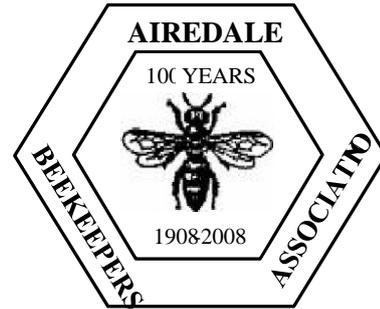


Airedale Beekeepers Association



Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2016

at 7.30pm
at Chris Hardy's address

PRESENT: Sue Chatfield; Suzanne Starling; Mike Barlow; Steve Hill; Jonathon Sanders; Chris Hardy; John Peet; Louise Mallinson; Linda Schofield

APOLOGIES: Jane Denney; Chris Solloway; Gill Taylor; Jane Law (traffic issues)

1. Minutes

The Minutes of **11 October 2016** were approved.

2. Matters arising

- Feedback from ERH meeting with Jill Mastin to discuss injuries from her fall. Jill and Gill Taylor met with Tony Earnshaw and Jonathon Brewer on 15 November. Not entirely satisfactory: but Jonathon has apologised; work to make the car park edgings safe to be completed by February 2017 following liaison with Jill; tarmac to be removed from car park; quarterly face to face meetings between ERH apiary team and Claire Humphris to address any future issues in good time.

Apiary team to complete a Risk Assessment, in the New Year, for working on the ERH site.

- Louise has written to Keighley Big Local as agreed.
- Payments for syrup/fondant and frames expected to be on-going throughout the new season.
- New appointments: Jane Denney (Membership Secretary), Mike Barlow (Equipment Officer), Jane Law (Events Co-Ordinator), Steve Hill (Treasurer), Linda Schofield (Secretary). New committee members: Jonathon Sanders, John Peet.

Many thanks to our resigning members, Louise, Jackie and Helen for all their hard work on behalf of the Association.

3. Honey Show and Fandango

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A good night had by all attenders, more than 40 tickets sold. Honey Show entries of a good standard and prizes spread among new and older membership. Another example of how much better it is to combine the Honey Show with our Christmas social event than run each separately.

Still seeking the “perfect venue” and some hard lessons learned from attempts to organise the event among several individuals. Great feedback from our Show Judge and Chris Hardy on the night.

4. Cliffe Castle Vintage/Christmas Fayre

Super weekend of public liaison and bumper sales. The venue proved challenging at times, but honey stocks sold out and good business done on candles and kits. Museum staff team really supportive and made us very welcome. Positive use of the ABKA postcard to sign post honey buyers to the website for information on further stocks for sale. Smaller sized honey jars (8oz/120z) proved to sell better than the traditional 1lb jar. Future potential to make taster packs of 3 small jars containing a range of the season’s honey. Good response from shoppers on learning that the candles/kits were made using beeswax as opposed to paraffin etc.

Linda to thank Jayne Smith and the staff at Cliffe Castle and discuss how any future event might work even better.

5. New officer’s roles and responsibilities

- Equipment officer:

Mike advised that Gill has amended the logon to the equipment calendars. To oversee the move of the shed from East Morton to the new Spring Gardens Lane site in the New Year. Sue wondered if fitting locking castors to the base might be useful? The agreement reads that there should be 4 feet clearance between the shed and the wall. Steve has clarified there is some insurance cover of EM equipment, but this will be out of date now.

Mike and Jonathon to liaise with Richard Law about the logistics of moving the shed. Linda to ask Dan Palmer about the possibility of storing the equipment in their outbuilding ahead of moving the shed itself and potential long term storage of our postcard/paper items. Mike to investigate plastic storage boxes for the cards if permission given. Recruits to assist with the move to be sought when times/dates agreed. Complete updated inventory for contents of Equipment Shed needed and update of costs for insurance purposes.

- Events Co-ordinator:

Hopefully, this role will help us avoid the “too many cooks” syndrome that has caused problems recently. Good links between events/activities and the website should help improve our communications, internally and with the General Public. **Sue, Chris, Linda and Gill(?) to meet with Jane Law to run through the annual calendar of events and what needs to be done to effect each activity.**

- Treasurer:

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Steve has received current and previous accounts from Jackie and is reading through them. May need some past membership records from Linda.

To attend at Yorkshire Bank with Sue this weekend, to complete signatory paperwork.

- Membership Secretary:

Jane Denney has written to members still owing subscriptions, to request prompt payment/ clarification if they do not wish to renew. Concern expressed at the high number of outstanding renewals, 30+ on the list circulated.

Chris noted that our membership form needs amending to make members aware that their details must now be passed to the Regional Bee Inspector, as a mandatory requirement. Jane Denney wishes to make some changes to documentation linked to her role. To explain at next meeting.

Sue offered to ring around the list of non-payers. To liaise with Jane Denney about this.

6. Learning opportunities:

- Airedale Winter Talks 2017

February 2: Demonstration of Association equipment for extraction/pressing honey; wax extraction; honey warming/creaming and advice on preparing for Spring and the new beekeeping season

March 2: Microscopy. Suzanne's adventures with slides and a microscope

April 27: Making your own foundation. A talk by guest speaker Chris Coulson

All at 7.30pm Riddlesden Institute. Light refreshments available.

Plus: January 7/8 tbc A demonstration of treating with oxalic acid (vapouriser and trickle methods); hefting and feeding. This event to be held at the East Riddlesden Hall Apiary.

- Bradford Beekeepers Association Winter Talks 2017

January 5: The properties of honey

February 2: Honey and Cooking

March 2: tbc

April 6: Swarm Control

All at 7pm Bradford University Phoenix Building North East

- Wharfedale Beekeepers Winter Talks 2017

March 22: Bio-pesticides a talk by Will Askew

At the Rendezvous Hotel

Details of other events to follow when confirmed

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- 2017 Module Training Sessions at The Honey Pavilion, Harrogate Show Ground tbc

- YBKA Spring Conference

Saturday March 25th 2017 At Manor Academy York

8.30am to 4.30pm Tickets £25 each, including lunch and all refreshments

(see website and e-mails for full details and booking forms)

Car share spread sheet to be considered

- Bradford Bee Health Day and Sustainable Beekeeping

Saturday 24 June 2017 at the Bright Building, Bradford University. Booking details available in early New Year, tickets £10 including lunch and refreshments.

(Chris to buy Api-Bioxal stocks for Airedale. Linda to contact Bill Cadmore to agree that ABKA joins in on the Bee Health Day event. Sue offered to help on the day)

7. Correspondance:

Bees Abroad charitable appeal, already circulated to membership by e-mail

8. Treasurer's Report:

Too early in post for Steve to give a report this time.

£751.10 paid in from fund raising at the Christmas raffle and the Cliffe Castle Fayre and hamper raffle.

Steve to check out whether we can pay by BACs for Association transactions

9. Association Apiaries:

- East Morton
Only 2 colonies left on site. One promised to Jonathon as an apiary helper
Low numbers resulting from several weak colonies united late season.
Notice to quit, given by site landlord, with end date of April 2017. To take all fixtures and fittings. Equipment Shed to go to new site. Wooden shed to sell or burn dependant on condition when emptied. Try to sell on website then e-bay. Hive boxes/rooves/floors, etc. to be stored outside at ERH apiary.

Jonathon to make a start transferring hive parts as soon as possible and others to take items when at the site.

- East Riddlesden Hall
11 colonies and Cliffe Castle all put to bed for the winter. Equipment cleaned in late autumn. Feeding planned/if needed before Christmas and oxalic acid treatment intended in January. Wednesday 7 December working party recruited to scarify the meadow for wildflower seed planting/cut back the willow hedge

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New recruits to join Chris, Jill and Linda to include Jonathon, John, possibly Joyce and Steve is interested.

In the absence of reliable suits for current volunteers, it was agreed that Linda could buy a suit to the value of a BB Wear model. New spare suits for visitors to be investigated/costed.

- Cliffe Castle

New recruits to the observation hive team (Andy Brown and John Peet) from the AGM. Cliffe Castle management team wanted to upgrade the hive area and have £350 funding to buy a new observation hive (9 frames in oak) and will refurbish the plinth it stands on. Richard has ordered the hive from Peak Hives in Derbyshire and will collect it, on completion.

Linda to pass the details of the new team members to Penny Green, Bradford Museums Volunteers' Co-ordinator, to arrange an induction meeting before the new season.

Linda and Richard to see Daru in the New Year to check out the tower site identified as suitable for locating a bait hive.

Chris and Richard to discuss the logistics of introducing the Cliffe Castle colony from their winter hive to the new observation hive, before the intended return timeline, 8-23 April 2017.

10. Any other business:

- Agreed that Linda ask Chris Solloway to produce the floral lettering for future indoor events to promote the presence of ABKA
- Committee members' revised contact details:
Mike Barlow prefers to be texted/rung rather e-mailed: **07709269261**
Sue Chatfield e-mail address now: **susanlchatfield@gmail.com**
Linda Schofield e-mail address now: **gorluvaduck@gmail.com**
- Agreed that Linda should write to thank managers and staff at Cliffe Castle for all help and support over the year and that we provide a jar of honey each for Daru, Jayne Smith and Dan, plus one for the Cliffe Castle staff kitchen.
- East Morton honey harvest to be extracted soon. Agreed that Chris can buy a refractometer for future Association harvests and 5 gallon buckets to store extracted honey in containers that can fit into the warmer.
Planning honey harvesting for sales to be considered in the events sub-group.
- **ABKA questionnaire:**
Returns received from 25% of membership so far (24 people), this from website publicity and the AGM.
Most significant reasons people gave for joining ABKA included the prospect of education/support opportunities. Some respondents wanted more information about how they could help with Association activities. **The events sub-group to look at producing a calendar of events and what type of assistance is needed at each. This can then be posted on the website. A couple of practical training events to be planned for summer 2017, to check out the response from members and whether these should be incorporated into the on-going calendar of events.**

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11. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 17 January 2017 at Suzanne Starling's address.

**Linda Schofield
Secretary**