

Harrow Beekeepers' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday 8th November, 2008

President's Welcome:

Mike Davey thanked all for coming to the AGM and to the dinner afterwards. He thanked those who had arranged the venue and to the caterers. He gave a big thank you to the hard work of the committee over the last year. He reminded members that the 17 committee posts to be filled were open to all and no special skills needed apart from enthusiasm to keep the Association going. Last year he covered many of the comments which Pat, our chairman was to report, so he finished his welcome by thanking everyone for their support for Harrow beekeepers.

Apologies for absence:

Derek Stimpson, Mike Cox, Rosemary West, Gloria Thompson, John Harley, Egon Gruber, Anna Gruber, Mike Lynch, Kathy Lynch, Andy Pedley, John Chapple, Liz Jack and Mary Hunter.

Minutes of AGM 10th November 2007:

Copies of the minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising and the minutes were agreed, accepted and signed as a proper record of the November 2007 AGM.

Proposed new Constitution and Rules of the Association:

The new Constitution and Rules were circulated to all members prior to the meeting. A sub-committee was formed to review the old rules and constitution to meet the Charity Commission's current requirements.

They were presented to the Committee and to the three Trustees of the Association for their approval.

One member requested clarification of Rule no. 7 regarding insurance. A full explanation was given that insurance covered all hives.

The chairman proposed the Constitution and Rules of the Association for adoption and they were seconded by Judy Earl and accepted by the members with no opposition.

Chairman's Report:

Pat Dutson reported that the last year had been a good one for Harrow beekeepers with an increased membership, a doubling in size of the apiary, the ABC in full use with full and overflowing training courses, and a renovated shed. Working parties on site the first Sunday in the month, have cleared undergrowth and planted new trees. A windmill and solar panel are in place and an apiary sub-committee is investigating on-site toilet facilities which are necessary if we are to increase the educational side of beekeeping.

This year, the Harrow in Leaf show was held at Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre, a good venue for us to exhibit our honey and hive-related products. There was an increase in entries and it was good to see new members picking up awards.

At the National Honey Show, we took most of the prizes in the Middlesex section with Sarah Foster winning a first for 'display of hive-related products'.

We have represented the Association at other sites, including Carpenders Park nursery & garden centre, Canon's Park Open Day, Grim's Dyke Hotel, May Day at Harrow Museum and Top Golf in Watford.

On 5th November several female members of HBKA and one man marched on Whitehall to lobby for more funding into bee research.

On 11th October, the Mayor of Harrow officially opened the Hatch End flood relief

scheme which diverted the River Pinn and toured the apiary site.
More members have taken their bees to the heather in East Anglia though the return hasn't been as good as expected.
On the downside, we have had a spate of vandalism at the apiary.
Our new website is under construction and the previews are encouraging.
With Forager, we have some major decisions to make; its future in its present format is looking doubtful.
The chairman thanked Jo Telfer for the courses she had run and mentioned there are opportunities for members to take the bee husbandry course next year.
He closed by thanking the committee for their enthusiasm and support given over the year and for looking after the apiary.
Mike Davey handed out the Basic Beekeeping Certificates to Dennis Mack, Ron Small, Odette Thomas, Judy Earl and Sarah Foster.

Reports from other Officers:

Brian Desborough - Apiary Manager

He said that it had been a busy year with the apiary expanding. The Association now has four hives.

With the enlargement of the apiary, there has been much planting of trees and shrubs and he thanked all who had donated trees and joined in the working parties held on the first Sunday of the month.

The formation of the apiary sub committee had helped him with managing the apiary and the three buildings on the site and he concluded by thanking all who had helped him with his task of Apiary Manager

Jo Telfer - Education Officer. Her report was circulated prior to the meeting..

Van Hinman - Librarian's report

Van thanked Ulrich Boden for the generous gift of beekeeping books to the Association's library.

Treasurer's report:

Copies of Aubrey Kutner's report were distributed to members. All members had received their invoices for the annual subscription.

Aubrey produced audited accounts for year ending December. 2007 which have been submitted to the Charity Commission and can be seen on their website. As the income is less than £10,000, the submission of accounts is much simpler.

Accounts for the ten months from 1st January to 31 October 2008 were distributed.
Opening bank balances at 1st January 2008 were £9627.89
Our bank interest of £43.70 is very poor at 1%.
Most of the subscription money of £46 goes to BBKA, BDI and Beecraft.
Only £1.95 goes towards the running of the Association and if members opt out of Beecraft & Forager it affects our gift aid which almost comes to £1000 annually from the Inland Revenue.
Income from the beginner's courses was £1179, and expenses £148.54 which yields a good profit.
Donations – mostly for trees – came to £319.23.
Insurance of the ABC and our equipment was raised. The new committee will be investigating insurance through the BBKA scheme.

Election of Officers:

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| President: Van Hinman | Equipment Officer: John House |
| Chair: Judy Earl | Librarian: Van Hinman |
| Secretary: Aline Bowers | Apiary Manager: Brian Desborough |
| Treasurer: Aubrey Kutner | Deputy Apiary Manager: John House |
| Social Secretary: Moira Spiers, | <i>Forager</i> Editor: Jeremy Moore |
| Education and Membership Officer: Jo Telfer | <i>Forager</i> Deputy Editor and Harrow |
| Notes: Susan Kelly | |
| Harrow in Leaf Delegate: Judy Earl | <i>Forager</i> Distribution: Danuta and Alan |
| Loveday | |
| Federation representative: Pat Dutson | Auditor: Paul Kutner of Landau & |
| Morley, Wembley | |

The meeting came to a close at 8.05pm followed by the members' dinner and social.