

Lincolnshire Beekeepers Association
Central Council Meeting
8th October 2019 @ 7:00pm
E.H.Thorne (Beehives) Ltd, Rand

Minutes

Present:

Officers: I Burnley (Vice-Chair, C Lake (Treasurer/Market Rasen), C George (Communications Secretary), G Luckhurst (Membership Secretary), Richard Harrison (Honey Show Chair),

District Representatives: G Carrott (Horncastle), C Croson (Sleaford), N Gardener (Lincoln), F Ross (N. Lincs), G Smith (Wragby), P Verdegaal (Boston),

In attendance: D Harrison (Honey Show Treasurer), K Baker (Sleaford)

1. Welcome & apologies
D Bayes (Grimsby)

2. Vice Chairman's Address

The Vice-Chairman addressed the meeting to formally record the recent death of our Chairman, Phill Raines. He would be conveying our deepest sympathies to Sallie when both he and the Treasurer would represent the LBKA at Phill's funeral. He gave tribute to Phill's outstanding determination to carry on the work of LBKA for many years, and his kindness and encouragement that he gave to others.

It was also noted that there are no minutes for last meeting.

3. Secretary's Report

Thank you all for your lovely messages of welcome and I am only sorry that there have been some delay to taking over the email address caused by glitches in the web system. I hope that you have all noticed that there has been some improvement in the passing on of messages and certainly there have been many that I have been able to bat straight onto the relevant districts. I hope that you will be a little patient with me whilst I find my feet and get to grips with things, but I think that it is fair that I state to you all that I did not take on the role of Minutes Secretary as part of my responsibilities and whilst I can be pressed into taking minutes in the interim but they will not be as detailed as they could be, due to my permanent health issues.

Looking at the records that I have been given, and they are indeed very detailed, I notice that there are not up to date trustee's declarations on file. I do hope that you won't mind filling in new ones for the files. Part of my role is to offer guidance to the Central Council regarding policies and their review. To this end I have drawn up a timetable so that the current policies can be all reviewed fairly swiftly over the next year or so and they will be a standing agenda item for the foreseeable future.

Anyway, it is lovely to meet you all and look forward to getting on with the role of Communications Secretary.

4. Membership Secretary's Report

Since the last memberships Secretary's report all district membership secretaries have put effort into getting the new BBKA Membership Database to work for us. We have managed to upload the 'returns' for BDI and Capitation even with a unique features within the Database system. With practice this may even become straightforward.

680(+84) people are currently recorded on the database. This includes 139(+39) Non-BBKA members, 5(+1) Country members, 9 are marked as Archived, 1 Honorary member, 43(+29) Lapsed members.

Therefore LBKA Membership stands at approximately 542(+54) (there may be duplicates and other errors).

Most members are full Registered members at 472(+49). There are 55(+6) Partners and 6(+1) Junior members.

82% (+6%) of members have an email address recorded. The LBKA membership secretary will continue to encourage District membership secretaries to add the email of members who have one, as it expected that the new system will be used increasingly to communicate with new members.

Most District Officers are now marked on the database this allowing selective communications. Most district officers now have access to the system.

Districts are now be able to store documents on the system and email members.

I apologies to the committee but I have not had time to into the latest developments which suggest the individual members will be able to join and renew their membership online. It hoped that this is a great success and the post of LBKA membership Secretary can be abolished.

The LBKA membership secretary wishes to record his thanks to the District Mem. Secs. for their efforts and to thank Catherine Lake for her support.

With regarding to on – line renewals. Going to trial with a couple of members to see if works. All districts to stay on paper for now.

Q. re security especially around online payments.

A. system well thought through and lot of security in place. The database was built by BDI and layers of security are in place.

Website and Facebook Report

Since the last report the LBKA website has been updated. All contact details and district information are believed to be up to date. Policies and our constitution are up to date. Older documents are being archived for future archaeologists. I am going to put out an appeal for someone to digitise the old QR's before they are lost.

There is a small number of contributions from members on various aspects of beekeeping from My First 3 Months of Bee Keeping to how to Make a Nuc from Kitchen Cupboard Doors. It is greatly hope that this section will expand. There will be frequent requests for content from me. Please encourage any and all members to make a contribution. A special appeal will be made to members of the CC to contribute, I know you have something worth saying, so please put it in writing even if it is just a suggestion.

We are averaging about 1000 hits per month which is not bad for a restricted issue site. Our Facebook group has grown to 91 members. It is still restricted to LBKA members. Any member requesting to join is ask if they are a LBKA member and what district they are part of. Please make it clear that members wishing to join us must answer the questions. The question could be dispensed with but there are disadvantages to this as well as advantages. I spent a considerable amount of time answering messages from the

public about swarm collection even though there was an announcement at the top the group page, about what to do. Fortunately it was a simple matter of referring then to the national swarm collector's map.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Autumn Capitation has now been closed and the following amounts paid

BBKA – £297.00 BDI – £32.00

The Districts are now becoming more familiar with the new eR2 database and we saw less issues than in the spring.

We have received income of £250 from the Taster Day held at Thornes in August and thank you to all the volunteers who came and helped and to Thornes who hosted the event.

The 2019 Gift Aid was received from HMRC which totalled £1,208.03. The retrospective Gift Aid will be collected in the autumn.

The current account balances as of 01/10/19 are as follows

Community Account – £2,708.30 Legacy Account - £5,028.34

This is a significant improvement on 2018 and puts us in a more robust financial position as we approach the year end.

Towards the end of the year and the beginning of 2020 Districts will start to collect their annual subscriptions. As communicated on the website the BBKA, BDI and LBKA membership fees will stay the same for 2020. BBKA and BDI payment deadline for LBKA is again 1st April 2020. Please can all Districts close their returns on eR2 for BBKA and BDI by 1st March 2020 and ensure either the payments are transferred into the LBKA account or cheques received by 31st March 2020 so I can close the Lincolnshire returns and pay everyone on 1st April 2020.

In preparation for both District and LBKA AGM's the accounting spreadsheets, with instructions and the asset register will be sent out on 1st November 2019 to all District Treasurers. Please could I have these returned to me by 1st March 2020, this gives the accountant enough time to prepare the accounts for LBKA AGM later in March. Although please don't wait for that date, as soon as your independent examiner has signed them off please send them through.

Any questions on any of the accounts please get in touch. I would also be grateful if you could spend a bit of time on completing the asset register as this was one of the comments the accountant made on our Trustees report last year as 'could be improved!!'

Q. How much gift aid are we likely to receive?

A. The amount to be received is not yet known and of that money 50% will go to district funds.

Q. Regarding subscriptions – should they be reduced?

A. Advice is that they should stay the same for the moment. Concern is that we should start to rebuild the buffer in bank. Would like to hold a contingency fund of £5000 which we currently don't have. We have not been able to give any grants lately and it would be nice to do so in the future. Don't disagree in principle but currently we should concentrate on getting the contingency fund established.

6. Autumn Lecture

Tues 29th Oct 6:30pm – University of Lincoln – The Think Tank, Ruston Way, Lincoln LN6 7FL

Open to all LBKA members and guests and students of the University

Taste of Lincoln Buffet – Northern Bee Books (?)

Non-members £5

Keith Baker – Sleaford volunteered to do PR for this event

Thanks to Catherine and Will for sorting this out

Need prizes for raffle – each district to donate either a decent prize or £20 to cover the cost of purchase of said prize

7. AGM Agenda & Spring Lecture

Change of date: Sat 21st March – 2pm

Various ideas as to venue

Agenda to be finalised in Jan CC meeting

8. Future of the Education Committee

Co-ordination has not gone well. Not a great deal of response from districts.

Districts have now fulfilled this objective. The Ed Cttee used to organise the autumn and spring lectures and it would be nice if we could acquire a volunteer to do this.

CC do need to monitor exams taken etc.

Brief job description to be circulated in newsletter.

Taster Day at Thornes – very successful. About 20 came for the day and were very enthusiastic. Suggested to do again – proposed date Sat 8th August 2020

9. Constitution Proposed Changes

Mostly minor tweaks.

6f – wording change from “Central Council may unanimously and for good reason” to “Central Council with a majority vote and for good reason”

8a – wording change from “before the last Saturday in March each year” to “before the last Saturday in April”

8ciii – wording change to add “Membership Secretary” to officer to be elected

13b – Authorization to withdraw via online banking to be proposed and voted on.

Need some suitable wording – do we want two sigs for online?

All changes approved and will be put forward to the AGM.

10. Policies for Approval

a. Social Media – Approved

b. Timetable for review - approved

11. Newsletter Update

Attached is a mock-up of the proposed new newsletter to replace the QR. It is nothing fancy. The format is simple, a report on a forthcoming event, a report on a past event, a general article and filler's.

I would suggest that this could be distributed via the membership system's email facility, copied on the Facebook group and on the website. Obviously, there are members without Internet access, for these few members the newsletter could be printed and posted. I suggest that as the CC has decided to stop the QR that the CC bear the postage cost for any newsletters produced this year. Members wishing to receive the newsletter via the post in 2020 could be charged a contribution to the postage cost, this could be indicated and collected via the membership form.

I request that CC discuss whether to charge members for posted of any newsletter in 2020. There are approximately 60 members without an email address. I estimate that with second class mail, envelope and printing this would cost ~£42 for each mailing.

I also wish to restate that **I am only willing to edit the first and second addition of any newsletter**. I will continue to attempt to collect material for the website which may be suitable for the newsletter.

I request that the CC discuss communications with members and appoint a newsletter editor if appropriate.

Discussion re circulation: CC Agreed to fund first 2 issues to non-email members.

12. Vacancies

- a. ADM – Sat 11th Jan.
Previous delegate has resigned. CL to go this year as a one off but will be advertised thereafter.
- b. Spray Liaison – Post deleted.

13. District Updates

Market Rasen – Talk by Bees Abroad. Future events to be advertised in Newsletter

N Lincs – Honey Show at end of month

Boston – Increasing bank balance - grants to be given to local schools to fund bees and beekeeping. AI course next year to be self-funded.

Lincoln – Nothing to report

Sleaford – perhaps having apiary, agm and honey show

Horncastle – Honey Show in Oct, Nov talk by Neil Pont, Dec - Social

Grantham – Talk given by member about recent visit to Jersey where they got involved with Asian Hornets and their destruction.

14. Date & time of next meeting

Tuesday 14th Jan @7pm