

Minutes Penrith & District Beekeepers Association Trustee Meeting

Sunday 16th July 2017 in the Volunteers Kitchen, Main House, Acorn Bank

1. **Apologies:** Alison Andreassen
2. **Minutes of last Meeting:** accepted
3. **Matters arising :** none
4. **Apiary Managers' Report:**

-Team structure to apiary management has worked well.

-branch meetings have been well attended – sometimes the numbers have been too large (e.g. 20) to enable everyone to enter the apiary and see the bees. It was suggested that the group might be sub divided into at least two / or the timings staggered so that 'beginners' came at an earlier time within the session. No decision was reached as to how this could be resolved so it was agreed that further consideration would need to be given to this prior to the start of next season.

-several members have visited the apiary on the weekends when the apiary managers were checking the bees. There have been favourable comments on the usefulness of these sessions.

-It was agreed that oxalic acid vaporising equipment should be purchased for members to borrow. For health and safety reasons it was recognised that guidance on how this should be administered would be essential for all bee keepers borrowing it. A strategy for this will need to be developed.

-It was reported that there had been an increased demand for support by beekeepers who were either beginners or were experiencing unusual problems with bees. These beekeepers found that their immediate Bee Buddy was not always able/ available to respond to requests for help. It was suggested that a 'higher level ' of bee buddies might be developed next season to make sure that this responsibility was shared more evenly across the Eden Valley.

5. **Finance Report:** MR presented an update of the current financial situation which is favourable. It was agreed that further equipment could be ordered, in particular the vaporisation kit needed to for the effective treatment of varroa. RM will order the equipment and advise members on how it should be administered.
6. **PAT Testing** of PBKA Equipment:

MR reported that all the electrical equipment over a year old has now been PAT Tested by a local electrician who has provided a comprehensive record book. This service will cost approx £80 per annum and needs to be factored into the basic running costs of the organisation.

It was suggested that local companies which have to have equipment tested might provide this service to PBK, but this would entail moving all the equipment to where this could be done.

7. **Developments at Acorn Bank:** A new manager, Amy McGowan, has been appointed and a meeting has been arranged for the review of the license agreement. The planned extension to the resources shed will also be discussed at this meeting.

8. **Feedback from Training & School Projects:**

The **two primary schools**, Temple Sowerby and Kirkoswald have both given positive comments about the projects that were undertaken during the summer term. Both schools are interested in the possibility of developing 'bee friendly gardens in their school grounds. MR is liaising with Wild Roof Landscapes. This company will visit the schools during the autumn and prepare estimates / plans for development. Funding and other relevant partners will then be found to undertake the projects.

DR led a training session at **Newton Rigg** for teaching staff drawn from a cross section of departments. They are interested in developing their own apiary and using bee based products as a retailing enterprise project. Various cross curricular links were identified. The comments were all very positive and there are plans to follow up this session with further input and support during the next academic year.

Introducing Beekeeping Course. Led by Julia and Martin Hoggard, was again a great success with positive feedback from all the participants. Using Greystoke Village Hall, the apiary at Greystoke Castle and the Boot and Shoe In for lunches had worked exceptionally well. MM was thanked for hosting the visits to the apiary.

9. **Policy Development:** review and feedback. The policies that have been developed were all accepted. TP will upload them to the web site.
10. **Winter Programme :** MR reported that this was almost complete but some dates had to be finalised. It was agreed that in addition to the sessions already planned the programme should include a session which would focus on preparing for the new season, to be led by the apiary managers. It was likely that the AGM will need to be moved to April to accommodate the planned programme because of a shortage of dates when guest speakers could be available. This should not cause a problem because the deadline for submitting the Annual Report to the Charity Commission is within six months from the end of the financial year. In the case of PBKA that is the end of June.
11. **Summer Events:** It was agreed that the promotional events held at Kirkby Stephen and Larch Cottage Nurseries had been useful and enjoyable. It was agreed that if the opportunity arises to participate in these in the future then we should do so.
12. **Website Developments :** Issues that had arisen earlier in the year had been resolved with the support of Ibex Creative. TP is working on streamlining some of the procedures that will enable more people to apply for courses via the web site.

TP will provide guidance on the Give as You Live scheme and the way to donate on the web site during the first meeting of the Winter Programme on 19th November.

13. **Annual Report to Charity Commission:** It was noted that this needs to include information which demonstrates the 'Public Benefit' that PBKA undertakes as well as the membership benefits.
14. **Swarm Collector** info on web site: Information to be added about Bumble Bees to help avoid unnecessary call outs. PBKA to retain the list of its swarm collectors on its own web site to ensure that it can be updated easily.
15. **Associate Membership CBKA:** PBKA has been asked to ensure that all members are reminded that they can join CBKA through the additional £3 subscription payment. Currently, this is usually only paid by those members who pay the full rate which includes insurance cover. There is a need for CBKA to demonstrate to members what this additional payment supports e.g. Honey Show; assessment fees which can be reclaimed.
16. **Trip to Slovenia:** It was agreed that MR should investigate this possibility and report back at the next meeting.
17. **Targeting community groups:** recent articles have indicated that military personnel suffering from Post- traumatic stress syndrome have benefitted from taking up beekeeping. MR to investigate whether there would be any possibility of involving this group in PBKA activities.

-DR and MR will be providing members of Penrith Lions with a presentation and opportunity to handle bees at Greystoke on 2nd Sept.

18. Next meeting:

Sunday 19th November 11.00. – 1.00. at Abbot Lodge Ice Cream Tea Room, Clifton (in the training area upstairs) prior to the first Branch Meeting of the Winter Programme which will commence at 2.00.p.m.

N.B. Please bring a small contribution towards a 'Bring and Share' Lunch.