



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Haverfordwest Cricket Club **Thursday 17th January 2013 - 7.30 pm**

Attendees: Ian Richards, David Thomas, Roger Burns, Lesley Lewis, Aisza Aisha, Geoff Bazin, Paul Eades, Martin Hughes, Peter Dickenson, Tom Pegg, Barbara Pegg, John Dudman, Brigid Rees, Nigel Birt-Llewellyn, Beat Wehren, Robert Gilbertson, Rosemary Birdsall, Andrea Davies, Gareth Isaac, Alyson Newis Edwards, Douglas Stuart.

1. Apologies: George Durham, John Rattenbury, Jeremy Percy, Ricky & Joyce Wilson, Christa and Phillip Rees
2. Minutes of the previous AGM - Agreed
3. Matters arising from the minutes - None
4. Chairman's report – The Chairman reported that John Dudman had stood down as Secretary and Brigid Rees had taken over the role. Brigid was thanked in particular for her excellent work on revamping the PBKA newsletter which all agreed was a great improvement. It was noted that prices for bees at the annual PBKA auction had been poor with an overall reduction in takings. It had been decided not to advertise the auction in the Western Telegraph in future due to the high cost and lack of demonstrable benefit. The Chairman thanked Paul Eades (Apiary Manager) and his helpers for all of the hard work at the association apiaries and particularly in respect of the Scolton Manor project which was making good progress. The County Show was a three day event at which the PBKA had a stall and was considered to have a positive value. It was hoped that in 2013 it would be possible to sell honey at the show. The Honey Show was held in October and although the attendance was disappointing it was agreed that the new venue at the Picton Centre, Haverfordwest and holding the show on a Saturday in the afternoon were positive. Thanks were extended to Ian Richards for organising the Honey Lunch at the Beggars Reach Hotel, which was enjoyed by all who attended.
5. Treasurer's report – Membership fee for 2014; it was agreed that the membership would remain at £20.

A question was asked from the floor in respect of stocktaking which had been omitted from the report this year. It was explained that this was due to the state of flux in respect of PBKA owned equipment which had been obtained for the Scolton Manor Project and also old equipment which had been, or was going to be disposed of due to its poor condition. It was agreed that a stock take would be undertaken before the next AGM. The Treasurer's Report was proposed to be accepted by John Dudman and seconded by Roger Burns.

Pembrokeshire Beekeepers' Association Cymdeithas Gwenynwyr Sir Benfro



Supporting Pembrokeshire's Bees and Beekeepers – Registered Charity No. 509570

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1ST JANUARY 2012 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2012

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
	£		£
Membership/BDI fees	2575.15	BDI premiums	609.85
Interest on Business Pr Ac	.12	Capitation to WBKA	1064.00
Donations	80.00	Stationery/Postage	939.47
Advertising (G. Worthington)	30.00	Website	8.60
Raffle	35.00	Refund Membership	15.00
		Welsh Honey Show Contr.	20.00
Commission/Bee Sale	436.40	Engraving	65.00
Sale of Honey	420.20	Advertising	110.40
Sunday Lunch	553.50	Auctioneer	100.00
		Food (sale)	15.00
		Microphone Hire	20.00
		Room Hire (Show)	34.00
		Food (Honey Show)	20.69
		Judges Exps	25.00
		Show ticket	9.00
		PAVS m/ship	35.00
		Picton Centre Hire	48.00
		Train the Trainer Exp	90.00
		Honey Jars	50.00
		Travelling/ATP	75.00
		Sunday Lunch	598.10
		Microscope	540.42
		Apiary Equip/Supplies	413.36
		Hive Clean	22.06
		Environment Wales Grant	2339.02
Princes Countryside Fund Grant	18812.24	Expenses	3612.60

Sub-total	22942.61		
Less Excess Income/Exp	12063.04		

	10879.57		10879.57

6. Apiary Manager's Report – 2012 was a busy year due to the increased activity at Scolton Manor. Well attended meetings were held for beginners at Scolton Manor during the season, with support from Geoff Bazin, John Dudman, Jeremy Percy and Bridget Rees; queen bees from Ricky and Joyce Wilson, and help with hive inspections from various members, to all of whom thanks are given and to Roy Mathias, of Cethin's Farm, for his ongoing support and goodwill. Despite the poor weather we produced over 400lbs honey, some of which has been sold to Scolton Manor. Swarming was a feature and clipped queens saved colonies from becoming depleted.

Progress continues to be made with the Pembrokeshire Beekeeping Centre at Scolton Manor. The objective being to develop a permanent facility for the PBKA to train beekeepers and create a beekeeping 'centre of excellence' in Pembrokeshire. Progress this year included:



- Completion of Phases 1 and 2 with the new apiary becoming fully operational for training and public viewing during 2012.
- Development of Phase 3, an indoor facility for a honey kitchen and exhibition area, commenced with the installation of three 42" monitors; two displaying live feeds from hive cameras in the apiary, plus a third monitor showing a series of beekeeping clips, including a short film produced by the supermarket chain Waitrose on the Pembrokeshire Beekeeping Centre as part of the Prince's Countryside Fund's, Countryside Week. Preparatory work is being undertaken and our funders are being kept advised to demonstrate good governance.
- Phase 4 of the project, which is development of a second apiary is scheduled for 2014.

In view of the works at Scolton, access to the apiary is likely to be restricted to the public for the next few months. Please note therefore that alternative arrangements will be made for apiary meetings commencing from Sunday 14th April. It is intended, to open the meetings up to all PBKA members rather than just beginners. I would like to once again suggest that local groups throughout Pembrokeshire be established, with a view to providing support and guidance especially to new and improving beekeepers. If anyone is interested in running one of these groups, or would like to be part of a group, please let me know.

There is still a lot more work to be done and I would ask members to get involved where they can, whether in the apiaries, helping with the honey kitchen, or mentoring. This work will ultimately benefit all beekeepers in Pembrokeshire and needs the work of many hands if it is to succeed.

7. Queen rearing report presented by Apiary Manager on behalf of Ricky Wilson.

The bees came out of a mild winter with no loss. The spring build up was swift and the colonies for Queen rearing were very advanced. The end of the second week in April saw the first graft taken and these went into strong doubled stocks. The results were acceptable with about 70% uptake. After the first graft the pattern was set for three grafts per week. The mini nucs were prepared with bees taken from shook swarms and the first hatch of virgins were marked prior to introduction to facilitate finding them easily in the event of mating failure. The spring saw strong colonies well able to take advantage of a spell of hot and settled weather to make a good job of storing tree honey from sycamore and hawthorn with a decent few placed on the rape augmenting the pot.

Then the weather dictated a spell of swarming. Anyone that had not taken their crop off saw it vanish. An old beekeeping friend once advised me "buy the feeder before you get the hive and bees", what good advice this has proved to be this year. This spate of swarming fever left many hives in the country queenless and brood less, the demand for queens was high.

July saw both Joyce and I inseminating ten virgins, resulting in eight laying satisfactorily. Three of these sisters will be used as breeders next year. The breeder queen and nuc that was promised to the association was by this time a



full colony, so I broke it down and made three further nucs with it, retaining the original for Paul, I presume he was too busy with Scolton to undertake any queen rearing this year. I was asked by Tivyside BKA. To host a limited queen rearing open day, this was both well received and attended.

August roared in and then relented, any colony remaining intact taking full advantage of the break in the weather and filling supers. This heralded further swarming, a shortage of drones resulting in poor mating, if they mated at all. The end of August saw a reasonable crop of honey. The colonies have been treated against Varroa, entrances are reduced and the last of the queens sold. The mini nucs were broken down save for nine which I will winter as they have specially mated queens. Paul only required two queens; these were sent to him as requested. I know he has been under considerable pressure with Scolton, I do admire his tenacity and go-getting attitude, and I hope the pressure eases with the fruition of the project, when the going gets tough etc.

The season came to a conclusion with balsam and ivy being collected to augment the feeding programme. This has been a trying year, swarming, poor weather resulting in mis-mated queens, the result of this will be felt this spring, with colonies dwindling. Many virgins coming from swarmed stocks failed to make it home. Anyone not following clipped queen, nine day inspections will I fear have had their worst season for several years.

7. Election of officers and committee – It was proposed by John Dudman, seconded by Brigid Rees and subsequently agreed by those present that Lesley Lewis be appointed to the Committee.
8. AOB. It was proposed that the next Honey Lunch would be held on Sunday 17th November 2014 - to be confirmed.
9. Date and venue of next AGM – 16th January 2014. Venue and time to be confirmed.
10. Following the meeting a general question and answer session was held which included consideration of a policy for children in the PBKA for future discussion. A talk was then presented by John Dudman.