



North London
Beekeepers

North London Beekeepers Annual Report 2021

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Chair's Report

2021, a year we were finally able to open the doors again. With shed parties, members days, practical and taster sessions throughout the 12 months I don't think we have had so many people visit Kenwood. It was good to see everyone again.

We re-launched the beginners course with a fantastic group of up and coming beekeepers. They adapted well to the theory sessions on Zoom. Taking advantage of the technology they even got to know each other using 'Break-out' areas and were super accommodating at some of the early practical sessions with restrictions and the weather. Other online sessions including the popular Hive Hour with John Hauxwell as guest speaker, a great fountain of knowledge in answering all those bee related questions. Many thanks to John. There were some great talks from Tara Chapman who shared her insights to the beekeeping year Texan style and Julie Pigott returned to help us identify bumble bees. Another highlight was honey extraction, a first in nearly two years. With a fairly good harvest from over a dozen supers, the honey was jarred with newly commissioned labels to celebrate each apiary.

This year we say goodbye to Martin Stiksel, our Membership Secretary who has now decided to stay in Australia. He has not only taken very good care of the bees at Kenwood but organised everybody's membership renewals and BBKA returns over the years. Always on hand for support and to answer queries even when he relocated to the other side of the world. Best of luck down under Martin!

If anyone is interested in being part of the committee we could certainly do with some help and it would be good to grow the team this coming year. It is a great opportunity to give something back, have fun, meet other beekeepers and be part a community. Huge thanks to the team and everyone who has helped keep NLB running this year, from bee inspections, entering the honey show, attending events to mowing the lawns. I hope we can enjoy the new beekeeping year together.

*Kelly Moore
Chair NLB
January 2022*



Apiary Report

Kenwood

We began the year with just 2 overwintered colonies. We bought 2 nucleus colonies from Paynes Beefarm and were kindly donated 2 more colonies. We ended the season with 6 strong colonies in full size hives and 1 in a nucleus box. The new cleaning station was installed in the Spring and is such an asset to the apiary. We have changed all the hives from standard nationals to 14x12's. We used extension boxes, so that the existing brood boxes can still be used.

We ran 4 sessions for the beginners course, 2 days of taster sessions, a day for the Basic Exam, 4 members open days and 2 shed parties. This is a great achievement, considering all the constantly changing restrictions due to COVID over the season. We were able to take 8 supers of honey from the hives at the end of the season. Some of this honey has been sold to the Cafe in Highgate Woods and some will be held back to sell at events in 2022. Once the COVID restrictions were relaxed, we were helped by a small dedicated team each week - many thanks to them for all their hard work.

Alexandra Palace

After a season of several artificial swarms during April, there are six strong colonies settled in at Alexandra Palace. Several big maintenance jobs were undertaken at the apiary this year including replacing the fence with a new long lasting material, new windows and repainting the shed. Thank you to everyone who helped with these and the general beekeeping, very much appreciated. There were five supers of honey extracted this year with big thanks to Capital Gardens for the use of their facilities. Most of which has now been sold with the new label design proving very popular.

Highgate Wood

There are two colonies and a nuc at Highgate Wood. The supercedure from previous year resulted in another supercedure in early Spring, followed by another supercedure. The white queens have not had much luck this year in part due to the weather creating short windows of opportunity resulted in queens failing. We did extract one super of honey which was welcomed by the rangers and other local shops. All colonies have been treated and supplied with fondant late last year.



Honey extraction, Alexandra Palace

Membership Report

By the end of 2021 NLB had 154 members. Those were:

133 Full members 13 Partner members 6 Associate members 2 Junior members

154 is slightly up from 148, which was the number of members for the year ending in December 2020. 2021 was the year the NLB Beginners Course was back and with 25 participants this remains our strongest source of new members. Overall I think it's a great achievement to have held onto and even grown our members in a year where still a lot of the association's social occasions were either cancelled or moved online.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say goodbye as your Membership Secretary. I distinctly remember when I joined in late 2015, eager to learn but somewhat bewildered by the art of beekeeping. The collective knowledge in the room quickly put me at ease and beekeeping became my gateway to connect back to nature in the city. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members, past, present and emerging, in whose capable hands this association will continue to thrive.

Thank you very much!

PS: A reminder of the different membership classes offered by NLB:

- A Full Member is an active beekeeper. As part of this membership the person is insured via the BBKA for Public Liability and Bee Diseases.
- A partner Member is a partner of a Full Member, who shares the same postal address.
- An Associate Member is someone who is a member of another Beekeeping Association who chose to also be a member of NLB (for example of people have a second place of residence).
- A Junior Member is a member of under 18 years of age.

Martin Stiksel
Membership Officer
January 2022



Education Report

Beginners Course

This years class of 2021 was completed by 24 would be beekeepers. The course started in February with five consecutive Monday evening theory sessions, presented via Zoom which has been a great advantage to everyone involved. These sessions were followed by four practical sessions at Kenwood designed specifically for the Beginners followed by monthly members open days. A final end of season gathering to help extract the honey was held at Capital Garden Centre in August.

Basic Assessment

Several members undertook the practical BBKA Basic Assessment Exam. Working in study groups via Zoom in the months leading up to exam which was held at Kenwood in July. Well done to everyone that passed and thank you to Amanda Hayes and Nicky Faith for guiding them through.

Taster Sessions

On a very sunny day in September we ran two taster sessions for the public. These 90 minute sessions provided a short overview of bees and beekeeping in London. The aim was to give a flavour of what it is like to be a beekeeper in an urban setting. With information on how to support bees at home, by planting forage throughout the season. Open to potential beekeepers and those who wanted to learn more about bees, both sessions proved very popular and sold out quickly.

BBKA Modules

Congratulations to Nicky Faith and Kelly Moore who both passed Module 3.





Honey extraction, Alexandra Palace



Kenwood Apiary



Alexandra Palace Apiary



Honey Show



Kenwood Apiary



Kenwood Apiary



Honey Show Photography entry:
Peter Williams



Honey Show Photography entry:
John Hauxwell



Kenwood Apiary



Honey extraction, Alexandra Palace



Highgate Wood



Honey Show



Highgate Wood



Honey extraction, Alexandra Palace



Honey extraction, Alexandra Palace



Alexandra Palace Apiary



Honey extraction, Alexandra Palace



Alexandra Palace Apiary



Honey Show Photography entry:
Giuliano Sacchi



Honey Show

Digital Report

Website

We have had over 7,000 visits to the website this year, an increase of 27% year on year. That equates to 20,000 page views in total. The most popular content is: Honey For Sale, Courses, Who we are and Swarms.

Social Media

The private Facebook group is still going with only a small number of people taking part. We currently have no other social media presence set up.

Newsletters

The newsletters have continued to be popular, with an overall performance of 75% for the non-profit sector. The average number of recipients is currently 175 with around 120 members opening every month.

As always, we are continuously looking at ways to improve our website and how we communicate with members. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please get in touch: digital@beekeeping.org.uk



The Honey Show Report

Date: Thursday 30th September 2021

Venue: The Holly Lodge Community Centre, Highgate

Judge: Sue Lang - Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association

We welcomed back Sue Lang to judge this year and we all appreciated her expertise in judging and her feedback on how honey and beeswax should be prepared for showing. She commented on the high standard of honey this year and was pleased to see that members had been following her guidance from previous years.

This year it was wonderful to be able to meet in person and share some drinks and some snacks together. Many thanks to everyone who chipped in and helped on the day - your help was very much appreciated.

The results are as follows:

Class	1st	2nd	3rd	Highly Commended
A Light Honey		Helen Rogers		
B Medium Honey	Nicky Faith	Nikola Sutherland + Frank Ryan	Helen Rogers	
C Dark Honey	John Hauxwell	Helen Rogers		
D Set Honey	John Hauxwell			
F Honey Cake	Helen Rogers			
G Beeswax Block	Helen Rogers	John Hauxwell		Nikola Sutherland + Frank Ryan
H 3 Beeswax Blocks	Helen Rogers	John Hauxwell		Sara McLaughlin
I Cut Comb	Helen Rogers			
J Frame for Extraction	Helen Rogers			
M Candles	Helen Rogers	John Hauxwell		John Hauxwell
N Photograph	Giuliano Sacchi	Peter Williams	John Hauxwell	
O Confectionery	Helen Rogers	Nikola Sutherland + Frank Ryan		

The Challenge Cup

The Riley Cup

The Marsh Cup

Best Honey in Show

Best Frame for Extraction

Best Beeswax

John Hauxwell (Class C)

Helen Rogers

Helen Rogers

Helen Rogers

Honey Show Secretary

December 2021

Treasurer's Report

Following last year's loss due to lack of income, we were able to stabilise the associations finances with a small positive income. This has been generated from the highest ever revenue from courses and a decent honey crop, which has also financed significant improvements at our apiaries. While reserves continue to be at the lower end of what they have been in the recent past, the association's financial position is stable.

*Christoph Benkert
Honorary Treasurer
January 2022*



Events 2022

Up and coming events for the year ahead and don't forget you can also visit our online events calendar and add the dates to your 2022 'diaries'. Dates maybe subject to change in line with government guidance and the weather.

February

7th: NLB Beekeeping for Beginners Course

24th NLB Talk: Richard Noel, Brittany based beekeeper (Zoom)

March

19th: BBKA Module Exams

April

8th - 10th: BBKA Spring Convention

24th: BBKA Online Module Exams

May

22nd: NLB Shed Party

June

11th: Highgate Fair in the Square

19th: NLB Members Day

July

3rd: NLB Members Day

August

7th: NLB Members Day

September

4th: NLB Members Day

October

27th - 29th: The National Honey Show

November

12th: BBKA Module Exams

NORTH LONDON
BEEKEEPERS

