



Beekeepers Association of the ACT

Newsletter of the Beekeepers Association of the Australian Capital Territory
Incorporated

Meetings of our Association are conducted on the 3rd Thursday of every month (except December) at the Yarralumla Primary School Hall, 24 Loftus Street, YARRALUMLA, ACT 2600

Contact: President – John Grubb Ph.: (02) 62571171

Email: enquiries@actbeekeepers.asn.au

www.actbeekeepers.asn.au

<https://www.facebook.com/BeekeepersAssociationoftheACT>

February 2016

Next Meeting

President's Report

Final reminder- membership fees

Our new website

Call for volunteers for the Beekeeping Field Day

Beekeeping field day at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Update on insurance policy discussions

Association training schedule 2016

Proposed changes to the Association's rules

Classifieds

General meeting 18 February 2016, Yarralumla Primary School at 7:30pm

The purpose of the General Meeting is to vote on changes to the Association's Rules. Under the current rules a quorum of five is required.

Note: Members must be financial to be eligible to vote.

AGENDA

1930 Introduction & Welcome— President (John Grubb).

1935 Summary or Rule Changes – Secretary (Steve O'Hearn)

1945 Question & Answer

2000 Conduct Vote

2015 Conclude General Meeting

After the General Meeting, Peter Abbott will talk on **Keeping Native Bees**, a topic of interest to many members. Peter is a new member. He is an ex-honeybee beekeeper, has an interest in native bees and keeps native stingless bees on the NSW coast and Queensland. We might even find out if we can keep native bees in Canberra.

Steve O'Hearn Secretary (0408) 657 871

President's Report

Dear members

Firstly, I wish to welcome and thank Juli Poole and Stuart Robertson for volunteering to take on the editorship and deputy editorship of our newsletter.

You will note that in this edition of the newsletter we have included, through the courtesy of our secretary, Steve O'Hearn, documentation pertaining to our AGM which will be held in April. Steve has outlined the proposed rule changes which we will be voting on at our 'General' meeting scheduled for our February meeting. **Please note that nominations for a position on the committee need to be submitted 21 days prior to the AGM on 21 April**, in other words, received by 1 April (April Fool's day!!!). Unfortunately, I anticipate that a number of our committee will not be standing for re-election. While not wishing to pre-empt their individual decisions, I can advise that Dick Johnston our treasurer has decided to hang up the purse strings after many years in that role and we are very much indebted to Dick for his commitment and dedicated support to the Association. I too have decided not to put my name forward for the position of President.

For my part, I can't emphasise enough to you, the need to consider putting your name forward for a position on our new committee. The continued success of our organisation depends on those members who are willing

to commit to undertake a variety of tasks within the Association. On the training front, our Tutor group successfully completed the third CIT backyard Beekeeping course. The student feedback received was most encouraging (as with the other two courses) and in my opinion, such feedback is testimony to the professional and 'hands on' approach undertaken by all the tutors. Their engagement with the students who, in general are being introduced for the first time to the world of the honey bee, underpins the continued success of the CIT Backyard Beekeeping courses. Having completed the three 2015/2016 courses, I feel we have achieved a great deal and such positive outcomes give me a high level of satisfaction and confidence in our 'training' arm of the Association. That said, I will be inviting other members experienced in beekeeping or beginner beekeepers to join our tutor group. My personal thanks to all the tutors who supported me in my role as training manager.

In this edition of our newsletter, there are details of our first training course (19/20 March) for the 2016 training schedule. Adrian Iodice has agreed to conduct a two day workshop on Natural Beekeeping. I anticipate that this workshop will be well attended and for those of you interested in learning about Natural beekeeping, I recommend this training opportunity and suggest you enrol as soon as possible.

In the December edition of our newsletter, I made mention of the progress made in establishing an apiary at Jerrabomberra Wetlands (JW), which in my words is a 'show' piece apiary comprising of a variety of hives, Langstroth (of different hive materials), Warre' and Kenyan Top bar. In this newsletter we have drawn attention to our **Beekeeping Field Day which will be held on Saturday 20 February**. The theme for this event is 'Good Beekeeper – Good Neighbour'. I wish to compliment Jeff Matsen on this initiative and hard work in organising the Field day. This event will, I hope, be the first of many opportunities to show case the Association's achievements at JW and I encourage all of you to attend and hopefully bring your family too.

On Sunday 7 February, a number of your die hard volunteers, provided an Association's presence at World Wetlands day. This event was sponsored through the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (Jerrabomberra Wetlands). My thanks to Lori Gould, Program manager for the Wetlands Trust at Jerrabomberra for the invitation to participate in this event.

In respect of hive registration and more importantly, implementation of the legislation, members of your committee have yet to hold discussions with government representatives. At the time of writing this report, I have been in touch with a senior government representative and I am hopeful that in my March report, I am in a position to advise progress on this most important matter.

In closing, I am not sure what season you have had to date. For my part, no honey has been harvested and I am feeding sugar syrup to two of my seven hives. I look forward to our February meeting and hopefully there will be an opportunity to chat with a few you.

Regards,

John Grubb, President

Final Reminder - Membership fees

For those joining the club before 1 July 2015, membership fees of \$35 were due on 1 January 2016. On 10 February, there were 160 members that have not yet renewed. If payment is not received by the Beekeeping Field Day on 20 February, we will assume you no longer wish to be a member and you will be removed from the list of members. Individual reminders are not sent. Methods of payment are:

1. Preferred method - electronic funds transfer to Beekeepers Association of the ACT, CBA BSB 062-908, Account 00905714. Please put your name in the payment.
2. Cheque posted to Treasurer, Beekeepers Association of the ACT, PO Box 1482 Woden ACT 2606
3. Cash or cheque at a Club meeting or the February Field Day.



Many thanks

Dick Johnston, Treasurer

Our new website

It's all there in one handy location: information, news, forums and links. Register to take part in the forum discussions. It's so easy, someone registered during the last meeting on her phone!

[Have you taken a look yet?](#)



[Forums](#) [Swarms](#) [Classifieds](#) [Membership](#) [Members](#) [Training](#) [Facebook](#) [Contact](#)

Beekeepers Association of the ACT


Welcome to the Beekeepers Association of the ACT located in Canberra, Australia.

Our aim is to promote beekeeping in the ACT and surrounding areas. If you are new to beekeeping, or a beekeeping veteran, we are here to help.

If you are interested in joining the Association, you can [register here](#).

Meetings

Visitors are welcome to attend our [monthly meetings](#). Our guest speakers are always topical and entertaining.



Swarms

If you see a [bee swarm](#) and are not sure what to do about it, we have lots of information on swarms and who to contact if you need them removed. Beekeepers love swarms!

Forums

Our [forums](#) are open to all bee enthusiasts and we have lots of experienced beekeepers that love to talk about bees. Anybody can view the public forums but if you want to take part in the discussion will need to register. Registration is free and takes only a few minutes.

Our [classifieds section](#) can help you with all your beekeeping equipment needs.

Request for Field Day Volunteers

We still need volunteers to help out with the Field Day. We need a small team of people to act as car park marshals, gate attendants, guest speaker assistants and to man our own BAACTI stall.

We will rotate people through positions so that you don't miss out on the guest lectures either. Anyone who can give some time is requested to contact **Jeff Matsen** (snow.gum@hotmail.com) or **Steve O'Hearn** (gooster777@gmail.com).

We plan to hold a briefing for Field Day volunteers on Friday 19 Feb at 1700 at the Wetlands.



Beekeeping Field Day - Saturday 20 Feb 16 in Canberra ACT

Free entry, all welcome. Bring your bee-suit or veil.

Program: “Hands on” demos & interactive question and answer sessions at working hives.
Lots of beekeeping related items on display, some for sale on the day.

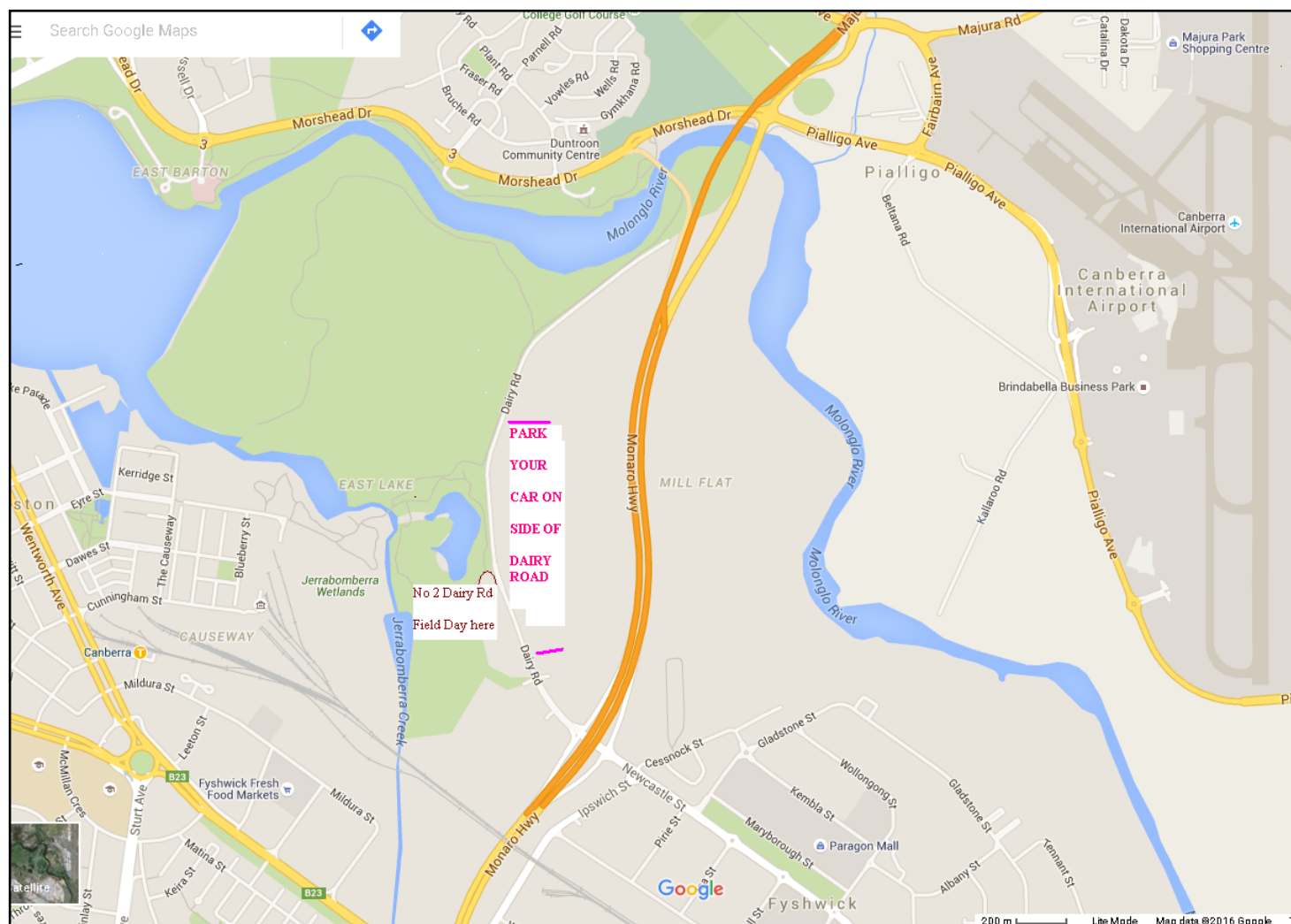
Beekeepers Association of the ACT “2016 Field Day” @ Jerrabomberra Wetlands (Canberra City) 20 Feb 16 Location: 2 Dairy Road, Fyshwick, ACT (near Canberra Airport)					
Theme = “ Good beekeeper - Good neighbour ”					
		Demo Area 1	Demo Area 2	Demo Area 3	Vendor Display Area
8.30 am	Gates Open	Vineyard Nth	TBC	Sheepyard	Main Building Lawns & surrounds
9-9.50 am	Session 1	Dr Doug Somerville – 4 pillars & any other questions	Sam Malfroy – Pests & Diseases	Adrian Iodice - Natural Beekeeping & Top Bar Hive Demo	ABK Magazine & Bee Equipment sellers. Also, “ACT for Bees” display of “Keep the Global Hive Alive”. Canberra City Farms as well.
10-10.50 am	Session 2		Des Cannon – Safe Beekeeping Techniques		
11-11.50 am	Session 3				
1-1.50 pm	Session 4				
2-3 pm	Session 5	Guided Tour of Club Demo Hives: Warre; Top-Bar; Langstroth (wood, NUPLAS plastic, Technoset plastic, Paradise foam, and a flow hive if it arrives in time)			

Which vendors are coming? Some will bring your pre-orders, but contact the vendor to confirm

List of Vendors Displaying & selling on the day. Contact the vendor direct to confirm if you can have them bring your pre-order on the day.			
Vendor	Display of?	Selling on the day?	Contact details
ABK Magazine	ABK magazine	Yes	(02) 6236 3294 www.theabk.com.au
Angilley	Hive woodware	Yes	0437 385 399
Australian Honeybee	Paradise Foam Hives	Yes	www.australianhoneybee.com.au
Bees R Us	Hive parts & various other items	Yes	(02) 4842 2360 www.beesrus.com.au
Better Bee Hives	Technoset plastic hives	Yes	0414 501 578
Bindaree Bee Supplies	Hives, protective clothing, extracting gear	Display only	(02) 6226 8866, 0408 260 164 www.bindaree.com.au
Dunc’s Honey	Vented Bee suits	Yes	0403 850 767
Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies	Hive parts & various other items	Yes	(02) 9477 5569 www.hornsby-beekeeping.com
Parker, David & Tracey (& Feed Bee)	AC Tobin hive metalware & protein supplement	Yes	(02) 6368 5889
Penders Beekeeping Supplies	Hive parts and various other items	Yes	(02) 4956 6166 www.penders.net.au
NUPLAS Beehives	NUPLAS plastic hives	Display only	(03) 5032 9199 www.nuplas.com.au

Further details: Jeff Matsen 0466 247 481 or Steve O’Hearn 0408 657 871

The Jerrabomberra Wetlands – Canberra City <http://jerrabomberrawetlands.org/the-reserve>
 Cycle or drive. Lots of parking on the side of Dairy Road. Walk to the gate at No 2 Dairy Road.



Update on Insurance Policy Discussions

Dear Members,

Your Committee is in the process of improving the insurance coverage for the Association and Members. Our current policy provides good public liability coverage but is ambiguous for how it applies to the members. Rather than “reinvent the wheel” we have looked at the NSW Amateur Beekeeping Association’s (ABA) insurance policy and intend introducing something very similar.

The NSW ABA has approximately 15 branches and over 1000 members. Their current policy is tailored to beekeeping activities very similar to ours now that we have our own hives and conduct our own training. Their broker advised me that it has been refined over the past 10 years and there are two parts to the Policy. The first is coverage for the Association and the second is for individuals. The cost of insurance for the Association is influenced by the number of members that take up individual insurance. My understanding is that the NSW ABA purchases the insurance and the cost is included as an optional extra in annual memberships. With over 1000 members the annual cost to each member for an individual policy is approx. \$45. Individual Policy Certificates are not generally issued.

We recently conducted a short survey to see how many BAACTI members would be interested in a similar policy. We had about 90 replies with approximately 50% being interested. I’ve gone back to the broker with those numbers and he is preparing a quote. He had estimated about \$80 pa if about 150 members took up the offer. Our individual policies would be dearer due to the smaller customer base and you should consider the cost of any new policy against joining the ABA (\$60pa) and obtaining insurance from them (\$45pa). Irrespective of the outcome for the individual policies the Association will need its own public and product

liability insurance with the cost shared across the BAACTI membership. This may result in a slight increase in fees to cover the additional costs. We currently pay \$1400 pa for insurance and could pay \$2600 for the new policy. However, the current policy does not provide the full coverage we need. I'll be in a better position to quote numbers once I have heard back from the broker.

I will keep you posted. In the meantime the following is a comprehensive list of what a Combined Liability Policy would cover; please note that it doesn't cover fire, theft and vandalism of hives. This is an extract from an email from the broker.

Proposed Combined Liability Policy would cover:

1. *the BAACTI, members of their executive & volunteers (acting in an official capacity) &*
2. *Members (who elect to purchase their own insurance) in respect of their legal liability to pay compensation (including costs, fees and expenses) for Injury or Damage to third parties which occurs as a result of an Occurrence in connection with BAACTI Activities, Member Beekeeping Activities & the sale of Bee Products anywhere in Australia.*

See undermentioned Definitions for activities/products included in coverage.

BAACTI Activities

Including:

- a. *The holding of meetings with members and visitors attending.*
- b. *The provision of education to members and members of the public about beekeeping.*
- c. *The maintenance of an apiary.*
- d. *The holding of field days at the BAACTI apiary and/or a member's apiary where members and visitors work on beehives.*
- e. *The extraction, bottling or packaging of honey and honey products*
- f. *The sale of honey and honey products*
- g. *Attendance at markets and shows*
- h. *The organisation of honey judging competitions*
- i. *Travel as a group to field days or other activities of interest*
- j. *The sale of beekeeping equipment to members*
- k. *The organisation of social functions*
- l. *Giving talks on beekeeping to the public at shows/markets/community days.*



Bee Products:

Includes the production, distribution and sale of:

- a. *Liquid honey;*
- b. *Creamed honey;*
- c. *Candied honey;*
- d. *Creamed or liquid honey with up to 8% natural fruit/plant flavouring;*
- e. *Pollen;*
- f. *Queen bees;*
- g. *Bee colonies;*
- h. *Honeycomb and chunk honey;*
- i. *Bees wax and candles & Bees wax furniture polish.*

Does NOT include:

- a. Mead;
- b. Royal Jelly;
- c. Honey based beverages;
- d. Lip balm & all other cosmetics;
- e. Creamed or Liquid honey with more than 8% single natural fruit/plant flavouring;
- f. Creamed or liquid honey containing nuts.

Member Beekeeping Activities:

Includes:

- a. Attendance @ BAACT Activities;
- b. Maintenance of one or more apiary sites with hives;
- c. The assembly & building of beekeeping equipment;
- d. Work on bee hives;
- e. Inviting members of the public to observe & work on beehives;
- f. Moving beehives;
- g. The collection of bee swarms & established colonies but only as a community service, not as a commercial undertaking & incidental to the member's usual beekeeping activities;
- h. The extraction, bottling or packaging of honey & honey products;
- i. The sale of honey or honey products;
- j. The sale of bee keeping equipment;
- k. Attendance at meetings, bee keeping field days, markets & shows.

Does NOT include:

- a. Liabilities arising from the ownership of real estate or vehicles &
- b. Protection for any other person or entity other than the member.

Regards

Steve O'Hearn
Secretary 0408 657 871

Association Training Schedule 2016

To kick off our 2016 training schedule, we are privileged and excited to welcome **Adrian Iodice** to Canberra from Bermagui (www.beekeepingnaturally.com.au) who will present a 2 day training course/workshop entitled **Learn Natural Beekeeping**

Members and guests are invited to register for this exciting beekeeping course to be held at the **Jerrabomberra Wetlands Training Centre and Apiary on 19th & 20th March 2016**. This course is designed for the back yard beekeeper seeking an alternative natural approach to standard Langstroth (commercial) style beekeeping

Enrol now and become part of this fascinating and informative weekend, learning natural, organic, biodynamic, bee-centric bee-care using Kenyan Top Bar and Golden Hives.

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What you will learn

You will learn about the intimate life of a honey bee colony, how to catch and relocate a swarm and the fundamentals to start up and manage a colony of your own. We will look at a number of different hives and discuss the pros and cons of them all. We will look at types of equipment you will need to catch swarms and to manage your hives. You will learn about Bee developmental stages, queen development, the importance of natural comb, where to position a hive, harvesting natural raw honey and tools needed for harvesting, swarm management, and beekeeping using moon charts.

These subjects are by no means exhaustive!!

The Association has two Kenyan Top Bar hives at the Apiary, and they will be used for the practical sessions of the course.

How to register for the course

Places are limited, so enrol now to reserve your spot. Go to our training course booking page at <https://bookwhen.com/actbka> and follow the prompts.

Usual cost for the 2 day course is \$380* (after 1st March)

Early Bird special \$340* if you register BEFORE midnight on 1st March 2016

*** Our Association Members receive an additional \$40 off the registration fee**

Payment can be made by secure PayPal using either a PayPal Account or a Debit/Credit Card

Details are on the booking page

Proposed Changes to the Association's Rules

Dear Fellow Members,

Hopefully you've had a chance to look over the proposed changes to the Association's Rules which we will be voting on at the **General Meeting on 18 Feb**. If you haven't I hope the following summary will help.

The idea to change the Rules came about after the AGM last year when we had more people than positions. Whilst that was great to see it also signified that the Association was growing and needed a more structured process for conducting elections, and one that would allow future nominees the opportunity to let their fellow members know "who they were" well before the AGM.

Nominations: The new election process will require individuals to nominate for positions up to 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). There will no "on the night" nominations. If only one nomination is received, that person will be declared winner at the AGM. If no one nominates for a position, it will be declared vacant at the AGM. If more than one person nominates we vote by show of hands. Prior to the AGM, all nominees will be invited to introduce themselves in writing, published in a special edition of the newsletter.

With respect to this year's AGM, all nominations will need to be received by the Secretary by 1 Apr 2016.

Committee roles: As you know, 2015 was a busy year with the Association taking ownership and management of the ten hives at CIT. It also set up an additional ten hives at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. Furthermore, from a training perspective, we learnt the hard way how much time and effort Dick Johnston has put into this activity over the years. The simple realisation was that the Association has taken on greater responsibilities and needs people to do the work. It was felt that being on the Committee was a **privilege** that came with an obligation to work for the members. This led to a decision to establish a "roles" based committee. Whilst it will still function as any other committee, each of the seven members will be assigned certain roles by the members at the AGM. The primary roles are **the Hive Manager, Training Manager and Hive Products Manager**. Clearly, these roles require an experienced beekeeper. However the other roles, **Assistant Hive Manager, Assistant Training Manager, Events Coordinator** and **Webmaster** do not. There will be no changes

to the way the Executive functions as it is already “roles based” with a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Nominations for multiple roles: The way we marry up the new election process with the roles based committee positions is to allow members to nominate for multiple positions. However, we will conduct the election in a predetermined order starting with the President, followed by the rest of the Executive, this will be followed by Hive Manager, Training Manager, Hive Products Manager, Assistant Hive Manager, Assistant Training Manager, Events Coordinator and Webmaster. If you are elected to a position your name is removed from nominations for subsequent positions. It is not intended that a member of the Executive also fulfil a Committee role, unless that position is declared vacant at the AGM and the new Committee agrees.

I know it may seem a little complicated, but I assure you it provides the best opportunity for matching skills with positions and allows the Association members to have a greater say in who is in each position.

Model Rules: In addition to the new election process and the roles based committee positions, we are taking the opportunity to align the rules with the ACT Government’s “Model Rules”, which provide the template for all registered Associations. One example is the introduction of proxy voting, which will allow members to vote if they can’t be present at the AGM. We’ve also increased the quorum for a General Meeting from 5 to 25 to reflect the growth in the Association.

Legislative compliance: Finally, we’ve added some legislative compliance, such as declaring any pecuniary interest in matters before the committee, and the requirement to have the appropriate background checks when working with vulnerable people. Obviously there is a lot more legislation that could be put into the rules, but that is not the purpose of the rules.

Understanding the changes: The rules have been up on the forum since 10 December 2015. However I appreciate not everyone can access it. On the evening of the General Meeting, I will give a short presentation to go over these changes again. If you need some further clarification, please call me and I am more than happy to explain.

Once that presentation is completed, we will have very short Q&A and then propose a **single special resolution** to accept the changes to the Rules. That is, we won't be voting for each of the changes individually. Please be aware that your membership subscription entitles you to a single vote. This is the current policy and is intended to provide equal voting rights between individual and family subscriptions, noting they are the same amount. You also need to be financially current to vote.

Again, please don't hesitate to contact me directly to clarify any issues.

Regards

Steve O'Hearn
Secretary
[0408 657 871](tel:0408657871)

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