

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB
On Tuesday 2nd February, 2010

PRESENT: Jill Tinsey, Lorraine Gibson, Chris Snell, David Bancalari, Joan Burton, Diana Flower, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, Judy Heal, Stuart Grant, Colin Sayer, Margaret Woodford, John Woodford

APOLOGIES: Keith Morgan, Penny Snell, Kelly Thrower

MEETING OPENED: 20.05

1. MINUTES

Incorrect date duly noted and amended, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 2.2.3.1

Fakenham Farmer's Market

Lorraine had spoken with Ann Chappel and agreed that the Association would provide a gazebo for use at the Market on April 24th. Size to be no more than 3m x 3m and precautions must be taken to weight it and make sure it is secure. Educational information on the benefits of bees and an observation hive to form the display. Lorraine to provide a few sentences about the display by the end of April for inclusion in a press release.

Item 10.2 Gambling Licence Renewal

Receipt and returns form received from the Council and passed to Chris. John asked if he should order the raffle tickets for the Sandringham Draw. All agreed that he should proceed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

3.1 Copies of e-mails forwarded to committee members, as follows:

- DEFRA Study. All committee members had seen it. Jill urged everyone to take part in the survey.
- Battle, Hayward & Bower mailshot for Bayvarol and Honey Bee Healthy Products. As a result of the discussion that took place the general consensus was that, unless Keith Morgan advised otherwise, the mailshot should not be forwarded on to the general membership. Lorraine to check with Keith.

3.2 Notification received that the National Honey Show is to take place on 28th, 29th and 30th October. Membership Renewal Form passed to Chris for cheque to be raised. Request for new membership details passed to Diana.

3.3 Lorraine read letter from Kelly Thrower advising that she would not be standing for re-election.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

4.1 Chris circulated an income/expenditure report and Apiary Account. With regard to the former Chris commented that, as he was unable to attend the last meeting, it was a 2 month summary for Dec-Jan. There was nothing of particular note and, given the current account balance as at today's date stood at £3439.14, the Association's finances could be considered to be in a healthy state. With regards to the Apiary Account it was clear that with income in excess of expenditure currently standing at £313.57, the apiary had become a self-financing facility. The only outstanding expenditure was for 2 gross of jars and labels and there

were still approx 20 jars of honey in stock. With no significant expenditure planned for 2010, providing the apiary yielded a reasonable honey harvest there was every reason to be positive that the apiary would generate a reasonable level of income again in the coming season. Furthermore, Chris noted that as the income from training/education fees could legitimately be added to apiary income there was even more reason to be confident that the apiary would continue to be self financing.

Jill thanked Brian, Terry and Lorraine for their efforts.

- 4.2 Following agreement at the November committee meeting that some payment be made to the Apiary Manager and Education Officer in recognition of their valuable voluntary efforts over the beekeeping year, Chris circulated a copy of his recommendation. The reason behind making a payment being that the work of the Apiary Manager and Education Officer is interdependent and both aimed at the training and education of the membership. Considering the income generated by the Apiary and training courses during 2009 totalled £2685.70, Chris felt that payment should be calculated on a proportional basis, say 10%, adding that this approach could be used in future years. His proposal, therefore, was that at the AGM a one-off payment of £125.00 each be made to the Apiary manager and Education Officer. The majority of committee members agreed both the principle and proposal. At this point Jill read out a letter from Terry, thanking the committee for the gesture, but declining any such payments whilst he held the role of Education Officer. His views were duly noted and acknowledged, but there was general agreement that the proposal should be put to the membership at the AGM.

5. **BEE INSPECTOR'S REPORT:**

Nothing to report.

Terry read out a statement issued by FERA updating the situation on medicines for bees. In summary the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), NBU, BFA and BBKA hold a list of veterinary surgeons who have indicated their willingness to help beekeepers apply for a Special Import Certificate (SIC), so that products authorised in other Member States can be imported to treat bee diseases. In addition to authorisation in 2009 of ApiLife Var the VMD have approved and recently a further five products have been approved under the SIC scheme, namely Checkmite, Apivar, Nonosz, Formidol, Oxypharm PLV Sol and Exocal. David noted that there were concerns about the use of Checkmite as Coumaphos, the active ingredient, had been considered to be a compound that when present in wax could have a detrimental effect on the bees.

6. **AGM:**

Copies of the proposed agenda were circulated.

Items for particular discussion

- *WNKLBA Membership Subscription.* At the December 2009 committee meeting a majority had voted not to implement the increase of £3 which had been agreed at the 2009 AGM. The committee were asked to consider whether there should be one in 2011 and if so, how much. Chris proffered that given the healthy state of the finances an increase was unnecessary. Majority were in agreement.
- *Amendment to Constitution.* November EGM minutes to be presented for ratification. Terry asked that given the Constitution stated that any amendments or additions to the Constitution shall only be approved by members at an Annual General Meeting, what would happen if EGM decisions were not ratified. Following discussion it was agreed that the

ruling was not logical and that membership be asked to approve its removal. A discussion on whether an amendment concerning the formation of Working Groups was also considered necessary. Terry suggested and all agreed that further consideration on this matter be deferred until the end of the season when how well the Working Group system had worked could be assessed.

- *Vice Presidents.* Currently Sir J. J. P. Bagge and Henry Bellingham MP. All agreed that they should be invited to stand again. It was suggested and agreed that Lord Cholmondeley and Prince Charles also be approached. Lorraine to write.
- *Honorary Membership.* Currently Mr P. Metcalf, Mrs. P. Rix, Mr. J. Rounce and Mr. E. Dix. Jill asked for clarification of what exactly Honorary Membership of WNKLBA conferred. Lorraine to investigate. David suggested that Ricki Kather be made granted Honorary Membership of the Association for the term of her doctorate. All were in agreement with the proviso that WNKLBA were not responsible for Capitation Fees. David to take care of this aspect.
- *2011 AGM.* Jill proposed that all future AGMs be held on the last Saturday of February to avoid a clash with Cambridgeshire BKA's seminar day. As the Constitution stated only that an AGM had to be held before the end of March each year, there should not be a problem. All in agreement.
- *Election of Officers.* Vacancies exist for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Show Secretary. Having been approached one committee member had signalled their willingness to stand as Chairman and another had offered to serve as Secretary for a limited period if no one else came forward. With regards to Show Secretary Jill had a couple of people in mind and would be approaching them. There was considerable discussion about whether to ask for new members to join the committee with the general consensus being that the committee was big enough and the priority for the coming year should be towards forming a stable and consolidated group and to make a success of the working groups. That said it was agreed that if any member had a burning desire to serve on the committee they should be welcomed to do so.

At this stage Jill asked what progress had been made with the formation of the Working Groups. Brian advised that two committee members had agreed to be on the Apiary Group. He had also identified and would be asking two of the members who had passed their BBKA Basic Assessment in 2009 to join. Terry said that he had two people who had agreed to be on the Education group and was awaiting the decision of a third. David had approached three members, two of whom had said yes and a decision was awaited from the third. Margaret Woodford said that she would be willing to take responsibility for show entries again this year, but until a Show Co-ordinator had been appointed the committee acknowledged there could be no further progress on the formation of a Show Group. With regards to an Events Group there was agreement that as the programme had in the main been sorted out that co-ordination of the practicalities and staging be carried out by the Apiary and Education Groups for this year.

7.

BEECRAFT:

BeeCraft Subscription Fees for 2010 had increased to £21.60. Unfortunately this had not been communicated to members with the result that the 29 taking up the group subscription had paid the 2009 rate of £19.80. Terry proposed, seconded by Stuart Grant, that the shortfall be financed from Association Funds. All in agreement.

In addition it was noted that Gift Aid Charity Declarations had been omitted from Membership Renewal Forms. Stuart suggested that these be made available at the AGM. Chris to provide and also to e-mail a copy to Diana so that she can distribute them together with Membership Application/Renewal Forms in the future.

David thanked Diana for her efficiency in co-ordinating and processing renewals to date.

8. ASSOCIATION APIARY UPDATE:

Brian reported that the hives at Flitcham were in good condition, but that 2 of the hives at Blackborough End were giving cause for concern. Equipment had been checked, inventory taken. There were 10 spare brood chambers. As far as frames were concerned 100 brood and 100 super had been purchased. For the coming season 48 brood and 30 super needed to be made up and 160 brood and 150 super needed to be waxed. Terry advised that 7th March, 10 a.m. - noon had been chosen as a frame-making session and so far 6 people had volunteered to attend. Finally Brian said that he was concerned that he had been unable to make contact with Ann Carter to confirm contact details etc in preparation for the new season. Lorraine to write.

9. EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Terry advised that arrangements for the event at Oxborough Hall were well under way. Jill and Brian to liaise further about the activities that had been planned. Dates for Taster Sessions, Introductory Course and Intermediate/Improvers Workshops had all been agreed and confirmed with Brian and Jill. As far as the Autumn programme was concerned, in addition to the proposed trip to Thorne's and Beekeeper's Question Time, Terry advised that a microscope training session was under consideration. Jill was in discussion with the Iceni Group regarding dates and structure of the session, with what could be achieved with the use of a microscope being the training objective. To enhance this learning exercise the Education Sub-Committee had proposed that Graham Royle be invited to give a presentation of his honeybee anatomy slides at the 2011 AGM. All agreed that an invitation be sent.

General discussion on various education related subjects ensued and the following was agreed

- 2011 Queen rearing course – Terry to contact BIBBA to ascertain what they could offer the Association
- Course-in-a-box – Terry to follow up and find out if the Association could have one to evaluate
- Healthy Hive Publication – Lorraine to order a copy for the library
- Library – John and Margaret sorting out the library and how it will operate

9. FUTURE EVENTS:

9.1 **Sun 21st February 2010, 2.30 p.m. at Tottenhill Village Hall – Wax-a valuable commodity.** Practical advice on how to get added value from the surplus wax from the hive, using old and ready to hand equipment. Plus a demonstration of some easy to make products such as foundation, furniture polish and lip salve. Jill to e-mail those demonstrating with a list of what they need to bring. Margaret & Joan providing refreshments.

9.2 **Sat 7th March 2010, 10.00 a.m. – Noon at Flitcham Apiary – Frame-making session.** Members invited to come along and help to prepare some frames in preparation for the coming season. Tea/coffee/soup to be provided by Lorraine.

9.3 **Sat 13th March 2010, 2.30 p.m. at Tottenhill Village Hall – AGM** followed by the Dunkley Memorial Lecture. David Aston, NDB guest speaker on the importance of pollen to the honeybee. Margaret and Joan providing refreshments.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

10.1 Swarm Co-ordinator/Collectors – Patrick Duhig had confirmed that he was prepared to continue as Co-ordinator for 2010. David had collated a list of collectors, but sought clarification as to whether swarm collectors should be only those who are currently members. All agreed that they should.

10.2 Terry advised committee members of the Train the Trainers day at Stoneleigh on 16th April and urged them that if they were interested to reserve a space. He would forward them all a copy of the letter.

MEETING CLOSED: 22.15

Next meeting is on 6th April, 2010 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club

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