



BIFGA NEWSLETTER 159

July 2020

Dear Members,

I do hope that you are all in good health, and continuing to cope well with the added problems caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

As with many other organisations, BIFGA has had to adapt to the major impact that Covid19 has had on the way it operates, and it seems likely that many of the changes we have made will be with us for some time to come. Fortunately, some of the changes, including the “Virtual” Spring Farm Tour, and the holding of our first Committee meeting via Zoom, seem to be having positive outcomes.

CLIVE EDMED BIFGA VICE-CHAIRMAN FROM 2001 TO 2020

As members will know from my earlier email, our good friend, colleague, and outstanding BIFGA Vice-Chairman for over 18 years, Clive Edmed, passed away at the beginning of June. Clive was a highly respected and well-known figure in the British top-fruit, soft fruit, and hop growing industries, and he will be greatly missed, not only by his family and friends, but also by so many fellow growers, and members of allied trades. I could not have asked for a better vice-chairman, and I will greatly miss our regular chats.

The BIFGA General Committee, in consultation with Clive’s family, have decided to buy a gavel which will be inscribed in memory of Clive, and used at future BIFGA meetings. If any BIFGA member would like to make a donation (by cheque) in memory of Clive, his family would like it to go to benefit “Hospice in the Weald”, and sent c/o J Perigoe and Son Funeral Directors, Bank Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EF.

BIFGA “VIRTUAL” SPRING FARM TOUR

We have received many positive comments about this tour, and there has been enthusiastic support for BIFGA to organise a follow-up event in September. Nearly all of the farms on the Spring Farm Tour have already agreed to provide follow-up photographs and captions for the next event.

BIFGA would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone involved in the “Virtual” Spring Farm Tour, especially the Hosts; also the sponsors (listed below), whose financial support made a significant contribution to BIFGA’s funds:

Agrovista, Rutherford House, Nottingham Science and Technology Park, Nottinghamshire

Certis, 1 Riverside, Suite 5 Granta Park, Great Abington, Cambridgeshire

Farmable, c/o 3 Montrose Gardens, Oxshott, Surrey

J R Breach, Chittenden Orchards, Staplehurst, Kent

Orchard Cooling, Rumwood Green Farm, Maidstone, Kent

SCS Ltd., Bridge House, Hop Pocket Lane, Paddock Wood, Kent

UKCA Ltd., Unit 4 Hoads Farm, Sedlescombe, East Sussex

Weatherby Hamilton, Hall Farm Stables, Stetchworth, Newmarket, Suffolk

Please reciprocate and support these companies whenever possible. Please click on the link below for another opportunity to join the visit.

<https://www.bifga.org.uk/downloads/springfarmvisit2020.pdf>

MEETINGS USING THE INTERNET

The BIFGA General Committee recently held its first meeting using the Zoom app (other Apps are available) and this proved to be very successful. Although we may have missed some of the face to face “social” chats that tend to happen before and after the formal part of our meetings, we did have the opportunity to see each other again, and to deal with the business of the meeting.

One exciting, possible “gamechanger” to the way that BIFGA is run, is that Zoom meetings will enable a much wider geographical membership of the BIFGA General Committee, and to that end three of our existing members, who would previously have found it difficult to attend our meetings (which are usually held in West Kent) have been nominated to join the Committee at the AGM in July. These members are: Nicholas Dunsby from Worcestershire; David Bradley from East Kent; and, Ian Scaman from Lincolnshire. We look forward to welcoming them to the next Committee meeting. Please remember that, whilst BIFGA is extremely well served by the present Committee, we would be very pleased to nominate other members at the AGM. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please let the Secretary know, not less than seven days before the AGM –i.e. by 14.7.2020.

BIFGA AGM – 21.7.2020

BIFGA members were recently sent notice that, due to the continuing restrictions and risks associated with the Coronavirus pandemic, the BIFGA General Committee has decided to hold the 2020 BIFGA AGM “Virtually”, using Zoom.

The meeting will be on Tuesday July 21st at 5pm. If you are a Full “Voting” Member who would like to join the meeting, please let the BIFGA Secretary know in order that you can be sent relevant information before the meeting.

BIFGA “VIRTUAL” HARVEST TIME TOUR 1.9.2020

If you are a BIFGA grower-member who would like to act as a “Host” for the “Virtual” Harvest Time Tour (to be held on the first of September 2020), please let the BIFGA Secretary know as soon as possible – by the end of July at the latest please.

Basically, all that is needed, are a few photographs, taken (on a smartphone is fine) on or around the 1st September, showing some of what is happening that day on your farm, together with brief captions. Hopefully, the photographs will show crops that are approaching harvest, or, possibly some picking going on, and/or fruit being graded and packed. Other interesting photographs, might include: unusual crops, new varieties, new coldstorage, farm shops, juicing plants, etc. It would be helpful if any new “Host” also supplied some brief background information about their farm - please re-visit the “Virtual” Spring Farm Tour to see what is needed.

BIFGA would also be delighted to receive support from our Associate Members, who, once again, will have the opportunity to bring their products and services to the attention of BIFGA members at intervals “along-the-way”, by way of A4 page “announcements”. Associate Members who would like to support the Harvest Time Tour are asked to contact the BIFGA Secretary as soon as possible. Potential supporters may like to have another look at the “Virtual” Spring Farm Tour (link below) to see examples of sponsors’ pages. As before, the cost of a full A4 page will be £200.

<https://www.bifga.org.uk/downloads/springfarmvisit2020.pdf>

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Another possible “gamechanger” to the way that BIFGA operates stems from the BIFGA AGM last year, which agreed to the BIFGA General Committee introducing a new category of membership which would allow additional, Group Membership to be attached to existing Full and Associate membership.

If you have family members, colleagues, or members of staff, who would like to join BIFGA (at the much reduced rate of £10 per annum) as part of your “team”, please ask them to complete the application form

(included with renewal notices) and then return it to the BIFGA Secretary, together with the appropriate payment (please photocopy if more than one copy is needed).

There is no joining fee for a Group member, who will (usually) receive all general communications sent to other BIFGA members. A Group member will not have voting rights unless elected or co-opted to serve on the BIFGA General Committee, or its sub-committees.

CIRCULAR EMAILS SENT TO MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST BIFGA NEWSLETTER

In case you missed any of these the first time around!

7th May 2020 - 'Virtual' Spring Farm Visits

22nd May 2020 - Further Opportunity to join in 'Virtual' Farm Walk plus a chance to win £25

4th June 2020 - Passing of Clive Edmed

24th June GCA Newsletter - dated 23rd June 2020 Edition 22

26th June BIFGA AGM by Zoom - Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 5pm

YET MORE NEW MEMBERS!

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

634F Mr G Cannon, J Cannon & Son, Roughway Farm, Roughway Lane, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9SN

635F Mr B Drummond, Tillington Top Fruit, Homme Farm, Hom Green, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7TF

Please remember that we are always keen to find new members – both Full and Associate; and, now, additional, Group Members. We would appreciate any help that existing members can give in encouraging others to join.

J R Breach
BIFGA Chairman

BRITISH INDEPENDENT FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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