

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT TOTTENHILL VILLAGE HALL
On Saturday 14th March 2009 at 2.30pm

PRESENT: Chairman, Mr. E. Dix; Treasurer, Mr. D. Baddeley; Acting Secretary, Mrs. L. Gibson; 40 members, 3 visitors.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. D. Colvin, Mr. C. Wakes-Miller, Mr. K. Morgan, Mr. C. Snell, Ms. K. Thrower

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present, adding what a pleasure it was that so many people were in attendance.

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT:

Mr. T. Gibson proposed Mr. Don Cooper: seconded by Ms. P. Snell: unanimously agreed.
The President thanked those present stating that it was a great honour to have been elected.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the 2008 AGM were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report

This had been printed and circulated to all members in the year book: it was accepted unanimously. The Chairman then extended his thanks to David Bancalari for his hard work on behalf of beekeepers in the Eastern Region, in securing a £100,000 grant from the Biotechnical and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to fund a PhD Studentship.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

In presenting the accounts, Mr. D. Baddeley reported that the surplus of £1192.78 in 2007 had turned into a deficit of £1282.84 for 2008. In his opinion the deficit was due to a combination of factors:

- setting up costs of the association apiary
- lack of funding incomes and show revenue
- rise in some of the associated costs, e.g. speakers fees, printing and postage

With regards to revenue from shows the Treasurer elaborated that in previous years the Association had attended more shows. Sandringham Flower Show and the Norfolk Small Holders being the two that we had had a presence at. Although those events had been reasonably well attended, as a result of poor weather which had led to there being a lack of honey available for sale together with an increase in fees, the show had made a loss of £455.45.

Mrs. J. Tinsey asked why there had been such a large increase in B. B. K. A. Affiliation expenditure. The Treasurer explained initially that this was an increase in members, adding subsequently that there had also been a change in the dates by which subscription payments had to be made.

The Treasurer was asked what the remedy could be to improve the financial situation, but was non-committal at this stage. The President averred that now the apiary was up

and running, this year could be the start of some income being generated in the form of the sale of nuc's and, weather permitting, honey.

A copy of the revenue account was given to all present.

4.3 *Annual Delegate's Report*

After first explaining what the role entailed for the benefit of the newer members Mr. J. Woodford reported the following:

- Mr. Tim Lovett, BBKA President, had written to government requesting an increase in funds for research purposes
- Mr. Woodford had voted, as mandated by the WNKLBA committee, in favour of ADM motions 02 and 03/09 and against 04,05,06 and 07/09, which all related to the BBKA's relationship with pesticide companies. The motions had received a majority vote in favour.
- On ADM motion 09/09, to endorse the use of antibiotics for treatment of foulbrood diseases, Mr. Woodford had voted, according to his own conscience, in favour. The motion had been defeated
- DEFRA funding of £4.3 million towards honeybee research
- Save our Bees campaign for National Science and Engineering Week. Details to be found on the BBKA website
- Mr. Woodford would be attending the BDI meeting in April at Stoneleigh

4.4 *Education Officer's Report*

At first Mr. T. Gibson reported that the introduction of course fees from this year had to date resulted in income of around £400.00. He then provided details of the courses being run:

- 10 people had attended the hive building course in Jan/Feb
- 24 people were registered on the Introduction to Beekeeping and there were 6 on the waiting list. At least 20 others had registered an interest in the introductory course, a number of which intended to attend the two theory evenings on 20th and 27th March
- 10 people, including juniors, were booked on the BBKA Basic Exam Course
- 1 person booked on the BBKA Husbandry Course
- a study group, for the Autumn, was proposed for those interested in taking BBKA Theory Modules

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Prior to the election of officers the President gave thanks to those committee members standing down for all of their hard work.

The retiring Chairman expressed his appreciation for all of the support he had received in his 34 years with the Association and thanked everyone for their help.

5.1 *Vice-President*

Three people had been invited to stand for election as Vice-Presidents.

Henry Bellingham MP and Sir Jeremy Bagge had accepted and on a show of hands there was unanimous agreement that they both be elected.

5.2 *Chairman*

Mr. B. Gemmell proposed the appointment of Mrs. J. Tinsey and Mr. D. Marshall-Andrews seconded. All agreed.

5.3 *Vice-Chairman*

Mr. T. Gibson proposed the appointment of Mrs. P. Snell and Mrs. M. Rickards seconded. All agreed.

- 5.4 *Treasurer*
Mr. B. Gemmell proposed the appointment of Mr. C. Snell and Mrs. J. Burton seconded.
All agreed.
- 5.5 *Secretary*
Mrs. P. Snell proposed the appointment of Mrs. L. Gibson and Mr. M. Sealey seconded.
All agreed.
- 5.6 *Show Organiser(s)*
Mrs. K. Sayer was proposed by Mr. J. Trattle and seconded by Mr. B. Gemmell and Mrs. M. Woodford was proposed by Mrs. P. Snell and seconded by Mr. D. Cooper. All agreed.
- 5.7 *Committee*
The committee was voted in *en bloc*: Mr. D. Bancalari, Mrs. J. Burton, Mr. B. Gemmell, Mr. T. Gibson, Mr. K. Morgan, Ms. K. Thrower, Mr. J. Trattle and Mr. J. Woodford.
Three new committee members were elected, namely Mr. S. Grant who was proposed by Mrs. K. Sayer and seconded by Mr. D. Bancalari; Mrs. J. Heal who was proposed by Mr. T. Gibson and seconded by Mr. E. Dix and Mr. C. Sayer who was proposed by Mr. J. Woodford and seconded by Mr. G. Elsegood. All agreed.
- 5.8 *Membership Secretary*
Mr. J. Trattle was confirmed in office for a further year.
- 5.9 *Events Organiser*
Mr. T. Gibson was confirmed in office for a further year.
- 5.10 *BBKA Representative*
Mr. J. Woodford was confirmed in office for a further year.
- 5.11 *Area Representatives*
Mr. E. Dix and Mr. J. Laws no longer wished to be area representatives. Mr. D. Bancalari signalled his willingness to continue. Mrs. S. Harvey and Mr. J. Trattle volunteered and they together with Mr. Bancalari were unanimously confirmed in the posts.
- 5.12 *Norwich representative*
Brian Gemmell had decided to stand down from this role. Mrs. J. Heal to take his place.
- 5.13 *Auditor*
Mr. Baddeley reported that Mr. Bourne was retiring from the post. The Chairman said that the appointment of an Auditor would be put on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

6. WNKLBA MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Mr. D. Baddeley suggested that, in view of the deficit in the Association's revenue account for 2008, that the subscription be increased from £14 to £20, to take effect from 2010. Lively debate followed with one proposal from Mr. S. Grant being that the increase be £3 instead of £6. Further discussion ensued and a number of views propounded. Amongst those being that from Mr. D. Bancalari who suggested that other means of raising revenue were actively being explored. For instance the Association had recently been granted a lottery licence, Network Rail had provided a number of complementary rail tickets and the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society had offered annual sponsorship for being given advertising space on the website.. Furthermore, at this time BeeAware was published at no cost to the Association. Mr. I. Sherwood proffered that in his experience even a small increase on an annual basis was sufficient in counteracting rising running costs. The Chairman, Mrs. J. Tinsey,

proposed, given the plans in hand to increase funds, that decision on any increase be deferred until later in the year. Discussions were brought to a close and votes were taken on the following proposals:

- a) a £3 increase – 19 in favour: 13 against: 8 abstentions
- b) defer a decision until later in the year – 13 in favour: 11 against: 16 abstentions

Proposal to increase subscriptions by £3 effective from 2010 carried.

7. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Members were reminded that the Association currently had three Honorary Members: Mr. P. Metcalf, Mrs. P. Rix and Mr. J. Rounce. Mrs. K Sayer proposed and Mrs. P. Snell seconded the Association's retiring Chairman Mr. E. Dix for Honorary Membership. Mr. Dix responded that as he had already paid his subscriptions he could hardly ask for a refund. The proposal was unanimously agreed and would take effect from 2010.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Ring round

Mr. A. Morrison offered his appreciation to Mr. D. Bancalari for the pre-event telephone reminders.

8.2 Swarm Co-ordinator

Mr. P. Duhig was prepared to continue as West Norfolk Co-ordinator, but commented that his list of people prepared to collect swarms was out of date and required updating. The Chairman asked people to advise Mr. Duhig if they would like to be placed on or removed from his list. Mr. D. Bancalari was prepared to continue as the North Norfolk area Co-ordinator.

8.3 Lottery tickets

Mr. J. Woodford advised that 600 books of lottery tickets, 5 tickets per book, had been ordered and asked what the members thought they should be sold at. The Chairman said that this should be an agenda item for the next committee meeting.

The Secretary informed the new committee members that the date of the next committee meeting was 7th April at 8pm at the Sailing Club, King St., King's Lynn.

Before the close of the meeting the President thanked Mr. Dix for his 34 years of committed service to the Association and presented him with a gift on behalf of the members. The Chairman thanked Mrs. B. Dix both for all of the support she had given to Ernie, her husband and all of the commitment she had given to the club and presented her with a bouquet on behalf of the members.

The meeting finished at 3.48pm and was followed by refreshments, a raffle which raised £127.00 and the Dunkley Memorial Lecture which was given by Mr Ray Jones. This was an interesting talk and slide show which was informative to both new beekeepers and more knowledgeable beekeepers alike.

Signed.....Dated.....