

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB
On Tuesday 10th November, 2009

PRESENT: Jill Tinsey, Penny Snell, Chris Snell, Lorraine Gibson, David Bancalari, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, Stuart Grant, John Woodford

APOLOGIES: Joan Burton, Judy Heal, Kelly Thrower, Joe Trattle, Margaret Woodford

MEETING OPENED: 20.08

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 3.3 Speaker for AGM

Lorraine advised that 3 further attempts to secure a speaker had been unsuccessful and asked for suggestions. Chris offered to approach the Norfolk Smallholders Group and ask if anyone would be available to give a talk.

Item 3.4 Sandringham Flower Show Communication

Jill had sent a response to the chairman of the organising committee, but nothing to report at this stage.

Item 6.2 Nomination to BBKA Executive

Lorraine reported that the nomination form for David Bancalari had been submitted and read out a copy of the citation.

Item 7 Apiary Cleaning Day, Flitcham

Brian reported that 15 people had given up their time to help with the cleaning of the equipment. All that remained to be done was for circa 360 frames to be boiled. In addition Terry said that one of the complete WBC hives that had been donated earlier in the year had been sold for £40 to Mike and Terri Sealey.

Item 9.1 Apple Day, North Creake

Jill reported that the day had been both busy and enjoyable. The venue had been good and there was a great deal of interest from the public on issues concerning both bees and the craft of beekeeping.

Item 9.2 Premiere of Maggie's DVD/Beekeepers' Question Time, Tottenhill Village Hall

24 people had attended the event and Maggie Rickard's DVD of the preparation and official opening of the Blackborough End Training Apiary had been well received. There was general consensus that Question Time had been useful and with a few refinements to the format should be included in the 2010 Autumn Events programme. Maggie had donated £27 from the sale of some of her demonstration DVD's. A raffle raised a further £22.

David asked whether it might be useful to send a sample of Maggie's DVD's to BBKA Enterprises for them to assess for inclusion in the proposed beekeeper training packages. The general consensus was that this was a good idea but that Maggie's permission should be sought first.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- Fakenham Farmer's Market. Lorraine to establish what WNKLBA's commitment was expected to be and report back to committee.

- CUE Sustainable Living Grants. Methwold High School prepared to be involved. Place on the agenda for further discussion at the forthcoming Education Sub-committee meeting.
- Twickenham & Thames Valley Beekeepers' Association Proposition. Due to lack of response from our membership they were advised that WNKLBA were unable to support the proposition.
- response from Martin Smith re withdrawal from Healthy Bees Plan.
- Jessica May questionnaire
- advertising request from Peak Hives. Following a discussion committee members agreed not to place a link on the website.
- offer of press coverage for training courses. After discussion it was agreed that what would be preferred was an article towards the end of the 2010 season on what the Association had done/achieved and what was planned for the Autumn. Committee members preferred the idea of a poster for advertising taster sessions/training courses, such as the one that had been designed by one of the club's newer members, to be placed in libraries. Decisions on the wording of the poster passed to the Education Sub-committee for their consideration.

3.2 It was with regret that Jill read out a letter of resignation from Joe Trattle. After many years in the role he would be standing down as Membership Secretary with effect from 31st December. Penny expressed disappointment at Joe's decision. Stuart suggested and there was universal agreement that a letter of gratitude be sent to Joe.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

4.1 Chris circulated the Income & Expenditure report for October and commented that there was nothing notable to mention.

4.2 David thanked Chris for updating the website payment details. Chris commented that the website also needed to be transferred to WNKLBA. David to action.

Current account balance as at 10th November was £3325.24.

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

Keith advised that he had nothing in particular to report. He did though solicit committee member's opinions as to whether a random survey in March would be well received by the membership. The general feeling was that provided weather conditions were suitable this should not pose any problems. Jill suggested and all concurred that it might be a good idea if Keith were to publish a brief article informing members of why a survey was considered to be necessary and what it would entail. Keith agreed and David advised that he would include a copy in Bee-Aware and recommend its inclusion in other publications.

Keith closed by notifying committee members that revised versions of the *Managing Varroa* and *Foul Brood Disease of Honey Bees: and other common brood disorders* were now available.

6. **EGM**

6.1 Amendment to the Constitution objectives agreed. Jill asked if anyone had other amendments they wished to propose. Brian said that earlier in the year discussions had taken place regarding limiting terms of service for officers, which if actioned would necessitate further amendment at a later stage. He proposed that committee members consider the matter and the subject to be included on the agenda for the next committee meeting. Proposal agreed.

- 6.2 David suggested and all agreed that it would be good practice to distribute copies of the revised constitution, accounts and agenda for the EGM prior to the meeting with the next issue of Bee-Aware.

7. EARS:

- 7.1 David had circulated a standard agreement to be reviewed by all participating Associations and briefly summarised the situation emphasising that this was essentially an administration exercise. There was general agreement, subject to a review by Penny, that the contract be approved.
- 7.2 David went on to explain that a programme for industrial placement of the student would need to be prepared. It was envisaged that some of the time would need to be spent at the NBU on diagnostic work and in the field with various associations gaining experience of beekeeping practices. Committee members were asked if they would be prepared to be involved and a number of them advised that they would.
- 7.3 There was a discussion about whether it would be a good idea to grant the student honorary membership if and when she was on industrial placement in the region. The consensus was that whilst it might not be necessary it might be a welcome gesture.
- 7.4 Chris asked whether accounts would be made available. David responded that he would be preparing them.
- 7.5 Jill asked if contracts with the various Associations had been set up covering their individual financial contributions to the project. David responded that there were not, rather what had been kept as a record was each of the e-mails pledging how much each Association had committed to contribute.

8. ASSOCIATION APIARY UPDATE:

Blackborough End

Brian said all colonies had been fed, treated and secured against bad weather and predators. The shed had been tidied and spare bee suits were being laundered. He felt that provision should be made in 2010 to hang the bee suits in the shed rather than them being stored in a box. He was also in the process of compiling an inventory.

The rent of 12 jars of honey being due and available would be supplied to Ann Carter.

Finally Brian requested that a day be organised for frame-making/waxing in preparation for next season. Education sub-committee to arrange date.

Flitcham

Terry reported that the 3 colonies were also prepared for the winter. In addition he advised that he and Lorraine had fulfilled their pledge to look after the bees for the 2009 season, but owing to other commitments would not be looking after them in future seasons.

9. EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Terry confirmed that 28 people had enrolled on the Introductory Course and that the first two sessions had taken place. 27 people had paid. The outstanding fee had been promised.

9. FUTURE EVENTS:

- 9.1 **Fri 27th Nov 19.00 - 21.00 – EGM & Certificate Presentation** followed by a talk from Don Cooper entitled '50 years in beekeeping'. Free Entry. Refreshments available. Raffle.
- 9.2 A final review of 2010 Events programme was carried out. East Anglian Game & Country Fair, 24th/25 April, was removed and Autumn Varroa Treatments,

14th August was added. With regards to the Happy Bees are Healthy Bees event on 9th May, Keith suggested that inclusion of a demonstration of a shook swarm procedure and comparison with a hive that had previously undergone the same treatment would be a useful exercise for members to observe. Universal agreement. Maggie to be asked to film the event. Keith agreed, as had been the tradition in previous years, that the NBU would pay the hire fee for the hall.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Terry asked whether a restriction on membership numbers needed to be set. Jill and Penny said that if there were no limits and membership grew at the rate that it had this year, their main concern was that the Association might not be able to provide sufficient support and assistance. Brian, David and Keith all urged that there should not be any restrictions, one of the main reasons being that if people were members of an Association, through the medium of newsletters etc., not only would they receive relevant and up to date information on the craft and issues surrounding it, but they would also be able to contact other beekeepers for advice. Jill agreed that limits would not be introduced, but said that this should be reviewed later in the year and if there was too much of an increase we could consider closing applications as had been done this year.
- 10.2 Terry briefly explained the rationale for the proposed Working Groups. Concerns were voiced about the potential for increased time spent at meetings. Jill suggested and all agreed that further discussion on the subject be deferred until the next committee meeting.
- 10.3 David asked if anyone had been updating the BeeCraft secretary with e-mail addresses of members. No-one present had and it was agreed that this should be a function of the Membership Secretary.
- 10.4 Judy had asked that the subject of whether a service to celebrate St. Ambrose's Day be raised again. There was general agreement that this would be a splendid idea to pursue. Sunday 6th December was the date selected and John Woodford and Stuart Grant offered to take care of the organisation.

MEETING CLOSED: 22.15

Next meeting is on 1st December, 2009 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club

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