



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

Minutes of AGM

7TH NOVEMBER
2012

WHITEFRIARS MANAGEMENT
SUITE
CANTERBURY
CT1 2TF

Attendees:

Officers and committee

Julian Audsley, Adrian Davis, Chris Bristow, Deborah Kellond, Michael Roberts, David Cockburn – a total of 18 members, friends and associates plus one visitor.

Apologies:

Joan McAllister, Stuart Andrews, Michael Rust, Stephen Usher, Janet Fry, Mike Turner.

CBKA OFFICERS

Chairman: Stuart Andrews

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Treasurer: Joan McAllister

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Committee Members

Chris Bristow
Michael Roberts
David Cockburn
Adrian Davis
Deborah Kellond

The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail cantbees@gmail.com

AGM 2012

1. **The Minutes of the last AGM** held on the 2nd November 2011 were distributed. The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's Report

Consistent with previous years, details of the membership and accounts for the past year will be covered by the Secretary and Treasurer.

It has been another excellent year for the association. The range of activities that we are involved with continues to grow as does our visibility within the local community. Some notable examples include: The Whitefriars project, led by Julian Audsley, which included two separate "meet the public" events coordinated by Chris Bristow and supported by a growing band of willing helpers including Dave Cockburn, Chris Bailes, Jenny Cotterhill, Maggie McKenzie, Phil and Patricia Lynch together with, for the first time, the regular use of an observation hive which worked wonders for attracting the attention of the younger members of the audience. In fact, as I write this report we have just been informed that our combined efforts with Whitefriars and Impact PR have been rewarded by winning the Innovation Award category at the Canterbury in Bloom business competition. Congratulations to all involved.

The same aforementioned folk, many sporting the newly designed Canterbury Beekeepers polo shirt (thanks to Chris Bristow), have also represented the association at the Brogdale Fruit Festivals (Cherry, Apple and Cider) and at the Hambrook Meadows Hay Making Festival. In addition, Deborah Kellond and Michael Roberts have also been active behind the scenes in terms of PR and fundraising activities. Many thanks to all those involved with these activities, space prevents me from naming everyone.

The training programme at the Kent Science Resource Centre, for which Adrian Davis has been actively involved on our behalf, was another new venture. Both Adrian and I gave talks to audiences keen for information. On the subject of training and education, Julian Audsley provided three more courses on beekeeping for beginners. Adrian Davis successfully completed module 5 (honeybee biology) which meant that he was also awarded the Intermediate Theory Certificate. He also found time to give a lecture entitled "Diet and Pollination" at the 35th BBKA Spring Convention held for the first time at Harper Adams University College.

Events for both the summer and winter programmes have been varied and well attended. A talk given by Nikki Gammans, leader of the short-haired bumblebee reintroduction project was followed up by a visit to the release site at Dungeness during the summer. Nick Withers, a former seasonal bee inspector, gave a talk on swarm control and a visit to Shepherd Neame brewery provided the setting for a more informal social activity. Another first for the association was a honey tasting session in which a packed conference room at Whitefriars sampled 25 different honeys. In fact, the use of the Whitefriars facility has been such a success for our winter meetings that an alternative venue with a greater seating capacity had to be identified, just in case!

The association now has two apiaries at Whitefriars (on the roof) and at Westbere and these offer different opportunities for us. Both have been well used during our summer apiary meetings. Deciding

how best to continue utilising and managing these apiaries needs to be resolved together with improving our fundraising activities to help support these initiatives.

However, not to be carried away with our successes, we have not met all our objectives. Reviewing the wish list agreed with members at the previous two AGM's there are some items which still require some attention, such as: queen rearing course, wax workshop, broadening the mentorship scheme in geographical areas, creating a welcome pack for new members, and running intermediate courses for members with 2+ years experience.

Similarly, another important objective that I have not assessed recently is to remind all members with bees to register with Bee Base, please.

And finally, due to work commitments, I have reluctantly decided not to seek re-election as Chairman. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to carry out this role and would like to thank my fellow members on the committee and other friends within the association for their support, encouragement and hard work. To try and spread the future workload we have created some new positions within the association. Please do consider these and help contribute to our ongoing success. Thank you. Stuart Andrews

3. Secretary's Report

Three beginners' courses have been run the Autumn and Spring Courses at Barham and an additional course for Ospringe Joyce Fields Allotment Society run in Painters Forstall. We have had a number of offers of gardens etc. for beekeepers to keep their hives but these have not been taken up.

4. Treasurer's Report

Provided separately

5. Election of Branch Officers

We agreed that the role of Publicity officer would be allocated by the new committee.

The Officers stood down and Chris Bailes took the chair for the election of Chairman.

Chairman: Julian Audsley Proposed David Cockburn Seconded Michael Roberts

Treasurer: Joan McAllister Proposed: Julian Audsley Seconded: Dougal Hendry

Secretary: Adrian Davis Proposed Chris Bristow Seconded David Cockburn

Committee elected

David Cockburn Michael Roberts Chris Bristow Maggie McKenzie Chris Bailes

6. Branch Development

The meeting broke into small groups to discuss and generate ideas as follows

- Visiting schools – primary (Janice volunteered to look into a pptn)
- Larger opp at A level biology
- Bee safari – SBI visits - do this twice – early season safari for beginners (support from multiple grps)
- Spread out address details for mentoring (support from multiple groups; making it easier to connect)
- "Pagoda event" in Whitefriars could be repeated – good connection with public/WF. Seeds and sticker giveaways
- Jollies - winery/vineyard . Also cider orchard (Chris B) Elham vineyard (Linda Smith)
- Sponsorship for planting at Whitefriars
- Open Garden event at Cathedral
- Swarm collection training
- Demonstrations of Honey extraction, wax melting/preparation
- Annual course for the Basic Assessment certificate
- Queen rearing activities
- Forum advertising - make more visible to whole association
- Consider Greenpeace EcoFair (May)

7. Any other business

None