

SABKA Committee Meeting

Monday 4 March 2019 7.30pm, Committee Room, Greenwood Park Hall, St Albans

Present: Anne Wingate (AW), Richard Peterson (RP), Adrian Small (AS), Ben Sutton-Jones (BSJ), Andy Crossley (AC), Jane Pendlebury-Green (JPG), Richard Grimwade (RG), Luke Adams (LA)

1 Apologies for absence

Patrick Maxwell (PM), Les Riley (LR), Gill Ray (GR)

2 Approval of minutes

a) Committee meeting: 29 November 2018

Approved with no amendments

Proposed: AW

Seconded: LA

b) Mini meetings (arranged after new committee members couldn't make scheduled meeting on 7 February 2019):

- Mini committee meeting 1: Saturday 2 February 2019

Approved with no amendments

Proposed: AS

Seconded: AW

- Mini committee meeting 2: Wednesday 6 February 2019

Approved with no amendments

Proposed: RP

Seconded: RG

c) AGM: 25 January 2019

Minutes of AGM not yet received by committee

Action: AW to collect and distribute to committee

3 Welcome to new committee members and introductions, clarification of roles (if applicable)

- | | |
|---|---|
| - Luke Adams | - Richard Peterson: Prae Wood manager |
| - Andy Crossley: Training and Education | - Gill Ray |
| - Richard Grimwade | - Les Riley: Treasurer |
| - Paul Jackman | - Adrian Small: Oaklands representative and manager |
| - Patrick Maxwell | - Ben Sutton-Jones: Public Events Co-ordinator |
| - Jane Pendlebury-Green: Secretary | - Anne Wingate: Chair |

Jeff Oberman has stepped down from the committee due to time commitments. He has agreed that he will help out when possible at events.

AW thanked all previous committee members for their work in running and supporting the association.

4 Chair's Report (AW)

"I would like to ask you all to pull together, do the work assigned to you and ask for help from ordinary Members to 'step up' to help.

Please do not make your own empires, at least pass your activities by the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

If you have concerns regarding any Members of SABKA actions/language etc. please report to me immediately.

Equally if you don't like what I am doing please come and tell me. We are all volunteers and none of us are perfect.

Making a code of conduct takes time to draw up and then has to be 'policed'. Let's just be open honest and show respect for each other.

I am looking forward to this coming year with you."

5 Secretary's Report (JPG)

- 3 people had used the "Contact Us" form and were interested in the beginner's course. Forwarded to AC.
- Very brief discussion about possible future use of Eventbrite to allow people to sign up online. Eventbrite costs nothing if the course is free, otherwise £0.49 +5% of entrance fee. Treasurer needs to be present for any further discussion.
- Whipperley Infant Academy, Luton. Min Seaton is going to re-contact them and attend. She would like to borrow the virtual hive. The virtual hive is owned by AW, not the association. AW is more than happy to lend it for this event.
Action: JPG to contact Min and let her know about the virtual hive.
- Contact from Simon Pannell at John O'Connor (JOC Grounds Maintenance) who are interested in partnering with SABKA re siting hives at their business clients as a managed service and JOC clients purchase all equipment, bees and pay for visits from the beekeeper.

<https://www.johnconner.co.uk/beekeeping-services/>

JPG has met with Simon and has been to see a possible site at Verulam Point, next to St Albans City train station, and is awaiting email from Simon re the quotation for their client. Discussion about the suitability of the site and the need to find a suitable beekeeper.

Action: JPG and AC to complete the quotation by 08/03/19 and return to JOC

Action: If client accepts the quotation, JPG to email all members and seek expressions of interest. Committee to decide upon who will be offered the job. As JOC are keen to get the apiary up and running, JPG and AC are both willing to run in the initial stages if necessary

- e. Both Prae Wood and Oaklands are almost at capacity. Whilst members are aware they should be moving to an out apiary some are struggling to find suitable sites. It is always going to be a challenge maintaining the balance of experienced and new beekeepers in the apiaries. JPG would like to identify businesses and see if they'd be willing to host a beehive and maintain a list of locations that were open to the idea. Also to start and maintain a list of beekeepers seeking an out apiary. In order to encourage good husbandry the passing of (or attendance at) the basic assessment course could be a pre-requisite for the list or the basis of a priority system?
Action: JPG to email members and ask about apiary availability and also to identify and email businesses (via St Albans Chamber of Commerce) who might be able to host an apiary
- f. JPG trying not to overwhelm the membership with emails. Had just sent out edition 1 of The Buzz (from HBKA) which had been laid out with the "Meet, Share, Learn" concept
- g. Bookings confirmed for committee meetings this year, all at Greenwood Park.
Action: RP to cancel the bookings for Y2K Hall at Markyate
- h. Swarm list started, currently 6 members have responded.
Action: JPG to send response to BBKA this week
Action: JPG to resend swarm list to members after the swarm course at WGC on Tuesday 2 April
- i. Lambing Weekend at Oaklands (Sat 16 March & Sun 17 March). The original invitation from Oaklands had been emailed to Paul Moffat, ex member. Due to the now tight turnaround of the event Richard Vickers and AW, who are both active at Oaklands, had volunteered to organise a day each.
- j. Minutes of the committee meetings – In future, in order to aid transparency, once the minutes of the previous meeting have been agreed they will be put on website in the members secure section

6 Treasurer's Report

Postponed until next meeting due to absence

7 Education and training (AC)

- a. New Beekeepers Course: Currently 36 people have enrolled for the course which starts on Thursday 7 March at St Michaels Church Hall, St Albans, AL3 4SL. There is a full complement of speakers/helpers but all members are welcome to support. Volunteer speakers have been asked to check through their given presentation and ask AC to amend if necessary. AC has an overview of the syllabus and is keen to ensure that speakers focus on their element
- b. People that have completed the beginner's course are offered sessions at Prae Wood and Oaklands. In a typical year approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of those on the beginners' course continue and attend the apiary sessions although some of them then drop out. At the committee meeting 28/07/18 The Hives For All (HFA) scheme was suspended for the 2019 season and so a full discussion was held about what option for starting beekeeping would be presented on the beginners course (session 3, 21/03/19)
Options, together with their pros and cons considered were:
 - Similar model to WGC where new beekeepers are encouraged to be independent from the start by getting their own apiary site. WGC have 4 association hives for training at Knebworth
 - Housing an association hive for training at each apiary
 - Returning to the HFA scheme.Committee decided to resurrect the HFA scheme as several members had had a very positive experience of it. SABKA currently has 4 hives and would need an extra 8 to reach the full complement of 12.
Action: RP to investigate acquisition and construction of additional hives, possibly to ask David Brown to help
- c. HBKA are currently advertising courses for Basic Assessment and also Swarm Collecting. Members have been informed about the courses by both AC and JPG, in particular the Basic Assessment Preparation course.
<http://www.hertsbees.org.uk/education/members-beekeeping-training/>

8 Public Events

- a. BSJ volunteered to take on the role of Public Events Coordinator
AW thanked LA for his work in the role
Action: LA and BSJ to liaise re handover
- b. Calendar of forthcoming public events:
 - 16 and 17 March - Oaklands Lambing Weekend – all in hand
 - Sat 18 May - Wheatfields Nursery and Infant School (bee education rather than honey sales)
 - 25 and 26 May - Herts County Show (Redbourn Showground, AL3 7PT) – going to be organised in conjunction with WGC. Steve Foulds? taking the lead for SABKA
 - Sat 8 June - Harpenden Carnival
 - Sun 9 June (TBC) - Oaklands Summer Fete
 - Sun 23 June - Shenley Fete
 - Sun 30 June - Larks in the Parks, Folly Lane, St Albans
 - Sat 28 Sept (TBC) - Oaklands Apple Day**Action:** JPG to ask Andie Hill to update the calendar of events on the website
Action: LA to confirm who is taking the lead for St Albans at the Herts County Show
- c. The observation hive (being kept at Oaklands and maintained by AS) will be needed for all events except the Oaklands Lambing Day
- d. A new storage location will be needed for the events box and gazebo. New shed at Prae Wood could be an option subject to insurance
Action: LA to check insurance policy
- e. Events need more support from the membership, some members are not on the Yahoo group. Under GDPR can they be emailed with the information?
Action: LA/LR to clarify wording of the membership agreement to see if there is any reason emails can't be sent

9 HBKA report

- a. Congratulations were extended to Collette Hayes who is now the president of HBKA
- b. The structure of HBKA will be changing and moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Whilst the details are still under discussion HBKA are very keen to progress the process, possibly as soon as the AGM. AW felt that more time was needed for branch committees to explore the options further and consider the implications for the association.

10 Prae Wood and Oaklands

Prae Wood

- a. Official shed opening to be held on Saturday 6 April at 3pm. The gutter is up but there is still a lot of work to do including putting a path around the shed which will involve digging out first. Rats have started tunnelling under the shed
Action: RP and PJ to create invitations for the opening to be emailed and sent on the Yahoo group
Action: RP to seek volunteers to assist with any further groundworks at Prae Wood
Action: AW to ask Eric Margrave and Collette Hayes to perform the opening ceremony
- b. Currently there are approximately 26 colonies on site. RP expressed concern about the policing of the site should Asian Hornets become more widespread. Last summer Andrea Goodall had distributed Asian Hornet boxes to both teaching apiaries. All members should be encouraged to extend their knowledge and this could be achieved by attending the Spring Fair and AGM in WGC, AL7 1BW on Saturday 23 March where several eminent speakers, including ex-SABKA member, Pete Kennedy whose most recent publication is "Searching for nests of the invasive Asian hornet using radio-telemetry" are giving talks and a Q&A session
Do we need a policy for Asian Hornet control?
- c. New beekeepers to be offered a visit to the apiary in April (probably 2 weekends). Maximum capacity 10

Oaklands

- a. The new fence had been installed in February with special thanks going to John Heeley for his efforts
- b. Hixberry Lane apiary (part of Herts Community Development Agency) could be extended as currently only 3 members there however the site is next door to allotments and a popular area with dog walkers and so colonies with gentle bees would be needed. Restrictions mean that screening is not allowed although planting is allowed and some has been completed already

11 AOB

- a) Spring Show and AGM (Saturday 23 March, Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, WGC. AL7 1BW)
 - AS is organising the helpers for the spring show (not a public event), AW has passed on a list of volunteers who had signed up
 - Action:** AS to liaise with Andrea Goodall
- b) Website
 - The privacy policy is currently located in the members area, it needs to be moved so that it is available to everyone
 - LA confirmed that the members area password was changed in October and therefore only paid-up members should be able to access the area
 - JPG volunteered to join LR maintaining the website
 - Action:** JPG to liaise with Andi Hill and LR re maintenance and to ask Andi to move the privacy policy
- c) Social Media Sites

Thanks to Andrea Goodall and Min Seaton for their work on these.

 - Facebook ([St Albans and District Beekeepers' Association](#)) currently has approximately 30 people in the group and is working fine with Andrea is putting on regular postings.
 - Twitter account ([@SBeekeepers](#)) is working.
 - Instagram ([StAlbansBeekeepers](#)) – has 40 followers. Andrea has withdrawn some inappropriate photos.
 - With all social media we need to retain control of who is posting to our site and consider who we are following
- d) Bank Account Access
 - The committee felt that more than one person should be able to see the accounts. Login access to be given to the Chair and Secretary.
 - Action:** AW to liaise with LR for access
- e) **Action: All:** please reply to emails even if it just a “yes, thanks” as it then confirms that you have received the email and doesn't leave the sender guessing

12 Date of next meeting

Thursday 2 May, Committee Room, Greenwood Park, 7.30pm.

Please could all committee members have read the rules of the association prior to the meeting (available on the website)

Meeting closed 10.05pm