



TBG Steering Group

Meeting – Saturday 25th November 2023 2pm- Bee Bothy

1. **Attendance:** Marie Clark (MC), Yvonne Davidson (YD), Lindsay Stewart (LS), Lizzy Shepherd (LSH), Dave Muirhead (DM), Sarah Leahy (SL), Dave Woods (DW) (part time)

Apologies: Lizzie Bacon (LB)

2. **AP's from last meeting (4th May 2023)**

a. **Non-bee group usage of Bee Bothy :** Currently no non-TDG usage so decision to create policy on-hold.

b. **Booking system for the 3 user groups of the Bee Bothy:** joint administration of all TDG groups currently being discussed at TDG level. Ideas of TBG admin that could be included should be emailed to DM.

c. **Policy for extraction equipment usage / honey press:** extraction policy to be drafted (**AP:YD**). Agreed to purchase additional sieves and price a heather press.

d. **Dates and topics for winter talks:** Keep at one a month on a Sunday afternoon Starting at 2pm. Talk Topics: Top Bar Hives (**TBD**) and II(**SL**). Workshop topics: Prep of apideas (**YD**) and queenlessness (add to beginners and invite members (**SL**))

e. **Library review and lending guidelines:** Working well and no issues with members returning books on a timely basis. Membership forms should include guidance on how to borrow books going forward. (**AP:DM**)

3. **Apiary – maintenance/management/gardener/sublimation/trickle.**

The employment of a gardener has been hugely beneficial. Costs to date have been higher than budgeted because of the backlog of maintenance tasks but will be 4 hrs a month next season.

Agreed to continue with sublimation. Children not to be present.

4. **Bee bothy – maintenance.**

Agreed to assess and organise maintenance as and when required.

Water to be switched off from now for winter period.

5. **Teaching:**

Once a fortnight over the summer worked well. Agreed to have a rota so 2 of the more experienced members are present. Starting 3pm.

6. Beginners:

Numbers to be capped at 10.

Those with passes at Basic Beemaster to be asked to help.

7. Library / book plates:

A January event to be organised to affix book plates into books **(AP:DW)**

8. Signs / school:

The Inchmarlo Community Shed have kindly made wooden pollinator/minibeast cut outs to be used as signage from the village to the apiary on open days. Tarland primary pupils to be asked to decorate them.

9. Visits:

In future members will be asked to assist at visits to the apiary thus ensuring sufficient helpers are available.

10. Work parties – gutters, barrels, weeding bee enclosure/ivy/slabs:

Work parties to be held for all above tasks except laying of slabs under hives around apiary – quotes to be obtained for this work. **(AP:YD)**

11. Swarm collection:

Agreed those wishing to be sent details of swarms available for collection should attend a training session first and agree to certain conditions. To be discussed further at next meeting.

12. Finance update: Current bank balance £1969. Income and expenditure summary be given at next meeting.

13. Date of next meeting:

Will be arranged for before one of the winter talks or workshops.

14. AOB: nothing declared