

Devon Beekeepers Association Exeter Branch Minutes of Annual General Meeting
24th November 2020

Present; Chairman Paul Smith, Treasurer, John Heal Treasurer, Secretary Cathy Mudge, Alan Binge, David McLarin, Janie Smallridge, Ed Maltby, Jenifer Tucker, Jill Blackett, Jonathan Custance Baker, Basil Strickland, Imogen Hallam, Sylvia Guest, Barry Neal and 13 other members.

1. **Apologies** None
Lost Members 2020 a Minute Silence held for Melvyn Boote a long time Committee member of the Exeter branch, a regular helper at the Apiary and a good friend.
2. **Minutes of 2019 AGM**, held 18th November 2019, having previously been circulated, were offered for approval. Proposal to accept mins. Alan Binge, Seconded Basil Strickland, members voted unanimously to accept minutes, signed by Paul Smith as true record of meeting.
3. **Matters Arising from Meeting** No matters raised.
4. **Chairmans Report**
Paul said that this had been a difficult year in many ways, however we have also had a reasonably successful year raising a revenue of £2000 from the sale of Nucs and equipment that was being replaced. Our plan is to continue to keep up the standard of the teaching at the Apiary, produce Nucs for Beginners and members who had suffered winter losses leaving them with no Bees. With Technology, socially distanced sessions at the Apiary, online traing and our Winter sessions on Zoom we had managed to keep going. It was not the best but it was better than stopping everything and having nothing for our members. We have a good programme ahead and thanks to Cathy for her help and the support of other members and the Committee, there is a significant debt of gratitude.
5. **Treasurers Report** Comprehensive Report from John had been sent to all members and this had been signed off by an Independent Examiner. We have been amassing an income for 2020 and there is a slight distortion of the figures with fees for Beginners coming in during September instead of December. These fees will be part of 2021 membership fees. This will be about £1,700. The Nucs for sale have not required much financial input as little extra cost is involved just members time.
A lot has been spent at the Apiary, renewing Hives, there is also an element of saving by not hiring halls and providing meeting support. Buying Zoom at a cost of £150 for the Professional version has been successful. Paul thanked John for his work for the Branch. Acceptance of Report Alan Binge, Seconded Sylvia Guest. Vote unanimously to accept accounts.
6. **Secretarys Report** Cathy has sent members her annual report (see attached)
Thanks once again to those members who came out to help. Less work entailed organising meetings, a lot more work with Zoom and Recording meetings.
7. **Apiary Report** We have 10 hives and 5 nuclei. Managed to get all Bees into new boxes and update equipment, even had successful Queen rearing.
8. **Webmaster Report**. Jenifer had sent in the reports. Paul noted that the numbers accessing the website had dropped. He would follow up the reason for this with Jenifer. He thought that despite people being on line more during lockdown, they thought that there would be no news on Beekeeping.
9. **Education Officer Report**. We had managed to complete the Beginners Courses via Zoom and with distanced practicals. Paul said there was now a Pan Devon course and he asked David Packham and Barry Neal how that was going. Barry said the full syllabus was being debated this Saturday the 28th. David felt a lot of smaller branches were hoping to have a Pan Devon option.
10. **Honiton Sub Committee Report**, presented by Janie Smallridge.

The Honiton Show did not run, its Exeter Branch chance to sell Honey, show wax and mead . It is the largest Agricultural Show in the County and we need one more person from Exeter to make up the numbers. Chris Carr volunteered for the Exeter Branch. Proposed Imogen Hallam, Seconded by Ed Maltby, vote unanimously to support motion.

11. **Election of Officers for Exeter Branch.**

The following members have indicated their willingness to stand on the committee, therefore all were nominated en bloc, with proposer Cathy Mudge, seconder, Martin Myhill, vote was unanimous.

Paul Smith Chairman

John Heal Treasurer

Cathy Mudge Secretary

Jenifer Tucker

Imogen Hallam

Jill Blackett

Caroline Tavener

Alan Binge

Ed Maltby

Basil Strickland

David McLarin

Jonathan Custance Baker Honiton Show rep.

12. **Election of Honiton Show Committee.** The following members have indicated their willingness to stand on the committee, therefore all were nominated en bloc,

Janie Smallridge

Deborah Custance Baker

Jonathan Custance Baker

Chris Carr

Margaret Kyle

Paul Hammond

Proposer Jonathan Custance Baker, Seconded Basil Strickland, vote unanimously to accept.

13. **Honorary Membership** of Exeter Beekeepers continue for Pam Arney and Roger Lacey.

Paul wanted to nominate Cathy Mudge to also be an Honorary Member as recognition of all the work she has undertaken for the Apiary and the Branch.

Proposer Paul Smith, Seconded by Alan Binge, vote unanimously by members present.

14. **Meeting closed.**