



ALNWICK & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Of the Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2017
At Swarland Working Men's Club at 7.15pm

SUBS

- BACS – it was agreed that in future membership fees could be paid by BACS. Tom P needs to arrange access rights to view the bank account to check for incoming subs.
- It was agreed to charge a late renewal fee of £10 if members have not paid by February, to be implemented for the November 2017 renewals.

TREASURERS REPORT

Just over £8.7k in the account, capitation will be required to be paid soon as will the insurance. There are currently more members at this point this year than there was last year.

APIARY UPDATE

- Brian reported that bees checked and 15 colonies still alive, one fed plus some neopol, two fed with more neopol, so currently only 2 losses so far this winter
- Next clean up date 22 April at 10am – it will be mainly to make frames. Lisa H to send out date to members.
- Sandra C to start the weekly tidy ups in early May
- Shop to open on the 22 April and will be open weekly after that. Sue H is looking for someone to cover the shop on 22 April.
- New WBC hive and poly hive have been purchased for the apiary. Ian Jobson has some spares for the WBC that he is happy to donate to the apiary.

TRAINING

- John Hobrough has agreed to run a swarm prevention training day at the apiary on 20 May. LH to inform members.
- David Pearce has agreed to run a "preparing for the heather" training day at the apiary on 24 June but is happy to talk to members before this date on a one to one if required. LH to inform members.
- There are 8 new members and 7 people who have expressed an interest in the beginners course – all have been emailed to warn of when training will start.
- Bee Improvement Course – Jan Broderick went on this course. It was agreed to try to arrange one with Roger Patterson. LH to contact Roger to see if you would do a one day course and how he would like to do this – ie in a hall or at apiary, how much would it cost and would there be a limit on numbers.
- It was agreed Ben would look to asking Roger Patterson to do a session for the winter programme.

HMP NORTHUMBERLAND

HMP Northumberland – Ben H has received an email to see if an apiary can be set up at the prison. A membership form has been emailed along with information on new beekeeper training. The prison has designated a site and has been told what is required for a set up. Keith G to contact Keith Bothwick at the prison to discuss further.

ALNWICK GARDENS YOUTH GROUP

Peter Edge has contacted the Association about setting up a young person's beekeeping group at Alnwick Gardens. They have all the facilities there but it would need 2 people to be involved from the association – possibly late afternoon sessions with the kids so they don't have to miss too much time from school. LH to send out an email to members to see if anyone is interested in getting involved.

CONSTITUTION

Keith G asked if we were getting anywhere in relation to the Constitution. Ben H has a copy of one and will forward to Keith G for review.

CHARITABLE STATUS

Ben H to look into this to see if it is worth pursuing. It was suggested he speak to other associations who have gone down this route.

AOB

Ben H stated that he has been a Committee Member for the convention for a number of years and he feels it is time for him to come off and someone to replace him. Helen Wright was suggested and Ben H to approach her.

At the Convention there is to be a demonstration of a flow hive and Ben suggested we might be able to get one for the association – he will see if he can get one cheap or for free. It was reported that the Broomley Bee Project has one in situ and perhaps feedback can be given from this and perhaps a presentation at the winter programme. LH to contact Jilly on this.