

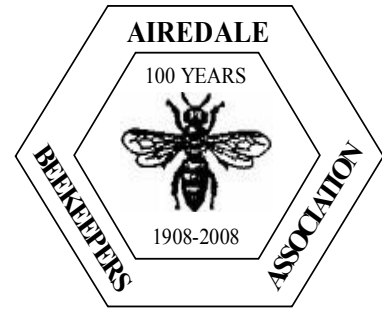
AIREDALE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

ABKA Committee Meeting

Date: 17 January 2017

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: "Brackendale" Banks Lane



Present: Sue Chatfield, Jane Law, Gill Taylor, Mike Barlow, Chris Solloway, Suzanne Starling, Chris Hardy, Jane Denney, Jonathan Sanders, Linda Schofield

1 Apologies: John Peet

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016:

Accepted as a true record, with one amendment: Mike Barlow can be contacted by e-mail, provided an urgent response is not needed.

3 **Matters Arising**

- Linda visited Cliffe Castle, to thank staff for their support at the Christmas Fayre and give gifts of honey from the Association as agreed. A card, rather than formal letter, was given. Jayne Smith was aware of the access problems with the ABKA stall venue and is more than happy to look at alternatives for any future events. Dan Palmer also thanked us for his gift of honey.
- Mike and Linda completed a contents inventory of the East Morton equipment shed. Mike has spoken to Dan Palmer re-temporary contents storage before the shed is dismantled and re-located and some space will be available. Richard Law has advised it will take a full day to dismantle/re-build the metal shed and it needs to be handled carefully as more vulnerable after previous move(s).
Mike and Jonathan will begin to move items to the temporary storage location asap.
Mike will alert membership to a March date for volunteers to help in the moving of the shed
Gill is working on a spread sheet for the equipment inventory
Steve will need to see the spread sheet to clarify our insurance cover is adequate, for additional items bought and items refurbished, since the last quotation obtained.
- A meeting date of Thursday 9 February, 10am at Jane Law's address, agreed for the Events Coordinating working group. **Outcome of discussion to be circulated to committee members for any omissions/fine-tuning.**
- Jane Denney advised that outstanding subscriptions now amounting to just 6. Agreed Jane should try one last time to contact/clarify membership wishes of these people, before rescinding membership. **Jane revising the form for future membership applications and will bring back to committee.**
- Risk Assessment of the East Riddlesden Hall Apiary to be organised when John Peet returns to UK.
- Chris Solloway brought some examples of the floral lettering completed for a string of "bunting". Well received.

4 **Correspondence:**

- Linda and Chris H? to attend YBKA Delegates Conference on 25 February
- BB Wear provided information on their 20% suits/50% gloves and spats discounts for association members. Verification process via Association Chair or Secretary. Free postage for bulk orders £350+. **Gill to post details on website. Linda to e-mail membership.**

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Members/beginners/to be advised to contact Linda with details of items wanted, by end of March (including any spare suits for ERH), to simplify the verification process and obtain free postage on the order.

- Leeds BKA Secretary made contact to advise that they have been knocked back by Leeds City Council, on plans to consolidate their new clubhouse and education centre at Temple Newsam. They will retain their current facilities, except their honey extraction room. ABKA had previously provided a letter supporting their application.
- Committee membership details sent to BBKA for the Year Book and YBKA, for their records, as requested.
- Further reminder received from Roger Chappel about the YBKA Spring Conference in York, Saturday March 25, Manor Academy, Nether Poppleton, York. Tickets £25, include all refreshments and a pre-booked cooked lunch. **Gill to post information/application leaflets on the website, Linda to e-mail membership. If people wanting lifts, Chris Solloway to be asked to post a spread sheet.**
- Dan Palmer made contact to ask if we could liaise with Richard, new manager of the Brackenhall Visitor Centre at Baildon, to give some advice about the setting up of an observation hive? Louise Mallinson is already looking after an outdoor hive at the Centre. Richard Law is willing to give some advice, but cannot take on any duty of care.

5 Treasurers Report

- Steve checked that the equipment at East Morton had insurance cover, but will await new inventory to explore further.
- Electronic banking at Yorkshire Bank is now free and will make financial transactions quicker and easier. Yorkshire Bank wanted confirmation that Steve's authorisation agreed by the Committee, before progressing this. **This agreed unanimously by vote. Only Steve will have authorisation initially, but payments can be made in his absence via cheque, as usual.**
- Norbert Cooper (YBKA Treasurer) has asked for payment of ABKA capitation fees, this likely to be circa £2,000 based on 2016 charges.
- Various monies coming at present e.g. Gill Taylor's East Morton Apiary Honey Sales

Balance at year end (30.9.16)

Cash: £72.15
c/a: £708.87
d/a: £ 5850.00
Total: £ 6631.02

at 17 January 2017

: £209.10
: £5233.50
: £5850.00
Total: £11292.60

6 Association Apiaries

East Morton: 3 colonies left (thought 2, but an extra, small one found). Fondant fed and varroa treated. Chris Hardy to collect and move 2 to ERH, Jonathan taking one.

ERH: All fed and treated with Api-Bioxal at a very successful field training event on 8 January. This apiary includes the Cliffe Castle observation hive colony.

Cliffe Castle: Jane Law to meet with Cliffe Castle staff and Dan Palmer to discuss plans for an activity day linked with bees, in February half term (21/2). Two handicraft workers have been recruited by the Bradford Museums' Volunteers Scheme and will hopefully be available to help on the day. Observation Hive Group members to meet (15/2) to plan other

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activities for the event and discuss issues relating to the bees' return during Easter Holidays and review management plan for the new season.

The new, oak, observation hive will be ready to collect later this month. Jane and Richard Law to do this. Cliffe Castle are intending to refurbish the plinth that supports the hive, to complement the "new look" Observation Hive area. Richard is giving practical advice on this.

Chris Hardy clarified that the current hive (now in storage there) belongs to Cliffe Castle, as they paid for the materials used to make it.

7 **Agenda Items**

- A member of the 2017 Beginners' Course has asked for evidence of her Public Liability cover as a member of ABKA, to present to the owners of a piece of land she is hoping to rent as a site for her prospective bees. She had paid her course fees by cheque in the autumn, but, as yet, BBKA is unable to verify her membership. This sparked a lively debate!

Recognised the need to locate such evidence, for our own purposes as an Association. The need for an ABKA membership card revisited, as new members' BBKA membership not validated by a card/membership number until later in the season. The need for letters for existing members and Beginners' Course applicants, alike, explicitly detailing the process and benefits of BBKA membership was suggested, as well as posting this information on the website.

Implicit in all the above was a need to consider re-visiting/updating the Constitution of ABKA, as existing documentation appeared to be of some age.

Given that the prospective beginner has yet to complete the course, let alone make a firm commitment to keep bees, it was felt that the request was premature. Any other liability issues relating to the nature of the land she hopes to rent, fall outside the remit of ABKA, or BBKA. Sue to write to inform her.

Jane Denney offered to work on a draft letter of information for existing/new members regarding insurance cover (BDI and Public Liability) to bring back to Committee.

Linda to locate/circulate the current ABKA constitution documents (if legible).

Linda to check with BBKA/Chris to check with Leeds BKA/ YBKA General Purposes Committee, how often constitutions should be reviewed and any required format.

Committee members to reconsider the pros/cons of having a specific ABKA membership card, for further discussion at next meeting.

- A few of our members are not on line and so missing information given via e-mail and the website. **Agreed that Linda write to them and give details of all upcoming training events and conferences.**

Any Other Business:

- Following discussions at a recent Module 2 session, regarding Food Standards expectations of honey processors selling in retail outlets, Linda queried whether requests to supply product from eg Cliffe Castle Museum Shop, should involve us in more complex procedures and legislation?

Suzanne to review the current regulations and feedback at the next meeting.

- Sue advised that after 20+ years of leading the Beginners' Courses for ABKA, she has decided to step back, from a lead teaching role, after this year. She feels confident that

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there are now more people with qualifications and expertise within ABKA to assume more responsibility for teaching and recognises that this presents the opportunity for a fresh look at initial training to be taken. Sue assured us that she would continue to help in any capacity she could.

This was a shock announcement for the Committee to process. Sue was thanked, both for her long service, inspiring new beekeepers in the Aire Valley and for giving such early notice to allow for the best attempts possible to fill such big shoes (albeit such tiny feet!).

It was felt that a working group to consider possible options for future Beginners' Training should be identified at the next meeting. Sue agreed to be a member of this.

- Fondant still available at ERH apiary, £3.50 per pack. Gill to advertise on the website. Availability of spring feed supplies to be posted in March.
- February 2 Winter Training Event:
Mike to bring radial extractor (Gill to demo); heather press (Chris Hardy to demo); Wax extractor and honey warmer (Sue to demo).
Chris Hardy and Jill Mastin to talk about preparing for Spring and the new season!
- Suzanne to check out potential venues for future committee meetings and feedback next time.

Date of next meeting: Monday 20 February 2017, 7.30pm at Mike and Gill's.

Linda Schofield
Secretary