

TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING
NO: 731

WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 1st 2025 at 7.30pm

Miller Hall, Whitton Road, Twickenham

MINUTES

Present:

Ray Nicol (RN); Warwick Francis (WF); Patrick Brennan (PB); Jane Sachdev (JS);
Christine Betley (CB); Sally Ewen (SE); Mandy Moss (MM); Julie Hill (JH); Phil Webb (PW).

Apologies: Greg Elliott; Harvey Kirk; Candy Williamson; Alex Lawrence;
Irek Gajowniczek.

1. MINUTES AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM LAST MEETING 730 & SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

RN took the Chair. The Minutes were agreed as a true record.
Proposed by PB
Seconded by JS
All agreed.

A Sub Committee Meeting regarding future speakers took place prior to the Meeting.

Maintenance – PW reported the heater was in place in the HPR. Thanks were recorded to PW for this.

Guttering outside the Miller Hall needs to be re-fixed.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR MEETING 731 ON 12.11.25.
Circulated prior to the meeting.

MAINTENANCE BUILDING – GENERAL MANAGEMENT – GE

There are no outstanding issues – guttering needs cleaning out before winter.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES - GE

In progress.

APIARY MANAGEMENT – RN

Some hives fed. Hives continued to be monitored.
Looking for 2 - 3 helpers volunteers to start the wax rendering sometime. The boiler is being mended on Saturday.
Training video on the TTVBKA website of wax rendering.
Thoughts about changing varroa monitoring with a view to investigating moving to a treatment free apiary - long process.

ADULT EDUCATION – RN

November module exams pending.

Year three course syllabus / outline being sent out for suggestions/updates/changes etc. Starting to think about Winter course.

A request was made that from 2026, the Last Night was not scheduled the night before exams.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE – RN

No change on the technical side yet. Next steps to make our website a https (secure) website.

Mandy has been updating / improving the site design and content.

ASIAN HORNET – RN

Continue to monitor the situation like everyone else.

RN will be attending a BBKA YLAH Co-ordinator's meeting. More news as it happens.

EDUCATION GROUP – JS

Nothing to report

Mole Users

- We held a gardening work party at Mole on Sunday 12th October. Ray mowed the grass, Harvey, Neil, Christine and Jane trimmed the hedgerows on the lane and behind the clubhouse. JS planted the bulbs last week. We'll be holding a bonfire Sunday later this month to dispose of old frames. Date tbc
 - Next Community event will be Love Magical Molesey on Thursday 27th November 5pm-7pm – a Christmas street fair at which Mole Apiary will have a stall. A £10 donation to Molesey Business Association is payable – to be contributed pro-rata by any honey sellers who attend. JS will organise the table and gazebo etc and act as co-ordinator for this event.
 - The presentation to the local Catholic midweek coffee morning is postponed for the time being – the group will not be starting until later next year.
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HONEY PREP ROOM – PB

This Year 46 bookings (3 additional in October) by members and 4 by Association. Although Friday evenings were reserved for training.

The large (12 frame) extractor is still out of action, and we are looking at obtaining a new motor.

I plan on doing a clean of the room for end of season in October (delayed due to use and job hunting).

Until the updated booking software is ordered I cannot set up new booking process for half days.

Next year the financial management of the HPR will move to the Shop's sum up so I can confirm who has paid, along with settling tank & extractor hire.

LIBRARY – PB

I would like to thank Mandy for branding, reviewing and in most cases rewriting instructions on how to apply for access and user instructions.

In 2026 I would like to hold a talk on library use, review library contents to decide what books and surplus to requirement. And hopefully buy some books that will help with module revision.

3/11 – Members are starting to use the app with 4 requests for books received. I hope this will pick up after the planned talks.

TALKS - PB

MM arranged the speaker – Iona Cunningham-Eurich, aka “Wasp Lady” for the President’s Evening on Friday 21st November. PB has drawn up a list of possible talks for next year which we will discuss at Sub-committee meeting in next 2 weeks.

LABORATORY – SE

Nothing to report.

GARDENING – CB

Bulbs have all been planted. All the Goldenrod had now been removed.

SHOP – HK

Nothing reported.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA – MM

Nothing reported.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE REPORT (WF)

WF had circulated its Report prior to the Meeting. Members whose honey was sold at the Honey Show were paid at the end of the day which threw the figures out, causing WF a long time to reconcile the figures. Nearly £4000 gross was made but out of that members’ honey was reimbursed. It was agreed that from next year a proper Invoicing system for members honey needs to be in place for the proceeds to be reimbursed.

The Deposit Account is doing well and showing a £1500 profit.

Invoice from Jo to be given to WF for expenses for children’s activities.

3. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT – JH & MM

Nothing of any significance received by Secretary and emails forwarded to Committee Member for action or circulation to members as relevant.

MM reiterated we need a crib sheet with a standard reply regarding keeping honey bees as more Journalists were approaching the Association for comment. MM offered to start drafting something. We also need to push the BBKA to take a view on this. GE to be asked to do this.

ACTION: MM and GE initially

4. ITEMS TO DISCUSS/VOTE

*** Honey Prep Room – commercial use and extractor issues**

It was agreed that commercial beekeepers would not be allowed to use the HPR. However, if a full Member of the Association is extracting honey at the Apiary on behalf of an organisation whose hives they manage, this would be allowed and the Organisation will be required to be a Corporate Member and pay the relevant annual membership fee. Fees will also apply for the use of the HPR.

Vote taken:

MM proposed

JH seconded

All agreed

*** Presidents Evening – Friday 21st November at 7.30pm**

WF offered to help set up equipment.

The format for the evening will be:

Presentation & questions followed by Awards and drinks.

*** CIO Documents – review and comments**

MM has collated all comments received to date. All Committee Members are required to submit a response, even if they have no questions. Those who have not yet done so are: Alex, Harvey and Irek asked to respond.

ACTION: AL, HK, IG

Honorary Membership – to be specified as being Life Membership and having given exceptional service to the Association.

Nominations can currently only come at the AGM. Moving forward the Committee can decide whether to put anyone forward to Honorary Membership. Individuals can propose people to the Committee who will then take a view as to whether to vote on their Honorary Membership. Individuals cannot nominate themselves.

5. NEXT MEETING AND CHRISTMAS MEAL

It was felt by some that other Apiary volunteers should be included in social events rather than it just being the Committee and that showing appreciation to people was important.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- * CB – asked for help with sweeping up leaves next Tuesday 18th November from 10.30pm
- * Apiary Sub Committee – SE and CD would like to be included
- * PB gave thanks to SE for waiting at the Apiary for hours for the ordered books to arrive
- * PB has bought another frame display case
- * WF – 3rd October 2026 was set for the next Honey Show. Carl to be asked to look into finding a Judge and also possibly booking for 2027 too.

ACTION: CC

2026 DATES:

- 15TH January for 8 weeks – start of Winter Course. 30 people had already signed up
- 13th March - First Night for Members (mainly to use shop)
- 20th March - First Night Beginners Introductory Night
- 27th March - AGM
- 6th June – Open Day
- 20th November - Presidents Evening
- 28th January and every six weeks thereafter
- 20th April week commencing – start of Apiary School visits. PB to block out corresponding dates on HPR calendar when confirmed.

MM to liaise with Bee Inspector regarding the Disease Talk and combining with a social.

ACTION: MM

JH to email RFU for 2026 dates.

ACTION: JH

JS gave details of a letter received at Mole enquiring about buying the land.

WF had received the plaques for the Ted and Neil memorial benches.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17th December at 6.30pm in Miller Hall followed by dinner at Bellissimo, London Road.

RN thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 2115.