



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

Agenda and Minutes of
Annual General Meeting

**4TH NOVEMBER
2015
7.30PM**

**WHITEFRIARS MANAGEMENT
SUITE
CANTERBURY
CT1 2TF**

Draft for circulation to membership on 15 November 2015

Please send any comments or corrections to cantbees@gmail.com

Additional ideas for the new committee to consider are welcomed, either by email, or better, via the CBKA discussion forum; the relevant discussion thread can be found [here](#)

CBKA OFFICERS

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Committee Members

Chris Bailes
David Cockburn
Jenny Cotterill
Maggie McKenzie
Michael Roberts
Linda Smith

The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail

cantbees@gmail.com

AGM 2015

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the Wed 4th Nov 2015 at 7.30 pm at Whitefriars conference room

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Joan McAllister, Linda Smith, Michael Roberts, Jenny Cotterill, Steven Gough, Debbie Burton and Lies van der Leij
17 members of the branch were in attendance

2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on the 12th Nov 2014

Were approved with no comments

3. Chairman's Report

See attachment

4. Treasurer's Report

See attachments

As Joan was unable to attend, Adrian read out the narrative part of her financial report. A couple of discussion topics emerged:

The opportunity to go back to Waitrose soon for further fundraising. It was suggested that manning a stall during the fundraising can help raise the total value of the available funds

A few sundry expenses relating to running the website have not yet been included in the ledger

5. Secretary's report

See attachment

6. Election of Branch Officers

Chairman: David Cockburn was elected unopposed (nominated Maggie McKenzie, seconded Adrian Davis)

Secretary: Adrian Davis was elected unopposed (nominated Maggie McKenzie, seconded Dougal Hendry)

Treasurer: Joan McAllister was elected unopposed (nominated Chris Bailes, Seconded Julian Audsley)

Membership Secretary: Jan Soetaert was elected unopposed (nominated Julian Audsley, seconded Chris Bailes)

Committee: Michael Roberts, Maggie McKenzie, Julian Audsley, Simon Daniell and Magdalene Mei Halkes were elected to the committee.

Following a discussion/explanation of the role of KBKA, the KBKA council and how it interacts with the various branches that comprise Kent Beekeepers, Michael Roberts and David Cockburn were re-confirmed as Branch Representatives to Kent Beekeepers Association Council

7. **Members' feedback**

What was good about CBKA in 2015. What could have been better?

New Bekesbourne apiary – how to manage it, activities to focus on

What other meetings/activities/events would you like to see

Training

Beginners course was good. Could we have organized subsequent apiary meetings targeted at those beginners to maintain contact?

We don't currently offer a member's welcome pack detailing our arrangements for meetings, swarm collection, extractor borrowing, mentor group arrangements etc.

The Safari works well and is popular, but we will have to work out with Michael Cooper and the new Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI) for North Kent, Kay Wreford, how we can traverse our large range when we cross the new boundary of SBI territories.

Some demand for training to get people ready for Basic Assessment

Mentor Groups

As in previous years, some groups are larger and/or more active than others. The most successful groups (Canterbury and Folkestone) meet roughly monthly in a pub, and organize practical sessions (such as winter oxalic acid safaris). Could we turn the process for new members from a self-nomination to a pro-active assignment driven by branch committee?

Bekesbourne Apiary

It could be

- Teaching apiary
- Focus for basic assessment
- Queen rearing site
- Home for summer apiary meetings

But some of these are incompatible (e.g. lots of different hive patterns .v. standardization for assessments).

Colonies suitable for Queen Rearing are large, and spawn lots of micro-nucs

Good definition of apiary – contains colonies of which we are very proud

Need an Apiary Manager, who will coordinate the work of ~8 people (but not necessarily work the bees his/herself). Some of the tasks that will need to be organized include

- Record keeping for hives – and a process for centralizing the information
- White board in the hut for easy sharing of info
- Keeping fast-growing coppices under control
- Help Chris d'Souza to clear paths, parking, extend creation of glades
- Keep an electronic schedule (Google Calendar)
- Regular inspection times to create a drop-in centre/sense of regularity

Other Events

Extracting honey (may be try to arrange more centrally than in Folkestone)

Get a talk from consultant at Medway Maritime on bee-sting desensitization

Q&A in a pub with a panel of unfamiliar Beekeeping experts

Craft session – making candles etc

Quiz night (participation in DDBKA/Thanet quiz nights)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For the year 2014/5

I'd like to thank all the members who turned out for our meetings and the meet-the-public events, the committee and our officers for their support to make the activities of the branch a success.

We have had a good beekeeping year with not too many losses and a rather active swarming season; most have had a reasonable honey harvest.

Our activities consist of training, holding indoor and outdoor meetings, swarm collection and homing, and public events where we talk to the public about bees and beekeeping, and sell members' honey and other products.

Courses

Once again I've run two introductory courses one at Bishopsbourne and the other at Barham.

Apiaries

This year we have concentrated on developing an apiary at Palmsted Wood Bokesbourne owned by two of our members Chris and Sally. We currently have 5 hives. We have held a meeting there and next year will continue to develop this site for the benefit of members with more meetings in 2016.

At Whitefriars there are currently three hives and these produced a small honey crop. At Westbere we now have no hives although we could still use the site if we chose.

Meetings

During the last year we had a very enjoyable and successful Xmas social in Dec at The Veg Box Café.

February "Show and Tell – branch creativity" branch meeting.

March "Microscopy and Disease" branch meeting

April David Cockburn's in Canterbury

May a Bee safari with Michael Cooper

June Waldershare apiary (Joan McAllister and Julian Audsley)

July Honey preparation at Sue Clapson's house/apiary

August Debbie Burton's apiary at Stamford near Folkestone

September Palmsted Wood Bokesbourne.

October our enjoyable honey-tasting session

We also had public-facing events in Whitefriars with two BeeDays, and the Brogdale Strawberry, Cherry and Apple festivals, at which we also gave introductory talks.

At the end of Sept the ploughing Match was held in conjunction with Thanet and Dover beekeepers at Adisham .

Swarms

we had a moderately busy swarm season with many swarms collected and advice on the usual bumble and solitary bees given – especially Ivy bees which seem to have had a good year and be extending their territories.

Thank you for listening. Julian Audsley 4 Nov 2015

TREASURERS' REPORT

1st October 2014 - 30th September 2015

Canterbury Beekeepers had another financially encouraging year although the amount of subscription receipts retained by the branch was down compared to the previous year from £568 to £469. Full registered memberships were up but we had fewer friend subscriptions during the year.

A big improvement on last year was receipts from the four shows we attended; Brogdale Apple, Strawberry and Cherry Festivals and a Whitefriars Bee Day. Commissions from the sale of members' honey was up from £106.50 last year to £161.18 this year and receipts from the sale of Whitefriars honey was £255.00.

Donations from members amounted to £112.34.

We also benefitted from a donation from Waitrose of £325.00 under their Community Matters Scheme. Their customers inserted a token in the box of a local good cause they wished to support and the sum of £1000 was divided amongst the three good causes represented depending on this level of support.

We were given the opportunity to purchase two complete hives with bees for our new apiary at Palmsted and the donation covered this cost.

The only other expenditure at the apiary was the renovation of a shed donated by one of our members, Carl Smye. The shed required a new floor and roof. The branch paid for materials but the labour was provided by our members.

With respect to meetings, money collected for refreshments was £48.36 with a small outlay for costs. There were no outside lecturers' costs this year.

We had some cards printed for distributing at the shows and that, including a small amount of Treasurers' postage, came to £47.10.

The above means that our current account and petty cash balances increased from £2458.86 at the beginning of the year to £3195.44 on the 30th September 2015.

Joan McAllister
25-10-15

Kent Beekeepers Association – Canterbury Branch

Year to 30th September 2015

Start of Year

Trophies		£1,036.00
Equipment	Extractor	£44.05
	Clothing	£109.25
	Courses	£65.61
	hives/nucs	£651.99
	tables	£53.98
Bank		£2,306.56
Cash		£152.30
Owing to Branch		
Less:		
Subscriptions in adv.		-£174.00
Owing by Branch		
Total		£4,245.74

Income

Expenditure

INCOME

Subscriptions	£469.80
Donations	£112.34
Meetings	£48.36
Equipment Hire	£61.00
Honey Sale Comms.	£161.18
Honey sales	£255.00
Swarm collection	
Interest	£0.12
Waitrose donation	£325.00

EXPENDITURE

Meeting Costs	£14.84
Lecturers	
Stationery/postage	£47.10
Show expenses	18.65
Apiary costs	116.63
Depreciation on equipment	129.40

£1,432.80

£326.62

Balance over year

£1,106.18

End of Year

Trophies		£1,036.00
Equipment	Extractor	£35.24
	Clothing	£98.32
	Courses	£59.05
	hives/nucs	£879.29
	tables	£48.58
Bank		£2,817.47
Cash		£377.97
Owing to Branch		
Less:		
Subscriptions in adv.		
Owing by Branch		
Total		£5,351.92
Change over year		£1,106.18

SECRETARY'S REPORT

192 email threads

1 Beard Pioneer identified (see [July 2015 newsletter!](#))

1 Floridan beekeeper visit

10 newsletters, 65 pages of text

7 apiaries visited over 8 hr safari, taking in Whitstable, Canterbury, Deal and Folkestone

21 news items on website

1 website hack (fixed and anti-hacking software installed)

Beta-test honey sales tool built, and ready for testing by members