

South Staffordshire and District Beekeepers Association



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th September 2022
at Surestore in Cannock and also via [Zoom Meeting](#) videoconference at 7.30 pm

	Action																																																																														
<p>1. Present: Alan Greenman (online), Alan Brewin, Chris Brewin, Chris Shaw, Claire George (Chair), Dayna White, Ed Bennett, Trevor Smith & Wendy Woodward.</p>																																																																															
<p>2. Apologies: Julie Hamer.</p>																																																																															
<p>3. Minutes of the last meeting (19th Jul): Ratified.</p>																																																																															
<p>4. Matters arising or items not on the Agenda Item Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Find Beekeeping Near Me' on BBKA website to be updated via ER2. • Upgrade of strimmer to brush cutter agreed. 	Chris Shaw																																																																														
<p>5. Review of Previous Committee Meeting Actions</p> <p>5.1: Outstanding actions were reviewed; 12 remain open.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 1048 1110 1460"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Count of Actions</th> <th colspan="6">Months Open</th> <th rowspan="2">Grand Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>10</th> <th>11</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apiary</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chair</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apiary NT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stakeholders - President</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>5.2: Actions raised in Jul '22: 7 were raised – 6 closed; Well done Committee!</p>	Count of Actions	Months Open						Grand Total	2	3	4	5	10	11	Apiary						2	2	Chair	1						1	Apiary NT						3	3	Communications		1					1	Education							1	Membership					1		1	Stakeholders - President			1	2			3	Grand Total	1	1	1	2	1	5	11	
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<p>6. Stakeholders update</p> <p>6.1: National Trust: meetings planned for 4th Oct and 9th Nov.</p> <p>6.2: Hilton Green: meeting with directors to be arranged. A HG Director is joining the 2023 beekeeping course.</p>	Claire																																																																														
<p>7. Education update</p> <p>7.1: Weekly Thursday night education (Mar – Aug): a recognised success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by experienced beekeepers (DR/TS/AG/CB/WW/BB/AB), between 20 to 33 members attended per evening. • Bee chats conducted both at Shugborough and Hilton apiaries • Thanks to Chris & Rob W for the cakes and refreshments. 																																																																															

7.2: Beginner's Beekeeping course (BBC) 2022 was delivered in 2 cohorts.

- BBC (1) 15 Beginners completed the 6 week course and were all very enthusiastic, a number taking Nucs from Shugborough. 9 Beginners, from the first course, have regularly attended Saturday apiary meetings after their course finished.
- Practical beekeepers supporting the BBC (1) (Penny/Paul/Steve/Jan/Barry) all did a marvellous job.
- BBC (2) Again 15 Beginners all completed the course with equal enthusiasm.
- Practical Beekeepers supporting BBC (2) were Julie, Kate, Charles, Chris S, Mel & Martyn. Jan & Barry stepped in to cover when required. Again they all did a brilliant job.
- The feedback from both courses, to date, both written and verbal has been extremely positive.
- We would like to like to thank everyone who directly or indirectly helped to make sure the courses ran smoothly but special thanks to Chris & Alan B and Dayna.
- The courses are a big contributor to the club's finances, 30 x £120 = £3,600 (potentially, as those who had attended Honey bee Experience days only pay £100).
- Expenses were minimised, with no venue to pay for or printing costs.
- Planning for the Beginners courses in 2023 is already underway with all interested parties.

7.3: Honey Bee Experience Days.

- Day 1 in May was led by Dayna and Alan Greenman, supported by Chris Alan, Gill, Wendy, Trevor
- Day 2 in September was led by Barry and Trevor and supported by Wendy and Tony.
- Both HBED's were very successful and from them a number signed up for our Beginners courses.
- A total of 28 people paid £65 each for the day this brought in a total of £1,820, again with little or no expense
- Total income from 2022 Education programme £3600 + £1820 = £5,420.

7.4: Study Groups and Modules

- Module 5 meets on the first Monday of each month. Examination has now been moved to March 2023 as we are struggling to get to grips with this module.
- General Husbandry Course meet on the second Monday of each month. Assessment in 2023. Trevor & Jan attended the BBKA General Husbandry course at Stoneleigh.
- Jan has agreed to lead the Basic Assessment in 2023, we have a number of novice beekeepers who have expressed an interest in this assessment already.

7.5: Honey Extraction demonstration

- Due to take place on 13th August at Shareshill Village Hall was cancelled due Peter Bell not being available to lead this.
- We are planning to offer this again early next season.

<p>8. Events Co-ordinator's update</p> <p>8.1: Bee Safaris</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. July 17th at Haunton, host Jan Horstink b. August 14th at Wall, host Dayna White c. Both Safaris took place on very hot days and were well attended and received. Both hosts taking the opportunity to show off their facilities as well as their bees. d. Thanks to both Dayna and Jan for hosting. <p>8.2: 20th August BBQ Update – the BBQ was very successful attracting over 60 members and family. Thanks to Wendy, Chris & Rob Williams, Rosie and Penny for their support in bringing this enjoyable event together. The gas BBQ is no longer usable. Request for replacement – agreed to purchase up to £250.</p> <p>8.3: Convention/ Honey show 15th October</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. The Northfield Village has been booked f. The convention will focus on honeybee health g. A small working party has been set up and has been working behind the scenes to make this happen. <p>8.4: Date for next Social: Sat 26th November @ Shareshill - topic tbc; ideas welcome.</p>	
<p>9. Treasurers update</p> <p>Q2 Summary report (received 16 Aug) Thank you Julie. Minor comments received related to categorisation of items to be resolved.</p>	Julie.
<p>10. Apiary Co-ordinator's update:</p> <p>10.1: Shugborough</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 20 colonies to be overwintered: 19 Nationals and 1 top bar hive. b. 1 colony remains off site for temperament issues but has been re queened again and doing better. c. 2 Nucs; 1 is being monitored as its raising queen cells but may end up being combined. d. The other one has been taken off site by Kevin to look after over winter but we aren't holding out much hope. e. 6 Nucs sold: should have been 7 but the queen didn't mate properly. f. 7 Nucs on order for 2023. g. All colonies have been inspected for disease and treated. Deformed wing virus being the main concern with 6 colonies (hives 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 18,), showing a high varroa load. h. Treatment removal after 22nd October. Oxalic acid treatment - mid December. Members to be invited once the temperatures meet the criteria. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Special thanks to our Apiary Leads for their help and support throughout the season. We have had a number of novice beekeepers joining us on Saturday mornings after completing the Beginners course. They are on a steep learning curve; our Apiary Leads have accommodated them and their enquiring minds excellently. j. Maintenance day, last Saturday was extremely successful. We had 30 attendees including 2 children and 9 Beginners from the 2022 courses. The planned meeting on the 1st October is no longer required. We only have Nucs left to clean and frames to boil which Alan & I will work through as they are time consuming. k. The securement of the garage space has been particularly beneficial which we thank Alan Greenman for negotiating with The National Trust. Security has been reinforced with this additional space which we hope we can retain the use of whilst we reside at The Kennels. l. We have 3 members who now carry EpiPen's which we all need to be aware of: Russell Barlow, Carol Richards & Jessica Bennett m. Rob has taken the solar wax melter for repair and re-design. n. Request to purchase wood for rhombus boards - discussed. o. Wendy has secured us some better tables and chairs which are being picked up tomorrow. <p>10.2: Hilton Green 4 No. Nucs to be taken offsite to over winter. Feeding bees has delayed treatment. 7 person team has raised £600 in sugar sales.</p>	
<p>11. Quartermaster's update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.1: Electronic Payment Machine working well for selling honey and merchandise; noted Square fees increasing from 1.75% to 2.5% per transaction. Agreed to purchase more machines (£16 per unit) and transfer the square account e-mail to be the club e-mail address. Key points on the payment system to be added to the New Committee Member Starter pack. 11.2: Quartermaster Vacancy confirmed for 2023/24 Committee. Ideas for whom could undertake the role are welcomed. The requirements for the role are to be reviewed including options for quarter master's stores – addition storage costs may be incurred if not free suitable location can be found. 	Dayna
<p>12. Honey Production and Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1: Decision made on 20th Jul to Jar Honey via Holt Hall – 160 lb jars. 12.2: Honey Jar Sales going well; £140 at Shugborough walled garden recently taken. 12.3: Chris Shaw has offered to jar some honey. 12.4: The expectation is to sell the majority of club how at the 2023 county show. 	

<p>13. Communications update (including e-mail, Website & Newsletter)</p> <p>13.1: Website addition of an Online Donation Button: was discussed, more information on fees for charities and total cost required to make a decision if to proceed.</p> <p>13.2: Newsletter: Honey Show special issued in Sept.</p>	Gemma
<p>14. Correspondence – 14 items received. 8 from BBKA – Responded to in green</p> <p>Jul 22nd - Check of Membership (outlook e-mail) Delivery Status Notification (Failure). 28th - Beekeeping Near You Map – info sent to ER2 managers to update.</p> <p>August 2nd - LS 2022-08-02 Honey Labelling Petition – fwd to members. 9th - Charity Commission News – for info. 15th - LS 2022-08-15 Notification of Annual Delegate Meeting 14th January 2023 – Jo to be approached. AHT Online Assessment - Staffordshire South - Staffordshire South (57.0) 23rd - LS 2022-08-23 BBKA draft budget 2022/2023 – ADM delegate to vote on acceptance. 30th Aug - Birmingham & District Beekeepers Association Open Honey Show 10th & 11th September</p> <p>September 1st - LS 2022-09-01 Thank you for your help with recent Honey Petition - New 'National Honey Day' on October 21st 2022 – fwd to Wendy. 1st - LS 2022-09-01 Area Association Discussion Forums 2022/23 - fwd to committee. 1st - FW: AHT Online Assessment - Staffordshire South - Staffordshire South (57.0) – fwd to Chris. 14th LS 2022-09-14 Reminder about Beekeeping Near You Map on BBKA website 14th LS 2022-09-14 BBKA webinar event for members: The Truth about Honey? fwd to wendy 16th - LS 2022-09-16 National Honey Day - Friday October 21st 2022- fwd to wendy</p>	Ed
<p>15. A.O.B.</p> <p>15.1: Upgrade of trimmer to brush cutter – agreed to purchase in principle. Circa £80.</p> <p>15.2: Junior Beekeeping Certificates to be presented at the honey show.</p> <p>15.3: Agreed to buying flowers for the Chris Williams for support this year.</p> <p>15.4: Zoom meeting to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee roles 2023 – Quartermaster, Secretary and Treasurer. • Request from 3rd parties for Beekeeping / association support 	Ed
<p>16. Date of next meeting: 18th October '22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brewin's apology for next meeting. 	