

**WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB**  
**On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Jill Tinsey, Penny Snell, Chris Snell, Lorraine Gibson, David Bancalari, Joan Burton, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, Colin Sayer, Joe Trattle

**APOLOGIES:** Stuart Grant, Judy Heal, Kelly Thrower, John Woodford

**MEETING OPENED:** 20.15

**1. MINUTES**

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

**2. MATTERS ARISING:**

*Item 2.2.10.4*

*Association Merchandise*

Lorraine submitted £103.00 to Chris in payment of sweat/poloshirts.

*Item 2.4 Bee Aware Editor/Publisher*

Jill advised that Margaret Rickard had been approached and was prepared to take on the role. Terry advised that David Bancalari would be prepared to resume the function. The latter was proposed by Brian and seconded by Colin. An extremely lengthy discussion then took place on the mechanics of distribution. The primary concern being the additional workload the membership secretary might have to undertake as a result of this decision. David pointed out that this was only a reversion to what had been in place when he took the job on, but that he would help the membership secretary by showing him how to edit/email spreadsheets efficiently. With workable solutions to the perceived problems seemingly unlikely to be reached Brian proposed an amendment that David resume responsibility for the role and carry it out in the manner he always had. Penny proposed adjournment. Jill suggested that adjournment would be the best of the options to allow for all of the committee members to be present. Terry called a point of order and said that as a quorum was present a vote should be taken. The committee voted on these two proposals and by a majority agreed to 'allow David to pursue his vision' for Bee-Aware. Specifically this included event organisers to ensure photo/notes sent promptly and membership secretary to send contact details for distribution. It was agreed that a review to see if these had happened successfully should be carried out at the time of the AGM. This reverts to the way Bee Aware was operated when David first took it over. Finally, under guidance from the chair, the meeting then decided that distribution other than Bee-Aware should be handled by Joe, including printing and mailing of Buzzword.

*Item 3.2 Open Apiary Incident*

Lorraine called the committee's attention to the advice sought and received from Mike Harris, General Secretary of the British Beekeepers' Association and advised that, in line with his advice, no further communication had been entered into.

*Item 9.1 Preparing for Winter, 6<sup>th</sup> September*

35 members had attended the demonstration which Brian, Penny, Joe and Don Cooper had carried out. The afternoon was considered a success and thanks were given to the providers of the refreshments.

*Item 9.2 Social Event and Prize Giving, 19<sup>th</sup> September*

20 people attended what was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon that had been organised by Margaret and John Woodford. Special thanks was given to Margaret for the excellent fayre provided.

*Item 9.3 'Gertrude the Bee', 2<sup>nd</sup> October*

17 members attended this most informative and enjoyable talk by Paul Metcalf who, together with Gertrude, revealed some fascinating insights into the anatomy of the honeybee. Refreshments were served and a raffle held which resulted in £12 for the funds.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

- Friends of the Bees Launch
- BBKA opting out of FERA Project Board
- NBU Foulbrood notification
- David Arlott at Peckover House
- guidance from Mike Harris re open apiary incident
- restart of Rothamsted research. David Bancalari responded to Jill's enquiry that no further action was required.
- BBKA Forum

3.2 Lorraine confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Green Quay cancelling the luncheon originally scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> October.

3.3 An invitation had been sent to Graham Royle for him to be guest speaker at the 2010 AGM. Unfortunately he had declined owing to a prior engagement, but said that he would be very willing to come and talk to the Association at some other time. Celia Davis had been approached at the BBKA Forum and asked to be our speaker, but declined as she was guest speaker at the Norfolk Beekeepers AGM at around about the same time. The committee were asked to consider who potential speakers might be and bring suggestions to the next committee meeting.

3.4 A letter had been received from the organisers of the Sandringham Flower Show advising that the Association had been removed from the royal route for the foreseeable future, although not for good. Discussion ensued resulting in general agreement that a response be sent informing the organisers not only of the committee's disappointment, but also asking that the Association be given a prominent position at future shows. Lorraine to draft a copy and provide to Jill for her to review, sign and send.

3.5 Letter from Lorraine informing the committee of her decision not to stand for re-election at the 2010 AGM. Jill thanked Lorraine for her work to date.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

4.1 Chris circulated the Income & Expenditure report for September.

As requested at the previous committee meeting Brian was provided with a detailed breakdown of apiary costs/income.

Chris emphasised just how expensive it was to run the Sandringham Flower Show as compared to the others that had been staged this year.

Current account balance as at 6<sup>th</sup> October £3100.24

4.2 Jill suggested and there was general agreement that the EGM to adopt the 2008 accounts, be held at the start of the 27<sup>th</sup> November social event. In addition, in view of the proposed application for charity status, Lorraine was asked to amend the objectives of the Constitution for ratification by members at that same meeting.

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

As Keith was not able to be present he had asked Terry to report that to date 8505 inspection had been carried out in the Eastern region. In addition reported cases of AFB and EFB were 12 and 117 respectively.

**6. ANNUAL DELEGATE'S MEETING:**

6.1 *BBKA Forum*

Lorraine, Terry and David summarised the outcome of the meeting that took place at Stoneleigh on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The day had been primarily designed around discussion of educational needs, namely

- a standardised path of learning and support to be established by the BBKA
- to identify who trainers should be and what qualifications they should have
- what form any training materials should be in

During the morning 5 presentations were given. Doug Brown from Cambridgeshire, Mike Cross from Derbyshire and Terry had been asked to speak about what their individual Association's training practices and experiences had been to date. Terry was also asked to provide some suggestions on tutor/trainer needs and qualifications. David Bancalari introduced a DVD game on Disease Recognition that he had designed and Ian Johnson spoke about what an organisation called LANTRA could do in providing qualifications for potential trainers. The afternoon was taken up by three workshops to brainstorm the educational needs identified above. The outcomes being that each of the sessions had come up with some firm footings on which a programme of education for both new and improving beekeepers could be built.

The three other items of business discussed were

- the suggestion from Twickenham that there be a review of procedure for advising delegates, secretaries and ordinary members on results cast at Annual Delegate's Meetings
- Tim Lovett spoke of the problems surrounding the use of unapproved Varroa treatments. He asked that beekeepers use only those approved by the VMD, adding further that VMD were currently involved in carrying out a review of treatments that were available throughout Europe with a view to fast tracking the authorisation of those deemed suitable. In fact approval had just been given for an Italian product under the tradename of ApiLife Var
- Tim Lovett reiterated that the BBKA had not completely walked away from the Healthy Bee Plan, rather that they had removed themselves from the frame until the consultation process had been redefined. That this was the case was demonstrated by the fact that Helen Crews from the FERA Board had been invited to speak at the Forum. Helen said that whilst she was disappointed at the decision she understood why it had been taken. Basically don't shoot the messenger, we acknowledge that the BBKA have a lot to offer, we want you back on board so we'll sort this out.

With regard to the last point the majority of the committee felt that a letter should be sent the BBKA to inform them that they were disappointed at the stand-off and urging them to continue to negotiate towards a return to the Project Board.

6.2

*2010 ADM*

Jill asked the committee if there were any propositions to be put forward. None forthcoming.

Jill then asked if there were any nominations for the Trustees, Executive and Examination Boards. Brian proposed David Bancalari for nomination to the Executive. Terry seconded. A proposed citation was read and suggestions for amendment noted. The motion was carried on a majority vote.

**7. ASSOCIATION APIARY UPDATE:**

*Blackborough End*

Brian said all colonies had been fed and treated with a thymol product.

The subject of an equipment cleaning day was raised. It was agreed that this should take place at the Flitcham apiary on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 – 16.00. All equipment requiring cleaning from Blackborough End to be transferred here. Members to be invited to be involved as this was an ideal opportunity to learn what needed to be done prior to storing equipment for the winter. Tea, coffee and soup to be available.

**8. EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Basic Assessment Results had been received and members had been notified.

The committee agreed that certificates should be presented to the successful members at the social event scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> November. Formal invitations to be sent by Lorraine.

**9. FUTURE EVENTS:**

9.1 **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10.00 – 16.00 – Apple Day, North Creake Abbey.** An educational stand staged by WNKLBA on the importance of honeybees in the pollination process.

9.2 **Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, 19.00 – 21.00 – Maggie’s DVD and Beekeeper’s Question Time.** A fun and informative evening with refreshments and a raffle. Free Entry

9.3 **Fri 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

A request had been received from Oxburgh Hall that the Association be involved in a weekend that was being organised as part of National Bee Week. The dates being 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> May 2010. There was general agreement that WNKLBA stage an educational stand and much discussion followed on the kind of activities that could be included. Jill agreed to liaise with the contact at Oxburgh to advise them of what had been proposed. That the weekend clashed with the ‘Happy Bees are Healthy Bees’ demonstration was raised by a couple of the committee members, but the majority felt that this day could be rescheduled.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

10.1 A number of requests to give talks/demonstrations from local W.I. groups had been received, namely

- Thompson – Jill agreed to attend
- Wimbotsham – Lorraine & Terry to organise
- Wisbech – John Woodford to be asked
- Harpley – Ask Ernie & Trixie

- 10.2 David reminded the committee that the website payment details had not been updated and requested that as renewal was due in December that this be done as soon as possible. Lorraine agreed to look out the account details and pass them onto Chris.
- 10.3 Joe advised that he would be having an educational stand at Downham Market's Transition Group event on 31<sup>st</sup> October and that any members within a 10 mile radius of Downham had been invited to sell honey.
- 10.4 Terry advised the committee that Stuart had offered to collate members' orders for oxalic acid.

**MEETING CLOSED: 23.00**

**Next meeting is on 10th November, 2009 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club**

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