

Barnsley Beekeepers Association

Meeting 12th April 2021

Venue ... Wherever Home is
Meeting Started ... 7.15 for 7:30pm start
No. Present ... 21 all via ZOOM
Apologies ... Ivor Flatman; Cathi & Mike Lees; Adrian James
Chairman ... Richard Senior

Chairman's Welcome

Previous minutes: - March 2021

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

Matters Arising

None

Training and courses

Barnsley BKA enjoyed an invitation from Wakefield BKA to a talk on Apitherapy. Jonathon reports that the talk was very interesting. Richard is to send a letter of thanks to Wakefield BKA.

Sheffield BKA have invited our members to a Zoom talk on Pollen, to be given by Margaret Murdin on this Thursday 14/04. Members were strongly advised to be prompt for the start of this meeting as places were limited to 100, and despite having booked a place, places are likely to be allocated on a first come basis.

BIBBA events circulated to members are now all on u-tube and also on bibba.com

Asian Hornet Training

British BKA have advised us that 5 of our members have successfully completed the AHT training exercise and are now insured, provided that they are full members of Barnsley BKA and registered with BIBBA. This has created an administrative problem as 2 of the qualifiers are joint Barnsley BKA members. Aimee is to re-assign their BBKA membership/ AHAT membership on the eReturn2 system.

Swarm Collectors

Request was made for volunteer Swarm collectors to be included on the eR2 listing for Barnsley BKA. Only experienced Bee-keepers really ought to volunteer for such activities. Apparently any requests for swarm collection to YBKA is re-directed to BBKA.

Apiary

All 3 Colonies are doing OK, with strong clusters of bees. All have been fed with fondant on 16th and 28th March. Saturday 10th April all 3 colonies were inspected and the supers reverted to their correct position. Queen excluders fitted and all 3 Queens spotted.

Likelihood of fresh Queens from Eric at the start of the new season.

A program for re-opening the Apiary under covid conditions (max 6 people at once) has been devised and Aimee is running a booking system for newbies and members who have not, as yet, got any bees of their own. Anticipated dates are 1st, 8th & 15th May. The committee will meet at the apiary for a clean-up/ preparation of equipment on 24th April.

YBKA Delegates meeting

All documents relating to the meeting, i.e., meeting minutes; Secretaries report; Honey show; Examination's report; YBKA treasurers report etc are all now freely available on the YBKA website for your perusal.

Richard Senior was our delegate and reported on the following subjects: -

- Account's query clarification in that 50% of annual expenditure is maintained as reserves.
- Gift Aid claims being supported by YBKA.
- Thanks to Clair McGettigan for webinars
- BBKA delegates, long discussion on ZOOM utilisation.
- Countryside live
- YBKA will not support the importation of bees. Request to join various petitions currently in circulation.
- Safeguarding within YBKA.

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.

Next Meeting Programme

Sept 5th Which will be our AGM. Where and how it will be held is still Covid dependant. Colin will be relinquishing his position as BBKA Secretary, replacements are invited.

AOB

Eric Whitham, a long-term bee farmer, has made a very generous sale offer to new bee-keepers and members without bees. A full British National hive, complete with bees for an extremely reasonable £250. Colin is to detail this offer to all members in a separate mail shot.

Varroa infestations have been added to the list of notifiable diseases, as a direct result of Brexit negotiations in order to allow British sales into Europe. Information is very sketchy at the moment.

Post meeting note :- Colin has received several documents on the subject from British BKA and will be forwarding the same to all members shortly.

Speaker

Val Francis gave us an interesting insight into the requirements of the Basic exam and urged all members to take part as a good and enjoyable method of learning more about bees, without necessarily taking the actual exam.

The meeting closed at approx. 9:30pm