

EPSOM DIVISION SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Upper Mill Apiary
Monday 9th January 2012 at 8.00pm

Present

Liz Knee (EK)
Peter Smith (PeS)
Steven Secker (SS)
Andrew Knott (AK)
Marysia Owsianka (MO)
Mike Petryszyn (MP)
Colin Sutton (CS)
Phil Shepherd (PhS)
David Jones (DJ)
Hilary Livesey (HL)
Neil Manley (NM)
Sue Brookes (SB)

Apologies

Alasdair Maclean
Tina Corr
David Dowson

1. Minutes of meeting held on 28th December 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Reports from sub-committees

Education, Training and Events Sub-Committee

The sub-committee has agreed to running practical sessions for this year's beginners on Saturdays at midday, with Tuesday as a fallback day if required. The beginners' course is full, with 22 participants on Tuesday evenings. No daytime course is being held this year. There are already people on a waiting list for next year's course or for taster days. SS will be on holiday after the 1st training session, and EK, PeS and Kimberley Gimenes will be covering sessions 2 to 4 until he returns.

A beginners' course will be run at Highdown Prison for 14 warders on Wednesday evenings from 5.15pm to 7.15pm, at a cost of £80 per person. The teaching will be done outside the prison grounds. Some of the prisoners are making hives and there may be potential for a link with the EBKA shop. SS is visiting the prison in the next week to demonstrate mesh floors, which they do not currently use.

Apiary Sub-Committee

SS reported that the main decisions of the sub-committee were:

- There will be no beginners' hives at the Upper Mill apiary from now on.
- All colonies will be put on double brood boxes for which new equipment is needed.

- The sub-committee would like to put all the hives on proper hive stands with landing boards. These are useful for teaching and the prison said they'd construct them for the cost of the materials.
- All colonies bar one are currently surviving.
- An annual budget has been drawn up to pay for the new equipment, Apiguard, frames, foundation etc. It does not include budget for the Queen Rearing Project.

MO reported that she has a web address for a video on oxalic acid treatment.

DJ asked whether there is going to be a process for setting budgets for each sub-committee. EK suggested that each sub-committee should decide what they would like to have, and then make a proposal to the Main Committee. NM noted that building maintenance will be a much bigger budget than other sub-committees.

Administration Sub-Committee

SB reported that the main discussion items at the first meeting had been:

- Whether to pay people compensation for providing training. It had been suggested that where the activity generated income for the club, then people could be paid.
- There is a need for a club calendar on the website.
- The updating of club manuals was in hand.

Trustee

DJ noted that the SBKA divisions have to make reports to the county, so that Sandra Rickwood of SBKA can pull together a county report on membership, finances etc. SB reported that she has given Sandra the required information for EBKA.

There was a general discussion about the relationship between EBKA and SBKA regarding finance. This covered payments to SBKA, CAF bank fund and club general finances.

SS noted that DJ circulated information from SBKA to the Main Committee that was extremely useful to see. DJ summarised the issues to be debated at SBKA, including nominations, a proposal regarding organic beekeeping, addition of a junior membership category and members donating £5 to bee research – it was suggested that this could be put on the membership renewal form as a voluntary donation. DJ and EK were to attend the Annual Delegate Meeting on 12th January to discuss these and other issues.

EK reported that a 14 year old boy had enquired about a place on the Beginners course - the course was over subscribed – but this raised an issue for the future regarding safeguarding and ensuring that we have the correct policies in place (will monitor result of discussion on this from SBKA). Several committee members noted that the EBKA handbook has guidelines for working with children, and that it was important to apply the national rules correctly.

Building and Grounds Sub-Committee

NM reported that the electric heaters have been installed in the clubhouse, and there is a programmer on the wall to control it. A test certificate and operating instructions will be

placed in the filing cabinet. It has been decided that the building does not need frost protection. He questioned whether the sheds come under the remit of the Building and Grounds Sub-Committee or the Apiary Sub-Committee. SS offered to take their management under the remit of the Apiary Sub-Committee.

A scoping document on the role of the sub-committee has been drafted.

NM asked the committee what the aim should be for the clubhouse, whether it is simply to maintain the building, or to improve it. SS noted that the crockery would need to be replaced if the club is considering renting out the building to the Samaritans for meeting space. He also informed the committee that the landowner of the field next door is considering selling it off as building land, and questioned how long remains on EBKA's lease for the Upper Mill site. SB reported that the lease lasts at least until 2020 and possibly some years beyond that. She also noted that EBKA pays £50 p.a. in rent. NM concluded that the aim for the building should therefore be maintenance, and ensuring there are enough funds to maintain the roof and asked whether the committee agreed with that. No objections were made.

MO noted that DD is looking at new floor covering for the kitchen, and wondered whether lino would be better for the main room as well. NM felt that this might cost a couple of thousand pounds. He asked whether EBKA should pay for a cleaner or whether members should do it themselves. DJ suggested that if the building is let out, this might pay for a cleaner. SS felt that the Building and Grounds Sub-Committee should organise cleaning days for member working parties. NM also reported that security for the building is poor and needs to be improved. It was noted that Amanda Lloyd has purchased a push bar for the storeroom door.

Communication and Publicity Sub-Committee

AK agreed to take on the role of updating the website. HL agreed to email the username and password to all members.

AK felt that members should be asked in the newsletter to provide the club with their email addresses if they haven't already done so. EK reported that the general feeling was that members want a monthly newsletter, and it was suggested that this should be sent in the first week or the first half of the month. PhS suggested that the main items or decisions of the Main Committee meeting should be put in the newsletter to improve communication with the members.

DJ asked whether and how EBKA helps people to find a place to keep their bees. EK stated that the club should support people to find a place, but should not actually undertake to find somewhere for them. PeS reported that Chessington Garden Centre is prepared to show SS what they are offering to the club as an apiary.

3. Remuneration of members

The committee had a general discussion of the issues regarding possible remuneration of members for time spent on club business. The following points were made:

- Why should an individual give their time for free if money is coming in to the club?

- Some activities can involve a lot of work. Trainers have to produce good quality materials, understand the technology and put in a lot of preparation time.
- If people spend money, they should be reimbursed.
- On the beginners' course, the people leading the practical sessions are not paid but the tutor is, and that is the correct way to do it.
- If we run out of in-house trainers, we would not be able to cover the costs of getting in external trainers out of the course fees.
- We need a policy on when we will pay people and under what circumstances.
- The issue is only in relation to teaching activities. Teaching could have its own budget with external funding. Rules could be adopted for use of the external cash, in terms of who should be paid and how much, but the club should also benefit financially.
- The Queen Rearing Project did not cost the club apart from for equipment.
- The club retains 50% of the fees for the beginners' course.
- Charging for practical sessions would discourage beginners from attending them.
- It used to be that beginners joined the club after the 10-week course and then came to the practical sessions, but people are unwilling to join mid-year because they have to pay the full annual fee. It has been suggested in the past that the theory course be moved to October to overcome this issue.
- EBKA pays 44p per mile for travel expenses for official business.

The committee agreed in principle that members should get some remuneration for teaching activities and that the Education Training and Events Sub-Committee should work out the detail and report back to the Main Committee for agreement.

4. Future direction of the club

It was agreed to defer item 4 until the next Main Committee meeting.

EK noted that Tuesday nights had been talked about as a possible club night, and that suggestions to bring people down to the club have included holding an advanced beekeeping course or training/talks on queen rearing. EBKA needs to know what its members want. The next meeting of the Education Training and Events Sub-Committee will look at ideas.

5. AOB

HL circulated the membership renewal form, and committee members made recommendations for changes to update it.

MP asked whether BDI insurance certificates would be sent out to members. PeS stated that they are held centrally. EK agreed to put a notice in the newsletter that members should ask HL for a copy of the insurance certificate if they require one.

6. Date and time of next meeting

Monday March 12th at 8.00pm. To be held in the clubhouse.