

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB
On Tuesday 1st September, 2009

PRESENT: Jill Tinsey, Penny Snell, Chris Snell, Lorraine Gibson, Joan Burton, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, Stuart Grant; Keith Morgan; Colin Sayer, Kelly Thrower, Joe Trattle; John Woodford, Margaret Woodford

APOLOGIES: Judy Heal

MEETING OPENED: 20.05

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 advised that she had taken delivery and paid for another delivery of sweat/polo shirts. An invoice and claim form to the value of £226.50 were passed to Chris, who issued a cheque in payment. At the close of the meeting £144.00 was given to Chris in respect of monies received so far for the latest orders.

Item 2

Ring Round System

Joe had carried out the postcode split of the membership and copies of the resulting list were circulated amongst committee members. Responsibility for areas was agreed as follows:

- page 1 - groups 1 and 2 Jill and Judy; group 3 Lorraine & Terry
- page 2 – groups 1 and 2 John; group 3 Colin; groups 4 and 5 Stuart
- page 3 – group 1 Kelly; group 2 Penny

Jill thanked Joe for compiling the list.

Item 4

Newsletter Editor/Publisher & BeeCraft Group Scheme Co-ordinator

Jill asked committee members if anyone had given any thought to or had had any ideas about the role of Newsletter Editor/Publisher. None were forthcoming. Penny suggested a second mailshot to membership be issued.

With regards to the role of BeeCraft Group Scheme Co-ordinator Joe was asked if he would be prepared to handle this function. A pro-rata subscription breakdown had been received which would make the process less onerous. There was discussion about and general agreement that the Membership Application Form would need to be amended with a statement requesting applicants to contact the Membership Secretary concerning subscription rates prior to submitting their forms/cheques. Joe agreed to take responsibility for this function.

Item 9.1

Bees on Heather, 16th August

Jill read out an e-mail from one of the two members who had attended this event and who had wanted to register his disappointment about the poor level of attendance, at what he had found to be a thoroughly informative and enjoyable demonstration. Keith also made clear his frustration not only about so few attendees, but also the lack of organisation. Lengthy discussion followed on a number of points, but primarily centred upon whether there was sufficient interest in an event such as this and how organisation could be improved.

In the first instance, the consensus was that the event title had possibly misled members. Keith explained that there was never any intention for the demonstration to concentrate on aspects of heather honey, rather that it was about carrying out inspections coupled with explanations/discussions of beekeeping techniques. The choice of location merely provided an opportunity to attend a demo in a different geographical area with specific flora.

In order to attract more members to future events committee members agreed that due consideration be given to choosing an appropriate title and providing a brief, but concise outline for each event. As far as improvements in organisation were concerned there was acknowledgement that whilst more thought did need to be given to arranging events, in this instance the problem had arisen as a result of a particular set of circumstances.

Item 9.2 Checking for Nosema, 23rd August

Jill reported that with only 14 members turning up this had been another poorly attended event, despite a mailshot reminding people of the details. Jill, together with Peter Sunderland from the Waveney Beekeepers Group, had carried out 15 tests, of which 3 had proved positive for the presence of Nosema.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- raffle returns form and instructions for completion from D. Bancalari
- BBKA ADM notification which was deferred for discussion until October meeting
- BeeCraft Subscription Rates for 2010

3.2 Jill read out an e-mail from the couple who had been stung badly at the 26th July Open Apiary session in response to one that had been sent to them by Terry. Jill's feeling was that the Association owed a duty of care to the couple and suggested that a letter of apology be sent. Lorraine agreed to draft a letter and circulate to the committee for comment and approval. Discussion ensued concerning open apiary procedures and committee were advised that a revision had taken place at the recent Education Sub-Committee Meeting. Details to be given in the update in Agenda Item 7.

John raised the issue as to whether it was necessary for CRB checks to be applied for. Penny/Jill/Joe advised that this subject had been raised before and it had been established that as long as a parent was in the vicinity of the apiary CRB clearance was not necessary.

3.3 Jill circulated copies of both correspondence and photographs related to a complaint concerning the beekeeping activities of a member of the Association. The documentation had been sent by a member of the BBKA executive who had asked whether the committee would review the information and consider whether intervention in the matter would be appropriate. Following lengthy discussion there was general agreement that, on the basis of all information currently available, this was not a matter in which the Association should intervene.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Chris circulated the Income & Expenditure report for August and advised that there was nothing notable to emphasise.

Brian requested a detailed breakdown of apiary costs/income.

Current account balance as at 1st September £2769.80.

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

Keith advised that so far this season the reported number of EFB incidences were down. One associated area of slight concern was that some outbreaks were occurring in locations and with beekeepers not previously affected. Keith expected to be able to provide an incident report within the next month. As far as *Varroa* infestations were concerned Keith was pleased to report that in general there had not been much evidence of either high levels of the mites or bees with stunted wings. One of the reasons, he suggested, might be that this was because beekeepers in general were being more vigilant and treating the bees as and when it became necessary.

With regards to *Nosema* and in particular the *ceranae* strain there remained more of a concern as with little in the way of visible signs of infection, disease could remain undetected. Keith said that whilst he preferred not to advise people to treat colonies with an antibiotic as a matter of course, where *Nosema* had been diagnosed treating with Fumidil-B could still be considered an appropriate method. He went on to explain that one of the best ways was to prepare a dose according to the manufacturer's instructions, but instead of putting it in with the sugar syrup when feeding, was either to put it into some warm sugar syrup in a honey jar which could then be inverted over the opening in the crown board or to dribble it along the top bars of the hive. Both of these methods had been tried and found to be effective and could be used throughout the winter. Keith commented that there was one possible tell-tale sign that *Nosema* might be present which was that colonies have a tendency to hold on to the drones. Where this was noted it might be worthwhile members collecting a sample of bees and having them tested. Jill said that she would be prepared to carry out analyses.

Keith went on to advise that a random apiary survey was underway. Inspectors would collect samples of bees from up to five hives in any one apiary which would then be tested for all known bee diseases. Reports are not due to be published on the findings until late 2010.

Keith closed with information that to date the number of inspections carried out in the Eastern region was nearing seven thousand. As a result of those inspections a few cases of AFB had been detected in Cambridgeshire, one or two in Leicestershire, a handful in Lincolnshire and Suffolk, but none in Norfolk.

6. **ASSOCIATION APIARY UPDATE:**

Blackborough End

Brian said there was not a great deal to report. One hive had been fed the previous week. All hives with the exception of one were queen right.

On Friday and Sunday there had been considerable activity at the apiary as a result of seven members who had taken the BBKA Basic Assessment.

Flitcham

Terry advised that both hives were still queen right, had been given their first treatment of Apiguard and that they had sufficient food for the time being, but would need feeding.

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

At a meeting which had taken place on 23rd August, Terry reported that the following matters had been agreed

Open Apiary Operating Procedures

- two people should always be on duty, one to carry out the demonstration and one to meet and greet and ensure people were wearing the appropriate

protective clothing. Anyone not sporting suitable footwear, e.g wellington boots would not be allowed into the apiary

- all demonstrators to have passed the BBKA Basic Assessment
- all demonstrators to be trained how to carry out a demonstration
- Jill to liaise with Paul Metcalf to discuss and arrange training

2009/2010 Training Programme

Taster Sessions

- for those who have never had experience of looking in a hive
- to take place on the second Sunday of the month from April to August inclusive
- maximum of 12 people
- bookable in advance at a cost of £5 per head

Introductory Course

- for those interested in taking up beekeeping
- to comprise of 4 'theory' sessions, 3 in the autumn and 1 in March, plus 3 practical sessions in the spring
- bookable in advance at a cost of £35 for the course

Terry added that 17 people had already registered and paid and monies had been passed to Chris.

Hive Building Course

- 2 sessions in Jan/Feb
- cost of £5 per session
- maximum of 10 people
- Jill to liaise with John Laws and Ernie Dix to establish whether they will be prepared to run the course.

Workshops/Intermediate Course

- free to members who have kept bees for a year or more and wish to work towards the BBKA Basic Assessment or improve and further their knowledge
- maximum of 24 people
- to comprise of 6 Friday evening sessions starting on 7th May
- sessions to include swarm control procedures, making nuc's, basic queen rearing and queen management techniques, honey harvesting and extraction, feeding bees

So far 13 people had registered their intention to attend.

2010 Events Programme

A draft programme was read out by Terry and committee members asked for comments/alternative suggestions. Each event having been discussed, one or two alterations were made and dates decided upon. Lorraine to update the proposed programme and send a draft copy to Judy so that it could be passed onto NBKA for their next committee meeting. (Copy attached for information)

8. EARS UPDATE:

Jill asked committee members whether they had received the third edition of the EARS newsletter. All responded in the affirmative.

Jill went onto explain that because there had been some concern that the WNKLBA/EARS relationship was somewhat vague a meeting had taken place between herself, David Bancalari and Don Cooper to establish exactly what was expected of the Association. As a result of that meeting a draft statement

clarifying WNKLBA's commitments and responsibilities had been prepared and was circulated for the committee's consideration. Terry posited that this was an unnecessary exercise as matters had been covered in previous committee meetings. A number of committee members agreed but said that as the info was scattered in bits and pieces in various minutes that this statement pulled all the salient points together in one document. Penny Snell proposed that a vote be taken to accept the statement as a clarification of the WNKLBA/EARS relationship. Brian Gemmell seconded. 11 in agreement. 1 against. Statement to be sent to David Bancalari.

9. FUTURE EVENTS:

- 9.1 **Sun 6th Sept, 14.30 – 16.30'ish – Preparing for Winter, Blackborough End Training Apiary.** Demonstration of how to assess the health and condition of colonies, whether they have sufficient food, how to feed and apply treatments and protect the hives from pests and predators to give them the best chance of surviving the winter.
- 9.2 **Sat 19th Sept, 14.30 – 18.00'ish – Social and Prize Giving Event, Margaret & John Woodford's, 1 Grantly Court, King's Lynn.** Buffet comprising cold meats, salads and desserts. Presentation of cups and trophies to winners of Annual Honey Show exhibits. Quiz.
- 9.3 **Fri 2nd Oct, 19.00 - 21.00 – 'Gertrude the Bee' at Tottenhill Village Hall.** A talk by Paul Metcalf on how the bee works. No entry fee. Refreshments. Raffle.
- 9.4 **Sat 17th Oct, 10.00 – 16.00 – Apple Day, North Creake Abbey.** No further details at present.
- 9.5 **Sun 18th Oct, Green Quay Luncheon.** CANCELLED.
- 9.6 **Fri 30th Oct, 19.00 – 21.00 – Subject to be advised, Tottenhill Village Hall.** A talk by Don Cooper. No entry fee. Refreshments. Raffle.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Lorraine advised that she and Terry would be giving a talk/presentation on beekeeping to Transition – King's Lynn at the Nourish Café on Tuesday 13th October.
- 10.2 Lorraine and Terry had given a talk on beekeeping to a group at the William Day Centre, Tilney St. Lawrence. The speaker fee of £35 was donated to the Association.
- 10.3 Brian advised that he had been invited to have a stand at the Stowe Apple Day event on Sun 4th October.
- 10.4 Joe advised that he had offered to do something on beekeeping at the Downham Market Transition group's event sometime in the middle of October.
- 10.5 Terry reminded committee members that he was still waiting for details of talks/presentations that had been given as these would be needed to provide to the Charities Commission as required to demonstrate that the club was involved in educating the public about bees and beekeeping.

MEETING CLOSED: 22.32

Next meeting is on 6th October, 2009 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club

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

DRAFT