

# South Staffordshire and District Beekeepers Association



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020 via [Zoom Meeting](#) at 7.30 pm

	Actions
<p><b>1. Present:</b> Alan Greenman (Chair), Barry Crossley, Claire George, Clive Stewart, Dayna White, Ed Bennett, Stuart Roberts &amp; Trevor Smith.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies:</b> None.</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of the last meeting:</b> Ratified.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters arising or items not on the Agenda</b></p> <p>4.1 <b>Zoom Account:</b> Stafford Bee Group have made alternative arrangements to host their Oct webinar; the club's Zoom account will revert to the Pro standard.</p> <p>4.2 <b>Examinations News:</b> No official news; Stuart participated in a test online exam (module 3) and it went well for him. Some reported technological issues with logging on.</p> <p>4.3 <b>Fundraising and purchasing for the new marquee:</b> Thanks to Lynne Lacey and Howard Price for support in securing a match funding grant (£450) for a new marquee. The grant is expected to be received shortly. New marquee be purchased as soon as possible to take advantage of current sales. Alan will circulate purchase options to the committee for the new marquee.</p> <p>4.4 <b>Option to donate to the new marquee fund to be added to 2021 membership renewals:</b> membership survey responses indicated a high proportion of members would be willing to make a small donation (£5) towards the new marquee at the time of membership renewal.</p> <p>4.5 <b>Next National Trust (NT) engagement:</b> Alan is meeting with the NT on Saturday to discuss use of NT facilities and future apiary locations on the Shugborough estate. Alan to confirm no impact on marquee purchase.</p> <p>4.6 <b>Old Marquee Sale:</b> Alan will arrange via e-bay. Barry will send a copy of the original invoice to provide a description to support the sale.</p>	<p>Alan</p> <p>Claire</p> <p>Alan</p> <p>Alan / Barry</p>

## 5. Review of Previous Committee Meeting Actions

5.1: Outstanding actions were reviewed; 6 remain open.

Count of Actions	Months Open					Grand Total
	6	11	14	17	18	
<b>Committee Area</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
All	1					1
Education				1		1
Events		1				1
H&S			1		1	2
Stakeholders - President	1					1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

5.2: Actions raised in Sep '20: all 10 were closed – Well done committee!

## 6. Events Co-ordinator's update

6.1: The Honey Bee Experience Day (Sept) went well and contributors were thanked for their support.

6.2: For winter monthly evening lectures members are to be encouraged to support Stafford Bee Group's online lecture programme.

6.3: The Shugborough Apiary is to be cleaned up over 3 weekends starting 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. The National Trust are happy with the arrangements.

6.4: A Zoom quiz is to be planned for Thursday 19th November.

Stuart / Dayna / Trevor

## 7. Quartermaster's update

7.1: **Ambrosia supply:** Members have requested supply of Ambrosia, but stock is currently in short supply and wholesale prices are high. It is not considered economical to make additional purchases and supply to members at this time. The club will consider next year's purchasing strategy (for next spring), subject to pricing and storage capacity at the next committee meeting.

7.2: There is a future potential opportunity being considered to provide an ambrosia container refill service. If viable this will be advised in due course, the earliest this could be established would be next autumn.

7.3: It is believed there may be excess Ambrosia stock at Hilton Green 24 litres per hive? To be investigated at next Apiary Working Group meeting.

Dayna

Trevor

<p><b>8. Health &amp; Safety update (inc Asian Hornet Team)</b></p> <p>8.1: <b>Asian Hornet week</b> was successfully promoted: thankfully there were no sightings reported in Stafford.</p> <p>8.2: <b>H&amp;S risk assessments:</b> Some responses have been provided.</p> <p>8.3: <b>Boiler Servicing and return to service:</b> The Shugborough Apiary Boiler has been inspected. Minor modifications are required to obtain the necessary safety certification prior to return to service.</p> <p>8.4: <b>The Shugborough Apiary mower</b> has been reported in need of repair – an estimate for this is to be obtained – If uneconomical the club is to consider its strategy for grounds grass maintenance.</p>	<p>Clive</p> <p>Alan</p>
<p><b>9. Communications update (including Website &amp; Newsletter)</b></p> <p>9.1: <b>Newsletter:</b> The recent edition was commended for being a great and exciting read! Thanks Alan!</p> <p>9.2: <b>Annual Survey results:</b> 60 responses were received (40% of membership). Thanks go to Wendy Woodward and Gemma Philips for support with setting up the survey this year.</p> <p>9.3: The results are to be reviewed by the committee and potential changes resulting from feedback is to be discussed at the next committee meeting e.g. moving focus of meetings to the weekend and beginners theory onto zoom.</p> <p>9.4: Results will be shared with the membership following committee discussions.</p> <p>9.5: Plans for 2021 training are to be communicated early in the new year</p> <p>9.6: Communications team meetings are continuing and the website is being updated regularly.</p> <p>9.7: Requests for Webmaster access to the google drive and a suggestion for setting up e-mail aliases for committee roles was discussed. Reservations were expressed due to the potential for added complication and additional costs. Stuart to join next comms (25<sup>th</sup> Oct) meeting to fully consider the proposals.</p> <p>9.8: <b>National Trust update:</b> Alan is meeting with the Head Gardner (Caroline) on Sunday and will provide an update following this.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Alan</p> <p>Alan/ Stuart</p> <p>Stuart</p>

<p><b>10. Correspondence</b></p> <p>Requests for Honey buckets from several members have been received and will be fulfilled subject to honey availability.</p>	<p>Claire</p>
<p><b>11. A.O.B.</b></p> <p>11.1: <b>Drying Honey:</b> Stuart to attempt to dry extracted honey above 20% water content</p> <p>11.2: <b>Honey Sales:</b> this year 1 lots of Jars (30No) and 4 buckets of honey have been extracted 120lb. Honey from buckets is to be jarred for sale, pending jar transfer</p> <p>11.3: <b>Issue with previous year's honey fermentation:</b> The club has honey which appears to be fermenting. A solution to maximise its remaining value is to be found, either sale or exchange to local breweries.</p> <p>11.4: <b>Member requests to teach basic assessment course on Zoom:</b> The BBKA currently have no plans for beginner beekeepers to undertake socially distanced basic assessment. Subject to sufficient interest the education sub-committee is willing to teach the basic course material via zoom and potentially in the spring at Shugborough provide some appropriately socially distanced practical training experience subject to capacity and guidelines at that time.</p> <p>11.5: <b>Shugborough Nucs:</b> are to stay in the present location for overwintering.</p>	<p>Stuart</p> <p>Charles / Dayna</p> <p>Stuart</p> <p>Trevor / Stuart/ Alan</p>
<p><b>12. Date of next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b></p>	