

St Albans and District BKA Committee Meeting

Agenda

Thursday 12th May 2022

Chirst Church

New Greens

AL3 6DJ

1	Apologies for absence - Richard Peterson , Richard Grimwade .
2	Approval of minutes 1st mtg 31st March 2022 were approved. Proposed Julian Griffiths Seconded by Kyle Riley
3	Matters arising - no matters arising.
4	<p>Chair's report View form the Chair</p> <p>Swarming season is in full swing and we have finally had some rain which should assist the spring crop which seems much better than last year. I have noted the amount of oilseed rape in the area and can see honey starting to crystallise in some of my own supers where the rest remains unripe. Be on your guard!</p> <p>I have the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We need to establish the roles of the Trustees and the Committee. We recently had the Trustees publish updated documentation without reference to the Committee and for example, it does not seem appropriate to update the Apiary Rules without the input of the Apiary Managers. I would suggest that the Trustees should be managing our charitable status where the Committee is managing the Association. This is for the Committee and Trustees to discuss but we cannot operate sensibly with two sets of managers. Also, are the committee willing to accept and adopt the recent documents as drafted? The trustees have an oversight, but the running of the association falls to the committee members.2. With Kyle sending out the draft logos, I have made some progress with printing for the gazebo. The Gazebo supplier has offered the following: <i>Fully printed canopy you could go for yellow and black with the logo on all sides for £349.00.</i> <i>If that is out of budget we can do a stock colour canopy and print the logo in vinyl onto it.</i> <i>Plain canopy 3x3 - £89.00, vinyl printing on canopy - £75.00 per side, vinyl printing on valance - £45.00 per side</i> If we go for a fully or part printed gazebo, do we need logo banners or flags? Before we proceed we need to choose a logo.3. I have made no useful progress on feet for the display boards which do not stick out and present a trip hazard but will continue to work on it. Kyle has also made some suggestions about information aimed at children for the bottom boards which is a great idea. Before we move ahead, we need to resolve the stability issues but this should not stop us looking at what information we want on the boards. Would anyone like to volunteer to get involved in the information / design with Kyle and me? Stuart White offered to help with this project.3. On the subject of public events, Zettle (owned by paypal) have launched a card machine that can work off wifi or a built in sim card. The cost of the terminal is £149.00 plus vat and the fee is 1.75%. Zettle would pay into the existing Association bank account within 1-2 business days. This is a more expensive

card reader but has the advantage of the built in sim card which means it doesn't have to be linked to a mobile phone and can be used anywhere.

While the Treasurer is dead set against a card reader, I feel we should consider the extent to which the public have moved away from cash. There are no monthly fees or connection costs and members selling honey could cover the 1.75% cost (14p on an £8.00 jar). **General view is that this is the way to go, but to set up a separate bank account to handle the money. Perhaps be cautious if we choose to use PayPal as our bank account. We will continue to research the market on this topic.**

4. This week I have been contacted by Hyde Farm in Pimlico over towards Abbots Langley and Castle Farm in Wheathamstead both are offering apiary sites and have or have previously had beekeepers on site. Hyde farm have been offered some kit by a retiring beekeeper. The 3 hives are not in good condition but there is a small storage container with various pieces of equipment available.

5. 2nd Harpenden Cubs are looking for a presenter on the 16th/ 23rd June or the 14th July to come and talk bees. **Richard Grimwade has agreed to take this project on.**

6. Finally, I am pleased to report that St Albans District Council have been contacted by some members to register as food producers but I believe there are some still to go. And just to prove that none of us are exempt from scrutiny, Hertfordshire Trading Standards tell me that a sample of my honey has been analysed as follows:

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Result</u>
-sugars	71.6 g/100g
-fructose	36.7 g/100g
-glucose/galactose	31.3 g/100g
-sucrose	3.6 g/100g
-lactose	Not Detected < 2.0 g/100g
-maltose	Not Detected < 2.0 g/100g
Acidity in honey	12.9 meq/kg
Conductivity in Honey	204 µS/cm
Hydroxymethylfurfural	6 mg/kg
Moisture	16.4 g/100g

Reported by

JON GRIFFIN
Public Analyst
BSc (Hons) MChemA CChem
MRSC



5 Secretary's report

Booked BBQ social at Links Academy on Sunday 3rd July (26th June not available).

Need to discuss how BBQ might work; Assume gas and that there is a supply of gas. Provide a contribution for the use of the gas to Links Academy.

We will bulk buy sausages & burgers and cook these and provide these free of charge.
Stuart White volunteered to buy produce and to cook on the day.

Anne Wingate has agreed to present on the day.

Action on Stuart White to email members to announce the event and gauge numbers.

Booked November committee meeting at Christ church New Greens for Thursday 24th. and Saturday 12th Nov for the honey tasting social event.

The September dates have not yet been booked. Action on Stuart White to do this. Aiming for 11th or 18th on a Sunday afternoon. (Christ church have a small window of availability on Sunday afternoon's)

6 Treasurer's report
Treasure's Report for committee meeting on 12/5/2022 written on 11/5/2022

Our current bank balance is £17,514.93 as at time of writing this report on 11/5/2022

To date we have active members,139 full, 16 country an increase of 15 full, & 0 country.

We have had a small influx of membership from the back of the beginners course.

We currently have 7 boxes of 1lb jars purchased at the old price, once down to a couple, I will add the 17 boxes purchased on the last order at the new higher price & increase the price to £28. I will notify the membership when done

Varroa treatments for this year, I spoke to Gary Hammond who runs Bee1st online store at the HBKA AGM/Spring Show about supplying the treatments & asked him to give a price, I'm still waiting, but hope to catch up with him on Sunday at the Healthy Bee Day, & will follow this up. My aim is to get these as soon as possible. I will hold back enough treatments from the website to cover the colonies at both apiaries.

I contacted Sam at Wyefield Apiaries & ordered 2 pallets of Invertbee Syrup after gaining approval from the trustees, this was delivered & placed on the website at £16.50, we currently have 68 jerry cans left from 120, selling well. I will resend out to the members near the end of the month in time for the June Gap or before if the NBU warn of feeding bees. When the second pallet is halfway, I will order another one.

I now have a letter confirming the donation of the second mower from Ian Ross & have paid the cost of the service directly to him.

Anne Wingate approached me about the purchase of a table that can be used outside the shed at Oaklands, she was going to have the table in the corner at Prae Wood, but it is not in a stable condition, we have used this table outside at Prae Wood in the past, I therefore agreed on the purchase of a new table & asked her to purchase one for Prae Wood also.

Here end the treasurer's report for this meeting

7	<p>Education and training: Mignon Seaton to present her ideas on training.</p> <p>Andy Crossley's report:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Training Report – May 2022</p> <p>2022 Beginners Course Of the 49 people who attended the Beginners Course, 41 have attended their apiary session that was included with the course. From those attending the course, 21 people have joined SABKA (15 Full, 6 Country members)</p> <p>Several people from the course have now been to Oaklands on a number of Saturday afternoons, and seem keen to come along regularly to observe for a while.</p> <p>The practical mentoring of the new beekeepers at Oaklands has been divided between Anne Wingate, Adrian Small and myself. Maria Flegg has also recently volunteered to help out with mentoring for the rest of the season.</p> <p>Hives For All We now have 9 people confirmed on the Hives For All scheme. Given the available space and the fact that there are still 7 beekeepers from last year's course in residence will mean quite a challenge to accommodate them all at the Oaklands apiary.</p> <p>Action Julian Griffiths to talk to Richard Peterson about capacity issues at Oaklands and allowing new beekeepers at Prae Wood</p>
8	<p>Public events report: Herts Show is the next event. Observation hive might have to be removed overnight. Passes should be available for volunteers. Honey for sale on the day might be a problem. Honey to be delivered on the Friday night before the event. Oaklands summer fayre Sunday June 12th causes a problem for Alison as she is away. Stuart White offered to help out coordinate the setup and breakdown of the stand on the day.</p>
9	<p>HBKA report - nothing to report. Mention of Healthy bee day on Sunday at Knebworth approx 60 people signed up. Now a small charge for the event.</p>
10	<p>Prae Wood and Oaklands Business</p> <p>Oaklands: Beekeepers</p>

- Caroline Williams and Joan Walton have moved out, freeing up a number of hive bases which Andy Crossley has upgraded so that they are level and properly "configured" i.e. a patio slab on 3 bricks

- in addition to the Standard and Deep National hives (and one WBC), we now have a Drayton hive and a Slovenian AZ hive. The latter received a swarm at the end of April. Purchased bees were moved into Drayton hive on Sat 7th May

Visitors / observers

About 8 people have started observing at Oaklands, taking our numbers quite high

Space

Almost all the existing hive bases are now occupied or spoken for, which is starting to give us an accommodation problem (and possibly a forage shortage), as we are in a confined space. It is suggested that there needs to be some form of "load balancing" with Prae Wood, as Oaklands is very congested now.

Is there a need for a new third training apiary? To ease congestion.

Administration

- more slabs and bricks have been requested from David Allen (beekeeper & also headmaster of Links Academy) who may have spares. If he doesn't, funding will be requested to buy more so that we can build more bases

- fallen gate post at apiary entrance has been replaced by Kevin Burton

- ~6 loose fence posts around the periphery of the apiary have been replaced

- the second mower is being used in conjunction with the first mower, which is speeding up the mowing.

Other than that, the season seems to have started well. Nicoletta Cobham, the owner of the Drayton hive, brought her daughters, aged 8 & 9, on Sat 7th May who are currently very keen to keep visiting the apiary. It's nice to have an injection of youth into our group!

11	Update on Website and social media sites new logo work under way to support this.
12	Update on Out Apiaries:
13	A.O.B. Apiary meetings are better at Oaklands - no road noise issues and better parking. Good idea, need to progress talks with dates.
	Meeting finished at 9:58 pm
	Date of next meetings: Thurs 28th July, Thurs 29th Sept. Thurs 24th Nov. venue Christ Church New Greens BBQ 3rd July at Links Academy, Honey tasting social Saturday 12th Nov.