



DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No 270675

Chairman - Viv Thorn, Cross Orchard, Steep Hill, Maidencombe, Torquay TQ1 4TS
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General Secretary - Barry Neal, Badgers Barn, Withacott, Langtree, Torrington EX38 8NL
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Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting held at Betty Cottles Inn, Graddon Cross, Okehampton on Saturday 25th January 2020

Officers

Viv Thorn	Chairman
Ruth Neal (RN)	Vice-Chairman
Barry Neal	Gen Sec
Alan Binge (AB)	Treasurer
Keith Bone (KBo)	Gift Aid Treasurer
Lilah Killock (LK)	Editor Beekeeping & Membership Sec
Liz Westcott (LW)	Show Chairman & Sec
Mike Ticehurst (MT)	Webmaster

Branch Delegates

Holsworthy	Brian Dixon (BD)
Newton Abbot	John Kirk (JK)
Plymouth	Shaun Sperinck (SS)
Tavistock	Bill Pyle (BP)
Totnes & Kingsbridge	Tammy Skinner (TS) <i>(until Item 11)</i>

Apologies - Tony Lindsell, Chris Smith, Gerry Stuart, Simon O'Sullivan, Peter Weller

Nothing Heard - Tim Allen, Malcolm Crook, Mave Dowling, Richard Ball, Simon Jones, Paul Smith

Observer - Suzanne Allen (Tavistock)

2. Chairman's Remarks

2.1. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2.2. The Chairman welcomed all delegates to her first meeting as Chairman. She also welcomed Ruth Neal as the new Vice-Chairman.

2.3. The Chairman commented on the success of the Devon Beekeepers' Day and congratulated the North Devon Branch for all the arrangements made. She also thanked all those who participated with displays, stands, etc.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - the minutes of the 30th November 2019 EC meeting were approved; proposed AB, seconded MT; unanimous.

4. **Matters Arising** - EC Co-options, complete.

5. **Treasurer's Report**; Paper EC(20) 1 referred - Bees for Development (BfD) had been awarded a grant of £500 from the President's Fund in December 2019. BfD had also been awarded a £100 grants from DBKA general funds in 2016. SS commented that perhaps a clause should be added to the President's Fund Policy that limits any organisation requesting funds to one award only in any period of 2 years. A printer would be bought by the Show Committee and would be held for safekeeping by the DBKA Treasurer.

6. **Devon Beekeepers' Day (DBD)/AGM** - the DBD was an opportunity to recognise the significant achievements of members throughout the previous year, and the day had been the 144th annual event. 2019 had seen the sad departure of a number of notable colleagues who had given much to DBKA, and delegates stood to remember all those no longer with us. Daisy Headley, from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, spoke about the identification, threats and ecology of bumblebees; and John De Carteret, Jersey Beekeepers, and a leading member in their campaign to deal with the Asian Hornet, updated the delegates on the present, very severe, situation in Jersey. Awards were presented to those members successful in the 2019 Assessments & Exams, and the Downing Memorial Bowl for 2019 was presented to Mike Ticehurst, DBKA Webmaster and Torbay Branch. A question & Answer session was held as well.

The Chairman agreed to write in due course to all those DBKA members who were successful in their Basic Assessments with congratulations and an invitation to the DBD to collect their awards.

Action - Chairman

7. **BBKA ADM 2020 Feedback**; Paper EC(20) 2 referred - the Chairman reminded delegates of the ADM process, including the voting procedures. The BBKA Link Trustees had not yet been announced. The DBKA Chairman had asked the new BBKA President about pursuing the VAT Exemption on Beekeeping Equipment post-BREXIT, and the President agreed to pursue it. Enclosure 1 to these minutes refer.

8. **BBKA Directory of Officers**; Paper EC(12) 3 referred - since the meeting there had been further developments in this, and which answered the EC's queries and concerns. The Gen Sec had recommended an opt-in policy rather than one of opting out; opting-in would accord with the general GDPR principles.

9. **Training & Education Policy** - the sub-committee planned to submit a Training & Education Strategy to the next EC meeting. A Resource Directory would be hosted on the website.

10. **Bee Health Day 2020** - Delegates were asked to discuss with their Branches holding this year's Bee Health Day; responses due by the next EC meeting. East Devon, Exeter, Plymouth, Tiverton, and Newton Abbot had already hosted it. There would be a subsidy available for expenses.

Action - all

11. Branch Activity

- Totnes & Kingsbridge generally had a good attendance/response to events and courses. It was planning to refund £20 towards exam/assessment fees, and was reviewing its IT and social media.

- Plymouth would be holding an Improvers meeting, and was investigating alternative social events. The beginners' course had been over-subscribed and bookings had been taken already for 2021.

- The Holsworthy Spring Convention would be on the 22nd February.

- Torbay would be holding an introduction to beekeeping course, and holds a microscopy club every 6 weeks.

- Newton Abbot felt that education seems to put people off, and was considering presenting less onerous topics. Skep making courses would be held at the clubhouse. The Branch would be taking part in the South Devon Honey Show on the 14th March.

- Tavistock held a quiz, and a honey tasting. The BBKA beginners' guide was now included in the beginners' course, and the Branch website was being updated.

- East Devon felt that it had been the victim of its own success, although out of 264 members, only an average of 25 attended events. It has good beginners' courses, and was encouraging members to become Swarm Collectors.

12. AOB

- Queen Rearing & Improvement, February 2011, had been a Beekeeping Magazine supplement, with DBKA Copyright and published by DBKA. DARG was hoping to produce with DBKA, a revised, second edition of the booklet.

- the Show Committee was trawling for Stevenson Trophy entries. This year would see a gourmet honey section with priority given to Branches who donate honey to ToFH). The Committee would be generating interest for the competition and for stewards.

- The Chairman proposed that the role of Chairman should be re-titled Chair. RN commented against the proposal as being sexist/gender-orientated/discriminatory. The Gen Sec thought that the BBKA ADM rationale for the change had been flawed, and that he was against unwarranted political correctness. The proposal was seconded by KBo; 4 votes for, 7 against, and 2 abstentions. The proposal was not carried.

13. **Dates of Next Meetings** - 14th March, 27th June, 12th September, 28th November, all at Betty Cottles Inn.

Refreshments, March 2020 - Exeter

Enclosure - 2020 BBKA ADM Outcomes.

Barry Neal
General Secretary

Viv Thorn
Chairman
14th March 2020