

**WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB**  
**On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**

**PRESENT:** Jill Tinsey, Penny Snell, Chris Snell, Kate Sayer, Lorraine Gibson, David Bancalari, Joan Burton, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, Judy Heal, Keith Morgan, Colin Sayer, Stuart Grant, Kelly Thrower, John Woodford

**APOLOGIES:** Joe Trattle

**MEETING OPENED:** 20.10

**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 been approached, but nothing finalised as yet.

*Item 9.1 Healthy Bees are Happy Bees Event*

Jill thanked everyone who had helped to make this day a success. With 39 people having availed themselves of the opportunity to learn more about the identification and management of bee pests and diseases, the event could be considered well attended.

*Item 9.2 CUE Sustainable Living Festival*

David reported that in general this had been a reasonably well attended event and overall a successful one. Jill thanked everyone who had provided support over the three days.

David went on to advise that the festival organisers were keen for the Association to take on a project which relates to sustainable living and that is designed to involve students/teachers/children/parents and the UEA. Basically, the project would analyse how people felt about bees both before and after exposure to them. Funding was available for the purpose. The general consensus of the committee was that this would be an opportunity worth pursuing. Three schools were identified as potential suitable candidates, namely Taverham Hall School, Ingoldisthorpe VA Primary School and Methwold High School. David would obtain the necessary application and guidance forms and provide to Penny for processing.

During the course of this discussion Stuart and John reported on the press release/photo shoot of the Beekeeping project which had recently been set up at Ingoldisthorpe VA Primary School. The headmaster had also requested that they give a presentation to the parents of the children who wished to be involved. Jill suggested that permission be sought for Margaret Rickards to record the event.

*Item 10.1 Raffle Tickets*

John advised that members' allocation of 5 books of tickets had not been distributed as yet. It was agreed that at the next event, on 13<sup>th</sup> June at Jill Tinsey's, books be handed out to those members in attendance. The remaining allocation's would be sent with the Honey Show Schedule mail shot as would 28 copies of BeeAware to those members who normally received them by post.

Kate/John/Stuart to liaise with Joe for an up to date membership list and action the mail shot.

Jill advised that tickets to the value of £200 had been sold at the CUE Festival.

*Item 10.4 Association Merchandise*

Lorraine advised that an order had been placed for the disc and sweatshirts. Artwork was awaited and would be circulated to committee for their final approval.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE:**

3.1 Copies of all correspondence forwarded to committee members.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Chris reported that

- he had been in contact with HMRC and had clarified what needed to be done to claim Gift Aid on members' subscriptions and donations. HMRC had confirmed that as an organisation with an income of less than £5000 per annum we qualify for charity status. In order to comply the HMRC require a copy of our constitution together with notification of our financial year end date. This information needs to be sent to HMRC Charities at their Liverpool Offices, marked for the attention of Title Section. Lorraine to carry out the amendment to the constitution which will be tabled for ratification at the proposed ExAGM that will be called to agree the 2008 year end accounts. Terry asked that he be provided with brief details of any talks given so that he could maintain a list. The reason for this being that under the charity guidelines the Association would need to be able to demonstrate that they were acting in the public benefit.
- the accounts for 2009 have now been set up electronically in Excel and copies were circulated for discussion. Committee noted that the AGM was in deficit. The two entries for meeting costs and hire of village hall were two items which could not be satisfactorily reconciled at this time. The subset data was also discussed with general agreement that Chris had set up a sound system which would both enable transparent analysis of income and expenditure.

Current account balance as at 1st June £1265.98.

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

Keith reported that

- he had been pleased with the attendance at the Healthy Bees are Happy Bees event. Days such as these take a lot of preparation and it was rewarding when they were well attended. He thanked David, in particular, for rallying members. Keith asked Jill as to the outcome of the Nosema checks that had been carried out. Jill advised that ten samples had been analysed. Two were found to be positive, one a mild case the other heavy. Those bees of the mild case were reported as having built up well during the spring into a strong colony. Appropriate management advice had been provided for the treatment of the heavily infested colony.
- to date there had been fewer reported incidences of disease. The reason, he felt, was that the good weather conditions that had prevailed had enabled the bees to collect sufficient forage resulting in less stressed bees and as a

consequence stress related diseases such as AFB and EFB have not been as prevalent as in recent years.

- as far as Varroa was concerned, the problem remains and Keith emphasised the need for hives to be monitored, particularly now during the June 'gap'. If mite drop was found to exceed acceptable levels the appropriate Thymol based treatment should be applied in the brood area and the supers placed above an open crown board.
- for the apiary tour of 13<sup>th</sup> July he would like to visit beekeepers in the Wisbech area. It was agreed that this was a good idea. Keith to contact members and arrange details. David/Jill suggested Denver Mill as the starting point and venue for lunch. Keith to advise David of the details of the tour in time for them to be included in the June issue of BeeAware.

## 6. ASSOCIATION APIARY:

Brian reported that

- the queens ordered from Jed Marshall had arrived and been put into nucs and once laying would be transferred into hives.
- a number of training sessions had taken place and as a result the hives used for those purposes had gradually become weaker, however, most of them were queen right.
- as far as the production hives were concerned, on average, they each had about 30lbs of honey.
- a further meeting had taken place between Chris, Terry, Ann Carter and Brian to clarify possible leasehold of the land at Blackborough End for the Training Apiary. Chris presented the report he had prepared on the meeting, at first setting out the proposals, as follows:

### 1. *Boundaries*

Proposed western boundary to run approx 225 metres from the bridge over the drain at the SW corner of the plot to the gate at the NW corner, with the eastern boundary parallel some 50 metres to the east.

### 2. *Rights of access and maintenance*

Access rights by vehicle to and from the apiary site as required. The cost of maintenance of the track, carrstone and shell to be agreed as a proportion of usage.

### 3. *Drainage Board Levy*

Current drainage board levy £419, estimated levy for the adjacent ditch of around £20. However, how this will be handled will depend on the legal form of words appropriate to this situation.

### 4. *Status of public footpath*

Not feasible to change route for public footpath. To minimise exposure of walkers to bees, the hives will be moved back into a clearing that can be created by judicious treework.

### 5. *Proposed rental*

Agreed that an annual rent of £200 plus 12 jars of honey was appropriate. The lease should run for 10 years renewable with a subsequent option either way to terminate the agreement in 5 years.

Discussion ensued on possible expenditure that would be required in order to develop the site and the following were identified as the main items that would need to be dealt with:

1. gorse hedge/fence
2. log cabin

3. water access
4. electricity
5. tree surgery
6. legal costs

Acceptance of the general principles of the report was proposed by Brian Gemmell. John Woodford seconded. The motion was carried unanimously. Lorraine to send a letter to Ann Carter setting out the agreed principles which could then be used as a basis for her solicitor to draft a contract for the committee's perusal.

## 7. **EARS UPDATE:**

David reported that

- advertisements for the PhD studentship had been posted and interviews were expected to take place sometime in the next 2-3 weeks. Industry partners had been invited to attend the interviews. Terry indicated that, subject to date, he would be willing to attend.
- Professor Steve Martin together with one of his current students had given a presentation to the Eastern Region Bee Forum on a topic similar to the one to be undertaken by EARS. On the basis of the excellent quality of the research that had been carried out in this instance David advised that there was good reason to believe that the EARS project would be of an equally high standard.
- two more associations had joined the consortium and two of the existing participants had increased their contribution for years one and two with a result being that the funding costs for years one and two were completely covered.
- with regards to the £10 million funding pledged by the Government, a meeting had been organised during the first two weeks in July, in London, to set the scene and provide guidance on how to prepare a bid. Chris and Terry signalled an interest in attending.

Jill and Chris sought clarification on a number of points, namely,

- the topic of the research studentship
- who the Industry Partner was and what the role entailed
- who Giles Budge was
- when the WNKLBA-EARS bank a/c was expected to become operational
- who the contributors would be
- who would be issuing the invoices
- what records/documentation was available on the process
- what was expected of WNKLBA
- how many people could attend the studentship interviews

In summary David's responses were as follows:

### *Topic*

The chemical interaction between bees, various chemicals (yet to be determined) and Varroa mites.

### *Industry Partner and role*

David explained that for funding purposes BBSRC had defined beekeeping as an industry, therefore the Easter Region Forum/EARS were the Industry Partner with David and Terry as named co-ordinators. The role was to educate the student in the ways of the industry to which ends all EARS contributors would have the opportunity to participate, with David and Terry co-ordinating this aspect of the process.

### *Giles Budge*

The NBU Research Project Co-ordinator and in effect the co-supervisor of the studentship. David explained further that EARS could not be an Industry Partner in its own right and as the NBU was one of the few accredited beekeeping research establishments it was therefore vital for them to be involved in the project.

#### *WNKLBA-EARS Bank A/c*

Chris was the named treasurer. Cheques would be made payable to WNKLBA-EARS. It was expected that the first payment to Sheffield University would be required in September.

#### *Contributors*

Not all associations from the Eastern Region were participants. The degree of involvement varied with some taking a keen interest in proceedings, whilst others were simply content to make a financial contribution. It was agreed that a list of contributors and their respective financial commitment to the project should be made available for Chris's information.

#### *Issue of Invoices*

David had thought to issue the invoices. After discussion the general consensus was that Chris take responsibility for this function.

#### *Records/documentation*

Given the nature of the project there were numerous records. In addition the EARS section of the WNKLBA website contained newsletters and updates on the progress of the project. Chris requested a copy of the application for funding which David agreed to provide.

#### *WNKLBA's involvement*

Basically the cash point for the funds. David explained that he had taken steps to ensure that the only liability that the Association would have was their agreed annual contribution.

#### *Interviews*

As far as David was aware the invitation was an open one. Jill suggested that on the basis of their scientific backgrounds perhaps it would be a good idea for Chris and/or Penny to attend. David to clarify the situation and advise/organise accordingly.

## **8. ANNUAL HONEY SHOW:**

Kate reported that she was in receipt of the following quotes from marquee suppliers:

Wetherills	£445.00 excl. VAT
Abacus	£449.65 excl. VAT
East Coast	£360.00 excl. VAT
Royal	£632.00 excl. VAT
Wimbotsham	£300.00 excl. VAT

Kate sought advice as to which marquee would be most suitable and after discussion it was agreed to hire from Wetherill's. Chris issued a cheque for the deposit.

Kate circulated the first draft of the Honey Show Schedule for discussion. The following amendments were agreed

- Inclusion of the two Novice Classes
- Addition of Judges names
- Assigning of Class letters

- Class type headings, e.g. Members, Open, Gift

Entry closing dates and fees were discussed, no conclusion reached.

Distribution of schedules together with raffle tickets to be as previously discussed.

**9. FUTURE EVENTS:**

9.1 **Sat 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30pm Preparing Honey for exhibiting with Jill Tinsey at Etling Green.** Those attending would be requested to bring along a jar of honey. David to do a ring round.

9.2 **Sun 28<sup>th</sup> June, 10am – 5pm Margaret Rickard’s Garden Open Day.** Jill would be providing an observation hive and manning a stand. Penny would assist. Terry and Lorraine would help out for a couple of hours.

9.3 **Sat/Sun 4/5<sup>th</sup> July, 10am – 6pm Stradsett Hall Garden Show.** Brian to ascertain details, and advise Jill. Jill would co-ordinate demonstration and solicit assistance.

9.4 **Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July, 10am – 4pm’ish Apiary Tour.** As discussed in Bee Inspector’s Update.

9.5 **Sun 12<sup>th</sup> July, 10am – 4pm Abbey Farm Open Day.** Terry to clarify details with Edward Cross. Terry and Lorraine to co-ordinate. Jill to loan observation hive.

9.6 **Wed 29<sup>th</sup> July, Sandringham Flower Show.** Jill asked that committee members to contact her with dates of the events that they would provide support for.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Lorraine reported that 4 requests provide demonstrations/talks had been received. Wyevale Garden Centre at Crowland to be advised to contact Peterborough/Cambridge Association. Lorraine to e-mail Jill with Costessey High School details so that she could contact them. Margaret Rickards be asked if she would be prepared to give the talk to Nene Infants School. John Woodford agreed to be the contact for Marshland St. James School when they contacted us again.

**MEETING CLOSED: 22.10**

**Next meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club**

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