

KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Agenda for Orpington Branch 100th Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12th November 2019

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of minutes of 99th AGM on November 6th 2018.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Election of officers.
6. Meetings Secretary's report.
7. Council Delegate's report.
8. Winter Convention.
9. Honey Show.
10. Swarm co-ordinators report.
11. Chairman's report.
12. Any other business.

Officers and current committee members of Orpington Branch

Chair: Susan Stansfield
Vice chair: Kit Erhardt
Treasurer: John O' Connell
Membership Secretary: Miriam O'Connell
Secretary: Helen Amos
Meetings Secretary and Honey Show Representative: Ann Blackburn
Council Delegates: Susan Stansfield
Swarm Co-ordinator: Richard Brook
Committee: Tony Trinick
 Stephen Johnson
 Stuart Collins
 Roy Gilbert

KENT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION – ORPINGTON BRANCH

Minutes of 99th AGM

Held at Crofton Baptist Church, Orpington on 6th November 2018

Apologies for absence: Susan Stansfield, John & Elaine Mackay, Tony Trinick, Joseph D'Souza, Brian Waddell, Angela Merritt, Christopher Jackman and Helga Lane, Jackie McCann.

Minutes arising: None

Matters arising: None

The minutes of 98th AGM were agreed but will be signed later by Susan. Proposer Richard Brook, seconded by Gordon Harradine.

Treasurers report: A copy of the 2018 branch Income & Expenditure has been emailed to all members.

Main items of interest:-

We show a surplus of Income over Expenditure as at 30/9/18 of £129.91

Subscriptions amounted to £2952.5 against £2830.25 in 2017 and interest £4.81 against £3.51 last year. Extractor hire income dipped to £30 from £50 last year.

No gifts for talks this year, £110 last year and no income from sales of donated equipment, £125 last year. Several members have made generous donations amounting to £110 to the branch when renewing their membership. Swarm income down to £110, £200 last year.

On the Expense side we benefited from the use of the meeting room in the Crofton Baptist Church, which Helen organised, we make a modest donation of £25 whenever we use it.

We contributed £1168.50 and £1153.25 to BBKA and Beecraft respectively.

Ann continues to keep lecture costs under control, £50 for the Centenary lecture and £116 for the Jim Vivian Griffiths lecture which was organised in conjunction with Bromley branch keeping the cost down.

Gordon and Jackie Harradine kept the wine expenditure at the AGM to a minimum of £34.50 by only charging for what is consumed. In addition to the many volunteers who keep our costs down, Keith Snellin keeps our membership list up to date.

We had a very enjoyable Centenary celebration organised principally by Roy, John and Miriam, Susan and Helen. Feedback from new and old members was extremely positive. Cost was £257.89.

Closing bank balances -Lloyds Current account £2430.20

CCLA deposit account £1305.

The Accounts have been examined and signed off by our Independent Examiner who is willing to continue for another year.

Overall we close the year in a solvent position, however, we do need to monitor carefully our income/expense ratio in the coming years as we must not show a deficit in the year end Accounts.

The accounts were voted on: Proposed by Ann Blackburn and seconded by Helen Amos. The Independent Examiner for next year will stay the same and was proposed by Richard Brook and seconded by Keith Snellin.

Election of officers: Kit Erhardt has decided to stand down from his post as Vice chair and Council representative. Kit joined the committee in November 1997 and became Chair in November 1998. He has chaired many committee meetings, represented the branch at Kent Council meetings and given a lot of time to Orpington beekeepers. Members of the committee and the branch extend their thanks to Kit for all the time that he has devoted to these posts, and we look forward to continuing to keep bees alongside him in the future.

All current officers are willing to stand again. Tony Trinick has said that if anyone wants to come on to the committee he is happy to stand down, no-one came forward.

The proposer for re-election of the officers was Peter Gandolfi, with Chris Courtney as seconder.

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Secretary: Helen Amos
Membership Secretary: Miriam O'Connell
Meetings Secretary
and Honey Show Rep.: Ann Blackburn
Council Delegate: Susan Stansfield
Swarm co-ordinator: Richard Brook
Committee: Stuart Collins, Stephen Johnson, Roy Gilbert, Tony Trinick

Richard thought there needs to be 2 representatives on council. We will check.

Meetings Secretary's report: This year we had 3 winter meetings. In January Kit Erhardt talked on The wonders of the honeybee. The February meeting was snowed off and rearranged for April, when John Hendrie spoke on The senses of the honeybee. In March Jim Vivian Griffiths gave an excellent talk entitled Swarming an opportunity? Ann would like suggestions/ideas for talks.

Report from Council. Yalding branch have been objecting to the obligation to pay for Beecraft magazine. The council have made the decision that everyone needs to pay for Beecraft. The Asian hornet has been spotted and found established in Dungeness and Reading. Bee inspectors will deal with this problem.

It has come to our notice that not all members are aware that if you pass your beekeeping exams first time the fees will be refunded.

The Lenham lecture was not well supported. Council would like feedback from branches as to why it is less popular / supported. Susan will send around an enquiry so please let her know.

Winter convention; This will take place on Saturday 15th December, menus have been sent out, thanks to Jackie and Gordon for arranging this. Menu choices and money can be given to Gordon tonight.

Honey Show. More Orpington beekeepers than Bromley entered, but we would like more people to put their honey into the show. We especially need to encourage new beekeepers to come to the show, bake a honey cake, you will learn more about how to present your honey. It is fun to do, and you will learn quite a bit. You can also enter photographic items and wax classes.

The cups won at honey show were awarded to:-

Ann Blackburn: Orpington Cup and Dr. Courtney Lord Challenge Cup.

Jenny Hastings: Festival Cup and Trenear Trophy

Jim Grierson: Alan D Simmons Memorial Plate.

Swarm co-ordinators report: Richard Brook: It was a busy season with more than 120 calls. Richard was able to use email to identify photos of insects. £120 in donations received. The phone is switched off 3rd week July. Thanks to those who helped collect swarms: Jim, Kit, John and Miriam and Peter.

Thanks were extended to Richard for all he does regarding swarms. Suggestion was made that if you think your bees are going to swarm, you could put out a swarm collection box and if they do swarm they are likely to go in there.

Chairman's report.

The centenary celebrations at Atomwide were successfully held although the original date needed to be postponed due to a fall of snow. We had a speaker: John Hendrie, cheese and wine and celebratory cake. Thanks to John and Miriam O'Connell, Helen and Roy Gilbert, Susan Stansfield and Ann Blackburn for their work in organising this evening. We are going to plant a tree at High Elms but we have had a problem getting in touch with the person responsible at Bromley Council to get this in motion.

Mentors. Peter Burden, Tony Trinick and Kit Erhardt act as our mentors. We would like some more mentors so we can allocate a mentor to each new beekeeper. Please let us know if you know someone who would like be a mentor. Kit thinks that rather than allocating a mentor to each new beekeeper, they should be asked if they would like a mentor and that person should be relatively nearby.

Thanks were extended to Miriam and John for taking on the observation hive. It is a big job and essential that we have it. Thanks to Jim for providing the original colony.

Any other business. Jim mentioned that we are invited to attend quite a few events. There are a number of shows where we sell honey and talk to people about beekeeping to try and get them interested. Hayes, Coolings, Chelsfield and Perry Hall School. It would be nice if more people could help out at these events. It's a way of offsetting your beekeeping costs and you could sell your honey. Jim had some Thornes seconds SM7's to sell and Richard had some honey pumps for £4.50.

Stephen: He had noticed a spike in varroa count in one hive following Apiguard treatment and wondered if we are seeing a resistance to Apiguard – has anyone else found this same experience? 2 were artificial swarms from the original one. Paul noticed a hive that was about to supercede, the drones were going from one hive to another and spreading the varroa. Richard suggested using Apistan, resistance ok. Richard doesn't think this drop is unusual following treatment. Oxalic sublimation done to the one hive today. Steven Turner thinks doing this too often could damage queens.

The meeting closed at 20.24 and was followed by our traditional Harvest Supper.

Signed.....
S. Stansfield - Chair