

Devon Beekeepers Association

Exeter Branch

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 18th April 2023 on Zoom

Present: Jonathan Custance Baker, Cathy Mudge, John Heal, Karen Pearson, Alan Binge, Imogen Hallam.

1.Apologies: Basil Strickland, Ed and Rosemary Maltby, Caroline Tavener.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 21st March 2023

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

Request to Environmental Health re Honey Spinning. We received a reply that fundamentally, the scale of production means we are hobby beekeepers so we don't need to register. They also said that as we don't label they suggest we contact trading standards. The onus is now on trading standards, and we have nothing further to do.

Jonathan now has his food hygiene certificate, Cathy also has one too.

4.Secretary's Report

We will now be having a meeting once a month at the Apiary in the Log cabin. We just need a projector. Alan said that he has the projector, Jonathan also has a screen and another projector we can use. We will also try the generator and see if it provides enough energy for the projector and speakers laptop.

5.Treasurers Report

We have £35,320 approx. in the bank and with £6,600 to the BBKA and the BDI for members. John has asked David Packham about payment for the winter course he has done. We also will be having £1200 back from the tax office in a couple of months.

6.Apiary Report

1 Danish Queen remains of the 4 we bought. One hive has Bee paralysis virus and we have had to feed several hives as they have no stores in this bad weather. Our entry to the Stephenson Cup will be based on the Apiary.

7.Any Other Business

Alan said there is a plan for the BBKA to get more information from the eR2 system which would enable them to contact members directly and use live information from the eR2 system to answer members queries directly instead of referring them to the Branch. This is under the guise of using the new Education link they have now set up. There are concerns from the DBKA that this is disingenuous by the BBKA. It is possible that they want access to email contact and address for wider purposes, they do not have this at the moment, only the address for BBKA magazine circulation on a snapshot basis.

After the e4R2 system was introduced, there were concerns that GDPR had been breached as they had emailed all the members, this was not allowed and their access to live eR2 data was withdrawn, which is why they want access again now.

BBKA have said that if they are not linked into members information, there will be issues with members accessing training courses and insurance details. Simon O Sullivan has been speaking to BBKA and it is felt this should not be implemented but go to the DBKA AGM. We cannot accept this until we find out the real issue and Education cannot be used as a lever. It is thought this is a way of directly accessing Association and Branch membership information and may interfere with local matters and may be a step towards taking members directly by the BBKA. Devon is a big group to go against the BBKA and will have even more influence if Cornwall and Somerset support us in stopping this going ahead.

The question needs to be asked if members will still be able to do courses etc. if an association refuses to sign up.

Alan feels they are seeking to gain access to data they don't need. It interferes with the branch activities, they are a hub, branches are the direct link to members. The DBKA has, in the past, asked for the minutes of the BBKA meetings, but they say they are not available.

In the past there have been concerns about BBKA and money, we need to see the accounts and we used to get a budget. If they take on more work, answering queries that are more appropriate to be dealt with by branches they may need more resources which would lead to increased subscriptions. The Committee agree with Alan, John said control must be local and want facilities for Exeter. Norfolk are independent, not all parts of the country are involved with the BBKA. After extensive discussion the Committee have decided, at this stage we do not want the DBKA to go forward with BBKA request without further information.

John has had a few members and thinks that a welcome pack would be very helpful, possibly as an attachment to an email. Alan felt it was an excellent idea, that North Devon Branch has a very good welcome pack that he will try and get hold of for Cathy to see. Cathy could give this to members once they have joined.

Dates for Future Meetings on Zoom

Tuesday 20th June 2023, Tuesday 18th July 2023