

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WHARFEDALE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE CLARKE FOLEY CENTRE ON 22 OCTOBER 2015

President: Bruce Speed

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Sue Hobson, Toni Killingray and Louise Farnell.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on 23 October 2014 were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

Anne welcomed members. The year had not been good for honey production and feeding late in the season had been necessary.

Everyone from the beginners' course who had wanted bees had them and also the help of a mentor. There was increasing demand for the Basics assessment.

Anne thanked Peter, Brian and Geoff for the teaching they had done over the years. Gill had got together volunteers to take over.

The requirement to provide education had also been met by a talk on bee biology by Graham Royle and a wide ranging talk by Professor Robert Pickard. Surrounding associations were invited to the latter talk and it was hoped that Harrogate beekeepers would organise a joint talk in 2016.

Anne thanked all who helped with the stands at the Otley and Arthington shows, both organised by MOB, and the Gargrave show, organised by NOW.

Various talks had been given to schools, cubs etc and help had been given to man Claro Bees sales. Harrogate Beekeepers had made a donation in thanks for this help.

Anne thanked Laurence Truman for greatly improving the website. Swarm officers were shown on this site and Anne thanked them for their work. The website has a list of equipment for hire managed by Sophie van Berkel.

Anne advised that the lease on the apiary site at Tarn Moor had been relinquished as the site had proved unsuitable for beekeeping. The equipment to manage the site had been loaned to Simon Croker, a former chairman of WBKA.

The apiary in Ilkley is now managed by Andrew Hinchliffe. There is an apiary site on the Chevin and a possible site in Otley. There is also an apiary at Parcevall Hall, so there are potential sites if any member needs one.

The library is not much used and Anne asked for suggestions for a way forward.

Anne encouraged members to attend the annual dinner at Skipton Golf Club where honey show prizes will be presented.

The association was fortunate in having several volunteers and Anne thanked them for their efforts. They produced Combings, arranged refreshments, ran the local groups, taught new members, organised show stands, and were swarm collectors and mentors.

Anne invited any member who wants an idea to be taken forward to contact her.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The accounts for the year 2014/2015 were available to examine. It was noted that a further refund of about £700 from HMRC was anticipated. £200 had been received as a donation from Claro Bees, and donations were much higher than the previous year. Total expenditure was up by about £1700 but income had increased by nearly the same amount. There was no need to increase subscriptions.

Katie Bell was thanked for auditing the accounts.

6 YBKA Delegate's Report.

Peter said that the committee had put a proposal to YBKA to take forward to BBKA. It concerned DEFRA's decision to categorise bees as food producing animals. This will impose detailed requirements for inspections etc and amateur beekeepers are likely to reduce their production rather than sell off surplus honey. The proposition to BBKA is to use the Freedom of Information Act to ascertain how much food poisoning had been caused by honey, a natural product which has anti bacterial qualities.

7 Election of Officers and Committee.

Anne thanked Val, who is leaving the committee for her work on Fisher's Field. Peter is standing down after nearly thirty years and was granted life membership and made an honorary vice president.

Anita Banks was elected as Secretary in place of Andrew Prior who is leaving the committee. It was agreed that Rob Claxton Ingham take over as YBKA representative from Peter.

Laurence Truman was elected to the committee and Sophie van Berkel, who had been co-opted to the committee was elected a full member. Bob McLaughlin was also elected to the committee.

The remainder of the existing committee was elected to continue for a further year.

Anne thanked Ray and Gina Finlayson for organising the honey show.

8. Any Other Business

The 2016 programme had not been prepared but Anne Riley will talk on bumble bees in the new year. Graham Royle had agreed to speak again and consideration will be given to a talk on neonecotinoids.

Those members present who had passed the Basic assessment were presented with their certificates.