

Barnsley Beekeepers Association

Meeting 1st February 2021

Venue ... Wherever Home is
Meeting Started ... 7.15 for 7:30pm start
No. Present ... 31 all via ZOOM
Apologies ... None received
Chairman ... Richard Senior

Chairman's Welcome

Speaker

In a small change to previous meetings, and to accommodate the Speaker, the running order of the meeting was changed so that the business part of the meeting followed the talk.

Speaker tonight is Celia Davis giving us a talk about the many and varied uses of Nucleus hives entitled "Nuc It". It proved to be a most interesting and informative talk.

Previous minutes: - December 2020

These minutes were proposed accepted by Gary Francis, seconded by Aimee Kite with no objections.

Matters Arising

The mystery is now solved!!! Winners of the December Quiz were Aimee, Paul & Kathy. Unfortunately, Gary can't remember what he did with the glittering, liquid prize, (it was Christmas after all!)

All Members subs have now been paid. As of September 2021, our capitation to YKBA will go up by £2 to £21 from our (Barnsley BKA) subs of £30/ member. This increase will be absorbed by Barnsley BKA with no increase to members. All Capitation fees to both BBKA & YKBA have now been paid, work is now underway on the "Gift Aid "claim for the refund of income tax.

All members orders for wax foundation have now ben placed, courtesy of Ivor Flatman. Delivery mechanism is not yet determined while Covid lockdown persists but several members offered their services, a final solution could be the use of carriers to collect the wax from Thorns at Rand.

Training and courses

Members were reminded of all the webinar sessions and talks available from YKBA; BBKA and BIBBA and also of the various links that are on the members website. The Exam board statement re Practical assessments was read out to the meeting, essentially stating that, Covid permitting, assessments will take place this summer. The last date for applications is 28th Feb, but for Basic assessments the deadline will be 31st July. Preferred Payment system for any transaction is via BACS. Val Francis has all the details at her fingertips.

Penistone Show

Ivor is to liaise with Lynn Kershaw to check viability of the Show in September. Schedules are unlikely to be published before August, so the topic is to be left in Covid abeyance.

Beginners Course

With Covid lockdowns liable to continue for some time, it is unlikely that a beginner's course will be held this year. However, the Apiary Saturday meetings will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. Help, assistance and support will always be available throughout the club from all our members for beginners.

Apiary

3 Colonies doing OK, one is weaker than rest, but still has good survival potential. Nuc held by Colin has failed, probably too weak from start. Likelihood of fresh Queens from Eric at the start of the new season. All colonies were treated for Varroa by Oxalic acid drench on the 9th Jan. All colonies were fed with Fondant on 23rd Jan

Jobs in the Apiary

Check stores (hefting the hive) and feed if necessary, using fondant. Do not use syrup at this time of year. With the current weather patterns it is best to leave the colonies undisturbed as much as possible.

This period of the year is time to do all the general maintenance of hives and hive parts, cleaning, repair & re-painting and storage in sheds etc. It's also a good time to make up any new boxes frames and so on, but don't put any fresh wax into frames, it tends to deteriorate over time, leave that until time of use.

Delegates Meeting

The meeting was advised of the upcoming YKBA Delegates meeting to be held on 27th March via Zoom.

Ivor Flatman will be attending in one of his responsibilities, but will be unable to vote on our behalf, and so it was proposed and accepted that Richard Senior is to be our Delegate with voting rights on our behalf. Colin is to advise Linda, the YKBA sec. of these decisions.

Next Meeting Programme

CHANGE OF DATES & SPEAKERS

Unfortunately, although we had Jim Pearson firmly booked for March, Jim's forte is not giving talks via Zoom, therefore we're going to save him for physical meetings asap!

So, we are fortunate to have booked Pam Hunter, a well-known BBKA Speaker, to address us on the subject of "Plants" Certainly different to our normal fare but I believe that we have a few Gardeners amongst us, BUT she can't make the 1st, so the meeting is to take place on 8th March. As always reminders will be sent out the week before the meeting.

Mar 8th Pam Hunter Plants

Apr 5th To be confirmed, we're not going too far ahead in the circumstances.

The mid-week meetings are still in abeyance and some members are suffering withdrawal symptoms. A member suggested that we hold a general, Zoom, meet for a general natter and Q & A session on the 15th Feb. Warmly approved by all. The meeting will be hosted by Richard.

Any Other Business

Colony Losses. 3 members reported Colony losses in various circumstances in some cases with the hive empty of bees. Various reasons postulated, but no overall common cause identified.

Neonicotinoids. A lively discussion on the BBKA petition to Government on the derogation of neo-nics for use on sugar beet crops.

The meeting closed at approx. 9:30pm