

South Staffordshire and District Beekeepers Association



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Monday 23rd August 2021 at Surestore in Cannock at 7.30 pm

	Action
1. Present: Alan Greenman (Chair), Claire George, Clive Stewart, Dayna White, Ed Bennett, Julie Hamer, Phil Atkin & Russell Barlow.	
2. Apologies: Jo Berriman & Stuart Roberts.	
3. Minutes of the last meeting: Ratified.	
4. Matters arising or items not on the Agenda Item Schedule	
a) <i>New Member Starter Pack & FAQ</i> – The new members starter pack (produced by Wendy) in 2020 is to be updated and sent to members by the Membership Secretary.	Claire
b) <i>Nucleus Hives:</i> have gone to Beginners; invoicing for these is to be completed.	Alan / Julie
c) <i>Education Subcommittee</i> – It was agreed that the committee wants the association to provide an education programme comprising, Honey Bee Experience days, a Beginners course, assessments, modules and winter lectures. Administrative support is required to run these. Post Meeting Note: The first meeting will be Thursday 9th Sept @ Shugborough Pak Farm Café @ 7pm.	
d) <i>Honey Bee Experience days:</i> The next one (19 th Sept) is being promoted at the Staffordshire County Show, via the Stafford Bee Group stand, with an updated training leaflet. There will be 12 places, registrations are to be confirmed. The format is to be revised, and will comprise an introduction and scene setting before handing over to beekeepers to tell their stories of how they got into beekeeping and their experience so far. There will then be an apiary visit followed by questions outside the apiary with visual aids and refreshments. Alan will lead the day with support from Ed, Clive and Julie.	
e) For next year, the provisional dates are Sundays on May 15 th , July 17 th and Sept 18 th .	
f) <i>Beginner's course:</i> is to run as a group. Alan is willing to lead the Beginners with support from others. Strong views were expressed by the majority of committee members. Ideas to be further developed and agreed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles and information to be emphasised throughout the course e.g. its delivered by volunteer beekeepers, and the Beginners is the start of a beekeepers education that will continue beyond the course – Beekeepers can maximise their experience by supporting the association by volunteering. SS&DBKA is the only BKA on a National Trust Site. • syllabus and course format streamlining to focus on information pertinent to Beginners • Limits on course size - 30 maximum. • Date for commencement April, May or June. • Price • Inclusion of Hilton Green in the education programme 	

<p>6. Stakeholders Update</p> <p>a) National Trust (NT): Relationship, dialogue and communication response time is good. NT are happy with the new shed. NT have mowed the grass around the apiary. NT have requested the club remove undergrowth around the hives and trim up to the apiary's wall; an apiary clean-up is to be planned in September (avoiding the Honey Bee Experience day).</p> <p>b) The club has asked if it can put bees on NT land adjacent to heather.</p> <p>c) The next discussion with the NT is on Wednesday 25th Aug re. club use of an NT room.</p>	
<p>7. Event Co-ordinator's update</p> <p>7.1: The club has no formal Events Co-ordinator and currently no events plan. Phil Atkin was thanked for helping to co-ordinator our recent successful BBQ.</p> <p>7.2: 21 Aug '21 BBQ – early feedback received was that it was a great success – Chris Brewin e-mailed her reflections and thanks. Final ticket sales were circa 50 and funds raised will be added to the accounts. Thanks go to everyone involved.</p> <p>7.3: Winter socials: The committee expressed an intention to hold 2 socials. In November "Honeybees & Hornets" and another post Christmas.</p>	
<p>8. Apiaries Co-ordinator's update</p> <p>8.1: The club has no formal <i>Apiaries Co-ordinator</i> following Trevor Smith's resignation – Alan is presently chairing a new "apiaries sub-committee" and reporting is informal. Attendees comprise 6 beekeepers supporting Shugborough, Chris Shaw representing Hilton Green and the Quartermaster. Meetings are presently on a monthly basis. Chris Brewin was thanked for the quality of her reports.</p> <p>8.2: Shugborough:</p> <p>I. Varrora treatment has been applied and colonies that were under-supered. Some members felt that this was early, given the continuance of the honey flow.</p> <p>II. The gas boiler has been condemned following a thermostat fault, which allowed it to boil dry and melt the tap. It is to be disposed of along with empty gas bottles. The electric boiler is to be used instead.</p> <p>8.3: Hilton Green: Nothing specific to raise.</p>	
<p>9. Quartermaster's update</p> <p>9.1: Ambrosia - Some members have notified of their intention to order, but have not, others have ordered yet have not paid / collected. Stocks are depleting fast due to the extremely good pricing. Stock is to be reserved for Shugborough and then to be prioritised for Beginners, people that have paid and ordered.</p> <p>9.2: Fondant – little stock to be kept for Shugborough. More to be purchased in the spring – limited suppliers.</p> <p>9.3: Other items in stock: 10 supers and new Nucs for next years. Pens & Badges.</p>	

<p>10. Honey Production and Sales</p> <p>10.1: There are 4 Honey Buckets from 2021 in the Cannock Surestore. 2 are to be taken to jar; for sale at the Honey Bee Experience day.</p>	
<p>11. Correspondence – 5 items received. 3 from BBKA – Responded to in green</p> <p>July</p> <p>20th - Honey Bee Experience 2021 enquiry – Added to register 21st - Insurance quote for SS&DBKA from Zurich – no longer required as already covered for HBE day. 28th - National Honey Show 2021 Summer Newsletter – added to newsletter 29th - BeeCraft Magazine Discounted Bulk Subscription Scheme – advertise opportunity to 2022 Beginners. 31st - Potential new member query – how to meet association members? At our social events, winter lectures or at our stall at various shows - see the website for details.</p> <p>Aug</p> <p>3rd - Bushcraft Show (28 - 29 Aug): request for Stall – not enough notice, consider next year. 8th - New BBKA Member request for call re next steps – add FAQ to website and ask Claire to call member. 8th - Honey Bee Experience 2021 enquiry – Added to register. 11th - Birmingham & District Beekeepers Association Open Honey Show - forwarded to members. 11th - Cannock Chase District Council (Chase Matters Magazine) – opportunity to advertise club – not required – insufficient benefit to cost. 16th - LS 2021-08-16 Photo Competition and Photos for social media - forwarded to members.</p>	<p>Claire</p>
<p>12. A.O.B.</p> <p>12.1: Certificates – were planned to be handed out at the BBQ, but were not available – we had to apologise – they now will be distributed by hand or posted.</p> <p>12.2: Shugborough apiary’s fire extinguisher is due for renewal.</p>	<p>Alan</p> <p>Phil</p>
<p>13. Date of next meeting: 15th September</p>	