

**WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB**  
**On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Jill Tinsey, Penny Snell, Chris Snell, Lorraine Gibson, Joe Trattle, Joan Burton, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, Stuart Grant, Judy Heal, Colin Sayer, John Woodford, Margaret Woodford

**APOLOGIES:** David Bancalari, Keith Morgan, Kelly Thrower

**MEETING OPENED:** 20.06

**1. MINUTES**

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

**2. MATTERS ARISING:**

*Item 2.3 Identification of Auditor*

Chris advised that Kim Rushforth, Treasurer of Norfolk Smallholders, had agreed to take on this function.

*Item 2.10.4 Association Merchandise*

The artwork having been agreed 3 sweatshirts had been ordered and received and were shown to the committee. These and the disc had been paid for by Terry and the receipt passed to Chris who had reimbursed the costs. Members agreed universally that the sweatshirt material was of a good quality and that the logo was particularly eye-catching. Discussion ensued as to what price should be charged for the garments, whether the committee should have a 'team' colour, how the marketing and ordering would be done. The outcome being

- the sweatshirts to retail at £15.00 each
- as the logo was so prominent a team colour was felt to be unnecessary
- photograph to be sent to David Bancalari so that he could include in Bee Aware and post onto the website. David had primed the membership in June's edition of the Bee Aware of forthcoming availability
- orders to be placed with Lorraine who would collate them to take the best advantage of quantity discounts and organise distribution

*Item 6 Tenure of Blackborough End Apiary*

As directed at the previous committee meeting Lorraine had written to Ann Carter with a draft proposal. Brian reported that Ann had responded advising, following consultation with her solicitor, that she no longer wished to proceed along the lines previously discussed, explaining that whilst she was happy for the apiary to remain she wished only to offer an Annual Licence Agreement. Brian proffered that given the lack of volunteers prepared to assist in the operation of the apiary, this was probably a blessing in disguise as if it was not possible to man the apiary effectively at this stage, any expansion of facilities would be foolhardy.

After much consideration the general consensus was that the committee's response be to pursue an Annual Licence Agreement. Lorraine to write to Ann requesting a draft proposal.

*Item 9.1 Preparing Honey for exhibiting with Jill Tinsey*

On behalf of members Penny extended appreciation to Jill for what had been an informative demonstration and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, with particular reference being made to the delicious refreshments that had been made available.

*Item 9.2 Margaret Rickard's Open Day*

Penny reported that the event had been a success and the day thoroughly enjoyable. A small amount of honey had been sold resulting in an income to the Association of £8. A thank you card had been received from Margaret in gratitude for supporting her event.

*Item 9.3 Stradsett Hall Garden Show*

Brian reported that on balance the Association's attendance at the show had gone well. Honey sales had been reasonable resulting in a profit of £159, to be split 50:50 WNKLBA and Sir Jeremy Bagge. The level of interest from the general public in bees and beekeeping had been encouraging and circa 15-20 people had registered their interest in receiving details of an Introductory Course.

One aspect that Brian voiced concerns about was that there had not been enough people to assist on the stand. A general discussion took place as to how this situation might be addressed for the future. Although volunteers to lend a hand at shows/demonstrations were always requested via Bee Aware and the website, take up was always low with the same people tending to offer their support. Various suggestions were made which included formally asking members; finding out what function they would be comfortable performing; drawing up a list of willing volunteers based on skill/ability. Members agreed that the process required further consideration.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE:**

3.1 Copies of all correspondence forwarded to committee members.

3.2 A letter from Transition, King's Lynn had been received by Lorraine both inviting the Association to take part in a planting day on July 5<sup>th</sup> and to give a talk at one of their club's meetings. Lorraine advised that she had declined the former given WNKLBA's commitment to the Stradsett Show. As to the latter discussions were ongoing to agree some possible dates which would hopefully be available for the next committee meeting when it could be decided who would give the talk.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Chris circulated a copy of his report to members, advising that there were sufficient funds in the current account to cover the expenditure that would be required for the Annual Honey Show.

Current account balance as at 7<sup>th</sup> July £888.80.

**5. ANNUAL HONEY SHOW:**

Penny reported that Kate Sayer had resigned from the role of Show Organiser. Jill, Penny and Margaret would share the responsibility of the organisation. Schedules had been sent out, but some amendments had been found necessary so revised schedules were in the process of being prepared by Jill. Jill to provide these to Joe who would then e-mail to them the majority of WNKLBA members, with postal copies being sent to those members preferring this medium. NBKA members would also receive revised schedules.

Prices of sale items were discussed and agreed as follows:

*Honey*

1lb	£4.50
½lb	£3.00
Skep Jars	£5.00
8oz Cut Comb	£4.50

*Wax products*

1oz wax block	£1.00
Polish	£3.00

*Cakes*

Large honey cake	£6.00
Small honey cake	£4.00
Honey fruit loaf	£3.00
Ginger slices	£2.00
Slice of honey cake	£1.00

Penny reminded members that all those planning to exhibit at the show were entitled to sell their produce and that 20% of the proceeds would be required to be donated to the Association. Several members signalled their intention to exhibit. Terry advised that 10 frame cases were available for the new novice class exhibit and that this could be increased to 20 if necessary.

John raised the question of whether a table would be available from which to sell the draw tickets. Jill advised that Mr. Rayner, raffle ticket seller extraordinaire of previous shows, would be in attendance to perform this function.

Joe asked if discounted membership was to be offered to anyone wishing to become a member. Members unanimously agreed that this was not necessary, particularly as membership numbers had now reached 133. The general feeling was that the Association was in danger of becoming too big to be able to effectively manage. A decision was taken to close membership application until Jan 2010.

On the basis of the continued high level of interest expressed by people in becoming beekeepers Terry suggested that an area be set aside for dissemination of information on Introductory Courses etc.. Members agreed this would be a good idea. Terry to prepare leaflets for handing out. Lorraine and Terry to take responsibility for this function at the show.

Penny circulated a list for committee members to register their support for the setting up and manning of the stand. Time at which members would be required to assist with setting up on 28/7 and a rota of duties for Show day to be circulated by e-mail by Jill/Penny. It was noted that one of our members, namely Robert Benerfer, had volunteered assistance and was added to the list of helpers.

**6. BEE INSPECTOR' REPORT:**

In the absence of Keith, there was no report.

A special mention was made of Keith's promotion to Temporary Regional Bee Inspector. Lorraine to send a letter formally congratulating him.

**7. ASSOCIATION APIARY:**

*Blackborough End*

Brian and Penny reported that 10 honey supers needed to be removed for extraction. Members asked if there was anyone who would be prepared to extract them. Stuart agreed to attend the Open Apiary session on 12/7 to assist

with this task and then to transport them to Jill's. Stuart and Jill would then carry out the extraction on the evening of Tuesday 14/7.

In addition Brian advised that by Sunday circa sixty caged virgin queens would be available, some of which would be used to re-queen those hives that were queenless.

### *Flitcham*

Terry said that at first he felt he must clear up a misunderstanding regarding events at the meeting between himself, Lorraine, Edward Cross and Mr O'Lone, the Sandringham Estate Agent, when all parties agreed the Association's tenure at the Flitcham Apiary. Some time prior to that meeting Keith had become unhappy with the site because of hedge management and subsequent forestry work on the small wood which had resulted in his bees being moved without his knowledge. As a consequence he and Edward Cross had discussed and viewed an alternative site, with Edward subsequently identifying a second possible site, so when the location of Keith's hives was raised by Mr. O'Lone in respect of planned future management of the wood and some hedgerow planting, it was Edward that advised him that those hives were likely to have been relocated by the time this work was to be undertaken. It was therefore this to which Mr. O'Lone referred in his letter of confirmation, rather than some devious plan put forward by Lorraine and himself to secure sole occupancy of the site for the Association.

As far as the bees were concerned Terry reported that the two hives had gone queenless. Following consultation with Brian he had given a frame of eggs and larvae to each from his own colonies. One now has robust looking sealed queen cell, whilst the other has two large unsealed cells with larvae on royal jelly, although this also has a laying worker. With regards to honey, at present there promises to be at least a small amount for extraction by the end of the season.

Finally Terry reminded members that there is still a large amount of second hand equipment stored there, representing a reasonable monetary outlay by the Association, but which needs sorting, cleaning and scorching before it can be used or sold on.

Brian said that he would prepare a nuc to be sited here in the event that either of the hives failed to successfully raise a new queen.

Members agreed that a couple of cleaning days should be organised for the purpose of cleaning the equipment.

## **8. EARS UPDATE:**

Terry reported that on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June he and David Bancalari had attended Sheffield University where they formed a fully active part of a five person interview board to select the PhD student for the project. The other board members were Professor Roger Butlin, Head of the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences at Sheffield, Dr. Steve Martin, the academic supervisor for the project and Dr. Giles Budge of the NBU who, with David, will supervise the industrial side of the studentship.

There were five candidates, one of whom could not be present due to involvement in a research project in China. Of those present one candidate was good, one very good and two were exceptional. After much debate the panel agreed upon a recommendation and this was put forward to the University for its consideration. I can now confirm that this was passed and the student, Rickarda Kather, has accepted and been appointed. Ricky has worked with Dr. Martin for two years already and has considerable experience in handling bees. She is known to members of the Forum, having given a presentation to them on her previous work. The project is expected to start in October of this year.

**9. FUTURE EVENTS:**

- 9.1 **Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July, 10am – 4pm’ish Apiary Tour.** Keith organising. To date 3 apiaries had been chosen. Start 09.30 for 10 at Brian Elsegood’s and finish p.m. at Penny Snell’s. Joe to confirm details to members by e-mail.
- 9.2 **Sun 12<sup>th</sup> July, 10am – 4pm Abbey Farm Open Day.** Organisation in place.
- 9.3 **Sat/Sun 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July – Holkham Country Fair.** Organisation in place.
- 9.4 **Wed 29<sup>th</sup> July, Sandringham Flower Show.** As previously discussed.
- 9.5 **Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Norfolk Smallholders Show, Sheringham Park.** Organisation in place.

Members discussed how best to maintain and develop the successful ring round system initiated by David Bancalari. The general consensus was that each committee member be responsible for contacting ten members and that this system be operational in time for the start of the Autumn programme. Joe agreed to divide the membership in such a way that the ten people to be contacted were those located closest to each committee member and to prepare a list to bring to the next committee meeting.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

*10.1 Clubzz/Facebook*

Offers of help to generate web pages for the Association were read out by Lorraine. Members considered the offers and although they agreed that the offers were generous, at this moment in time it was felt that the Association had enough of a visible presence. Lorraine to notify the respective parties of the decision.

*10.2 Advertising in Bee Aware*

A suggestion was put forward as to whether a charge should be made for adverts placed in Bee Aware. Consideration having been given the general consensus was that no charge be made.

*10.3* Terry asked whether any decision could be made on the level of 2010 course fees in order that he could advise potential attendees of the cost. Jill said that she wished to defer any discussion/decision on fees to the next meeting of the Education Sub-Committee.

**MEETING CLOSED: 21.58**

**Next meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club**

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