



Chairman: Geoff Hodgson Treasurer: Geoff Hodgson
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MINUTES

Officers Meeting
Comrades Club , Probus
Thursday 11th October 2018

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present ; Bajka Pratt (BP) , Simon Kellam (SK) , Matthew Buchan (MB) , Ian Tanner (IT) , Geoff Hodgson (GH) , Mike White (MW) , Michelle Hammock (MH), Julian Durrell (JD) , Tim Howes (TH), Marcus Pilling (MP)

Apologies ; Carol Morrison(CM) , Jayne Spenceley (JS) , Colin Rees (CR)

1.CBKA & Membership

ACTION

-MP reported that current membership stands at 80 with an additional 16 on email distribution.
-Membership numbers slightly down on last year partly due to some members moving away but also believe higher than average winter losses may also have contributed to this .
Membership for all Association Groups slightly down . Hopefully the 2018 summer Will reverse this next year .

2.GROUP APIARY

-SK reported a busy year at the Apiary . Tree hive has been introduced to the Apiary which Involved the help of members creating this . Currently waiting for a swarm to occupy this.
-SK advised 3 colony losses over winter with the harsh winter weather contributing to this.
Apiary very exposed to prevailing winds . MB suggested that maybe Heligan would introduce A screen planting to give some protection . SK to look into this. (SK)
Through swarm collection and donation Apiary currently has 5 good colonies.
-SK advised that the formation of the Black Bee Reserve at Heligan should not affect The Group Apiary .
-Some Group Apiary Honey has been sold through Heligan and this has been well received by Heligan given that this honeys natural credentials.

3.FINANCE

-GH advised the following ;
-Group cash assets currently stand at £ 2060 held in bank and cash with possible small increase from forthcoming Heligan Harvest Festival to be added to this. Set against this will be An approximate £.200 to secure winter programme speakers
-Officers consensus on forthcoming 2019 group funding budgets as follows ;
, Programme /Speaker £300 , Safari £100 , Apiary £300 , Events £300



Roseland Beekeeping Group is a member of Cornwall Beekeepers Association
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which is an area association member of the British Beekeepers Association
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4. EVENTS

-SK reported that the Roseland Marquee at 'Heligan Days' had proved very successful With many visitors from all over the world showing lots of interest in the bees .

SK also pleased with the support of Roseland Members volunteering to assist on each day. It was noted that a significant number of the visitors were from abroad and whilst this was Good for global promotion of bees it was possible that local visitors were more limited in Numbers . One knock on effect from this would be that potentially we are missing out as a Group attending Local Events and potentially attracting additional new members.

Biggest concern was that by running the Heligan Events and the Royal Cornwall Show and Local Event Days may stretch RBG volunteers too much.

The view of the Officers was that given the Success of Heligan Events this should be Retained next year if indeed Heligan are to run these Event Days in 2019 . SK to check (SK)

-MB to gauge RBG Support for the local One Day Shows and if any members are Willing to organise setting up the Marquee , providing and setting up the Obs Hive and Arranging volunteers for the day then it was felt it was a good idea to run the Marquee At some of these events . Caerhays and Tregony suggested but all dependent upon Member support (MB)

(RBG Members)

5. MENTORING

-SK advised that mentoring requests had been limited and that he was unaware of any members Currently wanting a mentor . MP advised that similarly he was unaware of any unanswered Mentoring request .

Importantly it was mentioned that the Group Apiary Inspections were an important aspect of Assisting Newbees with mentoring but MW reminded the Meeting of the importance of one to One mentoring on newbees hives

MP advised the Officers that within the introduction letter to Newbees details on mentoring Are given

6. REQUEST FOR FUNDING

-No request forthcoming

7. SOCIAL PROGRAMME

-MH advised that the Winter Get-together will be on the 1st December.

Currently looking to hold this at the Barley Sheaf at Gorran in the upstairs function room.

MH to forward further details when these are suitably advanced (MH)

8. GROUP PURCHASES

-TH advised that the early bulk order of Ambrosia not only saved members significant Costs but also environmentally saved the use of 140 plastic containers. February Ambrosia bulk buy of 822kg , a further order of 1000kg ambrosia , bulk buy honey jars saved the Group a total of £1258 which equates to about a 30% saving.

TH now looking into a fondant order and will advise Group Members shortly (TH)

9. WINTER PROGRAMME

-MP advised that 2018-19 speakers and Programme is substantially booked with only The March Meeting TBA . Possibly looking at Asian Hornet and Spring Trapping For that meeting which is potentially vital at that time of year (MP)



10.SWARM CO-ORDINATION

- MP advised that from members feedback swarming and swarms appeared to be significantly reduced from last year . Officers comments were that it was possible that the poor spring followed by the unusually very early summer had the bees in forage mode rather than consideration of swarming. MP advised that he had had a couple Asian Hornet Calls but both had turned out to be European Hornets ,

11.CBKA REPRESENTATIVE

-MW gave an update on CBKA News . MW advised that along with IT they have produced CBKA meeting notes and that these were then issued to RBG Members to keep them updated. MW advised that there had been several changes of Officers in the CBKA and that the new Officers were making contact with the Groups . Mary Trace and Henry Kendall already having Visited the RBG at the September meeting.

MW advised that the CBKA are still looking for an Equipment Officer and if any members Would be willing to take on this role if they could let him know . Further conversation was had Around the CBKA wishing to create an itinerary of equipment which each Group have at their disposal. **(Members)**

12.SAFARI

-JD proposed a single Safari Date for 2019 in line with this year . After discussion on The merits of a Saturday or Monday it was unanimously agreed that Saturday was Likely to suit more members . The Safari date is therefore Saturday 18th May and JD to Contact the Bee Inspectors for this date nearer the time **(JD)**

13.RCS

- The CBKA are reviewing the possibility of providing CBKA shirts at next years events. It was discussed by the Officers that if this did not happen that the RBG would issue our RBG skirts to those volunteers who do not already have them . It was also agreed that a refreshment fund should be offered to volunteers at the show

14.Education

-BP advised that interest in the Basic Assessment has been disappointing low for the second Year running . It was noted by the Officers that the Basic Assessment is probably the most Important course in Beekeeping and it is a shame that support for the course is not greater. Without support the running of revision sessions for this course is put into question which would be a great loss to new beekeepers.

Post Meeting Note ; MP to send Group Email to gauge support of Basic Assessment **(MP)**

15.AOB

-None arising

There being no other business the Chairman thanked the Officers and meeting closed at 8.55pm

Minutes Prepared
Marcus Pilling 14th October 2018



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