

**Devon Beekeepers Association
Exeter Branch**

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 20th September 2022 on Zoom

- **Present:** Jonathan Custance Baker, Cathy Mudge, John Heal, Alan Binge, Sylvia Guest and Jill Blackett, Caroline Tavener, Imogen Hallam, Paul Smith
- **1.Apologies:** Ed and Rosemary Maltby
- **2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 19th July 22 on Zoom**
 - **The Minutes** of both meetings, having been previously circulated, were offered for approval. The minutes were to be signed by Jonathan Custance Baker as a true record of the meeting.
- **3.Matters arising**
 - None
- **4.Secretary's Report**
 - Farmwise, have asked if we can come again with an Observation Hive, arrangements discussed, Jonathan said that there will be equipment and a Demonstration Hive supplied by National Bee Supplies. Cathy will arrange a team to cover, also ask David McLarin as he was very good demonstrating last time.
 - Evening Meeting programme is now being arranged by Karen Pearson, we are gradually getting bookings arranged and we are trying more hands-on sessions.
- **5.Treasurers Report**
 - John is now arranging accounts for the years end. He has been requesting Honey sales from John Easton and up to date spend on the Apiary.
 - He has been unable to set up New Members due to a system delay but they have paid for next years Beginners Courses.
- **Apiary Report**
 - Paul has been working on laying the slabs. We have £230 in material, free slabs from Sylvia. Alex and Chip have been moving the chippings and Paul plans to arrange the final work soon. Next task is to varnish the Log Cabin.
 - Paul will be looking for volunteers and Cathy will send out a message for help. Paul will look into the best paint.
 - Sand, Hardcore and Cement will cost £40
 - Water has been supplied by Greendale, it needs to have a meter fitted and a final tap fitting at the Honey shed. It will not be possible to get Electricity on site as it is too far to extend the Electricity lines. We will need to continue with the gas boilers as before.
 - We are going into the winter with 9 Hives and 3 nucs.
- **7.Web Managers Report**
 - Basil has the dates for the Beginners Course on the Website with Eventbrite arranged, will just need the dates of the Evening Meetings.
- **8. Education Officer Report**
 - Courses now arranged for Beginners and Improvers, so far we have 5 Beginners and 2 Improvers. Easy to book on and easy to cancel. Also the form for the Beginners to complete is now available
 - Dates for the Spring Weekend course has also been arranged
- **9.Any Other Business**
 - Cathy was asked about different speakers, we will not be having a speaker at our AGM and will have a Quiz, prizes, maybe a task like frame making.
 - John has asked that we start our Zoom meeting from 7.15 due to work commitments. Zoom will be open from 7pm and we will start at 7.15.
 - Alan gave an update from the Executive meeting on 10th September. There will be a Safeguarding Course for Beekeepers, Sylvia will be happy to attend on behalf of Apiary.

Regarding Magazine and VAT costs, printed it had a zero rate, distribution was at a standard rate, the recent invoice now has no VAT. Previously VAT for distribution can not be claimed back. John asked if any other association knew about this issue. Jon may have friends who can help.

- The next DBKA meeting will be on Sunday 11th December via Zoom.
 - Magazine will now be going Digital after the vote, but membership fees have already been set for 2023 without this being taken into account. As from February 2023 the magazine will be digital with members being able to opt for a paper copy. The surplus generated will be returned to the Branch funds, The Branch will benefit by the number of their members going digital.
 - In 2024 there will be an option to have a paper copy but there will then be an additional fee to be paid. Cost will be about £15 a year.
 - Basil was thanked for organising the Belusuc run this year.
 - Paul has not been getting an invite to DBKA meetings, nor has Jonathan. Jill has not been getting a Digital Copy of the Magazine.
 - Jill would like to buy a Melvyn a plum tree for the Apiary at his wife's request, she will look into the types and availability.
 - Caroline said that members are being asked about supplying Honey to small shops. They are asking suppliers of Honey to register with the Council, this is free, but the original arrangement under the Food Act, was that if food production was less than 5 days in a 5 week period this was not needed. Cathy will contact the BBKA.
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- **Dates for Future Meetings**
 - Committee Meeting Zoom, 18th October 7.15pm,
 - AGM 28th November 7pm with speaker TBC