

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB
On Tuesday 8th April 2008

PRESENT: Ernie Dix, John Laws, Irene Laws, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, David Baddeley, David Bancalari, Penny Snell, Joan Burton, Keith Morgan, John Woodford, Kelly Thrower and Joe Trattle.

APOLOGIES: Trixie Dix and Jill Tinsey,

MINUTES: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING:

- 1 Brian Gemmell had been unable to locate a branding iron available locally but had details of one from the USA at a cost of \$295. Ernie said to leave the matter until his visit to Stoneleigh where he thought a suitable one could be purchased at a much lower cost.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1 All emails received during the secretary's absence on holiday had been forwarded.
- 2 Terry had received a letter from Edward Cross advising there was no suitable base for the shed the letter also mentioned that straw bales could be used as a wind break which would be more environmentally friendly, however rats would be more of a problem if bales were used and they would also need renewing each year.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Current account £1931.11. Savings account £2096.76. BDI paid £222.25

Treasurer has an invoice from BBKA for £818.74 and the NFU for £33.52. Cheques have been signed for £19.20 for hive stand timber and £67.50 for hall hire.

Membership secretary, Joe advised that we have 75 paid up members at the present time, 17 are new members and 3 members have rejoined. At present 7 members have not renewed.

EDUCATION

24 names have been received for the basic course, which starts on Friday 11th April with a possible addition of 5/6 extra who will attend just the theory. The Pink House has been booked for the following dates: - 24/9, 15/10, and 19/11 from 7-9pm.

ASSOCIATION APIARY

The original hives are all on new stands.

A shopping list for the items to be purchased at Stoneleigh was drawn up, taking into account a list of items, which the Chairman Ernie has at his home.

Ernie had received a phone call advising that Ralph Bugg who lived at Holme, had died and the family wanted rid of the bees. 2 colonies were strong another 2 were satisfactory and 1 was on wild comb. Ernie has been through the bees, which had received the oxalic acid treatment in January and only found 1 verroa mite on 1 bee. The best of the equipment has been saved and the rest disposed of.

The signage for Association demonstrations is being updated to show the club's new name.

Discussion took place about arrangements for bad weather and the possibility of having the backup of Anmer Hall. This however was thought to be impractical. The purchase of camp type stools has been agreed.

Keith was thanked for opening a hive at the recent event.

BEE INSPECTOR'S UPDATE

Keith reported that winter losses are high over the country with many beekeepers reporting lost hives. Keith emphasised that keeping bees healthy and verroa in check was the only way forward.

MEETING – 18TH MAY 2008

Entitled – Healthy Bees are Happy Bees. The meeting takes place at Anmer Club commencing 10am and will then move onto the Association Apiary. Bring a packed lunch. Coffee and teas will be provided.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Bancalari is attending the bee forum nr Bedford.

Buzzword insert for May was agreed and will be forwarded for inclusion in the next issue

Details have been received from the BBKA that they are launching a campaign to get the government to increase funding into bee health. The campaign will launch formally at the beginning of April and John Woodford has agreed to be our Research Campaign Co-ordinator, our Chairman was adamant that beekeepers need to have their say and make the government listen.

The Federation Cup is to be hosted by Peterborough and held at Market Deeping on 7th June.

David Bancalari will sell boxes of apiguard at meetings for any members that wish to purchase. He will also have 30lb buckets @ £1. each

Ernie advised the committee that Jeff and Verna Rounce had recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and a card was signed by the committee.

David Bancalari has recently written to the local parish councils in North Norfolk advising of their local swarm co-ordinator and will do the same to parish councils in our area. The District Council has already been informed that Mr Duhig is co-ordinator

The next meeting is on 6th May at the Sailing Club.

Signed by Chairman

Dated