

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Leiston and district Beekeepers Association held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Saxmundham**

Present were: Chris Poupard (Chair) Penny Robertson (Secretary) Marian Wishart (Membership) David Burns, Gabrielle Maughan, Linda Serpell, Elizabeth Poupard, Judith Raven and Vaughan Ash (stock) and 23 other members of the group listed in the minutes book

Sutch,

**Apologies:** Sandy Sutch, Jan Packard, Mark Haines, Julian Fox, Gill Horrocks, Ian Watson, Laurie Wiseman

Last years minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Matters Arising**

No matters arising

### **Chairs Report:**

Chris Poupard spoke about the difficult year we have experienced with “The Beast from the East” last March followed by a mini beast and then an exceptionally dry and warm summer. This meant disaster for some bee colonies and for some a record harvest.

The fine weather was helpful for the Suffolk Show Bee Tent which had a record number of visitors.

The County AGM will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be Celia Davis who has written two excellent books.

Elizabeth Poupard represented the county at the National Honey Show and achieved a “highly commended “ in the light honey class,5<sup>th</sup> out of 65. (CP was 7<sup>th</sup>).

Last year we were successful in encouraging beginners through the Basic Exam and this has meant we won the Suffolk Trophy for the most number of successful Basic candidates for the second year running. This coming year we will be running a BBKA Module group, hosted by Judith Raven.

We continue to have a healthy membership despite people moving on.

Several committee members are taking a step back this year: we are losing Penny Robertson from the secretary role, Vaughan from stock and Marian W from membership. We need new committee members! A big thank you to those stepping down for all the work they have done and in particular to Penny who was awarded the Suffolk Rose bowl at last year’s Suffolk AGM for her work for the group.

### **Secretary’s report**

Penny Robertson reported that due to compliance with GDPR we have a new unpersonal Gmail address but the transition is taking time and we may try to have a contact email through the website.

Our Website is run by John Mackinnon and Martin Quinn and continues to be completely functional - thanks to John & Martin.

We have 115 followers on Facebook

BB Wear discount is still available for our members

We have been trying different venues for our meetings - Campsea Ashe/Wickham Mkt Station was good but small. We are hoping that Darsham Village Hall will be finished soon.

### **Treasurers report.**

The accounts were explained by Sandy Sutch and approved by the meeting.

Summary

Total Income £7,264

Total expenditure £7,043

Therefore a small profit was made (from stock sales and donations)

Closing Bank Balance £9,070

### **Membership report**

Marian Wishart reported that we have 97 current members of which only 3 are new. The membership for new members will be going online this year but existing members will still have to use the old method for making payments.

### **Education Report**

Penny Robertson and David Burns ran a study group again for the BBKA Basic. 5 people attended of whom 4 took & passed the exam with credit. The other one unfortunately was ill on the date of her exam so has postponed to this year. We will be running the group again.

Certificates were awarded to Richard Court, Julian Fox, Melanie Prentice and Sue Brett.

We won a cup from Suffolk BKA for most passes in the exam.

Penny Robertson with help from David Burns, and Gabrielle Maughan ran the Beginners course in 2018. 12 people attended (3 couples) of whom 6 went on to get their own bees, 1 had bees already, 4 probably will in future and 1 had bees came to her at end of season.

Elizabeth Poupard has completed the advanced modules and gained a certificate with Merit, so many congratulations are due to her.

### **SBKA & other courses**

Suffolk BKA will again be holding a Best Practice Day in March & other Suffolk associations hold meetings that we are welcome to attend.

Cambridge Day. This will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Several members plan to attend.

### **Apiary**

There was good attendance throughout the season. Stock sales are still good value there. We did some queen rearing but this was a bit ad hoc. We are planning to be a bit more organised about it this year. Also, we are aware that not everyone can come to the apiary on a Saturday afternoon so we're open to ideas about how we could do it a bit differently sometimes.

Our Taster sessions were popular again and led to some people going on to the Beginners' Course.

### **Forthcoming events**

School Farm Fair 25 April, Heveningham Fair 22,23 June and Suffolk Show 29<sup>th</sup>,30<sup>th</sup> May. All these need volunteers to help on the days.

### **Election of officers:**

PR, MC and VA were no longer willing to continue in their posts. Thanks for the work they have done for us over the past years.

Chair: Chris Poupard (p PG, s PQ)

Secretary: Gabrielle Maughan (p MW s LS)

Membership: Penny Robertson (p JR, s LS)

Education: Penny Robertson ("")

Stock: Linda Serpell (p AW s PQ)

Treasurer: Sandy Sutch

Ordinary members: Peter Girling, David Burns, Judith Raven, Frank Burton, John Symes

### **Any other Business**

Penny R gave a short explanation of the work of the charity Bug Life and its attempt to create nationwide Beelines. It was agreed that more work on this issue will be done by the committee.

A member suggested that the group should stock a number of plastic shields to protect against the Asian Hornet. It was decided that as the AH is not yet reported as being in the area this was not necessary.

A member asked if the committee minutes could be published on the website for all to have access. A vote showed that only one member wished to have access so it was agreed that a copy would be emailed to anyone who requested this.

The meeting closed at 2.15

A session of making non-lethal traps with plastic bottles and other equipment provided by the committee took place alongside tea and coffee and very nice home made cakes.