

NORTH LONDON BEEKEEPERS' ANNUAL REVIEW 2014



CONTENTS

2	Chair's Report
3	Apiary Report
4	NLB Honey Show Report
5	Treasurer's Report + Statement Of Account

CHAIR'S REPORT

At the end of 2014 we can look back at another successful year for the Association. Thankfully, despite the appallingly wet and stormy start to the year, the weather was much improved compared to the previous two years and consequently the bees had a productive time. The resulting honey crop was both large and delicious. The bees also seemed to have read the book a little closer this year and although there were plenty of swarms the bees behaved in a slightly more predictable way.

As usual we started the year with our beekeeping course attended by an enthusiastic group of beginners. Despite the recent huge growth in interest in beekeeping waning slightly the course was full and enjoyed by the students. The hands on sessions at the apiary were a great success and Johan had the apiary up and running with hives for all those who wanted to follow the beekeeping year.

As well as the shed party at the beginning of the season, we held a "summer social" at the apiary in June, instead of a garden party, which was well attended and with excellent food too.

The Association had stalls at the usual festivals and fairs and these provide a good opportunity for informing the public about ourselves and beekeeping in general. The last two, at Fenton House and Hampstead Heath Heritage day, and a new event in Waterlow Park afforded the opportunity to sell some of the Associations honey. As a result of the amazing work done by Johan and his enthusiastic Thursday helpers (and a little help from the weather) the apiary produced an excellent crop of honey. This year we hired a commercial kitchen in Hornsey to extract the bulk of the Kenwood crop. The highly organised band of volunteers made this potentially long and sticky process into a quick and efficient operation.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Honey Show and Pot Luck supper this year. This event is definitely the highlight of the year and this year was again outstanding in both quality of food and exhibits. It was particularly gratifying to see some new names on the trophies!

The Christmas party was again hosted by John and Tessa and, for me, marks the start of the festive season. We really appreciate being able to meet in such lovely surroundings and many thanks to John and Tessa for hosting this jolly event.

Those of you who have visited the apiary cannot fail to have noticed the improvements carried out this year. The bright blue shed and equipment racks look great and will help keep equipment dry and off the ground. The composting loo will, I am sure, be a great asset and remove the need for a long walk to Kenwood. Hopefully members will feel they can enjoy a cup of tea and stay longer now we have our own convenience.

We were lucky in November to have a talk by the new Regional Bee Inspector Julian Parker. Before he got onto his main talk subject of Barrier Management Systems he had some very interesting information and film clips of the threats posed by Small Hive Beetle (now in southern Italy and Sicily) and the Asian Hornet (endemic in France). We must all be vigilant for these potentially catastrophic pests. It was upsetting to see the honey bees afraid to leave the hive when the hornets were patrolling outside.

One of Tony Blair's sound bites was education education education and we can only become better bee keepers by constantly learning more about our hobby. We are grateful to John Hauxwell for running discussion groups on various subjects and for his informative blog. After attending a course on food hygiene, Amanda Hayes, Liz Jack and Alison Kahane wrote a very useful guide called 'Food Safety and Your Honey' which is available to view on the website. Many thanks to them for their hard work on producing this excellent piece of work Thanks are also due to Bob Jack for his continuing work as Webmaster and auditor.

In order to better our beekeeping skills we have various teaching aids produced by the BBKA covering all levels of expertise. If any members wish to improve their knowledge then please contact the committee and we will try to get a study group together. Despite the expenditure at the apiary, the income derived from both the course and honey production means that we will not need to increase subscription rates this year. On behalf of all the members I would like to thank all those who have helped make 2014 such a success, for their time and effort. I wish you all a happy New Year and look forward to another successful and interesting beekeeping year ahead.

Malcolm Balston
Chairman



APIARY REPORT

To our delight all colonies survived the winter of 2013, although two of them were very weak.

Most of the queens were from our own stock with few of the good traits left from our bought-in New Zealand queens. Consequently we had a number of swarms on the Apiary. In view of the aforementioned I intend to purchase some Queens for the coming season to knock some new life into our bloodline (with the Chairman's permission, of course). Clipping of queen wings is also under consideration.

Some Queens were bred at the Apiary using the Demareering method. Apideas were used for the housing of the young queens and everybody involved in this task became very adept. It was a fun and fiddly experience which was enjoyed by us all.

We had a low varroa count during the summer season. A formic acid treatment was carried out although there was no visual varroa damage as I always assume that mites are present. This treatment also deals with the acarine mites. Late September after the honey harvest Apistan strips were inserted into the brood chambers of the colonies for two days, as a knockdown test. The result was a much larger drop of mite than anticipated so the strips were left for the recommended full six weeks. Finally an oxalic acid treatment was carried out in late December.

The season was good and the colonies thrived. As in previous seasons we did not have to equalise or join any of the colonies. Hence from a management point of view 2014 was less stressful and we were able to concentrate on other important beekeeping tasks.

A good yield of nearly 400 lbs of honey was extracted from our colonies in late August at Hornsey Rise Community Centre – a new venue for us – in order to comply with the strict Food Standard Regulations. Most of our honey was bottled into half pound jars which seemed like an endless task at the time, and as always very sticky.

Eleven colonies were left to overwinter with at least one super of honey each, and additional Ambrosia was administered to all of them. Due to the warm weather the season seemed to continue endlessly with bee activity right into December, and the grass still needed cutting. I observed drone cells as late as November – would we have our first swarm at Christmas? I am still keeping my fingers crossed that all colonies will see the winter through. Who knows what is still in store?

All super frames were cleaned in our new wax steamer, including many brood frames. Most of the frames have now been fitted with new foundation, ready for the season, thanks to the many helpers at the Apiary.

As for the Apiary itself the shed received a lick of paint, and a new stand for the equipment was built along one side of the fence. In addition we now have our own First Class Eco Toilet. No excuses for leaving early will be accepted from now on.....

2014 was in many ways a very successful year: the warm weather, a good nectar flow, lots of bees, and as always happy and eager students. There were 13 well-attended Sunday Apiary meetings. Again a special thank you to the Thursday gang for their help – without them I would be lost and the Apiary a lonely place. I have enjoyed the year and your continuous support. A Big Thank You to Margaret Jarvie for dealing once again with the order of honey jars. Margaret Jarvie has for more years than I can remember been helping us with this task. Due to a broken hip she is no longer able to continue this. Your assistance throughout this long period has been greatly appreciated. We wish you a speedy recovery.



HAPPY BEEKEEPING!

Johan C Kjaer
Apiary Manager

NLB HONEY SHOW REPORT

The Honey Show was held on Wednesday 10th September at The Danish YWCA, Nutley Court 43 Maresfield Gardens NW3 5TF

Judge - Peter Bashford from the Bromley Branch of Kent Beekeepers

This year our honey show was well supported with forty one entries from fourteen people.

The Svela Challenge Cup for the Best Honey was won by Helen Rogers
The Marsh Cup for Beeswax was won by Richard Corrigan
The Riley Cup for A Frame of Honey for Extraction was won by John Hauxwell.

Once again our thanks go to Palle Pederson at the Danish YWCA for his help with our arrangements and on the day. Many thanks are due to Peter Bashford for judging our entries and for his experienced advice on preparation and presentation of honey and beeswax. We are very grateful to Alison Kahane who organised the excellent pot-luck-supper. Connie Smith's assistance with receiving and recording show entries was much appreciated.

We are of course indebted to all those who entered having put great efforts into careful presentation of their exhibits and to everyone who produced such a terrific range of delicious food for our wonderful supper. Thank you all!

List of awards 2014

Class 1. Light Honey

3rd Hamish Johnston-Stewart 3rd
HC John Hauxwell

Class 2. Medium Honey

1st Helen Rogers
2nd John Hauxwell
HC Angela Dougall

Class 3. Dark Honey

1st Helen Rogers
2nd Angela Dougall
3rd Nicky Faith

Class 4. Naturally granulated or soft set honey

1st John Hauxwell

Class 5. Novice Class

1st Richard Corrigan
2nd Helen Rogers
3rd Alison Kahane
HC Dee Cullen

Class 6. Honey Cake

1st Amanda Hayes
2nd Nicky Faith
3rd Stephen Roberts
HC Alison Kahane

Class 7. Piece of Beeswax

1st Simon Hewitt
2nd Nicky Faith
3rd Johnston-Stewart

Class 8 Cut comb,

1st John Hauxwell
HC Helen Rogers

Class 9 Frame of honey for extraction

1st John Hauxwell
2nd Angela Dougall

Class 10 Bottle of mead

No entries

Class 11 Exhibit related to beekeeping

1st Simon Hewitt

Class 12. Pair of candles

2nd John Hauxwell

Class 13. Photograph related to bees or beekeeping.

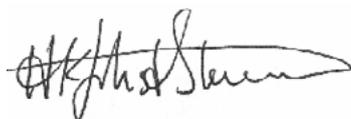
1st Richard Corrigan
2nd John Hauxwell

Nicky Faith
Honey Show Secretary

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

2013	INCOME	2014
£4,753.35	Subscriptions & BDI	£4,642.35
142.84	Profit from activities and donations	150.95
351.50	Sale of Association honey (+ future sales)	1,680.50
12.83	Bank interest (net of tax and bank charges)	18.13
2,100.00	Beginner's Courses	2,600.00
892.00	Jar Sales & extractor rent	1,178.90
<u>£8,252.52</u>		<u>£10,270.83</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
£1,488.82	Events, Speakers, Meetings	£1,164.15
363.74	Secretarial, Publicity, Mailings	300.21
453.38	Classes, Presentation, Teaching	799.58
725.23	Apiary	2,185.27
363.85	Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)	316.35
2,163.60	Capitation BBKA and Middx. Fed	2,425.35
709.69	Honey Jars & labels	1,012.56
105.00	One-offs (<i>Loo, Storage and Melter</i>)	4,092.06
133.50	Web Site	119.00
<u>£6,506.81</u>		<u>£12,414.53</u>
<u>£1,745.71</u>	Excess of Operating Income over Expenditure	<u>(£2,143.70)</u>
	ASSETS	
at 31.12 2013		at 31.12 2014
£5,887.38	Santander Current Account	£3,097.70
21,252.02	Santander Reserve Account	23,000.00
148.00	Unsold Honey	810.00
-808.00	Debtors less creditors (subs/course paid in advance)	-2,572.00
<u>£26,479.40</u>		<u>£24,335.70</u>
	Financed by	
£24,733.69	Members funds (from previous year's total)	£26,479.40
1,745.71	Operating Surplus for year	-2,143.70
<u>£26,479.40</u>		<u>£24,335.70</u>

The Association owns certain sheds, teaching aids, trophies, books, observation & other hives, apiary equipment, jars, honey, bee medicaments & other items. These are listed separately.



Hamish Johnston Stewart
Honorary Treasurer

I have audited the above accounts which are in accordance with the Association's books and records as at 8 Jan 2015.



8 Jan 2015

Bob Jack, Honorary Auditor

TREASURER'S REPORT

The association has run a deficit this year, which is a result of the decision to spend some of the accumulated surplus on a composting loo for the apiary, some new storage to keep surplus kit under cover, and a new wax melter. In terms of normal repeatable expenditure, the financial situation is still very sound.

Members funds of over £24,000 (held at Santander) are over 3 years' expenditure but this must cover the cost of replacing the (self insured) shed in case of loss.