

SOUTH WEST COUNTIES BEEKEEPERS' FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th November 2018

at Monkton Elm Garden Centre, Taunton

Present

Mr Peter Darley (PD)	Chairman
Ms Kathy Lovegrove (KL)	Hon. Sec/Treasurer
Mrs Anne Rowberry (AR)	Avon
Mr Mike Duffin (MD), Mrs Liz Duffin (LD)	Bournemouth & Dorset S.
Mr Mark Hoult (MH)	Cornwall
Mr Tony Lindsell (TL), Viv Thorne (VT)	Devon
Mrs Liz Rescorla (LR), Mr Roland Benjamin (RB), Mr Chris Slade (CSI)	Dorset
Not represented	Hampshire
Not represented	Jersey
Mr Stewart Jamieson (SJ)	Salisbury
Mr David Charles (DC), Mrs Anne Pike (AP), Mr Richard Bache (RBa)	Somerset
Mrs Lindsay Bryning (LB), Ms Kate Bowyer (KBo)	West Cornwall
Mr David Newell (DN)	Wiltshire
Not represented	NBU
Mr Ken Basterfield (KB)	Link Trustee

Guests

(None)

Apologies:

Mr David Welham, Mr Ken Tredgett, Mr Ken Edwards, Mr Chris Utting, Mr Simon Jones, Mr Ivor Davis

1. Chairman's comments

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Richard Bache who was attending for the first time. He thanked all those present for coping so patiently with the unexpected relocation from The Merry Monk to the Garden Centre.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved: proposed by CS, seconded by TL, carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

Re. Item 6 (vi) Request from SWBKF for Standing Orders Committee to be reconstituted
Since there was already so much to deal with at the 2019 ADM, PD had not yet put this forward to the BBKA EC. It was felt that the request would be more favourably received once the complexities of the draft constitution were resolved.

Re. Item 2 Article in August's BBKA News, entitled "Bullying"

Three documents had been received:

- Letter from BBKA to Charity Commission (via email) dated 27th February 2018 informing the CC of events at the ADM.
- Letter from BBKA to CC (via email) dated 6th July 2018 responding to a number of questions from the Case Manager.
- Letter from the CC's Case Manager thanking BBKA for supplying this information and stating that the CC is now satisfied that the matter can be concluded for now.

Dissatisfaction was expressed about the long delay in the BBKA complying with a simple request to release the documents. The tone of the penultimate paragraph of the first letter raised particular concern. The comments were seen as prejudiced and distorting the events to exonerate the Trustees of any blame.

TL asked if the forum was prepared to leave the issue as closed or to re-open the matter. KL pointed out that the secretary had been asked to obtain these documents in order to clarify whether the events at the ADM had been misreported to the Charity Commission. If the Forum wished to pursue their

concerns about the way the delegates had been portrayed, the focus now should not be about Ian Homer's suspension but about any misrepresentation of the delegates' views and actions.

LB agreed to draft a letter to cover this point. The Chairman would finalise it and send it to Margaret Wilson.

ACTION: LB and PD

4. BBKA ADM 12 January 2019

4a) Applications for membership by associations

KB asked members to bear this question in mind, "Would bees, beekeepers or the BBKA benefit or suffer if this application was approved?"

(i) Kent – General agreement with RB's comment that 59 individual members was too few.

(ii) Ellan Vanin – Consensus was that a split like this on the Isle of Man would not be of overall benefit to the island's beekeepers.

4b) Nominations

Trustees - It was noted that there were more vacancies than candidates.

AR said that the lack of candidates being put forward by Associations was of concern since there was no obvious reason why.

KB added that if the two vacancies were unfulfilled the EC could co-opt people who have a particular expertise to offer but these people could not be Trustees since they would not have been elected.

There was a brief discussion of the candidates; no further information was available about Mike Wilson and the other two (Diane Drinkwater and Margaret Wilson) were current Trustees, seeking re-election. KBo said that it was still important for delegates to participate in the vote even though the candidates' election seemed to be a foregone conclusion. The number of votes cast will be recorded and could be significant.

Exam Board – There were five vacancies and five candidates all of whom seemed strong contenders.

4c) Propositions

(1) Trustee Discipline and Dispute Resolution. This is an improvement on the current system. The key point is that the dispute will go to arbitration (despite the cost) and the decision will be legally binding.

(2) Acceptance of CIO Constitution See agenda item 5.

(3) The meaning of this proposition was unclear due to the wording.

DN pointed out that this was an obvious example of the need for a Standing Orders Committee.

A number of criticisms were expressed about the whole administrative procedure leading up to the publication of the ADM papers - the poor presentation and layout; the posting on the website occurring so close to the deadline; the confusion due to last minute amendments. Overall the BBKA did not appear to be an organisation that valued accuracy. Nor did it give a convincing impression to delegates of the professionalism expected and of the importance that should be attached to the ADM meeting.

(4) Schools Membership The BBKA supports the interest generated amongst schools. The nature of the relationship with local associations was not specified. For the moment it would be up to individual schools/associations to develop whatever suited their own situations.

(5) Eco-friendly wrapping for BBKA News Unfortunately there is a huge stock of the plastic wrapping. Due to cost implications this should be used up before moving to an alternative.

(6) BBKA participation in Tradex This is likely to be passed without contention. It has already been agreed that the BBKA will have an information stand at Tradex 2019.

(7) Closure of BBKA Enterprises This will not be opposed by EC. There just needs to be a 12 months gap after CIO status is agreed before it can happen.

(8) Video conferencing All Trustees should be able to use this facility already.

KB Although there is a "Go to meeting" set up, this is not ideal. There are better systems available. AR felt that it was adequate if only used occasionally in exceptional circumstances.

(9) Publication of Minutes on Members' Area of Website Discussion ranged widely without general agreement. Key points were on the advisability of publishing draft minutes or approved minutes; the need to redact confidential sections or whether to agenda sensitive topics in a dedicated Part 2 of meetings; the reasons for Trustees' reluctance to have minutes available to members.

AP concluded that this debate highlighted the lack of trust between the BBKA EC and AAMs. It was important to find a way to restore this trust.

(10) Inclusion of leather gloves in beginners' kits The trade will respond to its customers' perceived needs. The BBKA cannot implement any ban like this.

(11) Dedicated time for delegates' business This does not seem workable.

5. Constitution and Appendices

LB used her notes on the latest draft version (written for West Cornwall BKA) to lead the discussion. She kindly recorded comments from this meeting and agreed to write them up for sending to Stephen Barnes. **ACTION: LB**

6. Update on Other Current Matters

KB reported that there would be a meeting about how to deal with the Asian hornet at Blackbury Honey Farm on 29th November, 10am (for 10.30am) start until 15.30pm. It will be attended by Nigel Semmence. The aim is to discuss how to improve liaison between NNSS, NBU and AHATs. It would be helpful if Forum members could spread the word amongst interested beekeepers in their area i.e. those who have taken on some responsibility for combatting Asian hornets.

LB raised concerns at the news that, from October, beekeepers will no longer need to have taken the Basic Assessment in order to sit for and be awarded passes in the Modules. This seems a retrograde step, divorcing practice from theory.

AR explained that it was to accommodate exceptional cases such as those who are disabled and prisoners who are not allowed to keep bees.

Finance. SWBKF subscriptions for 2018 have been received from three member associations. KL would email out bank details for the remaining associations to arrange payment.

7. Date of next meeting 5th February 2019. Venue to be confirmed.

Meeting ended at 3pm.