

Minutes of meeting held Thursday, 11th April, 2019, 7.30pm at Richard Martin's

ACTION

Present: Tony Payne (President), Richard Martin (Chairman), Andy Smith, Roger Chapman, Felix Oliver, Bohdan Antoniow, Maggie Lawrence

1. **Apologies:** Kirsten Ryland who has resigned, Caroline Crosthwaite, Alan Seagar

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as correct

3. Matters arising:

- ASm to take on banner purchase
- RM agreed to ask SH to join the Committee
- Association cups being stored in RM's shed. AP to bring over the couple he has
- 12lb Association honey sold at Wyken. AP to have discussions as to whether we continue

ASm
RM
AP

4. **Correspondence:** none

5. **Treasurer's Report:** £5,796 in bank and £61 cash to be put in. Liabilities of approx. £100.

6. **Membership up-date:** 113 members registered. The following 2018 members have not responded to email chasing – Mark Dines, Steve Hines, Robert Jackson, Kelly Johnson, Christa Pleasance, Robert Snelling. Simon Kelly and David Thorne have not paid.

7. **Appointment of Roles:** Position of Vice-Chairman to be deferred until more members on the Committee

8. **AGM:** Red Gables has had a complaint about our members arriving early and disturbing another group. Members to be asked not to turn up before 7.30pm.

9. 2019 Shows:

- **Suffolk Show** meeting on 15th April. Agreed any members' entries delivered to RM by Sunday 26th May would be taken to show by FO. It was agreed that SDBKA would enter 5 pots with labels of Association Honey
- **Gislingham Honey Fair**- FO with RC
- **Hadleigh Show**, 18th May – FO to liaise with KR as to whether we are registered
- **Haughley Village Fete**, 8th June – FO
- **Scarffs Farm Open Day**, 9th June – Asm

- **Coombs & Battisford Fete**, 6th July - ASm will ask Stella to help
- **Stowmarket Food & Drink Festival**, 7th July – ML and BA
- **Bacton Show**, 3rd August – AP and RC
- **Walsham-le-Willows**, 25th&26th August – AP and RC

AP has box of show things. Normally needed 2 x 6' tables, full size National and WBC hives, extractor. SDBKA has observation hive. Believed Jane Took has it

RC to produce Queen stickers and SDBKA business cards

10. **Club Apiary:** RM and RC had been over to tidy and extend apiary. Now has 2 rows of 4 and 2 at front. Neil owns 1. Currently 5 colonies alive, but one in poor condition. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to aim to increase the stocks to 9 hives this year from within after which any surplus could be offered to any recent beginners who have joined our association.

It was noted that the new swarm collection service initiated by Suffolk BKA through post codes means it may be less likely that SDBKA will collect fewer swarms this year than previously. Also members who have lost stocks may be keen to build up their own colonies from any such swarms. RC pointed out that of 113 members, 53 are volunteering to collect swarms.

Any nucs/ new colonies that do become available should be offered to signed up beginners who do not have bees. Costs of frames wax etc should be passed on. RM suggested £5 for the queen

RM requested volunteers to help man the Apiary on Good Friday – 11-2pm and Easter Monday. The programme of members' events at the Apiary would be closed for the time being due to lack of volunteers.

11. **Beginners' Course:** it was agreed that it is very important to manage expectations of course attendees. Size of course – restrict to maximum 20 in future. AP suggested that previously it had been called an "Introductory" course. It was agreed that 4 more suits should be bought

12 **Any Other Business:**

- RC to ask AS about sugar source
- AP still looking for gazebo. Committee asked to keep their eyes out for appropriate one.

- Sponsoring/education – due to finances, email to be sent to members asking if any of them are teachers and would like sponsorship RM has veils
- ML to update Committee contact list and circulate to Committee members

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 23rd May 2019, 7.30pm at Tony Payne's