

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 17th November 2012 at The Apiary, Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey at 2pm.

1. Present

Flip Bakker, Mollie Bonard, David Chartres, Eileen Dann, Catherine Delahanty, Jill Forbes, Malcom Fullarton, David Jones, Helen Worwood, Liz Knee, Hilary Livesey, Alasdair Maclean, Neil Manly, Marysia Owsianka, Stephen Secker, Nigel Sewel, Phil Shepherd, Peter Smith, Colin Sutton, Bill Thurston and Helen Worwood.

2. Apologies for absence

John Ollard, David Dowson, Elio Zentilin, Rosamary Westcott, Grant Sturman, Tom Jowett, Kimberly Gimenes and Sharon Martin.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM 12th November 2011

Minutes accepted with no matters arising.

4. Committee Reports

Chairs report was given (Copy Attached)

Q. How many Beginners had booked onto the course?

A. To date, 10 applicants had signed up. In 2010 there were 40 applicants, last year this number was 32 (12 of these being prison wardens). Concern is rising that interest has peaked and is now on the decline - this mirrors the situation in neighbouring divisions.

Q. Regarding the availability of both the electronic and paper copies of Bee Craft.

A. The Membership Secretary reported that if asked for, both electronic and paper copies are available. Request must be made before December 2012 if electronic version wanted.

Queen Rearing report was given (Copy Attached)

Q. Would the QRP be inviting members to observe this year?

A. Phil Shepherd replied they would be.

Q. Would it be possible for members to purchase individual queens from the QRP and how did

their prices for nucs compare to other suppliers?

A. It would be possible to buy queens. The price of nucs are decided by the committee and currently prices are lower than the majority of suppliers.

Q. Could Queen Rearing be run as a formal course within the division / area.

A. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Apiary Report Buildings and maintenance.

Q. Is a 6 month frequency of working party sufficient.

A. This would be discussed at the committee meeting.

Q. Can anything be done to level out the area where slabs have been removed.

A. Will be addressed next year

5. Financial Reports (Copy Attached)

Accounts have been audited by Auditor.

Q. Would reducing the Beginners/Taster day course fees attract more applicants?

A. The costs of the Taster Day and Beginners course are in line with other local divisions - slightly cheaper than most. All candidates taking part on the Taster Day/Beginners course had provided extremely positive feedback about the teaching and were very happy that they received value for money and that the price was right for the experience.

Q. It was asked if free taster sessions may attract more people

A. Members were reminded that we hold an Apiary Open Day for the public which is free and provides information and the opportunity to see the bees in the observation hive. There has been recent research that shows that applicants paying for training place more value on it and are more likely to attend.

Q. A question raised by a non member regarding payment of tutors for external courses.

A. The Surrey Beekeepers Association Constitution clearly states in paragraph 4.3.1 that it is acceptable for 'members to receive reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Charity'. Both the 10 week Beginners Theory course and the Taster Day require a huge amount of time and resources to produce and deliver. The fee paid to the tutors (who all hold the Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector qualification) reflects the time, resources, travelling and responsibility for providing high quality teaching to members of the paying public. The courses bring in a significant amount of revenue to the division and by keeping

the teaching 'inhouse' the tutors fees can be kept below the standard rates that would be charged should 'external' tutors need to be brought in to run these vital courses. It was reiterated that beekeepers teaching the practical sessions and those delivering Tuesday Club Night talks and lectures to members received no fee (apart from booked external speakers) and provided all their time and effort voluntarily.

Vote for acceptance of Finance report: Unanimous

6. Approval of EBKA Rule Book

David Jones explained the role of the EBKA Rule book and how it fits with the Surrey Rules. These changes have been discussed with Surrey and in principal they will agree to them as the charity we are part of.

Q. Regarding other Divisions and the role of President

A. The situation varies across Divisions and many are in the process of updating their constitutions.

Vote: 1 Abstention No one against. Changes to the EBKA Rule Book accepted.

7. Election of Committee Officers

One nomination had been received for each of the Officers of the club and votes were taken for each position:

Chair: Liz Knee was elected by a unanimous vote of the members.

Treasurer: John Ollard was elected by a unanimous vote of the members.

Secretary: Peter Smith was elected by a unanimous vote of the members.

Membership: Hilary Livesey

8. Election of Committee Members (en bloc)

Ten members including the 4 officers above had been nominated for the committee. John Ollard, David Jones, Liz Knee, Hilary Livesey, Neil Manley, Stephen Secker, Peter Smith, Philip Shepherd, Kimberly Gimenes and Colin Sutton. These were unanimously voted in *en bloc*.

9. Election of Divisional Trustee

One nomination David Jones was received and following a unanimous vote his name will be passed to SBKA for ratification, as Trustee at the SBKA AGM.

10. Election of Auditor

The current auditor has stepped down and the committee will appoint a new auditor in 2013

11. Presentation of Awards

- The Streeter Plate for the greatest contribution by a member during the year went to David Dowson
- Honorary Membership of the EBKA was presented to Mollie Bonard.
- BBKA Basic Assessment Certificates & badges were presented to: Malcom Fulerton, Bill Thurston, Hilary Livesey, Mike Hanley, Peter Boulton and Sharon Martin.
- Gifts and a vote of thanks for all their hard work were given by the Chair to: Sue Brookes for her role as Treasurer over the last year, Alasdair Maclean and Marysia Owsianka for their roles on the Committee and Gill Lapage for auditing the finances.

12. Meeting closed at 15:30hrs and was followed by tea and cakes.