



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 by Zoom Video-link at 10.00 am on Saturday 27th June 2020

Officers

Tony Lindsell (TL)	President
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
Mike Ticehurst (MT)	Webmaster

Branch Delegates

East Devon	Peter Weller (PW)
Exeter	Paul Smith (PS)
Holsworthy	Brian Dixon (BD)
North Devon	Mave Dowling (MD)
Okehampton	Simon O'Sullivan (So'S)
Plymouth	Shaun Sperinck (SS)
Tavistock	Bill Pyle (BP)
Totnes & Kingsbridge	Tammy Skinner (TS)

Apologies - Malcolm Crook, Chris Smith, Liz Westcott

Nothing Heard - Tim Allen, Richard Ball, Simon Jones, John Kirk

Observer - Suzanne Allen (Tavistock)

2. Chairman's Remarks

- 2.1. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- 2.2. The Chairman outlined the procedures to be followed for the video meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1. The minutes of the 25th January 2020 EC meeting were approved with an amendment to the purchase of the printer for the DBKA Show Committee; proposed RN, seconded BD; unanimous.

Action - Gen Sec (done)

3.2. The Notes of Action for March & May 2020 would be amended to show that the discussions on the various items had been conducted by e-mail.

Action - Gen Sec (done)

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. **Finance**; Paper EC(20) 15 referred - AB briefed some salient points of the report. Some expenditure may not be incurred due to less activities taking place during the pandemic. There were no comments on the report.

4.2. **Draft Budget FY20/21**; Paper EC(20) 16 referred - the Education Budget would be discussed at Item 8.2. There had been no significant AHAT costs recently, and the proposed AHAT budget figure for FY20/21 should be adequate. Caution was expressed about the 2021 Devon County Show (DCS) taking place; the set-up expenses would still be incurred. AB recommended no change to the FY20/21 member subscription rates. It was explained that the bank charges incurred at the DCS were fees charged for cash deposits made at the bank on-site; it had been agreed several years ago that holding large amounts of cash overnight during the show was not acceptable. The final FY20/21 budget would be presented for Trustee-only approval at the September 2020 EC Meeting.

Action - AB

5. **DBKA & Branch AGMs** - the implementation of the AGMs and platforms required for 'hybrid' on-line AGMs were discussed. ED was still planning for the DBD in December at Petroc College, Tiverton. Lecture hall facilities were good; refreshments would be available; a webinar could be arranged; Lyn Ingram, Somerset, would present on Honey Adulteration. Awards would be

processed and announced as normal. The DBD & AGM would be discussed further at the September EC Meeting.

Action - Gen Sec

6. **BBKA ADM Voting Proposals**; Paper EC(20) 17 referred - the current voting procedures were outlined by the Chairman. After an extensive discussion, the general view was to see how the proposed changes are moved forward by BBKA.

7. **DBKA Policy 7-2020 Guidance on the use of the DBKA Condolence Card**; Paper EC(20) 18 referred - it was agreed to remove the cost of the card from the document and the document was approved unanimously.

8. **Training & Education**

8.1. **Chairman, Education Sub-Committee** - the sub-committee had recommended Kathy Lovegrove, Totnes & Kingsbridge, as Chairman. The recommendation was accepted; proposed Chairman, seconded So'S; 13 votes for, 4 abstentions.

8.2. **DBKA Education Strategy**; Paper EC(20) 19 referred - after extensive discussion any Members' Forum would be further discussed between the Chairman & MT; there was support for on-line education; it was suggested that webinars could be recorded and made available to all members; and it was agreed that the insurance clause would be removed from the document. Strategy approved; proposed Chairman, seconded BD; unanimous. It was further agreed that £500 would be allocated in the FY20/21 budget; an increase on the present allocation. Approved on a Trustee-only vote; proposed Chairman, seconded AB; unanimous.

(Note - minor changes were made to the Strategy document post-meeting, and Version 6 published on the DBKA website)

8.3. **Virtual Beginner's Course** - there was general support for a course while recognising that the practical, face-to-face elements needed to continue. Further work would be done by the Education Sub-Committee.

Action - Education Sub-Committee

9. **Devon Beekeepers' Virtual Show 2020** - some classes had been well supported, but there had been a disappointing response to the Childrens' Classes. 78 entries had been received so far.

10. **Branch Activity**

- Totnes & Kingsbridge were having Zoom meetings. A new apiary site would be planned when the situation permitted.
- East Devon now had a Facebook page, and was holding Zoom meetings.
- Okehampton & Tavistock were having Zoom meetings.
- Torbay was having Zoom meetings; and were having a large number of swarm calls.

11. **AOB**

- the Gen Sec reported an average of one swarm call every day. Branches were reminded to ensure that the necessary annotations on eR2 were being done for their swarm collectors.
- if Branches needed advice on their plans for 2020 AGMs then they should contact the Gen Sec.
- Gift Aid had been completed in 2 separate sessions this year.

13. **Dates of Next Meetings** - 12th September on Zoom; 28th November tbd.

Barry Neal
General Secretary

Viv Thorn
Chairman
12th September 2020