

Committee Meeting at Houghton Village Hall Tuesday 20th October 09 at 7.30pm.

Minutes

1. Apologies from Jim Annels, Richard Pollyblank, Nigel Vear and Donna Melbourne. Attending were, Charlie Savage, Christine Matthews, Lorraine Priestley, Walter McPhee, Pat Whitely, Syd and Monica Parker, Dieter Gringinger.

2. Minutes of the last meeting. A correction –Dieter Gringinger said he would look after the Dartington hive at the Apiary not John Beattie as stated. There has been difficulty keeping the Dartington bees alive even though they were the strongest in the apiary at the beginning of the season. Dieter had been given the Dartington how to booklet from Ron Melbourne.

3. Matters Arising.

4. Treasurer's report on separate sheet, to note our expenditure far exceeds our income even with the money from new members. With the rise in capitation fees by BBKA next year and the deficit this year it was decided to recommend to the AGM that subs should be increased by £2.

Lorraine said there was money in the raffle fund. Walter suggested that there was sources for grants that would support activities. In light of the fact that other members were surprised that we did not charge for the beginners classes, other groups do charge, there are people who just join to get bees and equipment cheap, and Dieter thought the classes would be well worth it even if there was a fee, it was decided to charge a fee of about £30.00 to cover the costs involved.

5. 2010 subs. As above the committee will suggest to the AGM that the subs for 2010 be raised by £2.00 to £22.00

6. Executive positions (AGM) In light of Donna's situation it was decided to put out feelers for a possible replacement for the position of Treasurer, Charlie will sound out a few likely candidates. Walter would like to stand down as Secretary and it was decided to split the role into General Secretary and Membership secretary, Walter agreed to keep on the position of membership secretary for the moment. Christine was prepared to keep on as Newsletter editor, and Charlie as Chairman.

7. Disease Day winter/ spring 2010 There has been a problem organising the event on the CSL side with Training and Extension Officers being engaged one being Ian Homer who now have to co-ordinate things rather than The Bee inspectors and ourselves getting on with it. Praise be for bureaucracy. Because of the foul Brood outbreaks in Scotland the Scottish government has allocated funds for the education of beekeepers through Graham Sharpe, Auchincruive Agricultural College Scotland for the borders area, so if they can work with the CSL in England we would have funding from both sides for the borders area, but that seems unlikely as neither group can cross the border, a solution of hold the meeting at the Gretna Chase Hotel. Hopefully we will get some clarity and dates in the New Year.

8. Christmas Dinner it was decided to give the Cumbria Cottage Farm Shop and Tea Room (Gelt House) a try. They will do a 3 course meal for £16.00 for more than 15 people; bring your own wine or beer, corkage £2.00. January 23rd at 7.30pm, for the January meeting. Fish as a vegetarian option and Pat is to co-ordinate the event and ask about gluten free options. Charlie would try and engage Jackie Moffat as the after dinner speaker.

An outline of next years programme was roughed out thus,

January-dinner

February- talk by Ian Molineux , Walter to book the date and decide later the topic.

March, - Practical wax evening, wax recovery, wax moth etc.

April – Diseases evening.

May- October Apiary days and a BBQ at Charlie's at Ainstable to be arranged for one of those days, Lorraine suggested people to bring their own meat. To be organised in January before the programme is distributed.

September- Question and answer session.

October- Honey show

November- AGM

9. Web Site Nigel would like people to contribute pictures and articles to the web site to make it a place where people will want to return. Dieter suggested pictures and reports of the apiary days and volunteered to undertake it, also suggested for the web site and the newsletter, seasonal recipes using honey, Fiona Roebuck has bee boles at her property and could be asked to write a little with pictures. Other members will think about contributions to both publications.

Other business included, the possibility that it may be easier for the Branches within the Cumbria BKA to organise their own BDI insurance, than the county to organise it, if this is so we will look to get that in place in the spring, this would cover the destruction of colonies with notifiable disease, foul brood, Tropilaelaps, and Small Hive Beetle.

Sealed bids are coming in for the Harris hive entries on the day at the AGM.

Meeting ended about 20.45ish