

NORTH LONDON BEEKEEPERS' ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

www.beekeeping.org.uk



At the end of 2016 NLBA had, 151 full beekeeping members, 17 partners, 1 junior and 2 honorary members.



CONTENTS

Chair's Report:	page 2
Apiary Report:	page 3
Honey Show Report:	page 4
Education Report:	page 5
Membership Report:	page 6
2016 Accounts:	page 7
Treasurer's Report:	page 7

Photographs by BBKA and Alison Kahane ¹

Chairman's Report 2016

Nicky Faith

We said farewell to Malcolm Balston who for five years chaired NLBA. We very much appreciate all that he contributed.

We have had a number of excellent speakers, beginning at the AGM with Dr. Michael Keith-Lucas speaking about the use of Pollen in Forensic Science. In the summer Barbara Dalby gave a demonstration of wax processing and in the autumn our speakers were Michael Badger on Maximizing Honey Production in the Urban Environment, Liz Samuelson talked about the effects of urbanization on bee behaviour and ex NLB Chairman, Robert Carpenter-Turner entertaining us with his experiences as a seasonal bee inspector in Wiltshire.

We also much appreciate John Hauxwell's workshops on varroa control, swarming, uses of nuc boxes and how to do a shook swarm. John's willingness to share his experience after many years of beekeeping is enormously helpful to those of us who wish to improve our knowledge.

The beekeeping season was preceded by a very mild winter and by spring varroa counts were high. It was suggested that we use one strip of MAQS per colony in the spring and this early treatment seems to have worked well. The Asian hornet arrived in Tetbury, Gloucestershire but hopefully all nests have been destroyed. There were local outbreaks of EFB and members were advised to keep a careful watch on their colonies and be vigilant over hygiene when inspecting bees.

Apiary meetings began in April with our Shed Party, which as always was an opportunity for new members to visit the apiary for the first time. The apiary also hosted our Summer Social where Seasonal Bee Inspector Brian McCallum demonstrated hive health inspections.

The apiary had a good honey harvest but the season did not give good harvests for all as while some members obtained excellent crops, others had very little honey.

NLB's spring 'Introduction to Beekeeping' Course was as always well attended. Julie Parker kindly took over Education from me and ran a very successful trial half-day Taster although one person did think they were booking for honey tasting so perhaps we'd better call it something else! Quite a lot of participants of the 'Taster Sessions' have booked for the full course in 2017.

As usual we had stands with our observation hive at Highgate's Fair in the Square, The Highgate Wood Community Festival and at Fenton House all of which were good opportunities to sell honey and talk about bees to a fascinated public.

In September our Honey Show at the Danish YWCA in Maresfield Gardens attracted a good number of entries and as usual a wonderful range of food was brought by all who attended. It was a great evening. The year ended with a lovely Christmas Party kindly hosted again by Alison and Jeff Kahane.

The Committee continued the process of trying to gain permission for our new shed and mains electrical supply, which we are still progressing.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their work and support during my first year as Chairman and to wish all of our members a very Happy New Year and a good beekeeping season to come in 2017.

Nicky Faith

Apiary Report 2016

Johan Kjaer Apiary Manager

As in the previous year all our thirteen hives survived the winter, which gave us a head start for the beekeeping year. To our delight our new Seasonal Bee Inspector, Brian McCallum, carried out an inspection of all colonies and gave them a clean bill of health to our relief. My overall fear is always that our colonies have AFB or EFB – particularly the latter which has been prevalent for the last few years in our neck of the wood.

2016 was a busy year with a lot of queen rearing being undertaken by various members of the Bee Club but we experienced difficulties in introducing the new Queens to the colonies. Hopefully we will be more successful in the year to come.

In addition to using MAQS strips to combat some of the notorious varroa mites (we had a mite drop of in excess of 800 in a couple of colonies) we decided to purchase one of the so-called hygienic Queens. It is still too early to tell if she will have a significant effect on the mites in her colony, but we will invest in more if that proves to be the case.

For the first time in my history as Apiary Manager, we did not have to feed any of our colonies for the winter. They all had plenty of storage aided by the good weather and a constant flow of nectar – and hopefully some good management on our part - which saved us a great deal of money and time.

We had the largest crop of honey harvested to date, approximately 500lbs which was extracted by various members at the Hornsey Vale Community Centre. A big thank you to those of you who helped out. As you will all know it is a very sticky business and we are indebted to you for your help. Some of the honey has already been sold at various fairs and to members to raise money for our new proposed shed at the Apiary.

Maria Christodoulou and Renny Harrop have been selected as recipients of the Maggie Ridout Apprenticeship 2017 and we wish them luck with their beekeeping. May they keep it up for years to come. For those who are not familiar with the scheme the Apprenticeship was set up in honour of my predecessor Maggie Ridout and gives the recipients an opportunity to gain a deeper insight to bees and their management with help on hand should they need it.

Our Thursday afternoons continue to be well attended by some more experienced beekeepers who help with every aspect of the running of the Apiary. Their joint effort helps ensure that the Apiary is ready for our Sunday teaching sessions and I would like to extend my thanks to you all, i.e. the Constant Gardener, the Domestic Goddess, the Washer and Repairer of our Beekeeping suits, the Lawn Mower person, the Door Fixer, the Gas man, the Frame Assembler and Wax Cleaner, the Tea boy/girl – the list goes on.....A Good Year!

I look forward to seeing you all again at the Apiary in 2017.

HAPPY BEEKEEPING!



North London Beekeepers' Honey Show Report 2016

Date: Tuesday 20th September 2016
Venue: The Danish YWCA, Nutley Court, 43
Maresfield Gardens NW3 5TF.
Judge: Peter Bashford from the Bromley
Branch of Kent Beekeepers

Once again we much appreciate being able to use the Danish YWCA and thank Palle Pederson for all his help with making the event such an enjoyable evening. Thanks are due to Peter Bashford for judging our entries and for his experienced advice on preparation and presentation of honey and beeswax.

There were two new classes in 2016: Small Wax Blocks, Class 7a & Label Design Class 15 We particularly appreciate the efforts of all those who entered, having put such care into the production of their exhibits. The range of beautifully presented honey reveals how varied in colour and flavour London honey can be.

Once again the Honey Show supper was a real feast. Thanks to everyone who produced such a wonderful range of delicious food. Also thanks to the team of Nutley Court's residents who prepared the dining room, served and cleared up afterwards and to Alison Kahane who arranged it all..

List of awards

List of awards 2016

Class 1. Light Honey

2nd Julie Parker
Highly Commended. Richard Corrigan

Class 2. Medium Honey

Commended – Paul Welland

Class 3. Dark Honey

No prizes awarded

Class 4. Soft Set/ Granulated Honey

1st. John Hauxwell
2nd Mei Ling Delmonte

Class 5. Novice Class

2nd Harriet Copperman
3rd Peter Williams

Class 6. Honey Cake

1st Alison Kanane
2nd Harriet Copperman

Class 7. Beeswax

3rd John Hauxwell
HC Richard Corrigan
Commended. Helen Rogers

Class 7a. Beeswax Blocks

1st John Hauxwell
2nd Richard Corrigan
3rd Helen Rogers

Class 8. Cut Comb or Section

1st Helen Rogers
3rd Alison Kahane

Class 9. Frame for extraction

2nd Helen Rogers
3rd John Hauxwell

Class 10. Mead

No prizes awarded

Class 11. Beekeeping Exhibit

No prizes awarded

Class 12. Candles

1st John Hauxwell

Class 13 .Photograph

1st Richard Corrigan
2nd Barcy Cogdale
3rd Julie Parker
HC Robert Dow

Class 14. Confectionary

1st Alison Kahane

Class 15. Label Design

1st Helen Rogers

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



Key:
HC: Highly Commended
C: Commended

Nicky Faith [Honey Show Secretary]

North London Beekeepers' Education Programme Report

Julie Parker Education Officer

2016 Introduction I took over the Education Officer role in Spring 2016 - I didn't want to write three year plans, business plans or strategy documents or use the language of these sorts of documents. It isn't why I keep bees! So my aim is : To continue to run an informal and formal (BBKA exams) education programme that is planned, accessible, engaging and enjoyable. A programme that meets the aspirations of our members from the beginners through to advanced beekeepers

Over the last year I have visited other beekeepers and teaching apiaries including Robin Dartington at Beeworks in Hitchin with Amanda and Alison; attended several workshops, visited LASI at Sussex University and attended the LASI 'Hygienic Queen breeding workshop', discussed education and exams with Val Francis, Administrator of BBKA Exam Board & Examiner; Met with Dr Luke Dixon, Director of The Bee Friendly Trust about the teaching work of the trust, it's education remit and potential links with NLBA; discussed education and hygiene with Brian Mc Callum SBI, talked at length to other NLBA members. Read a lot of bee books, publications and manuals.

New for 2016

Grow Your Knowledge catch up session June - attended by 7 members There was excellent feedback from this group. All felt that they had filled gaps in their knowledge and understanding – it was aimed mainly at members who keep bees but hadn't attended a full Beginners Course with NLBA or elsewhere. All of the subjects we covered were taught at NLBA apiary meetings.

New for 2016

Taster Sessions - September 24th 2016 – attended by 24. These were advertised through: Local press, the WI, Allotment Associations throughout North London, Community Growing Projects, Council Websites, Thornes Courses page, Community Centre Notice Boards in Haringey, Hackney, Islington & Camden, bookshops, tweets and word of mouth. I have compiled a Media/Press and circulation e-list with contact names and numbers for future use. Several people who attended this session have signed up for the 2017 Beginners Course. Taster Sessions are a very quick and useful way for people to find out if they really do want to learn about beekeeping.

Modules

To date these have been organised by members with other like-minded members via the newsletter.

Discussion Groups/ Practical Demonstrations – year round programme

Led by John Hauxwell. These will be continued in 2017.

Plans for 2017

10 week Beginners Course – February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 2017 + four practical apiary sessions, now fully booked! I have nearly finished updating the current PowerPoint presentations. It is an extremely good set of slides and information for teaching (originally put together by Nicky Faith). The updates are mainly name changes of organisations and the newer Varroa Treatments that support IPM and current advice from the NBU on hygiene, bees, apiary and the beekeeper. I am mastering the use of PowerPoint with Office Mix so that there can be some embedded videos of bees at the hive entrance, inside the hive and swarms etc.

Basic Assessment - August 2017

Amanda Hayes is doing a wonderful job looking after and planning the Basic Assessment training and study groups for 2017 – currently a group of 12 who are going to take the Basic Assessment exam in August. The study sessions will start at the end of February. This is a really excellent way of meeting other members and building your knowledge. The assessment is purely practical with no written section. If any members want to join the group do contact Amanda Hayes.

NEW - Saturday & Evening Apiary Sessions - 2017

I am proposing up to three Saturday Sessions and two early evening sessions in the autumn. A two hour Saturday morning session would cover several topics and one hour sessions in the evenings covering one topic.

NEW -Education Calendar - 2017

This overlaps with the 'website refresh'. I am proposing that we add a simple but quite detailed calendar to the website. It can be updated regularly with information about what will be taught/discussed at apiary meetings, basic assessment groups and the exam, federation days and meetings, beginners' course, taster sessions, discussion groups, module groups, Alison's talks programme, social events and trips. Everything we do.

Taster Sessions in September 2017

2 or possibly 4 sessions – If any members would like to help present these sessions – please let me know. It involves opening a hive, lighting a smoker and talking briefly about what is needed in terms of time, space and knowledge to become a beekeeper – We encourage people to sign up for a beginners course after this.

Modules

As 2016 2017/2018

Review and refresh programme during 2017

NEW - Add BBKA General Husbandry Exam Study Group – preparation for this during 2017 Please let me know if you are interested in joining a study group for the General Husbandry exam or want to discuss it.

Julie Parker Education Officer



Membership Report

Richard Corrigan Membership Officer

For 2016 we introduced the WebCollect membership system. While the transition to this system has had some issues, these have been quickly resolved. This new system makes it substantially easier to manage the membership as it approaches 200 current members. It makes it much easier to e-mail members and gives a good audit trail of activity. In addition the system has allowed us to manage the training programmes more efficiently as participants were enrolled for the Taster Sessions and the 2017 Beginners' Course using the WebCollect membership and payment system.

At the end of 2016, NLBA had:

- 151 Full members
- 17 Partner members
- 2 Junior members
- 1 Associate member
- 2 Honorary members

North London Beekeepers Statement of Account for 2016

2015	INCOME	2016
£4,896.35	Subscriptions & BDI	£4,695.60
£641.55	Profit from activities and donations	£812.97
£773.50	Sale of Association honey (+ future sales)	£1,977.50
£50.89	Bank interest (net of tax)	£95.74
£2,500.00	Beginners' Course	£2,300.00
£0.00	Taster Courses	£962.50
£1,731.50	Jar Sales & extractor rent	£1,135.50
£10,593.79		£11,979.81
	 EXPENDITURE	
£1,131.07	Events, Speakers, Meetings	£1,163.50
£260.85	Secretarial, Publicity, Mailings	£296.29
£779.49	Classes, Presentation, Teaching	£909.30
£2,019.61	Apiary	£1,074.56
£392.85	Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)	£356.60
£2,767.50	Capitation BBKA and Middx. Fed	£2,864.75
£1,596.07	Honey Jars & labels	£822.16
£50.00	One-offs	£0.00
£136.50	Web Site	£139.00
£130.55	Webcollect and Paypal	£293.81
£50.00	Donation to Bees for Development	£50.00
£0.00	Donation to BDI research	£300.00
£9,314.49		£8,269.97
£1,279.30	Excess of Operating Income over Expenditure	£3,709.84
	 ASSETS	
at 31.12 2015		at 31.12 2016
£1,501.25	Santander Current Account	£1,794.84
£25,159.00	Santander Reserve Account	£30,000.00
£456.00	Unsold Honey	£393.00
-£1,501.25	Debtors less creditors (subs/course paid in advance)	-£2,863.00
£25,615.00		£29,324.84
	 Financed by	
£24,335.70	Members funds (from previous year's total)	£25,615.00
£1,279.30	Operating Surplus for year	£3,709.84
£25,615.00		£29,324.84

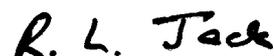
The Association owns certain sheds, teaching aids, trophies, books, observation & other hives, apiary equipment, jars, honey, bee medicaments & other items. These are listed separately.



Hamish Johnston Stewart
Honorary Treasurer

I have audited the above accounts which are in accordance with the Association's books and records as at 2 Jan 2017.

2 Jan 2017



Bob Jack, Honorary Auditor

TREASURER'S REPORT

The association has run to a substantial surplus this year with a large honey crop, the running of additional courses, and the sale of bee equipment previously donated by Vic Godrich. We had hoped that a new shed would have absorbed this, and more, but we await permission to go ahead.

Members funds now stand at £29,000 (held at Santander) and would cover several years' expenditure, and this must cover the cost of replacing the (self insured) shed in case of loss.