

CONF / AGM JULY 92

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z. INC

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. Inc and the Conference of Branch Delegates held in the Conference Room, Angus Inn Motor Hotel, Railway Road, Hastings on Wednesday and Thursday, 22nd and 23rd July 1992 commencing at 9.00 am

PRESENT: Mr D Ward, President in the Chair
G Martin Vice-President,
Miss F Trewby, Messrs K Herron, M Wraight,
N Wallingford - members of the Executive Committee
and R Bensemam, Executive Member elect.

25 Delegates representing 13 Branches,
approximately 75 members.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S C Goodman, Executive Secretary
Mr E Roberts, Executive Officer
Mr G M Reid, Manager NABU
Dr L Malone, Horticulture & Food Research Institute
Dr M. Goodwin, " " "
Dr B Donovan, Landcare Research Institute

WELCOME TO
DELEGATES:

The President welcomed all delegates and said he trusted that it would be a happy and rewarding conference.

PRAYER:

The President then invited Ms Jenny Dobson to read the Conference Prayer.

WELCOME:

The Delegates were welcomed to Hastings by the Mayor of the Hastings District Council, Mr Jeremy Dwyer.

PRESENTATION:

Mr Dwyer presented to the President a copy of the book Spanish Mission Hastings - Styles of 5 Decades.

In presenting a nectar bearing tree to the Mayor, the President advised that it was the custom to make similar presentations at other centres where conference had been held, in the hope that the community would appreciate the importance of nectar and pollen bearing trees to the beekeeping industry.

The conference was then entertained by the "Colla Voce" choir of Havelock North High School.

**PRESIDENTIAL
ADDRESS:**

The President opened his address by thanking:

- The Executive for their support
- The Pork Industry Board staff and in particular Steuart Goodman the Associations Executive Secretary, and Olive Hebron.
- The Buzzwords "Team"
- The Executive Officer, Ted Roberts for the wonderful job he does.
- Those members of the Association and MAF personnel involved in the Nelson E.R.P.

He welcomed new Executive Member, Mr Richard Bensemann.

Matters effecting the Industry include the "user pay concept" and its result on disease inspection, the possum poisoning programme, levy increases and the Commodity Levies Act, Importation of Australian Honey, export protocols.

Positive aspects were the untapped source - pollen, propolis has been well received, economic prices for Royal Jelly and finally, the prospect of clinical trial for manuka honey.

- REPORTS:** 1. MAF Quality Management.
Details of Mr Reid's report are attached as Appendix I.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 10.35am for morning tea and the conference photograph, and reconvened at 11.15 am.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from:

Alan Bougen	Comvita
Barry Foster	Poverty Bay
John Heinemann	Life Member
Steve Lyttle	South Canterbury
Ken Richards	S.N.I.
Trevor & Gay Rowe	S.N.I.
Brian Smith	Poverty Bay
Lloyd Stratford	Comvita
Mary-Anne Thompson	S.N.I.
Gavin & Lynda White	Canterbury

OBITUARIES:

The following were advised to the meeting, and members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Peter Barber	Southland
Peter Pegram	Hawkes Bay
Curtis Wicht	N.Z.H.M.A.

ELECTION RESULTS:

The Executive Secretary advised the meeting of the election results:

North Island :

Gerard Martin	746 votes
Steve Weenink	440 votes

Gerard Martin was therefore, declared to be the duly elected representative for the North Island.

South Island:

Philip Cropp	249 votes
Richard Bensemman	921 votes
Frances Trewby	1050 votes

Richard Bensemman and Frances Trewby were, therefore, declared to be the duly elected representatives for the South Island.

LIFE MEMBERS:

National Beekeepers Association
Nil

Branch Life Members

Merv Farrington	Southern N.I.
Jim Courtney	Bay of Plenty
Arthur Edwards	"
Nick Wallingford	"
Dave Warr	" (posthumously)

REPORTS: 2.**HORTICULTURAL AND FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE.**

Dr Mark Goodwin referred to changes at "Ruakura" including personnel. Work over the past 12 months had focussed on :

- A.F.B.
- Kiwifruit pollination

Several of the projects had been considered at the Seminar the previous day including :

- Disease incidence in NZ
- Inspection
- Disease drift

He outlined for the meeting Inspection techniques, inspected honey survey, sterilisation techniques, technology transfer courses particularly in respect of A.F.B. testing.

Pollination research had focussed on whether increases had been achieved by the use of artificial pollination with honey bees. Several pollinations had been tested. No significant increase in fruit set, no difference in percentage of fruit rejected because of size, no difference in fruit weight or value were found in any of the treatments compared with honey bee pollinated vines. It should be noted that these are only the results of the first years study.

3. HORTICULTURAL AND FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Dr Louise Malone reported on :

- "The Spore Score" Nosema Test Kit
- Genetic Resistance to Nosema

Copies of her address being made available to members.

4. PESTICIDES BOARD

Mr Ian Berry addressed the meeting on the activities of the Board, and in particular matters of interest to the Industry.

- A move towards combining the Pesticides Board with the Animal Remedies Board.
- Change to a user pays organisation
- Further trials on bee repellent for 1080 jam baits
- Methyl Bromide - users and consequences of a ban being placed on the use of.

5. LANDCARE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Dr Barry Donovan reported on:

- Demise of DSIR and staff losses
- Wasp research
- Bee research

Copies of his address were made available to members.

ADDRESS BY
ASSOCIATE
MINISTER
OF

AGRICULTURE:

In the absence of the Associate Minister, Mr Jeff Whittaker, MP for Hastings, presented the address on behalf of Hon Denis Marshall (Appendix II)

Mr Whittaker indicated that he personally was aware of the problems resulting from the application of the Commodity Levies Act, and he would support a change to the way a levy could be imposed. He was of the opinion that a single desk seller was unlikely to receive Government support, but a system of licensing exporters might. In respect of bee repellants for the 1080 poisoning programme, he thought it desirable for the industry to make Backbenchers aware of the problems - particularly if response from Government was not achieving success. The industry needs to run an information campaign to let Members of Parliament know what the disease risks are in respect of the importation of honey from Australia, and what the problems are.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 12.55pm for lunch and reconvened at 2.05pm.

INDUSTRY
TRUSTS:

The President extended a warm welcome to the three industry trustees who were present, and introduced them to the meeting.

MARKETING:

Mr Bill Floyd of Floyd Marketing addressed the meeting on Marketing Opportunities for the Honey Industry.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3.05pm for afternoon tea and reconvened at 3.35pm.

MARKETING:

Mr Floyd then spoke to the meeting on the funding of marketing opportunity.

- A honey industry identity - design logo
- Protection of the mark
- Develop a print promotional resource material
- Research to create a bench mark
- Ongoing quantitative research
- Marketing Consultant costs - including support staff
- Targeting specific centres of influence

**PROCEDURAL
MATTERS:**

Timekeeper: IT WAS RESOLVED that Bill Eddy of the Hawkes Bay Branch be appointed timekeeper.

Scrutineers: IT WAS RESOLVED that Steve Olds and Dot Rawnsley be appointed scrutineers.

Speaking times: IT WAS RESOLVED that the mover be allowed 5 minutes to speak; the seconder 3 minutes; and subsequent speakers 3 minutes.

Tape Recorders: IT WAS RESOLVED that this procedure be deleted from future agenda papers.

**NOTICES OF
MOTION:**

The Executive Secretary advised the meeting that he had received only one additional remit, at this stage of the meeting. (Note: the provisions of Rule 19c), i.e. from South Canterbury.

**DELEGATES TO
CONFERENCE:**

	<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>DELEGATE</u>	<u>D/DELEGATE</u>
1.	Northland	Malcolm Haines	John Gavin
2.	Auckland	Nigel Birse	Graham Cammell
3.	Waikato	Russell Berry	Brian Clements
4.	Bay of Plenty	Peter Townsend	Steve Weenink
5.	Poverty Bay	-	-
6.	Hawkes Bay	John Dobson	Ian Berry
7.	S.Nth Island	John Brandon	Frank Lindsay
8.	Nelson	Glenn Kelly	Philip Cropp
9.	Marlborough	Reg Clarke	Murray Bush
10.	West Coast	-	-
11.	Canterbury	Peter Bray	Bruce McCusker
12.	S. Canterbury	Paul Bartrum	Peter Smyth
13.	N. Otago	Algie Lawrence	-
14.	Otago	Allen McCaw	Gavin McKenzie
15.	Southland	Ross Ward	Keith Herron

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, and of the Conference of Delegates held on Wednesday and Thursday 17 & 18 July 1991 having been circulated, were taken as read, and the Chairman authorised to sign them as a true and correct record.

ADJOURNMENT: The Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc) was adjourned at 4.20 pm to allow for the Conference of Branch Delegates which commenced at 4.22pm.

(Executive Secretary's note: The Annual General Meeting re-convened at 4.22pm on Thursday 23 July 1992 following the conclusion of the Conference of Branch Delegates).

REMITTS:

The meeting agreed that Remit 5 be taken first.

5. **MR PETER BRAY** (on behalf of Marketing Committee)

That this Conference gives its full support to the efforts of the Marketing Committee, and supports the funding proposals recommended by the Executive.

As a result of a late remit to the Greymouth Conference in 1985, a meeting of the Industry Trust Fund Trustees, the Executive, the COOP and the Packers Assn was held "To formulate a common marketing policy". This meeting was instrumental in forming the NBA Marketing Committee, which over a number of years, has furthered its knowledge through commissioning various reports, research and latterly the employment of the services of Floyd Marketing.

Since 1985 there have been numerous remits to conference with common reference to the importance of marketing and the need to fund some form of marketing program. The employment of Floyd Marketing with the resulting surge of sales in Manuka honey is a good example of the results that can be expected with some financial input.

However with NO financial input, NOTHING will be achieved. It has to be clearly recognised that some form of permanent funding arrangement is essential if the work of the marketing committee is to come to fruition.

Amendment: that all the words after "funding" be deleted and replaced with "proposal of fifty cents per hive increase on the 1993 hive levy".

The amendment was **CARRIED** on the voices.

A motion that the remit do lie upon the table until 3.00pm the following day was **LOST** 4-8.

A motion that the remit do lie upon the table until 2.30pm the following day was **CARRIED** 7-6.

(Executive Secretary note: The remit was uplifted and after a further amendment carried - see Minutes page 22).

The meeting agreed to consider Remit 2 prior to Remit 1.

2. MARLBOROUGH

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that it develop a Code of Practise, for a Food Safety Programme appropriate to the Honey Industry.

Footnotes.

The public image of our Industry, and ultimately the price we receive for our products, is dependent on the standards we set.

The direction of Government policy can be clearly seen in the booklet "Food Safety for the Future". The trend is increasingly toward self-regulation and self-discipline in the marketplace.

Some important matters are covered by legislation. These include honey house specifications and licensing; packaging, labelling, weights and measures, etc. On those matters, the Code of Practise would stress the importance of compliance, and give a brief resume of the Act or Regulation.

On other matters the Industry must formulate its own standards, and some of these are currently being addressed.

Examples are:

- * Standards for the processing of honey: heating, filtration, moisture levels etc.
- * Standards relating to levels of H.M.F., contaminants, enzymes, and antibiotic activity etc.
- * Organic honey standards
- * Hygiene standards and cleaning practices
- * Representative batch sampling procedure

There is an increasing need to formulate our Industry Standards, but that alone will not suffice. They must be effectively communicated to members - in a Code of Practise.

The motion was CARRIED 12-0

1. MARLBOROUGH

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that it develop a publication outlining the Food Safety Standards and requirements, applicable to the processing of bee products.

Footnotes.

The Industry needs to formulate and publicise its standards, and encourage producers to market product in compliance with those standards.

This will strengthen the Industry's case - that any imported honey or other bee products must comply with the same high standards.

Amendment add the following words after "Executive that" "a sub-committee of the Marlborough Branch" - delete the word "it" and add at the end "and present its report to the Executive".

This amendment was LOST 2-11.

The motion was CARRIED 11-1.

MARLBOROUGH

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a list of registered honey processing premises be maintained, and available to members and honey buyers on request.

Footnote.

This is intended to be an additional source of pressure, through the marketplace, to encourage compliance with legislation and the proposed Code of Practise.

It will assist honey buyers and exporters to ensure that all honey traded complies with the high standards on which our reputation depends.

Honey from unregistered premises will become more difficult to sell, even at a discounted price. This will remove the present cost advantage enjoyed by those who avoid their obligations.

The motion was CARRIED 10-2

OTAGO

"It is the recommendation of this Conference that Executive should investigate fully the concept of establishing a honey exporting regulatory system."

Notes. Some recent cut-priced exporting activities have lowered the overall price for the bulk of New Zealand honey on the world market at a time when circumstances pointed towards more favourable selling conditions, i.e. low world supply and steady or increasing demand.

The advantages of export regulating bodies for other primary industries competing on the world market have been evident during the past few years of difficult trading conditions. It is suggested that a system of co-ordinating honey exports without exerting total control, e.g. licensing exporters to industry standards, will benefit both exporters and producers.

Exporters will benefit through recognition by the industry and overseas buyers, and producers will benefit through having clear guidelines for export standards, expected minimum prices to make decisions on, and better information.

The setting of quality assurance and conformity certification and market demands such as the I.S.O. 9000 standards make the investigation of a regulatory system for honey exports more critical now than ever. This does not imply the re-establishment of the Honey Marketing Authority.

The motion was CARRIED 9-3.

6. WAIKATO

That this Conference recommends to Executive that :

- a. no honey from Australia be allowed into New Zealand
- b. executive takes a strong stand on this issue
- c. the executive communicates directly with the Australian beekeepers and beekeeping organisations

Note:

Both New Zealand and Australia are substantial net exporters of honey. Neither countries beekeepers want to import honey from the other country.

We do not want European Brood Disease, Australian beekeepers do not want Chalk Brood. The risk will definitely be increased if importation of honey is allowed.

Note:

See Sue Cottons letter and Waikato branch reply.
(Attached to Remit paper as Appendix I (4 pages))

The motion was CARRIED 7-6.

7. MR RUSSELL BERRY

That this conference recommends to the executive that a high priority be placed on achieving the following in the order of priority:

- a. Keep new diseases out of New Zealand
- b. Keep exports of N.Z. honey, wax, queens, bees and bee products open to as many countries as possible with as little cost as possible.
- c. Lessen or at least maintain AFB current levels.
- d. Reduce the total overall cost of AFB to the beekeepers, that is the combined cost of

Beekeepers cost of inspection
plus losses incurred from having AFB hives
plus the cost of levies

Notes:

- a. By maintaining the fine job being done with border controls, but with increased pressure to keep Australian honey out.
- b. By looking carefully at the requirements for exporting and keeping them as simple and as cheap as possible.
- c. Actioning remits on testing bees and honey for AFB from the Waikato branch and Russell Berry's remit on restructuring, so other costs can be reduced.
- d. Same as c.

The motion was **CARRIED** 11-1.

8. AUCKLAND

This Conference recommends that the system of voting should be altered so that North Island members vote only for North Island Executive members, while the South Island members vote only for the South Island Executive.

Notes:

There are different issues to voting patterns between both islands. Most beekeepers in the temperate north of the North Island have very little idea of beekeeping problems faced by the southernmost beekeepers, and vice versa, nor how nominees can handle the problems of their respective areas.

The motion was **LOST** 3-10.

9. BAY OF PLENTY

That this conference recommends to executive that members of the executive seeking re-election be required to present a

record of their attendance at meetings and specific duties undertaken on behalf of the NBA during their time in office.

Notes:

When voting in elections, beekeepers have no means of measuring the performance of executive members. This remit seeks to provide voters with some valid information on which to make their choice.

The motion was LOST 1-11.

10. **WAIKATO**

HONEY INDUSTRY GENERAL TRUST HONEY INDUSTRY CHARITABLE TRUST

That this conference recommends to the NBA Executive that it exercises its statutory power of appointment pursuant to Clause 7 of the Trust Deeds establishing the Trusts referred to above by removing one Trustee each second year, so that any one Trustee shall hold office for a consecutive period of not more than six years, and by appointing in substitution thereof a Trustee who qualifies in terms of and in accordance with Clause 7.

Footnote:

The Trust Deeds establishing the Honey Industry Charitable Trust and the Honey Industry General Trust each make provision as follows :

Clause 6: "The statutory power of appointment of the new Trustees hereof shall be vested in the Executive Council for the time being of the National Beekeepers Association....."

Clause 7: "The person or persons in whom the said power of appointment is vested shall have the power:

- a) To remove any Trustees or Trustee from their or his offices or office and to appoint any other persons or person to be Trustees or a Trustee hereof....provided however at all times there shall be three Trustees appointed of whom:
 - (i) One shall be a representative of the honey industry from the South Island of New Zealand
 - (ii) One shall be a representative from the North Island of New Zealand
 - (iii) One shall be completely independent of the honey industry."

Both Trust Deeds were set up by the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority for the general purpose of furthering the

advancement of the honey industry in New Zealand. The Trustees appointed under each Trust Deed are charged with that responsibility. Clause 7 of the Trust Deeds (refer above) contemplates that the Executive of NBA should not only decide who the Trustees should be but have the power to remove and replace Trustees. In doing so, the Executive should have regard to the general purpose of the Trust Deed, viz the furtherance of the honey industry in New Zealand. In making its decision as to whom the Trustee should be, it must choose persons who represent the interests of the honey industry in the North Island, on the one hand, and in the South Island on the other.

It is our submission that it does not make good business sense to have Trustees hold their appointment for an extended period of time and become entrenched in the position.

If the industry is to be properly represented and in order to avoid entrenchment, it is our submission that :

1. The Trustees should be rotated as more particularly referred to in the remit.
2. In order to maintain continuity, there should be only one Trustee removed and one new Trustee appointed each second year.
3. That the Executive of NBA should each second year properly consider a new Trustee in terms of its responsibility under the Trust Deed and in order to ensure that the Trustees are properly representative of the industry and all of the members of the Association.

The motion was LOST 3-9.

12. SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND

This Conference recommends to the Executive that it be the policy of the Executive that Trustees to the industry trusts should serve a period of 6 years and that they should retire in rotation, one new appointment being made every two years.

Note:

This could be initiated immediately, with the first and second retirement being decided by ballot among existing trustees. Our branch feels that it is important to put in place a structure that allows appointments to be reviewed on a regular basis.

The meeting agreed on the voices to the withdrawal of this remit.

SCRUTINEERS: It was agreed that Dr Mark Goodwin replace Mr Steve Olds as a scrutineer.

13. WAIKATO

This conference recommends to Executive that the conditions contained in the Export Certification Procedures (Bee Products), are not acceptable to the beekeepers of New Zealand in their present form. Changes must be made to make them more workable.

Note:

All beekeepers should have copies of this information as it will determine whether honey will be able to be sold to exporters or not, as the AFB clauses are very restrictive and may encourage not reporting AFB.

We also consider that keeping honey entirely separate yard from yard, area from area, in extracting operations is completely impractical.

The motion was **CARRIED** 7-4.

14. HAWKES BAY

That this conference recommends to executive that the research advisory committee be requested to investigate and if appropriate support work being carried out on wasp pheromone bait stations and to give urgent priority to research work concerned with developing an effective wasp bait.

Notes:

There have been several remits put to Conference relating to the severity of the wasp problem and urging action on developing effective control measures. The problem is still with us and it is costing beekeepers substantial amounts. We must have some way of effectively killing nests without having to physically find them, which is often difficult and sometimes impossible.

In today's world of modern technology a lure or bait should be available for beekeepers, schools, DOC, Department for the Environment, Tourism, Forestry and the general public to combat the increasing population of German and Common wasps. We need results!

The motion was **CARRIED** 12-1

15. WAIKATO

This conference recommends to executive that effective action be taken to comply with the recommendations of Remits 3 and 4 at the 1991 Conference.

Notes:

Both remits related to reducing or eliminating the dangers to beekeeping that are inherent in 1080 poisoning programmes.

The motion was CARRIED 13-0.

16. OTAGO

That this conference recommends to Executive that there be a review of the Hive Levy Act definition of a "Hive" for levy purposes, and the criterion whereby a "Commercial Beekeeper" is classified as a person owning over fifty hives, with a view to lowering this number to nine hives."

Notes:

The definition of a hive as being "capable of producing honey for sale" is no longer applicable when a significant section of the beekeeping industry is dedicated primarily to pollination. This sector however enjoys the protection of endemic disease control and industry co-ordination provided by the NBA, for which they can be expected to contribute on an even footing with honey producing operations.

It should be recognised that those owning greater than nine hives will produce more honey than can be consumed by an average family. Consequently the surplus will have to be disposed of and will have an impact on the market.

It is also conceivable that beekeepers owning 10 to 50 hives will hire them out for pollination purposes and gain a profit on their investment, placing them beyond the "hobbyist" category.

It is therefore reasonable that these beekeepers should also be expected to contribute through the levy system under user-pays.

The meeting agreed by 8-4 that this remit be withdrawn.

The meeting agreed to consider Remit 18 ahead of Remit 17.

18. WAIKATO.

That this conference recommends to the NBA Executive that the number of hives owned by beekeepers for the purpose of the hive levy be set at a minimum figure of 6 (six) and subject to a minimum levy of \$50.00

Footnote:

It is felt that the current suggested lower point, currently set at 50 (fifty) is too high. This figure does not take account of the number of persons with less than 50 hives who require (or would benefit from) a disease inspection service.

Another point to make is that 2-3 hives will produce more than sufficient honey for a households use plus a surplus for friends and relations. Persons running 6 or more hives are obviously part commercial.

No doubt one would find them selling honey at cut rates or giving it away. The cost of the levy would be offset by such sales so they can well afford to contribute to the NBAs disease control fund.

Finally, as has been stated on previous occasions, the amount of levy charged to such people would, in the event of non payment, be too expensive to recover, bearing in mind the cost of Legal Services.

We would dispute this as the NBA would:

- i) Have access to the Small Claims Tribunal
- ii) and the efficiency of Debt Collecting Agencies

Further, the number of persons refusing to pay will be minimal : remember most people are honest and pay debts. These beekeepers, on payment of the levy, would be entitled to the NZ Beekeeper and Buzz Words and the receipt of such information can only be good for the beekeeping industry in general.

The motion was CARRIED 11-1

17. OTAGO:

"That this conference recommends to Executive that it should introduce an option for quarterly part-payments of annual hive levies for beekeepers owning more than 500 hives, effective for the 1993 year."

Notes:

Present information (MAF statistics 1991) would indicate that around 165 beekeepers would be eligible for this option.

The hive levy is set to rise to \$1.11 in 1993, with the possibility of a further 50 cents per hive for marketing activities - a total of \$1.61 per hive. The present levy system requires payment in total in February/March annually, which is a period of low income following high costs for most beekeeping businesses. Most existing systems for beekeepers to receive payment for their production are based upon a spread-payment regime.

Other precedents for periodic payments in business are common today, including local body rates and insurance premiums. The NBA has the facilities through a computerised data base and invoicing system to readily generate quarterly demands. The option of quarterly payments may be an inducement for some late payers to commence payments sooner rather than ignoring the levy demand completely.

Some suggested features:

- a) Annual declaration would be made as at present, establishing the amount of levy owing.
- b) Quarterly or annual payment options offered - 5% discount for payment in full on the first demand.
- c) Penalty of 10% for each quarterly payment if received late, i.e. greater than 30 days after due date. (This is the system used by most local bodies).

The motion was **CARRIED** 6-4, and on a Recount 7-4.

19. **BAY OF PLENTY**

That this conference recommends to executive that this industry resist strongly any move to dismantle the present MAF-maintained apiary register.

The meeting agreed by 10-3 to discuss this remit after Remit 32.

20. **WAIKATO**

The Waikato Branch recommends to Executive that this Conference fully discuss the type of disease control required and the dollars we are prepared to spend on it.

Note:

The Waikato Branch requests other branches to please bring their suggestions from their regions and fill in numbers 1 to 4, page 3 of Ted Roberts, Executive Officer Paper, dated April 1992. State the cost you are prepared to spend on each programme.

This motion was **LOST** 4-6.

21. **AUCKLAND**

That this Conference recommends that Branches organise disease inspections in their own areas and negotiate funding through the Hive Levy from the Executive.

Notes:

1. By branches doing inspections themselves, there could be a substantial saving in the cost of disease inspection services per hive in each area.
2. This could give branches a real incentive in their own areas, because of the necessity of keeping disease at minimal levels.
3. Because disease control is a Beekeeper problem rather than a hive problem, the local input makes easier to prevent outbreaks of a local nature.

This motion was **LOST** 4-8.

22. **BAY OF PLENTY**

That this conference recommends to executive that this industry strongly resist any pressure to totally transfer disease control to individual branches.

This motion was **CARRIED** 12-1.

23. **BAY OF PLENTY**

That this conference recommends to executive that the executive of the NBA continue to negotiate with MAF to maintain an effective disease control programme at the best possible price to the beekeeper, and backed by the statutory powers of the Apiaries Act, 1969.

Notes:

It is imperative that the industry maintain the present type of disease control programme administered by MAF and backed by the statutory powers of the Apiaries Act. Too many beekeepers are reluctant to cooperate with their peers when

it comes to such things as disease control, location of apiaries, honey crops, etc. They much prefer dealing with an independent body bound to respect their confidences and backed by statutory powers, if required.

Amendment that the following words be added at the end "and a working party be convened" was LOST 1-12.

The motion was CARRIED 13-0.

24. CANTERBURY.

That this conference recommends to the Executive that all non hive levy payers whose hives are disease inspected by MAF be charged for that inspection.

Note:

This recognizes the principle of user pays.

There have been grumblings in the industry of the increased hive levy for the purpose of a disease surveillance service with some beekeepers saying that they will not pay the additional levy. The industry recognises the need for this service and must find a way to have a fair and equitable funding for it.

Some suggestions of how this principle may work in practice:

By having the true cost of an inspection placed on the user, it is likely that there will be an incentive to pay the hive levy and so avoid these MAF inspection charges.

Non hive levy payers being inspected by the MAF may rise to such a large number that the revenue from this reduces the Hive levy for those that pay it.

There is an incentive for volunteers doing a diseaseathon to inspect more hives - MAF having selected an appropriate list to inspect.

Amendment delete the word "whose" and the word "are" and add after the word "hives" - "and undeclared hives" - the mover of the amendment also agreed to add the words "which are" before "disease". The amendment which then read as follows was CARRIED 11-0.

"That this conference recommends to the Executive that all non hive levy payers, hives, and undeclared hives, which are disease inspected by MAF, be charged for that inspection."

The amended motion was CARRIED 12-1

25. OTAGO

That this conference recommends to Executive that it seeks and publicises a definitive statement from MAF as to their future policy intentions regarding emergency response procedures for all exotic diseases and pests named in the first and second schedules of the Apiaries Act 1969.

Notes:

As a result of the cost of the EFB response in Nelson last November, suggestions have been made by MAF administrators that future suspect outbreaks of exotic diseases may not receive the same response, unless funded by the beekeeping industry.

The Apiaries Act is presently under review, with probable separation of the regulatory and agricultural security functions into different new "umbrella" Acts. The NBA must ensure that there is to be no consequent loss of effectiveness of any part of the present Apiaries Act as a result of any review.

We must also seek and obtain guarantees that present provisions for administration and funding of an exotic disease or pest outbreak, or suspected outbreak, will be maintained or strengthened under future legislation.

An amendment that the word "Policy" be added after "MAF" was accepted by the proposer.

The amended motion was CARRIED 13-0.

26. WAIKATO

That this conference recommends to Executive that a disease control management plan be developed for European foulbrood by 31 August 1992 and that this be negotiated with MAF Quality Management.

Note:

European foulbrood (EFB) is a Schedule II Disease under the Apiaries Act, the same as for AFB. There is no requirement for government to pay compensation for any hives destroyed in an attempt to control or eradicate this disease, nor is there a requirement in law for government to pay for loss of production for any scheduled disease whether it be plants, animals or bees.

The current policy of the Chief Veterinary Officer is that MAF Quality Management responds to a suspected or proven case of EFB just as they did at Nelson last year.

Our industry needs to develop an agreed policy for EFB and convey this to MAF so their policy specifications and management plans can be amended if necessary to reflect the industries wishes. Such a plan could require any or all of the following.

- a) MAF is not to make a response to EFB, i.e. it be removed from the disease schedules in the Apiaries Act or at least not incorporated in the new Biosecurity Bill Disease Schedules.
- b) MAF is to respond as per their current policy specifications and management plan with no compensation payable for hives destroyed or loss of production.
- c) MAF is to respond as per their current policy specifications but agreed limits will be placed on the number of hives destroyed or the financial loss suffered before the disease is regarded as endemic.
- d) The Executive negotiate a collective insurance policy for EFB to compensate for loss of hives, bee products, and appliances and/or loss of production.
- e) Trust funds be used to underwrite an industry insurance policy for EFB.
- f) Beekeepers arrange individual insurance policies for EFB.
- g) Each beekeeper to carry his/her own insurance risk.

The following amendments were added with the approval of the proposer - delete "Quality Management" and replace with "Policy" and deletion of "by 31 August 1992".

The amended motion was CARRIED 13-0.

27. MR RUSSELL BERRY

This conference recommends to executive that each member of the NBA with over 50 hives, to send in some sample of bees per 200 hives or part thereof, for testing for diseases of honey bees between 1 August and 30 November each year.

Note:

This would cost in total approximately \$7500 for AFB, \$? for Exotics and would give approximately 1500 samples for testing, plus samples from beekeepers with under 50 hives, which would be sufficient to allow the confirmation of our disease status for most diseases of the Honey Bee.

Amendment agreed to by the meeting, the word "one" in place of "some".

The amended motion was LOST 3-8.

5. MR PETER BRAY (on behalf of the Marketing Committee)

(See page 8 of the Minutes)

The meeting agreed by 11-0 to uplift this remit from the table.

Amendment - the proposer agreed to the motion being amended by adding at the end of the remit, the following words "and reviewed after 12 months".

The amended motion was CARRIED 13-0.

28. MR RUSSELL BERRY

This conference recommends to executive that between 1 August and 30 November each year :

1. All beekeepers with 50 hives or less to send in numbered samples from each of their hives, to be tested for AFB and Exotics as required, at no charge. On finding AFB owner to be notified to destroy hive in the approved manner.

Notes:

Cost of testing to be borne by commercial beekeepers. Commercial beekeepers to encourage beekeepers with less than 50 hives in their area, to send in samples. Estimated cost for 5200 beekeepers = \$40,000 @ \$5 per sample for testing (composite test to start with), using Dr Mark Goodwin's testing methods.

The motion was LOST 4-9

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3.10pm for afternoon tea and reconvened at 3.30pm

REMITTS:

29. WAIKATO

This Conference requests the NBA Executive to investigate the setting up of a system for the random taking of honey samples from honey producer or packers' premises; these samples to be examined for AFB spores and where above a level to be determined, action to be taken against the producer.

Note:

In Australia all honey found with AFB spores is downgraded to industrial use only which would seem to be a strong deterrent to the practice of the inclusion of infected honey in packed lines.

Samples could also be examined for EFB and could be an early warning insurance.

The motion was CARRIED 7-5

30. **MR RUSSELL BERRY**

This conference recommends that the rules of the NBA be amended in such a manner that the remits passed particularly when by poll, or matters of policy decided by postal poll, are to be binding on the executive; except when the executive become aware of additional information which would lead the executive to believe that the members would wish them to change the carrying out of the formal decision already made.

Note:

Suggested rule changes required. Appendix II.

The motion was LOST 0-13.

31. **WAIKATO**

That this conference recommends to executive the adoption of Russell Berry's suggested changes for the NZ Beekeeping Industry 5 March 1992 and that the necessary rule changes of the Association be made.

Note:

Please find enclosed suggested change. (Appendix III)

Comment:

Russell Berry would be happy to answer questions on this remit at pre-conference meetings where ever possible.

The following amendment was agreed to by the meeting 10-1 - a deletion of the word "adoption" and replaced "investigate" and the following words be added at the end "and a report be given to NBA members prior to the next conference".

The amended motion was CARRIED 11-2.

32. SOUTHLAND

That this conference recommends to Executive that the 1993 Conference be hosted by the Southland Branch.

The motion was CARRIED 13-0.

Members indicated some concern at the dates (5/9 July 1993) proposed for the Conference.

19. BAY OF PLENTY

That this conference recommends to executive that this industry resist strongly any move to dismantle the present MAF-maintained apiary register.

An amendment to add the words "while it is Government funded" at the end - was LOST 1-12.

The motion was CARRIED 12-0.

The meeting agreed by 13-0 to uplift Remit No.8 (1991 Conference) from the table. (Page 14 of the Minutes).

The meeting then agreed on the voices to allow the proposer to withdraw the remit.

33. SOUTH CANTERBURY

That Russell Berry's proposal to restructure the NBA be investigated by a subcommittee who could then recommend to next conference as to what the future format of the NBA should be.

This remit was withdrawn.

CLOSURE: The Conference of Branch Delegates concluded at 4.22pm and the Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Inc., then re-convened.

ANNUAL

REPORT: It was agreed that the Annual Report and Financial Statement be adopted.

REPORTS: Dr B J Donovan, Landcare Research NZ Limited, answered questions in respect of his report presented earlier in the meeting.

Mr Gavin McKenzie, Course Controller, Agriculture Telford Rural Polytechnic, advised the meeting that copies of his report were available.

Mr Allen McCaw, on behalf of the Librarian (John Heinemann) advised the meeting that copies of the library report had been distributed at conference.

ELECTION: PRESIDENT

Mr D Ward was re-elected unopposed and then took the Chair.

VICE-PRESIDENT

There being 3 nominations :
Gerard Martin
Frances Trewby
Nick Wallingford

A ballot was held and Miss F Trewby elected as Vice-President.

AUDITORS: Messrs Coopers and Lybrand were re-appointed unopposed (subject to their acceptance).

CHANGE OF RULES:

Following an explanation to the meeting with regard to the provision of Rule 29, including a legal opinion, Mr Wallingford withdrew his proposed change of Rule.

GENERAL:

1. Further explanations were given in respect of Rule change effected at Annual General Meetings, and the Executive's proposal to rectify the situation by postal ballot.
2. The meeting recorded, by acclamation, a vote of thanks to Mr Keith Herron for his services as an Executive Member.
3. General discussion took place on the desirability of either the Executive reviewing remits prior to being placed on the order paper, or branches forwarding non policy remits direct to the Executive for consideration.

CONCERN: The President advised the meeting of the Executive's concern that several persons contacting the NBA offices (at the NZ Pork Industry Board) in July had been offensive and he apologised to the Pork Industry Board on behalf of the NBA.

CONCLUSION:

The meeting concluded at 5.23pm with a vote of thanks (carried by acclamation) to the Hawkes Bay Branch for its organisation of conference.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date