

STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 28th February 2021 at 6pm on ZOOM

Record of Decisions

1. Apologies for absence – Linda Stuart, Louise Eadey and Stella Zethraeus. A total of 22 members attended including the committee. Numbers down slightly from 2020
2. Minutes of 2020 AGM were agreed (proposed by Bob Gosling and seconded by Roger Chapman.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. Chairman's Report: 2020 was a successful year for the Association despite the pandemic. The training course was full and the theory sessions were conducted on Zoom. The practicals and the additional one-day 'taster' course had to be cancelled, but it is hoped to provide them this Spring to last year's students as well as those of 2021. Honey production for most members was steady and the Club Apiary produced about 300lb which was sold at Wyken Farmers Market and to others. Richard Martin is standing down as Chairman but has volunteered to continue as apiary manager. He thanked the Committee members for their support and hard work.
5. Treasurer's Report: The Association's finances are in remarkably good health due to the lack of members' events. The bank balance stands at £9,864.85 but capitations of approx.. £2,500-3,000 will be due. Chairman thanked Andy for his hard work.
6. Awards: no awards were made.
7. Election of Officers: via an on-line voting platform the following people were unanimously appointed:
 - a. President – Tony Payne
 - b. Chairman – Roger Chapman
 - c. Secretary – Maggie Lawrence
 - d. Treasurer – Andy Smith
 - e. Committee members:

Bohdan Antoniv,	Caroline Crosthwaite
Richard Martin	Sarah Neesam
Felix Oliver	Martin Royal - volunteered
Linda Stuart	

8. AOB:

- a. Training Course – students have to become members of the Association to be eligible for a swarm. Concern was raised as to whether the Association could supply enough swarms. It was mentioned that queens might be difficult to come by this year.
- b. Felix Oliver apologised that the website is temporarily down, but he will fix it as quickly as possible.
- c. The Committee have been trying to encourage younger beekeepers which has included giving free membership to anyone under 18 years old. Also, a 2020 Beekeeping course student, James Margetson – a science teacher at Stowmarket High School, is keen to site a hive on the school grounds. Obviously, the re-opening of the schools this month after the pandemic means that it will not happen this year, but James requested an observation hive when it is possible. Dave Lee-Allan is the Headmaster
- d. The new Chairman informed the attendees that due to an unhappy incident within the Committee, the Committee members are proposing an amendment to the SDBKA constitution for which we need the support of 51% of the members by a postal vote or the majority of the AGM attendees as long as 25% of the paid-up members were present. It was confirmed that Zoom meetings are legal. There were not enough members in attendance.
- e. Richard Martin is kindly hosting a Hog Roast for the Association, planned for Sunday, 11th July. The Chairman suggested we return to a lunch social event preceding the AGM in an effort to increase further the numbers attending. Date of next AGM to be confirmed. (Note subsequent to the AGM the date and venue for the Hog Roast were changed to late in August date TBE and at Moat Hall, Combs)