

NORTH LONDON BEEKEEPERS' ANNUAL REVIEW 2015

www.beekeeping.org.uk



At the end of 2015 NLBA had, 134 full beekeeping members, 20 partners, 1 junior and 2 honorary members.



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Photographs by BBKA and Alison Kahane ¹

Chairman's Report 2015

After five enjoyable years as Chairman I have decided that due to changing personal circumstances and an increase in the amount of time away from London, I am not going to seek re-election to the Committee. I would like to thank all the Committee members over the last five years for their support and hard work in running the Association and wish them well for the future.

2015 has been difficult for beekeepers in some parts of the country but overall a reasonable year for us in London. Despite the problems of urban beekeeping the results of our bees' activities are far superior to their country cousins, especially where fields of rape abound. As always, good management of our colonies is essential to ensure good relations with our neighbours, and methods of swarm control must be at the forefront of our beekeeping activities.

We started the year with another group of enthusiastic beginners at the Highgate Society classes followed by the practical sessions at the Apiary. There is still a good level of interest in beekeeping and the 2016 course is nearly full. Education is an important part of the Association's aims and I would like to thank John Hauxwell for running several workshops both at his house and at the Apiary in 2015 and also for his blogs (all on the website). His final posting contains a lot of very useful information and is well worth reading. In the summer three beekeepers members passed their Basic Assessment and five their Food Safety Level 2 course. Another four members undertook General Husbandry training with two bee inspectors. Congratulations must go to Liz Jack who has now passed many of the BBKA Modules, succeeding with Module 6 in 2015.

We attended the usual local shows with the observation hive in which there is always a huge amount of interest. As well as educating the public about beekeeping these shows are an excellent way of selling the honey produced at the Kenwood Apiary. Help is always needed at these shows so please do sign up when asked in the newsletters, even if only for an hour.

The Kenwood Apiary is looking great at the moment and it is our intention to improve it further by the installation of another shed to give much needed space. Johan and his Thursday team do an excellent job of managing the Apiary both for teaching and honey production and it is very sad that Vic Godrich, a stalwart of the team, recently died after a short illness. He will be greatly missed. Vic very generously donated his bees, honey and equipment to the Association.

On the social side we have had a shed party, a summer social at the Apiary, a honey show and Christmas party. We had a new venue for the Christmas party so a big thank you to Alison and Jeff for hosting this festive event. The honey show was again held at the Danish YWCA. After aperitifs and a look around the show the Judge Peter Bashford gave us some tips on showing then made the presentations. Generally the standard was high but it would have been nice to have even more entries. We moved the show back a bit to give more time to prepare entries after extraction. If kudos alone is not sufficient reward next year we may introduce some further incentive to enter. Overall best in show honey was awarded to Nicky Faith whose beautiful acacia honey was a crystal clear winner. After the presentations, we went down to a sumptuous feast of an exceptional standard, both savoury and sweet. This event is a really excellent evening.

Those of you who have already renewed membership will have noticed that our new on line payment system is up and running. This will make life easier for the membership secretary, treasurer and course organiser particularly with respect to our affiliation to the Middlesex Federation and the BBKA. It is a platform, which we can build on in the future. My thanks to all involved in this and especially Adam Morris who has steered this move so successfully. We are currently still accepting cheques but this method of payment will be phased out in the future.

Apart from the Committee and people mentioned above, there are numerous people who have worked hard for our benefit and I would like to thank them all on your behalf. Special mention to Bob Jack for auditing the accounts and his work on the website, Harriet Copperman for her catering talents and Paul Welland for organising the purchase of the honey jars.

The exceptionally warm weather currently is a cause for concern particularly as the bees are flying but no forage is available. We will need to keep an eye on the food levels in the hive and feed accordingly. It would be nice to have a cold spell both to enable varroa treatment and give the bees a well-earned rest. With luck they will survive, be in top condition and that there will be lots of forage when [The Force Awakens](#)

I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope we all have a productive season



Malcolm Balston Chairman

Apiary Report 2015

2015 was another busy year and the season just seemed to pass too fast. All colonies had survived the winter, which gave us a good start to the year. Caroline Washington carried out an inspection of all colonies for pests and diseases and they were given a clean bill of health. What better start could you wish for..... Swarming was less than anticipated but then wings had been clipped on most of the queens. The majority of colonies built up quickly, and a fairly large honey crop was harvested then extracted at Hornsey Vale Community Centre with help from a number of members of NLBA.

During the year all our hives and other equipment were restored and painted. Replacement of all foundation in supers was completed. The new roof cover proved to be a valuable asset in keeping our equipment dry. Furthermore hive records were upgraded to keep more detailed information on each colony. We bought four new queens but they proved difficult to introduce. The idea was to bring some new blood stock into the Apiary but only two of the queens were accepted. All colonies were treated with MAQS in late summer, which was a new method of applying formic acid for us. It seemed still to do the trick. Our usual oxalic acid winter treatment has been replaced by Api-Bioxal, which is now the only legal product on the market.

A new domestic goddess joined our team and has been instrumental in helping organising and keeping the Apiary tidy, inside and outside. A lot of plants were planted for the benefit and joy of the bees as well as the rest of us. As usual the Thursday gang has been the driving force behind the success of the Apiary – without them things would look very different.

In the coming year we are looking to build a new shed as we have outgrown our current space. The small shed where the lawnmower lives will be removed and a new eco building will be erected. This will provide a more comfortable sitting arrangement for our members plus storage. The two recipient members of the Maggie Ridout Apprenticeship this year will be Connie Smith and Stephanie Cziczko. We wish them luck and hope that the next three years will prove to be an enjoyable, successful experience.

On a sad note Victor Godrich, a faithful member of the Thursday group, passed away in November. Vic remained loyal to the Club right to the end, donating his three colonies and equipment to North London Beekeepers. It was his wish that his colonies would go to some of our new members to help them on the road to becoming better beekeepers.

Happy Beekeeping!

Johan



North London Beekeepers' Honey Show Report 2015

Date: Tuesday 22nd September 2015
Venue: The Danish YWCA, Nutley Court,
43 Maresfield Gardens NW3 5TF.
Judge: Peter Bashford.

It was decided to hold the honey show later than usual to allow time for members to return from holidays and for honey to have time to settle both of which had been deterrents to entering the previous year. The show was well supported with 43 entries from 18 entrants. There was a new class for **Confectionary**. It was good to see such a high number of entries, many very well presented.

As always our thanks go to Peter Bashford for judging our entries and to Palle Pederson for his kind welcome and his assistance with planning and preparation of this lovely venue for our show. A huge thank you to all contributors who put so much time and care into producing their entries and finally thank you to everyone who cooked such wonderful food for our **delicious Pot-Luck Supper** afterwards.

List of awards

Class 1. Light Honey

1st. Nicky Faith
3rd. Alison Kahane

Class 2. Medium Honey

2nd. Helen Rogers

Class 3. Dark Honey

HC. John Hauxwell.

Class 4. Naturally Granulated or Soft Set Honey

HC. Peter Williams

Class 5. Novice Class (for entrants who have not previously won a 1st for honey)

2nd. Amanda Hayes
3rd. Harriet Copperman

Class 6. Honey Cake

1st. Amanda Hayes
2nd. Malcolm Balston
HC. Paul Welland

Nicky Faith [Honey Show Secretary]



Class 7. Beeswax

1st. Malcolm Balston
HC. Richard Corrigan.

Class 8. Cut Comb or section

2nd. Malcolm Balston.
3rd. John Hauxwell.
HC. Helen Rogers.

Class 9. Frame for extraction

1st. Malcolm Balston.
2nd. Alison Kahane.
3rd. Helen Rogers.

Class 10. Mead

No entries.

Class 11. An exhibit related to beekeeping.

No entries.

Class 12. Candles.

1st. Amanda Hayes
2nd. John Hauxwell
3rd. Malcolm Balston

Class 13. Photograph related to bees or beekeeping

1st. Hamish Johnston Stewart
2nd. Palle Pedersen.
3rd. Liz Jack.
HC. Ivor Frank.

Class 14. Confectionary

1st. Malcolm Balston

NLBA CUPS

The Riley Cup for a Frame for Extraction was won by Malcolm Balston

The Marsh Cup for the best Beeswax was also won by Malcolm Balston.

The Svela Challenge Cup for the Best Honey was won by Nicky Faith.

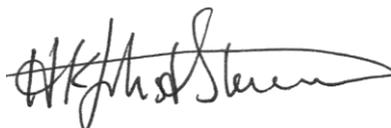
Key:

HC means Highly Commended

North London Beekeepers Statement of Account for 2015

2014	INCOME	2015
£4,642.35	Subscriptions & BDI	£4,896.35
£150.95	Profit from activities and donations	£641.55
£1,680.50	Sale of Association honey (+ future sales)	£773.50
£18.13	Bank interest (net of tax and bank charges)	£50.89
£2,600.00	Beginner's Courses	£2,500.00
£1,178.90	Jar Sales & extractor rent	£1,731.50
£10,270.83		£10,593.79
	EXPENDITURE	
£1,164.15	Events, Speakers, Meetings	£1,131.07
£300.21	Secretarial, Publicity, Mailings	£260.85
£799.58	Classes, Presentation, Teaching	£779.49
£2,185.27	Apiary	£2,019.61
£316.35	Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)	£392.85
£2,425.35	Capitation BBKA and Middx. Fed	£2,767.50
£1,012.56	Honey Jars & labels	£1,596.07
£4,092.06	One-offs (2016 RNLI donation)	£50.00
£119.00	Web Site	£136.50
£0.00	Webcollect and Paypal	£130.55
£0.00	Donation to Bees for Development	£50.00
£12,414.53		£9,314.49
-£2,143.70	Excess of Operating Income over Expenditure	£1,279.30
	ASSETS	
at 31.12 2014		at 31.12 2015
£3,097.70	Santander Current Account	£1,501.25
£23,000.00	Santander Reserve Account	£25,159.00
£810.00	Unsold Honey	£456.00
-£2,572.00	Debtors less creditors (subs/course paid in advance)	-£1,501.25
£24,335.70		£25,615.00
	Financed by	
£26,479.40	Members funds (from previous year's total)	£24,335.70
-£2,143.70	Operating Surplus for year	£1,279.30
£24,335.70		£25,615.00

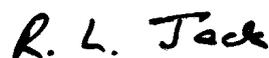
The Association owns certain sheds, teaching aids, trophies, books, observation & other hives, apiary equipment, jars, honey, bee medicaments & other items. These are listed separately.



Hamish Johnston Stewart
Honorary Treasurer

I have audited the above accounts which are in accordance with the Association's books and records as at 4 Jan 2016.

4 Jan 2016



Bob Jack, Honorary Auditor

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year the association has again run a surplus which the committee plan to use in the coming year to help finance a replacement for the smaller shed in the apiary.

Members funds of over £25,000 (held at Santander) would cover several years' expenditure but this must cover the cost of replacing the (self insured) shed in case of loss.