

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB
On Tuesday 3rd March 2009

PRESENT: Ernie Dix, John Laws, Lorraine Gibson, David Bancalari, Joan Burton, Trixie Dix, Brian Gemmell, Terry Gibson, Penny Snell, Kelly Thrower, Joe Trattle, John Woodford

APOLOGIES: David Baddeley, Keith Morgan

MEETING OPENED: 20:00

1. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as being a true record.
2. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 3.3 Letter sent to Penny Young inviting her to be the cake judge at WNKLBA Annual Honey Show on July 29th. No response to date. Margaret Woodford has the names of two other judges in the event that Penny would not be in a position to accept.
 - 3.4 On the subject of Show Secretary, Lorraine reported that Kate Sayer and Margaret Woodford, whom had shown interest in taking responsibility for the exhibits, had both spoken to Jill to gain an understanding of what the role involved. No final decisions made yet.
 - 3.5 On the general subject of hedge cutting, Keith had suggested that a letter also be sent to the local authority on the matter. After discussion it was concluded not to proceed as it was felt unlikely that the local authority had any jurisdiction over the cutting of hedges.
 - 7.2 Don Cooper has formally accepted the invitation to stand for election as President. A discussion took place as to what the role of President was perceived to be. The conclusion was that the role should be one of a figure head and that the Association make best possible use of that person's knowledge and experience. It was not expected that the President be burdened with the day to day affairs, but that they should be kept well informed. Finally it was hoped that they would attend events and functions whenever possible and carry out presentations and give votes of thanks to guest speakers. Tony Skerritt of Dodman's engineering had declined the invitation to stand as Vice-President. However, as in previous years, he had pledged a donation, namely £75, towards the cost of the keepsake shields for the Annual Honey Show. It was agreed that he and his wife be invited to the Sandringham Show as WNKLBA guests. John Woodford offered to be their escort.

Henry Bellingham MP has accepted the invitation to stand as a Vice-President, but had offered his apologies for being unable to attend the AGM. Discussion took place as to who else might be considered for nomination. It was agreed that invitations be sent to Sir Jeremy Bagge of Stradsett Estate Farms and The Marquess of Cholmondeley of Houghton Hall.
 - 7.3 Various nominations had been received for the posts that would become vacant at the AGM and had been lodged on file.
 - 10.1 The Chairman said that in his opinion the Pollen Analysis demonstration and workshop had been one of the most enjoyable events that had been held in a long time. 39 enthusiastic and interested people had attended the function. Terry reported that Margaret Rickards had already produced an excellent DVD of the event. Lorraine advised that Margaret had wanted to include some shots of additional interesting pollen grains from the DVD accompanying the Rex Sawyer book, *Identification of Pollen Grains*, but that she was concerned about claims of plagiarism. The publishers, Northern Bee Books, had been contacted and had given their permission on the understanding that the source be duly referenced. Thanks to Joan Burton and Margaret Woodford for providing the refreshments was recorded.
 - 11.1 David Bancalari informed the committee that the application to the BBRSC (Biotechnical and Biological Sciences Research Council) for funding of £100,000 towards a PhD Studentship had finally been approved. WNKLBA would be the fronting association of the Eastern Associations Research Studentship organisation to which the grant had been given, hereafter known as EARS. He further advised that BBRSC usually only dealt with

companies and as EARS was not a company this had presented certain administrative challenges. These had now been worked through and a process established. As part of this process it would be necessary, at some time in the future, for BBRSC to audit WNKLBA's accounts. To ensure transparency and correct operation of procedures the committee agreed to set up a bank account in the name "West Norfolk and King's Lynn Beekeepers Association – Eastern Area Research Studentship" to be known as "WNKLBA-EARS" with David Bancalari, Terry Gibson and the Treasurer Elect (any 2 from 3) signatories. The purpose of this account is to receive research funds from funding sources such as beekeeping organisations and pass them on to researchers. Any interest or bank charges will be credited/debited to the account, which will have no interaction with any other accounts or activities of WNKLBA. Statements for the account will be made available quarterly to all participants in the EARS scheme.

David then advised that a press release on the funding had been duly prepared and circulated. It was expected that an article should appear in April's edition of Beecraft and also in the Beekeeper's Quarterly. The subject had also been scheduled to be included in Radio 4's Farming Today programme. The Chairman thanked David for his hard work.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Copies of e-mails received forwarded to committee members.
2. Letter received from organisers of Holkham Country Fair confirming receipt of our booking for a Trade Stand for the show which is due to take place on 18/19 July.

4. TREASURERS REPORT:

See Appendix I.

A note was made of items that would need to be made in the near future, as follows

24/3 Primary Capitation Payment
31/3 BDI Spring Returns
30/4 BBKA Subscriptions
30/4 EARS payment

5. BEE INSPECTOR'S UPDATE:

Nothing reported.

6. ADM:

John said that this had been one of the most publicised and reported upon meetings. He reported that he had voted as had been mandated on motions 02-07/2009 relating to the BBKA's relationships with agrochemical companies. As he was sure the committee were aware, all motions were carried. With regards to 09/2009, the motion to endorse the use of antibiotics, he had followed his own conscience and had voted for approval, but advised that the motion had been defeated. John informed that he would be attending the AGM of the BDI on 19th April.

7. AGM:

A draft AGM Agenda was circulated for discussion. Format agreed. WNKLBA membership subscriptions and insurance cover were discussed and it was agreed that these should be discussed further at the AGM. No nominations submitted for Honorary Membership.

8. ASSOCIATION APIARY:

1. Training Apiary, Blackborough End - Brian reported that Henry Bellingham MP had accepted the invitation to officially open the new site and the time was confirmed as 1.30 pm. It was agreed that the press be invited to attend. Trixie to contact Lynn News and

- EDP. John W would contact Radio Norfolk. The President elect to be asked to keep the date free. Brian would prepare an information leaflet for distribution to the public. David Bancalari to publish.
2. Brian advised that the shed had been erected and car park area prepared at Blackborough End. Several items of equipment were required such as a metal bucket to contain burning smoker fuel, seats, gas bottle, stove, tea-making facilities and first-aid kit. Ernie had a bucket which he would provide and most of the other items were already available in various locations, so just needed to be moved. Jill to be contacted with regard to a first-aid kit. A risk assessment for the site would be prepared together with relevant signs and warning notices. The security of the shed was discussed and Brian advised that measures were in progress to make the shed as secure as was possible.
 3. On 22/3 those hives to be relocated from Flitcham would be prepared for transport and moved at dusk. Although it had initially been thought that members would be invited to observe the process, there would now just be a small work party. 3 hives would remain at Flitcham, and during the season nucs would also be sited there.
 4. Brian had arranged a meeting with Mike Edwards from the Wildlife Advisory Group for 16/3 to discuss how to keep the area as wildlife friendly as possible.
 5. It was hoped that the different styles of hives that had been pledged to the Training Apiary would also be in situ by 4/4.
 6. Brian reminded people that there were still lots of gaps that needed to be filled on the Open Apiary calendar.

9. SUB-EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

1. Terry confirmed that that all 24 places on the Introductory course had been confirmed with most of the fees having been received. In addition to those 24 at least another 20 people had registered an interest in attending the 2 theory sessions being held at Tottenhill Village Hall on 20th and 27th March, from 7 – 9 pm.

10. FUTURE EVENTS:

1. Sat 14th March, 14.30 at Tottenhill Village Hall – AGM. Light refreshments to be served at the close of business which will be followed by the Dunkley Memorial Lecture with the guest speaker this year being Mr Ray Jones who will be talking on the History of Bees.
2. Sat 4th April, 13.00 for 13.30 at Blackborough End – Official opening of apiary by Henry Bellingham MP followed by a demonstration of Spring opening up of hives.
3. Sun 17th May, 10 am. At Anmer and Flitcham – Happy Bees are Healthy Bees.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. It was agreed that the next issue of BeeAware would be published after the AGM.
2. A donation of £35 had been received from Luton Friendship Club following a talk that Lorraine and Terry had given.
3. Brian asked what the situation was regarding the completion of Winter Loss Reports. Penny suggested this be an AGM Item. David would liaise with Keith re the production/availability of forms.
4. The continued availability of the Sailing Club for committee meetings had been confirmed.
5. The raffle prizes for the AGM would comprise the 3 complimentary rail tickets, 2 Thorne's vouchers, foundation donated by Ernie plus any other donations. Tickets to be sold at £1 per strip of 5.
6. John advised that Ingoldsthorpe School were keen to have a hive on their premises. He and Stuart Grant would be taking responsibility for it. The necessary equipment had been made available and all that was required was a calm colony of bees and asked if anyone had one that they were prepared to provide.
7. David Bancalari said that a lottery promoter needed to be identified and nominated adding that John Woodford had this in hand. A discussion about end/start dates and prizes ensued. It was agreed that the end date be the Sandringham Show and that one of the prizes be a hamper.

8. David and John reported that the establishment of library items was slow in getting underway and asked the committee to bear this mission in mind when coming across any spare or unwanted beekeeping publications. Preferably and in particular those that included reference to Varroa.

Meeting closed: 21:42

The next meeting is at 8 pm on 7th April, 2009 December at the Sailing Club.

Signed by ChairmanDated

APPENDIX I

INCOME

	£
30/01/09 Subscriptions	1199.00
BDI Premiums	81.10
BeeCraft Subs	475.20
09/02/09 Course Fees	120.00
TOTAL	1875.30

EXPENDITURE

	£
17/01/09 Lottery Registration Fee	40.00
Year Book (NBKA)	77.00
28/01/09 Subscription to BeeCraft*	495.00
30/01/09 Postage & Printing expenses to Membership Secretary	14.76
TOTAL	626.76

* Paid on estimated bill. BeeCraft account £20 in credit.

Current account	01/01/09	£126.03
	27/02/09	£1374.56

Payments due by 31/03/09: BDI Spring Returns
30/4/09: BBKA Subscriptions (on receipt of invoice)