

WHARFEDALE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date of meeting: Thursday 9th June 2022

Present: Chairman: Matthew Mason
President: Anne Jones
Secretary: Janet Hartley
Equipment: Sophie Pringle
Monty Pugh
Jo Johnson
Chris Duxbury

Joining via zoom: Education Laurie Prowse
Webmaster Laurence Truman
Membership John Forsyth

Apologies: Treasurer David Powell
Rob Claxton-Ingham

AGENDA

1. MATTERS ARISING

Longbee Trophy

Matt will speak to Rob regarding the trophy design and then to Peter Longbottom.

Laurie's son has agreed to do a line drawing for engraving.

Apiary at Bolton Abbey

Monty has 2 hives here as a trial site. So far, he has 3 supers on both hives with 2 full. It is looking like a viable site for a club apiary and should be a good site for the heather. Maximum capacity would be 10-12 hives.

Gargrave Show

Booking has been confirmed for the Upper Group to have a stand at the show. The show will take place on Saturday 20th August 2022.

Accounts for 2020/2021

Matt has spoken to the Treasurer, David, and the accounts should be independently examined and circulated within the next two weeks.

Apiary Meetings for Beginners

It was suggested that these could be held at Ashlands School for the Lower Group and Skipton Girls High School for the Upper Group. These sites will be looked at by Sophie and Monty respectively.

2. UPDATE ON BEGINNERS COURSE

Laurie provided an update on the 2022 beginners course. There were 22 beginners, including 3 from Ashlands Primary School and 3 from Greatwood School in Skipton.

All have been supplied with bees.

3. EQUIPMENT

Discussion took place regarding the continuing problem of finding a permanent home for the club equipment.

Chris will investigate the cost of a container. Various suggestions were made for where it could be placed

Sophie will speak to Moss and Moor garden centre.

Anne will speak to Jenny Liston regarding Chevin apiary and also Ben Rydding Sports Club.

It was decided that purchasing a heather agitator would be impractical as it could not be moved around. Monty is buying a loosener this year to see how it goes. The general feeling was that the club needs a permanent home for equipment first before investing in new equipment.

It was felt that endoscopes were cheap enough for individual members to purchase their own.

4. CLUB NUC'S AND QUEENS

Laurie organises a list of members who produce nucs and then matches these with new beekeepers. Any money exchanged is an arrangement between the supplier and beginner.

It was suggested that in the future taster sessions could be organised before potential new beekeepers enrol on the course. School sites could be used for these sessions, 1 in Upper Wharfedale and 1 in Lower Wharfedale. Another option may be to have hives temporarily at Nell Bank.

John spoke about the Bee Improvement Group. This is a separate group to Wharfedale Beekeepers Association. They have over 20 colonies on 2 sites.

The Bee Improvement Group can supply a reliable source of nucs, but there was no support for the club buying equipment for the group, as the Bee Improvement Group would be selling them on, and this was regarded as a commercial enterprise.

However, the committee were happy to signpost the Bee Improvement Group with a link from the WBKA website. This would not include an endorsement.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Both John, as Membership Secretary, and Janet as Secretary, will be stepping down from the committee at the next Annual General Meeting in November. Both have expressed that they are able and willing to help replacements.

Additional committee members should be actively sought. Laurie will put a message on the beginners WhatsApp groups.

Matt reported that Anne Waddington will join the committee.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to resume speaker meetings. Janet will investigate speakers.

Next meeting: Thursday 1st September 2022 at 7.30 pm.

