

# **Leiston & District Beekeepers' Association**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

held on

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 2.30pm

URC Hall, Chapel Road, Saxmundham IP17 1BJ

### **■ Welcome and Apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed the 32 members present. A list of those attending is appended. There were apologies from Vaughan and Caroline Ash, Dale Gibson, John and Lindy Mackinnon, Mike Mayhew, Steve Parrish and Janet Watson.

### **■ Chairman's report (Peter Girling)**

Peter said 2015 had been a variable season, largely due to the weather. David Jenkins had moved to Hertfordshire and Peter thanked him for all his help over the past few years. The Mini-Honey Show had been a great success, and he thanked Zac Blackmore for judging the honey exhibits and Marian Wishart the cookery classes. He also thanked Dale Gibson for his earlier talk, which had encouraged members to enter the Show.

### **■ Secretary's report (Penny Robertson)**

Penny said 2015 had been a busy year; club membership topped 120; 30 attended David Burns' Beginners' Course, 41 came to our Bee Health Day with David Burns and John Blakesley, 25 ordered bee feed, 45 came to our Winter Social and 17 entered the Mini Honey Show.

Her main role, that of communication, had changed, with an increasing emphasis on Facebook, the Internet and our website. Laurie Wiseman had sadly decided to stop producing our Newsletter after many years, and his ideas and research will be missed. He was presented with a framed bee print designed by David Burns.

David was stepping down from his education role temporarily and all teaching this year will take place at the Apiary. Penny encouraged members to take the BBKA Basic exam and we will be running a study group to go through the syllabus. We are holding a Bee Safari during the summer, which will be attended by a local Bee Inspector. Members were encouraged to attend.

### **■ Treasurer's report (Jill Hills)**

Jill presented a draft set of accounts, which showed the Association in a healthy state. There was a surplus of £1,800 on income of £11,000 with a balance carried forward of £7,000.

### **■ Membership Secretary's report (Marian Wishart)**

There were currently 90 registered members compared with 122 at the end of 2015. She reminded those who had not yet paid to do so! Fees would increase next year in line with an anticipated increase of £1 in the BBKA precept.

### **■ Stock**

Vaughan Ash was away on holiday. The Secretary had a current stock list.

### **■ Events and Suffolk Show (Sandy Sutch)**

LDBKA had attended three events this year.

- **School Farm and Country Fair**, Trinity Park, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 (next year 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016) usually attended by 4,500 7-9 year olds.
- **Heveningham Hall Country Fair** (with Wings and Wheels) 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (next year 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016)

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- **Suffolk Show** 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (next year 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016). About 5,000 visitors passed through the marquee. We were responsible for the touch table; next year it will be candle rolling.

We had been unable to attend the Stonham Barns conservation day on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015.

Sandy thanked all members who had helped at these events last year.

### ■ **Apiary report (Peter Girling)**

Peter thanked Vaughan for his efforts with stock, and Linda for her landscaping work. There would be a clean-up day on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and the Apiary opens the following week. We will be having taster sessions each month for new and potential members.

### ■ **County representative (Peter Girling)**

There are six associations affiliated to the Suffolk BKA and this year the County AGM would be hosted by Waveney BKA at Grange Farm on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm. Suffolk BKA were holding a "Best Practice Day" in Stowmarket on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 from 9am to 4pm, cost £10pp. Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan would be there.

### ■ **Election of Officers**

Penny explained that the Committee held four formal meetings a year. According to the constitution officers served for three years, but could stay on if agreed.

- **Chairman** - Peter Girling was re-elected, nominated by Penny Robertson, seconded by Pauline Quinn. To establish a succession, David Burns was elected as **Vice-Chairman**, nominated by Laurie Wiseman, seconded by Penny Robertson.
- **Secretary** – Penny Robertson agreed to serve for another year but indicated she may like to step down next year for a year in order to concentrate on her own beekeeping education, (*Proposer and seconder not noted*)
- **Treasurer** – Jill Hills agreed to serve for another year, proposed by Penny Robertson and seconded by Linda Serpell.
- **Committee** – the remainder of the existing Committee agreed to continue, with the addition of Paul Shepherd who was nominated by David Burns.

All the above posts were approved unanimously by the meeting.

### ■ **Any Other Business**

David Burns said that Jeremy Quinlan was running another General Husbandry Course in April/May. The BBKA Basic exam is a pre-requisite requirement.

- Viv Marshall thanked the Committee for all their assistance at the Apiary last year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.45pm. An auction of equipment followed the tea interval.