



Chairman: Ian Buchanan      Treasurer: Geoff Hodgson  
Group Secretary: Caven Hammock  
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## MINUTES

**Officers Meeting**  
**Comrades Club, Probus**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014**  
**7.30pm to 9.30pm**

### **1.            CBKA**

Caven Hammock gave a précis of the pilot scheme to be run for 2015 membership renewals, and answered officers' questions. The scheme will include offering members the opportunity to return membership forms, and to make payment, electronically. The scheme will lead to a much more efficient process for members, and should improve the financial position of the group markedly. There will be adjustments to the records the Group Secretary keeps, and to the liaison necessary with the Treasurer, and CBKA. Aside from this other impacts should be minimal.

Matthew Buchan distributed a draft 2015 membership application form for review by the officers' and the following enhancements were agreed:-

- Emphasize strongly where the form is to be sent/mailed. It is felt likely that some members will return the form to the CBKA Treasurer and this will lead to delays and inefficiencies. **(MB)**
- The BDI sub section to state "no of colonies in excess of three". **(MB)**
- The form to state "Refer to explanation note" in the appropriate places e.g. membership categories, BDI subs, etc. **(MB)**
- CBKA to have the opportunity to comment on the form. **(CDH)**
- Final form to be made available to potential/existing members on the group website. **(MB)**
- Request that the RBG secretary contact details be available on the CBKA membership form. **(CDH)**

### **2.            Group apiary**

Caven Hammock reported that the first season at the group apiary has been a success. Three colonies have been established, and the group has increased its stock of kit quite considerably. A honey crop was taken, and the sale proceeds went some way to recouping the group's investment.

Weekly inspections took place, and each one was attended by at least 2 newbees, and the feedback from them has been extremely positive. A large number of members also attended the two "Snelgrove" workshops run by Mike White, which proved a huge success.

In particular, the group is establishing a friendly, and fruitful, relationship with the staff and management at The Lost Gardens Of Heligan. LGOH, aside from offering a shed and space for the



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apiary itself, have sponsored us with bee equipment, materials to refurbish the shed, display equipment, and, most recently, very smart branded polo shirts for use at events.

We will continue in the same vein next season. Rodger Dewhurst has offered to do a workshop on queen rearing (CDH to arrange), and we will aim to turn next season's honey extraction into a workshop session. Despite the ever present uncertainty of the weather; we will raise the level of perhaps two selected inspections next year, by inviting our expert beekeepers to run the inspections, and make them more educative (CDH to arrange).

### 3. *Mentoring*

Tim Howes circulated a draft document for discussion and the officers gave their thoughts on the mentoring scheme in general terms. The scheme seems to be working well, and it is believed that every newbee wishing to have a mentor has got one. However, mentors and newbees will benefit from this document which will lay out some of the parameters of the scheme, and some basic advice.

Comments will be provided to Tim once the document has been studied. (All officers), and then the document will be distributed to the members. (TH, CDH) In future, this document will be provided to newbees on joining the group. (CDH)

A list of "Our mentors" to be posted onto the group website. (TH/MB)

### 4. *Finance*

Our Treasurer, Geoff Hodgson, reported that our finances are looking healthy, with circa £1,400 in the bank, and consequently, say, £1,000 funding available over the winter. Having funded the set-up of the group apiary over the last year, the primary aim is now to obtain our own display material/stands and to modernise the display we have at our events.

Our Events Manager, Matthew Buchan, firstly explained that he has started to produce and sell some goods at events; RBG car stickers, pin badges, branded wildflower seeds, wax blocks, as well as introducing candle rolling for the public. These products have proved very popular, and Matthew was commended for their quality. He further explained that the income generated would mitigate any costs incurred.

Our first priority is to obtain our own marquee. We currently share a marquee with CBKA, and whilst this is very much appreciated, it does lead to logistical problems, for both RBG and other groups within CBKA. This is exacerbated at certain times of year when events and shows across the county clash. In addition, the CBKA marquee has suffered some damage, some minor parts have been mislaid, and RBG feel, as we are sure the other groups do, that it is time to freshen up in this regard. The marquee we would like to purchase is £730, and we plan to approach CBKA to propose that this is jointly funded (50/50) by RBG and CBKA (CDH/MB to progress).

We would also like to improve our display material, and Matthew was given approval to spend up to £250 on purchases for next season's events. (MB)

Additionally, RBG would like to purchase its own observation hive, and, specifically, one in which a colony lives permanently, and can be observed without the need to disrupt the brood box. We will investigate the options, CDH proposes that we approach the "Cory Environmental Trust" in Cornwall to



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fund this, and again on a 50/50 basis with RBG, and an introductory conversation has taken place. CDH will liaise with CBKA to clear the ground for such an application. (CDH)

## 5. *Other Business/updates*

- Winter programme - Rose Hardisty now taking up the role - to be formalised at the AGM
- Social programme - Penny Hodgson advised that plans for the Christmas Dinner are set, and that a location for our next summer BBQ has already been secured; thanks to Robin Davies.
- Swarming - Jenny Leach reported on the season, and her report is available on our website (MB/JL). It was a busy year for Jenny, with 65 calls taken, although circa one third were wasps, and many regarding bumble bees. Her report is well worth a read.

It appears that overseeing swarm collection in other areas of the county may not be working as well, with RBG receiving many calls from other areas, and callers having trouble contacting people in those areas. This matter will be raised at CBKA by Colin Rees. (CR)

- Group purchases - Gregory Leach, our quartermaster, notified us that £330 profit was made on the group order this year; so a real win win for both members and the group funds. GL may add Candipoline to the group order next year if a straw poll shows sufficient interest.



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