



Chairman: Ian Buchanan Treasurer: Geoff Hodgson
Group Secretary: Caven Hammock
Higher Dowgas Farm, Coombe, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 7LU
Tel: 01726 883621 Mob: 07802 263361 email: secretary@roselandbeekeeping.org

MINUTES - Officers Meeting
Comrades Club, Probus
Thursday 16th April 2015

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and apologies were received from Marcus Pilling, Tim Howes, Bajka Pratt, Gregory Leach and Jennie Leach.

1. CBKA

Caven Hammock reported that the pilot membership scheme has gone very well, and has led to a much easier and efficient process. Graeme Bullock, the new CBKA Treasurer, appears to be very much on the ball and this is most encouraging. Regarding membership numbers, the group had 10 people who left/didn't renew, but very pleasingly had 11 new members. Membership currently stands at 77, reflecting the benefits the group offers, and its dynamic approach.

Mike White reported that the main matter occupying CBKA at the moment is the forthcoming RCS, which will now be managed by a combined CBKA/WCBKA team rather than an RCS appointed committee. Our own Mike Somers is overseeing the organisation this year, and Mike White gave some details of how the new look bee tent will be. Each group will be responsible for a different element of the tent, and this year RBG will manage the honey tasting and sales. Caven Hammock will canvas the membership for volunteers to help at the show, and, in particular, will seek someone to act as supervisor for our area of responsibility. **Action**

Geoff Hodgson (Treasurer) enquired as to the extent to which CBKA will fund the tent, as opposed to the RCS organisation. Whilst is it proper for CBKA to fund elements e.g. its own public information display material, some other costs ought properly be for the RCS organisation.

Action:- Mike White to enquire as to how the RCS tent will be funded and report back to the officers.

Mike White and Colin Rees further detailed what CBKA are doing, and, in particular, the positive impact the new Treasurer is having. RBG is already seeing the benefits of this, and welcome the improvements being seen. Mike White mentioned that a decrease in the group rebate from 4 pounds to 3 may be necessary, and Caven Hammock hoped that the officers will have an opportunity to hear the rationale behind this rather than it be presented as a fait accompli, should this be the way it goes.



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2. *Group apiary*

Caven Hammock confirmed that the Group apiary is all set for the season. All 4 national hives are now on 2 stands in front of the bird hide at Heligan, as well as the top bar hive. The shed has been tidied and cleaned and is fully equipped to be self-standing. There are 2 active colonies, and it is hoped that we will be up to 5 by the end of the season. If anyone has any swarms/colonies/nucs that they can donate to the group it will be most appreciated.

There will be an “expert” inspection at least once a month through the active season, and in future dates for these will be added to the published annual programme. Colin Rees is running the first inspection this Sunday (19th April). Rose Hardisty will run on inspection on 17th May. Michael Somers has offered to run a session in June and Ian Buchanan has offered to run another sometime in May/June as this is the most active period for the bees. It is also planned to arrange a queen rearing workshop with Rodger Dewhurst at some point this summer, and Caven also plans for a honey extraction workshop at the appropriate time later in the year. In addition, all members are welcome to attend the ongoing weekly inspections at the apiary.

The officers finally indicated that when Caven stands down as secretary, they consider the Group Apiary Manager role to be an officers role.

3. *Finance*

There are lots of cash movements at the moment as a result of the new membership scheme, and some income streams are as yet unclear. Despite this, Geoff Hodgson reported that there is circa 1200 pounds of available funds, and the following were approved....

- Matt Buchan - 300 pounds for display and events materials.
- Rose Hardisty – 200 pounds for speakers over the winter programme
- Caven Hammock – 200 pounds for consumables and small kit at the Group Apiary
- Rose Hardisty – whatever funds are required for bee inspectors for our summer safaris (see below for further details)

Action:- Rose Hardisty to enquire with BDI whether they will provide any funding towards our bee safaris.

Safaris – a discussion was had regarding financing of the safaris. Funding for bee inspectors was agreed as a cost for the group as a whole, and it was noted that all members are offered the opportunity to attend. Other than that it was agreed that the safaris should be self-funding, and that a charge for lunch should also contribute to any costs of breakfast/lunch extras that hosts may claim. If there is a small shortfall/profit this will be acceptable to the officers but the broad principle is that attendees should bear the costs of the day.



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4. **Other Business/updates**

- Social programme – Penny Hodgson confirmed that the summer bbq will be held at the property of Robin Davies in Probus. The date was agreed as 4th July, and the officers expressed their thanks to Robin and his wife for agreeing to host us this year. The price will be 7.50 for adults and 4 pounds for children.

It was agreed that this year the format for our Christmas “do” will change. We will look to book a village hall, or a function room at a pub/club, and have a buffet with drinks either purchased from the bar (if available) or BYO if in a hall without a bar. More meat will be put on the bones over the summer, but if was felt that the previous format of a sit down meal was losing momentum. The date pencilled in is Friday 4th December.

Action:- Penny Hodgson to seek and book a venue.

- Group purchases – the officers are happy with the items that are purchased under this scheme, and request that orders are sought and cash collected as early as possible, so as to receive the goods in good time. **Action:- Gregory Leach**
- AGM minutes – these had been distributed by Rose Hardisty in advance of the meeting, and no amendments being necessary, posted to the website.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Minutes taken by:- Caven Hammock – Group Secretary



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