme to be discussed in due course.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Maintenance Building – General Management – Greg Elliott

There are no outstanding issues – guttering needs cleaning out before winter.

Policies and Procedures – Greg Elliott

Policies needed for the CIO transition and for the current running of TTVBKA have all been written and passed to the committee for approval on October 1st.

Education Group – Jane Sachdev

Nothing to report

Mole Users – Jane Sachdev

- A sale of local honey took place at Mole on Sunday 7th September at 2pm-3pm. Local residents/passers-by really appreciated the chance to buy Molesey honey.
- There will be a gardening/premises work party at Mole on Sunday 12th October from around noon till 3pm to do a pre-Winter tidy up. CB mowed the grass and JS wiped down the kitchen on 7th September.
- Next Community event will be Love Magical Molesey on Thursday 27th November 5pm-7pm – a Christmas Street fair at which Mole Apiary will have a stall. A £10 donation to Molesey Business Association is payable – to be contributed pro-rata by any honey sellers who attend. JS will organise the table and gazebo etc and act as co-ordinator for this event.
- We have been invited to speak at the local Catholic midweek coffee morning at the House of Prayer, Seymour Road, East Molesey on either Thursday 15th January 2026 or Thursday 19th February at 10am and I have agreed that we will present a 30 minute talk about bees and pollinators. Please can I have a couple of others to participate in this?

LABORATORY – Sally Ewen

On 16-September, the lab sub-committee hosted Sean Stephenson (Mid-Bucks BKA and BBKA microscopy expert), who very generously spent a few hours going through the trickiest aspects of the BBKA syllabus with us. It was a very successful morning and we have gained the final bit of knowledge that we need to be fully prepared for the assessment.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – Julie Hill

Emails largely related to bees (aka wasps) in gardens and information from BBKA. Circulated to relevant Committee Member(s).

GE to contact BBKA to ask their official line about honey bees and lack of forage

ACTION: GE

SHOP – Harvey Kirk

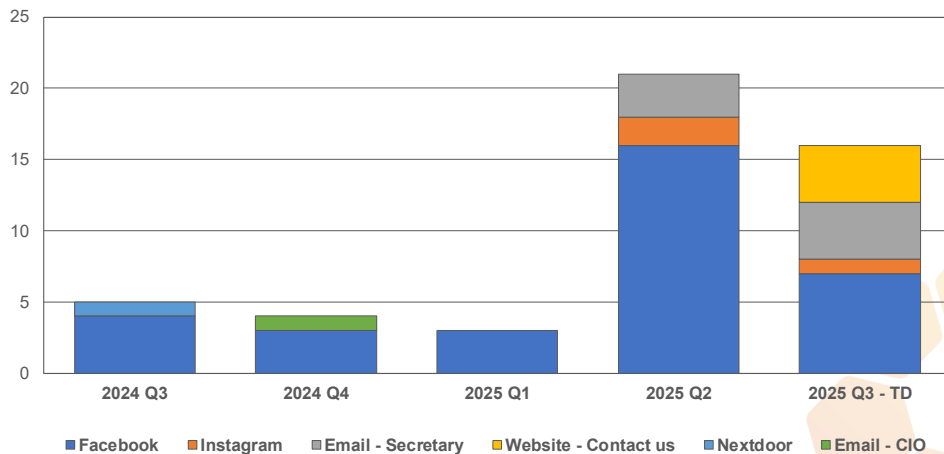
Harvey is away so nothing to report.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA – Mandy Moss

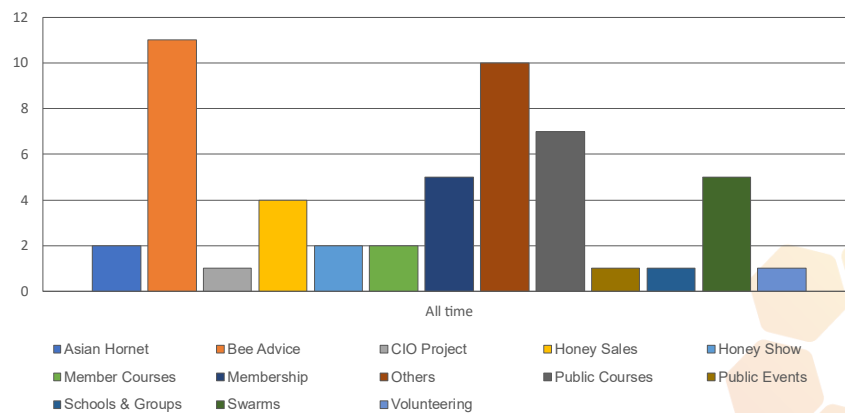
- Correspondence – overall increase in enquiries generated via social media
Note: Not 100% that all enquiries have been captured via other channels
- Website – need to have more educational content on bees and pollinators
- Honey Show – guides produced, event promoted on social media and in local media incl. Radio Jacke
- Newsletter – behind schedule. Will wait until after honey show and include pictures and results – can somebody make sure they take lots of pictures please?
- Attempting to apply for free Adobe Express Pro via Techsoup



Enquiries by Source

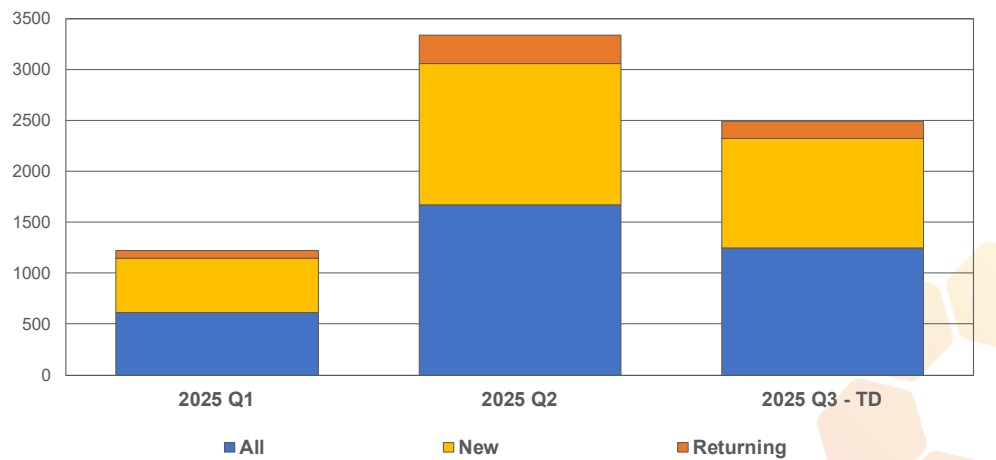


Enquiries by Type



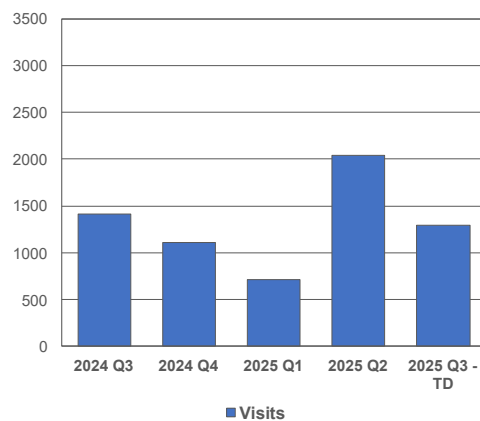


Website visits

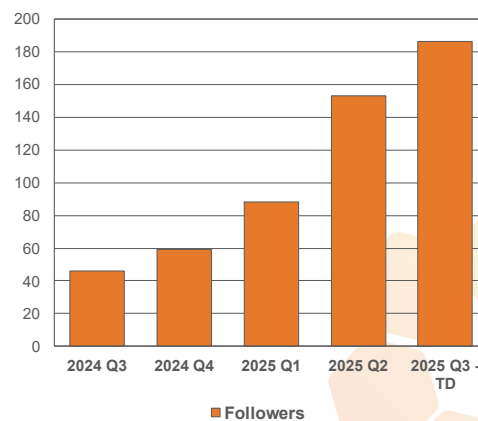


Social media

Facebook visits



Instagram followers



CIO UPDATE

- Constitution – sent to Committee for review by Friday 10th October
 - Go through and approve outstanding points
- Neil H death certificate has been sent & received by PWW (solicitors)
- Complete Registration Questionnaire & decide/approve our Charitable Purpose
- Create additional documents, e.g. risk management policy, etc
- Next steps – Committee to review Constitution, organise committee meeting to discuss and approve for Member approval

OTHER ITEMS

- Need a Speaker for Presidents Evening
- Member questionnaire – start thinking about areas and questions you would like to include

HONEY PREP ROOM – Patrick Brennan

This Year had seen 43 bookings by Members and 4 by Association members. Although Friday evenings were reserved for training.

Alex has fixed the motor on the small (9 frame) extractor and it is working well.

The large (12 frame) extractor is still out of action, and we are looking at obtaining a new motor.

I plan on doing a clean of the room for end of season in October.

Until the updated booking software is ordered I cannot set up new booking process for half days.

The financial management of the HPR will move to the Shop's sum up so I can confirm who has paid, along with settling tank & extractor hire.

LIBRARY – Patrick Brennan

I would like to thank Mandy for branding, reviewing and in most cases rewriting instructions on how to apply for access and user instructions.

In 2026 I would like to hold a talk on library use, review library contents to decide what books and surplus to requirement. And hopefully buy some books that will help with module revision.

TALKS – Patrick Brennan

Been a bad year people who we tried to book did not return calls. I have called a sub-committee meeting to discuss approach for next year.

APIARY MANAGEMENT – Ray Nicol

Varroa treatments will need to come off soon. The treatments mustn't be left on over Winter. This can be done in October. Either Ray will do it or can press gang others to help.

Now the cooler weather has arrived, we can start wax rendering.

Ray needs to get Burco boiler fixed before it can be safely used for frame cleaning.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE – Ray Nicol

Ray to progress getting website renamed to [www. Twickenham-bees.org.uk](http://www.Twickenham-bees.org.uk) and getting SSL/TLS certificate added so it becomes a https site.

Purchase and add HPR enhanced booking software.

Investigate search engine optimisation re topics such finding suppliers of local honey.

ADULT EDUCATION – Ray Nicol

Module study group started for module 2. Two takers so far.

Still putting together the year 2 course. Will be looking for contributions and criticism shortly.

The year 2 course will fit in with the production hives.

Looking to create a path for those who may be interested in teaching eg anyone who has done the Basic who might be interested in helping a teacher and progressing from there?

Looking at ways to give more support for those doing GH26. Maybe teach/ help teach Honey Bee Health?

ASIAN HORNET – Ray Nicol

129 nests found so far this year.

Soon need to make plans about mobilising the association members for Spring trapping.

GARDENING – Christine Betley

Spring bulbs (Aliums, crocus, muscari etc.) have been ordered and invoice given Warwick. Hope to plant in the next couple of weeks.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE REPORT (WF) - ANY ISSUES

The Finance Report was circulated prior to the Meeting. No change in Membership. Capilisation paid up. £538 still cannot be accounted for in 2024 Accounts. It was thought that it could have been donations for the Winter Course taken on Sum Up.

Gift Aid of around £1000 still to come in.

3. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT (JH & MM) – ANY ISSUES

A few emails received about bee nests which were wasps and BBKA emails forwarded to relevant persons.

4. ITEMS TO DISCUSS / VOTE ON:

HONEY SHOW UPDATE

WF has ordered a set of printer toners in case they are needed prior to the honey show.

GE has bought a camera to put in front of a beehive which could be played though a TV at the honey show.

PRESIDENTS EVENING

A speaker is still needed. MM to contact the 'wasp lady' regarding the possibility of her giving a talk at the Presidents' Evening.

ACTION: MM

CIO DOCUMENTS – REVIEW AND COMMENTS – 10 Sep Email

Preliminary investigation by Sub Committee regarding bank account moving forward.

'To do' items from 10 Sep email - subcommittee structure, plans for 2026

PB proposed that they are provisionally approved pending some corrections as discussed. Seconded by MM. All in favour.

HONEY PREP ROOM

Issues to resolve – winterisation (install heater etc), payment feedback loop, software upgrade? costs summary, current extractor issues and are they fixed/manageable- new extractor purchase?

PW gave an update on a proposed system to keep the HPR slightly heated. It was agreed to go ahead.

ACTION: PW

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SE raised the matter of GE emailing her directly about the Petersham Nursery extraction. She was not happy about being singled out and thought for clarity, there should be a Policy regarding use of the HPR

GE apologised and had hoped it did not need to be a Committee decision, asking what the Policy was if a Member is extracting honey for a commercial outlet.

WF advised the current Policy stated the HPR could only be used by full members.

It was agreed that further consideration should be given to this matter. Next year use of the HPR will be charged in four hourly units and the charges will be in four hourly units to make it fairer for those only extracting a few frames. The Unit cost also needed to be calculated. To be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION: JH

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 12TH November at 7.30pm in Miller Hall. Apologies GE

Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm in Miller Hall and a Christmas dinner afterwards.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

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

GE thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 2140