

Approved Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th May, 2018

Present: Paul Twibill (Chair), Chris Shaw, Claire George, Craig Dimberline, Keith Thompson, Alan Greenman, Charles Davis, Steve Smith

Apologies: Lynne Lacey

Matters Arising: None were raised

Apiary Update:

Minutes of the recent meeting of the Working Group have been circulated. Following discussion it was decided that in future vertical splits should be done rather than continuing to make up Nucs. It was felt that this approach would safeguard honey production in the apiary.

However, if and when Nucs are made up in future there needs to be guidance on what should be included in the Nuc, such as what's on each frame and the quantity of bees.

It was decided that a set of rules should be published on how people need to safeguard themselves while in the apiary as well as how they should work with the hives. These rules will be presented to the Improvers' Group prior to people from the Beginners' Group starting in the apiary in the next few weeks.

Charles reported that 106 chairs have been donated to the Association free of charge, these were collected and are now stored in the Poly Tunnel at Hilton Green.

Beginners Course

Alan reported that the course was progressing well. Participants continue to remain enthusiastic and the course is being regarded as professional and well presented. The course is entering its final week after which certificates of attendance will be presented and arrangements will be made to welcome people to the apiary.

Claire said that the Taster Day held the previous Sunday had gone well. People attending the day found it informative and enjoyable. Mindful of the fact that there were only five attendees it was suggested that we should increase our effort in promoting and advertising future Taster Days

Improvers Group

It was agreed that the more structured approach to the meetings was going well. The new set of rules described in the Apiary Working Group update will be presented to the next Improvers' meeting.

Healthy Bee Day

Claire reported that so far fourteen people from South Staffs and fifteen people from North Staff had booked for the Day. Eight people have said they would help on the day.

It was agreed that Penny and Stuart should be asked to send out another email to remind people to book.

GDPR

Following discussion on the Association's requirement to respond to the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 it was decided that the following approach would be taken:

An email will be sent to everyone on our data base stating:

You may have heard about the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that comes into effect on May 25th, 2018. We wanted to let you know we take your privacy very seriously, we are currently updating our records and wanted to check you are happy to remain on our email database.

Should you choose to remain registered with us you don't need to do anything and in return we will continue to send you our newsletter, information about our meetings and events which may be of interest to you.

If you wish to unsubscribe from our database, and do not wish to receive our newsletter or any further email contact from us please email "Unsubscribe SSDBKA" in the subject and body of the email to ssdbka-mail@southstaffbeekeepers.co.uk

It was also agreed that an updated version of this policy should be included on the Association's website.

Education Officer Role and Responsibilities

The draft "Job Description" was discussed and it was agreed that it should be referred to Trevor Smith for his comments and suggestions before being finalised and approved

Basic & Module Update - Nothing to report

Health & Safety

It was reported that there had been a recent incident involving someone stumbling on a rutted surface within the apiary. This 'trip hazard' was reported to the National Trust who have said the area will be made good.

Quartermaster's Report

It was agreed that the ruined stock should be replaced and steps should be taken to avoid vermin doing further damage. A number of wheely bins are to be purchased to be used as dry storage of frames and wax.

Treasurer 's Report

Claire provided a financial statement. In summary it was reported that currently there is a balance of £13,300. The Beginner's and Taster days has so far raised £3,000 with £400 coming from Bee Experience and £485 from honey sales.

It was agreed that a target of £400 should be set for a memorial bench in honour of David Battersby. Arrangements will be made to purchase the bench following discussions with the Directors from Hilton Green, which is where the bench will be sited. Members will be invited to make donations towards the cost of the bench and this will be featured in the next Newsletter.

Honey Show

It was agreed that John Carrier should be asked to judge the show and Hilton Green should be booked as the venue for the show. The Honey Show will now be advertised including a feature on Hilton Green's website.

Calendar for 2018

It was agreed that the Bar-b-que will be held at Hilton Green on Saturday 14th July. Chris agreed to discuss arrangements with the Directors at Hilton and see what can be included ie, use of equipment, facilities etc.

Correspondence -nothing to report

Newsletter

Alan said that the next edition will be published in early June

Winter Lectures

It was reported that Paul Askan has been booked for the lecture in October.

Keith suggested that David Jackson, who delivers talks on Butterflies should be invited to speak at one of our lectures. Keith agreed to liaise with Lynne in order to make arrangements to contact David.

Any Other Business

It was agreed the Trevor Smith should be co-opted onto the Committee in line with his role as Education Officer.

Paul said he was currently looking to transfer the Association's website onto the Wordpress site while maintaining our existing domain address. It was agreed that Paul should continue to explore the most effective way of maintaining the website.

The best way of updating and maintaining the Association's library will be discussed at the next Committee meeting in order that a way forward can be agreed.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 12 June at 7.30 in Craig's offices.