

**WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT TOTTENHILL VILLAGE HALL**  
**On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 2.30pm**

**PRESENT:** President, Mr. D. Cooper; Chairman, Mrs. J. Tinsey; Treasurer, Mr. P. Snell; Secretary, Mrs. L. Gibson; 42 members, 3 visitors.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2.45 pm and welcomed all present, noting the good number of people who were in attendance.

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs. B. Church, Mrs. D. Colvin, Mrs. M. Rickard, Mrs. M. Woodford, Mrs. K & Mr. C. Sayer, Mr. K. Morgan, Mr. G. Elsegood, Mr. D. Maclean, Mr. P. Duhig

**APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT:**

The Chairman informed the members that Mr. Don Cooper was willing to stand again for re-election and asked the members if they were in agreement that he continue in the post. Unanimous approval.

On taking the chair the President thanked everyone for their vote of approval.

**1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were agreed and signed as a true record.

The minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009 EGM were agreed and signed as a true record.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

3.1 A letter from the organisers of the Sandringham Flower Show formally inviting WNKLBA to apply for a Trade Stand. The cost would be £204 and the due date for payment was 1<sup>st</sup> April.

3.1.1 An e-mail from the General Secretary of the British Beekeepers' Association advising that as of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010 the BBKA had rejoined the healthy Bee project Board.

**4. REPORTS**

*4.1 Chairman's Report*

The Chairman explained that, due to a mix up in communication, no reports had been printed in the Federation Yearbook. As she was unable to speak volubly owing to a throat problem the report, full copy attached, was passed to the President to present.

After reading the President asked if there was agreement that the report be adopted. Unanimous approval.

*4.2 Treasurer's Report*

In presenting the accounts, the Treasurer reported that the current account opened at the beginning of 2009 with a balance of £126.03 and ended with a balance of £3774.94. The major sources of income during the year were membership (£1490.48), training and education (£1407), annual raffle (£1205.30), and sale of Association apiary honey (£1153) at the Sandringham Show, Stradsett Garden Show, Holkham Show, North Norfolk Smallholders Show and South Creak Apple Day. In closing his report the Treasurer advised the general members that WNKLBA would be running the raffle again in 2010, would hopefully supply similar quantities of Association apiary honey for sale, continue to provide training courses and maintain a strong membership. All projections were that WNKLBA would remain financially secure during 2010.

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

The President invited the members to adopt the accounts. Unanimous approval.

*4.3 Annual Delegate's Report*

After first explaining what the role entailed for the benefit of the newer members Mr. J. Woodford summarised the main propositions considered at the 2010 ADM at Stoneleigh in January

- BBKA to continue to endorse pesticides that had not been proven to have harmful effects on bees.
- Proposition for BBKA to return to Healthy Bee Project Board defeated. However, the good news was that the BBKA had now rejoined.

Mr. J. Woodford closed his report by asking for congratulations and thanks to be recorded to Mr. D. Bancalari for his successful election onto the BBKA Executive Committee and all of the work he was undertaking.

The President moved adoption of this report. Unanimous approval.

#### 4.4 *Education Officer's Report*

Mr. T. Gibson reported on the highlights of 2009

- Our President had passed both the General Husbandry and Microscopy exams
- 1 member had passed two BBKA Modules.
- 6 members had passed the BBKA Basic Assessment
- 25 people had completed the Introductory Course

With regards to 2010, he said that

- 28 people were at the midway stage of the Introductory Course
- 2 members had registered to take the General Husbandry exam
- 2 members had registered to take the Advanced Husbandry exam
- 1 member had registered to take the Microscopy Certificate
- 1 member would be taking one of the Modules later in the month
- 14 people had registered on the Improvers/Intermediate Workshops

Finally Mr. T. Gibson closed, with a measure of prompting from the Chairman and Secretary, by briefly outlining the Autumn programme.

The President asked for the report to be adopted. Unanimous approval.

## 5 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### 5.1 *Vice-Presidents*

Henry Bellingham MP and Sir Jeremy Bagge had been invited and had accepted the invitation to stand for re-election.

The Most Honourable Marquess of Cholmondeley had accepted an invitation to stand as a Vice President.

The Secretary asked if it was the wish of the members that the three candidates be elected en bloc. Unanimous agreement that all 3 be elected.

### 4.5 *Chairman*

Mr. J. Woodford proposed the appointment of Mr. S. Grant. Seconded by Mrs. J. Heal. All in agreement.

At this stage the outgoing Chairman expressed her sincere thanks to the committee for their support. In expression of particular gratitude she presented flowers to Mrs. P. Snell and Mrs. L. Gibson.

The incoming Chairman expressed his thanks to the outgoing Chair for all her work and commitment to the Association over the last years and hoped that we could continue to rely on that support in the future.

### 4.6 *Vice-Chairman*

Mr. M. Sealey proposed the appointment of Mr. T. Gibson. Seconded by Mr. D. Cooper. Majority in agreement.

### 5.4 *Treasurer*

Mr. T. Gibson proposed the appointment of Mr. C. Snell. Seconded by Mrs. J. Tinsey. All in agreement.

- 5.5 *Secretary*  
Mr. T. Gibson proposed the appointment of Ms. S. Kedge. Seconded by Mr. D. Arlott.  
All in agreement.
- 5.6 *Membership Secretary*  
Mrs. L. Gibson proposed Ms. D. Flower. Seconded by Mrs. J. Heal. All in agreement.
- 5.7 *Show Secretary*  
Mrs. J. Tinsey proposed Mr. B. Walker-Moore. Seconded by Mrs. P. Snell. All in agreement.
- 5.8 *Committee*  
Mrs. J. Burton, Mrs. J. Heal, Mr. B. Gemmell, Mr. J. Woodford, Mr. D. Bancalari, Mr. K. Morgan and Mr. C. Sayer were all confirmed in office for a further year.

The incoming Chairman thanked the members for their vote of approval adding that as a relative newcomer to the craft he would be particularly sensitive to listening to suggestions and ideas on what members hoped to see from the Association.

With the election of officers complete the President gave thanks to those committee members standing down, for their time and commitment.

## **6 HONORARIA**

The Chairman explained that the committee had deliberated long and hard over payment of honoraria to the Apiary Manager and Education Officer, in recognition of the considerable time and personal expense that their roles involved, adding that neither of the people currently in the roles had expressed any desire to accept such a payment. After reading the Treasurers recommendation for a one off payment of £125 to each of the aforementioned, the Chairman invited comments/views from the floor. Andrew Morrison opined that he supported the idea that these people should not be out of pocket, but had reservations that the proposed amount would actually cover their costs. Furthermore, he was concerned that the payment of honoraria appeared to be linked to their performance. The main reason being that if through no fault of their own, should WNKLBAs current uncharacteristically healthy financial status not continue, such payments might not be possible in the future. The Treasurer responded that the income that had been generated, as a result of Association apiary and education activities, had not been possible in previous years as the facilities had not been available. The Chairman commented that the honoraria was understood to be a gesture of appreciation. As far as continued payment of honoraria was concerned he said that the all of the committee had acknowledged there were a number of factors, not of the Apiary Manager's or Education Officer's making, that could result in a decline in the viability and membership levels of the Association and hence mean that honoraria payments would need to be reduced or not paid. As no further comments were forthcoming the Chairman asked if anyone would like to propose the recommendation. Proposed by Mrs. D. McGowan and seconded Mr. J. Tinsey. Unanimous agreement.

## **7 AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Clarification of Membership definitions, two changes involving substitution of words, enumeration of clauses and the use of abbreviated association names where possible had been carried out. The Secretary identified and explained each of the changes and as no comments/ objections were forthcoming the President asked that the amendments be agreed. Unanimous approval.

## **8 WNKLBAs MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

The Treasurer explained that, due to the healthy state of the Association's finances, the increase which had been voted for at the 2009 AGM had not been implemented. In

addition, although the finances would of course be monitored, an increase in 2011 was not considered to be necessary.

**9 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

Current honorary members were Mr. P. Metcalf, Mr. J. Rounce, Mrs. P. Rix and Mr. E. Dix. Mr. D. Bancalari proposed that Ricky Kather the EARS PhD student be granted honorary membership for the duration of the research period. Seconded by Ms. S. Kedge. Unanimous approval.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**11 CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION**

The President awarded Ms. S. Kedge with her BBKA Basic Assessment Certificate and badge.

The meeting finished at 3.45pm and was followed by refreshments and the Dunkley Memorial Lecture which was given by Dr David Aston. This was an interesting talk on the importance of pollen to the honeybee which was informative for both new beekeepers and more knowledgeable beekeepers alike.

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

DRAFT

## Chairman's Report 2009

The question that seemed to be on everyone's lips as we moved into a new year was - 'how are your bees'. The news coverage of the plight of the bee had spread far and wide. Everyone appeared to have heard about the problems and wanted to know what they could do. Many people were stirred to take up beekeeping and as a result the Association has seen a huge increase this year in its membership. We are not alone nationally the interest in beekeeping has soared.

As we started 2009 everyone hoped that the winter losses seen in 2008 were not going to be repeated. The bees had gone into the winter with good provisions. A cold winter meant that the vast majority of the bees were strong and healthy in the spring. The Association bees were no exception. The hives had been transferred to the new Training Apiary at Blackborough End, in the previous autumn.

At the beginning of April the Association Training Apiary was officially opened by our vice-president Henry Bellingham MP. Through out the year it has been well used for training purposes, taster sessions and demonstrations. The apiary manager has been kept very busy keeping the colonies in good order.

The Association has been present at a variety of different public events through out the year: CUE East Festival of Sustainable Living at the Forum, Holkham Game & Country Fair, Abbey Farm open day, Norfolk Small Holders Day and the Apple Day at North Creake Abbey. These events help to keep beekeeping in the public eye and yet educate at the same time. There is a lot of time and hard work which goes into organising and running the events. Many volunteers are required to talk to the hundreds of visitors that pass through our displays. Without your help and support we could not have done these events and that would be a great loss for both the public and beekeeping itself.

Sandringham Show was once again a great success. With the season being a slightly better one, the entry numbers were up. There was a new class for those beginning along the road of honey showing, with a wonderful shield presented by Ernie and Trixie Dix as the prize. There were many visitors through the marquee including the Royal Party and their guests. We had also decided to hold a large raffle that would be drawn at the show. This was a great new venture and one that the committee plan to repeat.

On the exam front we had another successful year with members passing the Basic and General Husbandry exam, microscopy exam and modules. Well done to all of you.

The year ended with a series of autumn lectures all well attended, in particular the beekeepers question time. I look forward to seeing what the education group have planned for next autumn.

I would just like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all the members of the committee for all their hard work in making 2009 a very successful year. It has been nice to see so many members both old and new attending the different events. I hope that you will all continue to support the activities throughout the coming year and allowing the Association to grow and develop along with your beekeeping knowledge. Lets hope 2010 will be just as successful.