

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

Minutes of the 1999 Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) and the Conference of Branch Delegates held at the Hotel Ashburton, Ashburton, on Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 July 1999 commencing at 9.00 a.m. on the Wednesday

Present

Mr R Berry, President in the Chair Messrs Terry Gavin, Anthony Taiaroa, Don Bell, Lin McKenzie and Bruce Stevenson members of the Executive Committee.

Welcome to Delegate

The President welcomed all to the 1999 Conference.

The South Canterbury Beekeeper Branch of the NBA were thanked for all their hard work in the Conference organisation.

Prayer

The President then invited Mr to read the Conference prayer.

Welcome to Ashburton

Mrs Beverley Tasker, Ashburton District Councillor welcomed the delegates to Ashburton, on behalf of the Mayor of Ashburton. She spoke of the area and its highlights and wished all present a very successful Conference and enjoyable stay in Ashburton.

Vote of thanks

Vice President Mr Terry Gavin gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Tasker on behalf of the Executive and presented a Broad-leaved Lime tree to the town to commemorate the Conference.

Mrs Tasker advised the Lime tree would be planted in the Ashburton Domain.

#### Key-Note Speech

The Hon David Carter, Associate Minister of Food Fibre Biosecurity & Border Control spoke to the Conference.

Notes of his speech will be circulated to branches.

#### Vote of thanks

Vice President, Mr Terry Gavin, gave of vote of thanks to the Minister on behalf of the Executive and presented him with a box of bee products.

#### Apologies

Dudley Lorimer, Nick Wallingford, Neil Stuckey.

#### Obituaries

The following obituaries were advised to the meeting:

K Matthewman - Kimbolton

Les Gearer - Waikato

Alf Bennett

The Meeting stood and observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect for these members.

#### Life Members

Mr Terry Gavin

Mr Don Barrow

Mr Ian Berry

Mr Ivor Forster

Mr Dudley Lorimer

Mr Ivan Dickinson

Mr Kevin Ecroyd

Mr Heini Belin

Mr Doug Briscoe  
Mr Chris Dawson  
Mr Pat Clinch  
Mr John Heinemann  
Mr Keith Herron

#### Honorary Members

Sir Edmund Hillary  
Dr Peter Molan  
Dr Jim Edwards  
Mr Steve Olds  
Mr Cliff Van Eaton  
Dr Mark Goodwin  
Mr Murray Reid

#### Procedural Matters

##### Timekeeper

It was resolved that Mr Peter Smythe be appointed timekeeper.

##### Scrutineers

It was resolved that Mr Steven Brown and Dr Mark Goodwin be appointed Scrutineers.

##### Speaking Times

It was resolved that the mover of a motion be allowed 5 minutes speaking time, the seconder and subsequent speakers being allowed 3 minutes.

##### Branch Delegates

The Executive Secretary advised the meeting of Branch delegates and deputy delegates notified to date

Far North - Mr Malcolm Haines, Mr Bruce Stevenson

Northland - Mr Terry Gavin, Mr John Gavin

Auckland - Mr Graham Cammell

Waikato - Mr Lewis Olsen, Mr Steven Lee

Bay of Plenty - Mr Lee Crawshaw, Mr Trevor Bryant

Poverty Bay - Mr Barry Foster, Mr Peter Burt

Hawkes Bay - Mr John Berry, Mr Peter Berry

Southern NI - Mr Frank Lindsay, Mr Alan Richards

Nelson - Mr Glen Kelly, Mr Hamish Harpur

Marlborough -

West Coast - Mr

Canterbury - Mr Derek Newton, Mr Roger Bray

South Canterbury - Mr Paul Bartrant, Mr Peter Smythe

North Otago - Mr

Otago - Mr Peter Sales, Mr Fergus McKenzie

Southland - Mr Findlay Abernathy. Mr Don Stedman

Meeting adjourned at 9.45 a.m. for Conference photos and morning tea Meeting reconvened at 10.15 a.m.

Minutes

Confirmation of minutes of 1988 Annual General Meeting (previously circulated and will be taken "as read").

Executive Election

The Executive Secretary in his role as Returning Office

reported that no election was required for the South Island, as only one nomination had been received for the vacant position. Mr Don Bell was therefore declared to be the duly elected representative for the South Island.

For the North Island, three nominations were received for the two positions, Mr Russell Berry, Mr Terry Gavin and Mr Gerrit Hyink.

#### Results Were

Mr Russell Berry - 643

Mr Terry Gavin - 968

Mr Gerrit Hyink - 718

Mr Terry Gavin and Mr Gerrit Hyink were declared to be the duly elected representatives for the North Island.

#### President's Address

The text of the President's address will be circulated to branches.

Mr Terry Gavin rose to speak following the President's address. He thanked the President for the enormous job he had done for the Association. He referred to Russell Berry's many years service as a Trustee of the Trust Fund, and the fact that he had been a member of the Executive Committee for six years.

Terry thanked Russell for the contribution he has made to the progress of the Association and the support he has given to others involved.

#### Research Report

Dr Heather Gatehouse - Apicultural Research, Palmerston North address the meeting. The text of her speech will be circulated to branches.

#### PMS Review

Mr Bruce Stevenson's speech notes will be circulated to branches.

Mr Stevenson commented, at the conclusion of his address, on the Minister's speech to the Conference and Mr Stevenson made reference to the fact that the N8A is the only private sector producer board that has its pest management strategy enshrined in law.

#### AgriQuality Report

Mr Murray Reid from AgriQual presented his report to the meeting. He introduced the other three representatives from AgriQual who were present. Mr Reid's speech notes will be circulated to branches.

He advised the estimated honey crop this year was 9069 tonnes produced. 280 had dropped off the Register during the past year. Apiary numbers had reduced.

5800 Annual Returns sent out by the end of June - only half returned. 2,738 reminders sent out.

#### Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) was adjourned at 11.45 a.m. to allow for the opening of the Conference of Branch delegates which they commenced.

#### Consideration of Remits

The Conference began to consider the remits as they appeared on the Order Paper.

#### Remit 1 - Southland Branch

That this Conference recommends to Executive, that it maintain pressure to prohibit the growing of genetically modified crops in New Zealand in view of the risks to the

New Zealand beekeeping industry.

Notes:

1. Should genetically modified crops be grown in New Zealand:

a) Contamination of honey and pollen will be inevitable and the perception of customers both local and overseas will have a severe effect on our marketing.

b) There is a potential risk to bee health and life expectancy by crops containing inbred toxins.

c) Spread of modified genetic material by cross pollination would be inevitable, as has happened in the UK already.

2. A small area of genetically modified crop actually impacts a large land area and corresponding honey crop.

3. ERMA and the Government need to be targeted.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to Executive, that it maintains pressure to monitor the growing of genetically modified crops in New Zealand in view of the potential risks to the New Zealand beekeeping industry.

Remit 2 - Waikato Branch

That this Conference recommends that Executive continue to oppose the introduction of Genetically Modified pollen and nectar producing plants into New Zealand.

NOTE:

We believe that, as New Zealand is such a small producer of hive products, relative to world production, that our marketing edge relies on the maintenance of our clean green image and in niche marketing. This may be destroyed by the

introduction of genetically modified plants.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends that Executive continue to oppose the introduction of Genetically Engineered pollen and nectar producing plants into New Zealand.

The Amended Remit was CARRIED by a vote of 14 For 1 August.

Remit 3 - Auckland Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they investigate the possibility of the detrimental affects on honey bees, and implications of honey products, arising from genetically modified crops.

NOTE:

It has been discovered that pollen from genetically modified corn has poisoned Monarch Butterflies. What are the implications for honey bees and pollen products?

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, they they investigate the possibility of the detrimental effects on honey bees, and implications of honey products, arising from genetically engineered crops.

The Amended Remit was CARRIED by a vote of 8 For 6 Against 1 Abstention.

Remit 4 - Nelson Branch

That this Conference recommends, that Executive takes a re-active role rather than a pro-active role in relation to the consultation and implementation processes of the Animal Products Bill 1998.

NOTE:

The aim of this remit is to prevent a repeat of the process of obtaining our Best Management Strategy under the Bio Security Act.

We do have a truly magnificent PMS but it came at enormous and much of it unnecessary cost to our industry - both in terms of time and efforts put in my Executive members and the PMS Review Committee members (Disease Committee members) and in terms of the finances of the NBA. We do not want to be used as guinea pigs again nor to be the "meat in the sandwich" between the power struggles of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Health Department.

The Remit was DEFEATED by a vote of 12 Against 3 For 1 Abstention

Remit 5 - South Canterbury

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they request the Exotic Disease Investigation Committee to draft a management plan to contain, or eradicate European Foulbrood, exotic internal and external mites, and Africanised honey bees, as a contingency if the diseases or Africanised honey bees becomes established in New Zealand.

NOTE:

Reworded to comply with rule 19(d)

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they request the Exotic Diseases Investigation Committee to draft a management plan to contain, or eradicate European Foulbrood, exotic internal and external mites, and Africanised honey bees, as a contingency if the diseases or Africanised honey bees are detected in New Zealand.

The Amended Remit was CARRIED 12 For 4 Against.

## Remit 6 - Auckland Branch

That this Conference recommends, that the Executive closely monitor what response the New Zealand Government will make to exotic pest or disease introduction effecting the New Zealand beekeeping industry.

### NOTES:

It is unclear what pests and diseases the NZ Government would respond to at this time.

As NBA members will be affected by any exotic pests or disease introduction, it is appropriate the NBA should be consulted when decisions are to be made in this area.

The Remit was CARRIED : 14 For 1 Against 1 Abstention

Conference of Branch Delegates was adjourned and the Annual General Meeting reconvened to allow for the presentation of Reports.

### Exotic Diseases Investigation Committee:

Peter Berry, on behalf of the Exotic Diseases Investigation Committee, presented their Report.

### Telford Rural Polytechnic

Dr David Woodward reported to Conference for Telford Rural Polytechnic on the courses available and some of the activities for 1999 He introduced Telford students present at the meeting.

### Library Report

Mr John Heinemann reported to the Conference on the Library and its use during the past year. He advised he would like members to advise him of a good bookbinder who could attend to the binding of the Association's 'NZ Beekeeper' magazine collection.

## Trustees Report

Mr Ian Berry spoke on the Trust's activities for 1999.

## Marketing Committee

Jane Lorimer, Chairman of the Marketing Committee and Bill Floyd, Marketing Facilitator, both addressed the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting adjourned for the evening at 5.30 p.m.

RULE CHANGES CONSIDERED AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT THE HOTEL ASHBURTON, ON THURSDAY 15 JULY 1999 AT 8 A.M.)

Resolved that the Special Meeting proceed to immediately consider Rule Change 4 (Nick Wallingford) and that Rule Changes 1 2 and 3 be withdrawn. (F Lindsay / T Bryant). Hawkes Bay branch indicated they had no objection to Rule changes 1 2 and 3 being withdrawn (J Berry / P Berry).

Rule change 4: Proposed by Nick Wallingford

Rule 15 currently reads:

### 15. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

The President and Vice President shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association from the six members of the Executive elected in accordance with Rule 16.

Should there be an equality of votes, the result shall be decided by lot. Those elected shall take office immediately upon their election.

Proposed rule change:

Add the words "for the ensuing year" after the word "Executive".

NOTES:

All six members elected to the Executive, regardless of whether they have formally 'assumed office', should be eligible to stand for either President or Vice President of the Association. The Annual Meeting has, for over 80 years of NBA history, selected the President and the Vice President from the six members of the Association who will be on the Executive for the following year. This rule change proposal confirms and clarifies that this should remain the case.

While the Annual Meeting might view previous Executive experience as an asset, the meeting should not be restricted to selecting from only three, or perhaps even fewer, of the members when choosing our President and Vice President.

"The Proposed Rule Change was Carried by a vote of 15 For 1 Against".

Rule Change 5: Proposed by Nick Wallingford

I propose rule changes to replace the words "Balance Sheet" in 'rule 17(c)(vi) and in rule 18(b)(iv) with the words "Statement of Financial Position" and to replace the words "Statement of Income and Expenditure" with the words "Statement of Financial Performance".

"The Proposed Rule Change was Carried by a vote of 14 For 1 Against 1 Abstention.

The Chairman declared the Special Meeting closed at 9.00 a.m.

The Annual General Meeting was reconvened at 9.05 a.m.

Annual Report:

Mr A McCaw Moved, Mr D Stedman Seconded: That the Annual Report for 1998, the audited Balance Sheet, Statement of

Income and Expenditure lay upon the table.

Motion Carried

1999 Budget

Mr G Cammell Moved, Mr L Olsen Seconded: That the 1999 Operating Budget as presented be received.

Pesticides Board

Mr Lin McKenzie presented Mr Don Bell's Report, due to Mr Bell's absence because of illness.

Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) was adjourned.

The Meeting of Branch Delegates was reconvened at to consider remaining remits.

Remit 7 - Exotic Disease Investigation Committee

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they develop separate PMS's for each of the exotic diseases and pests, which are considered to be a serious threat to the New Zealand Beekeeping Industry.

NOTES:

Should any of the following; EFB (*Melissococcus pluton*), Tracheal Mite (*Acarapis woodi*), *Varroa Jacobsoni*, Asian Mite (*Tropilaelaps clareae*), Africanised Honey Bee or the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) enter New Zealand, a PMS under the Biosecurity Act must be in place so that Part 3 - Regulated Control Schemes: Emergency Schemes (Clause 38) of the Animal Products Bill 1988 can be enacted.

Also, if the membership recognises, that all the diseases and pests mentioned above are likely to have a serious

affect on the beekeeping industry, then the Government may support a full EDPR.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they develop separate strategies for each of the exotic diseases and pests, which are considered to be a serious threat to the New Zealand Beekeeping Industry.

The Amendment was CARRIED 16 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions

\* Ruling was sought regarding whether this Remit should be from an individual or Branch on behalf of the Exotic Disease Investigation Committee (Waikato). P Berry on behalf of the Exotic Disease Investigation Committee (P Berry / F Lindsay)

Remit 8 - South Canterbury Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they encourage the use of biological control to help eliminate Clover Root Weevil and Sawfly in New Zealand.

The Remit was CARRIED 16 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions

Remit 9 - Gary Jeffery

That this Conference recommends to Executive that urgent investigation is carried out to determine the pathogen at present reducing wasp numbers, so that it can be used for future wasp control. (Note: Reworded to comply with rule 19(d).

NOTE

Common wasp numbers have fallen steadily in the past two seasons both on the West and East Coasts of the South Island, which eliminates control by weather conditions. The German wasps are now being seen for the first time for a number of years, so this pathogen might be modified to also control these.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to Executive that it encourages Land Care Research to carry out an urgent investigation to determine the pathogen at present reducing wasp numbers, so that it can be used for future wasp control.

The Amendment was CARRIED 13 For 3 Against 0 Abstentions

NOTE : Mr Alan McCaw provided an explanation of the Apiary Register and invoicing of levies, to the meeting.

Remit 10 - Southern North Island Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they rigorously pursue collection of unpaid levies.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they rigorously pursue collection of unpaid levies due to the NBA, according to the commodities levy order.

The Amended Remit was CARRIED 16 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions

Remit 11 - Southern North Island Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they review the internal spending of the association and actively pursue all cost saving measures recommended by their subcommittees.

NOTE:

The magazine committee has recommended savings in the areas of postage and perhaps printing costs but to date these have not been actioned.

The Remit was CARRIED 14 For 0 Against 2 Abstentions

#### Remit 12 - Auckland Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that due to the NBA increased budget over runs, the NBA disband the Marketing Committee, thus saving approximately \$90,000 per annum. We believe marketing is the responsibility of the individual businessman and not the NBA as a group.

#### NOTES

Money spent should achieve a measurable result. For example, Trade N.Z. requires a return of 50 to 1 on their investment. That means the expenditure of \$90,000 should have a measurable result of \$4,500,000 increase of sales per annum. If honey marketers wish to promote their off shore sales, they can join the JAG.

The Remit was DEFEATED 0 For 15 Against 1 Abstention

#### Remit 13 - Auckland Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive to leave aside the Marketing Committee for one year, (with a saving to the Industry of enough funds to clear this year's deficit as well as the next year's anticipated short fall).

This Remit withdrawn by Auckland Branch (G Cammell / F Abernethy).

#### Remit 14 - Auckland Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive to consider that the levy on non core activities of the NBA become a voluntary contribution.

#### NOTE:

Given the financial situation of the NBA, there is a need to concentrate funding on core activity only. It is time for the industry to define what core activities are.

This Remit was DEFEATED 1 For 15 Against 0 Abstentions

Remit 15 - Auckland Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that any increase to the apiary level, is set at no more than the current rate of inflation.

This Remit failed to be introduced, due to lack of Secunder.

Remit 16 - Canterbury Branch

That this Conference recommend to the Executive, that the present Apary Rating System be changed to a Base Fee and Hive Stock Levy System where everyone who keeps bees pays the base fee of \$60.00 plus so much per hive stock unit.

NOTE

a. It would appear that this reduction in levy intake (1997 \$384,000 / 1998 \$345,000) is the root cause of the NBA's financial problem.

b. The Canterbury Branch has been tasked with finding a fairer levy system.

c. Under the PMS all beekeepers belong to the NBA therefore if you want to keep bees there should be a financial cost for that membership.

d. A hive stock unit levy fee would cover all the uses of the hive, e.g. honey producing, pollen collecting, pollination, propolis, royal jelly, queen breeding etc.

The Remit was DEFEATED 6 For 10 Against 0 Abstentions. A Poll was called for. Poll Vote Result : 350 For / 648 Against, confirming Remit's defeat.

The Cdnfernce of Branch Delegates was adjourned for lunch at 12.50 p.m.

At 2.00 p.m. the Special Meeting to consider increase levy and the NBA marketing role commenced.

#### Notice of Motion 1: NBA Executive

This special meeting requests, that the Executive seek approval from the Minister of Food, Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control to obtain a \$6 per apiary levy increase to fund the current range of activities of the NBA (Administration, PMS and Marketing)

#### Notes:

Option 1 the ratification of the approved 2000 budget by the approval of a \$6 per apiary increase. It is fair to say that this is the option that the Executive favours and recommends.

The Notice of Motion was CARRIED by a vote of 9 For 7 Against. A Poll was called for. Result of the Poll was 481 For 525 Against. Notice of Motion was DEFEATED following a poll of members.

#### Notion of Motion 2: NBA Executive

This special meeting requests that, the Executive seek approval from the Minister of Food, Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control, for a levy increase of \$1.50 per apiary to fund the current range of activities of the NBA, excluding Marketing. Approval for this "1999 Notice of Motion" is contingent on members' acceptance that the Executive would need to provide notice of a withdrawal from the funding of marketing as at the end of 1999.

The President moved that this Notice of Motion be withdrawn. This Motion was CARRIED by a vote of 16 For 0 Against.

This special meeting to consider increase levy and the NBA marketing role was declared closed at 2.30 p.m.

The Conference of Branch delegates reconvened.

Special Remit 2 - I Berry / A Richard

This Conference of Branch Delegates requests that the Executive seek approval from the Minister of Food, Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control] to obtain a \$4 per apiary level increase to fund the current range of activities of the NBA, (Administration, PMS and Marketing).

The Special Remit was CARRIED 11 For 2 Against 3 Abstentions.

Moved (P Berry / D Stedman) that this Conference of Branch Delegates recommend Special Remit 2 be passed on to the AGM for approval

This Motion was CARRIED 12 For 4 Abstentions.

Conference of Branch Delegates duly adjourned and the Annual General Meeting reconvened.

Moved (T Girvan / L McKenzie) That this Conference recommends to the Executive that we seek the Minister of Food, Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control's approval for a levy increase of \$4 per apiary.

A vote, by show of hands, was taken of members who were in favour of the above Motion. The Motion was CARRIED 52 For 13

The Chairman of the Conference advised that we have a decision which can be taken to the Minister.

New Life Member

Lewis Olsen and Brian Clements recommended to the AGM that Tony Lorimer's name be put forward to the list of Life Members.

This was in recognition of 25 years of service by Tony to

the Waikato Branch, many of these years as Branch Secretary.

A number of members spoke in favour of Tony's addition to the list of Life Members

NBA President, Mr Russell Berry, presented Tony with a Certificate of Life Membership.

Farewell to President, Mr Russell Berry

Mr Terry Gavin advised the Meeting he spoke on behalf of the NBA Executive when he extended grateful thanks to Russell Berry for his Presidency over the last 2 years.

An inscribed pen was present to Russell Berry by Terry Gavin as a token of appreciation.

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned and the Conference of Branch Delegates reconvened to discuss further Remits.

Remit 17 - Southern North Island Brand

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they review the present system used to levy beekeepers in order to introduce a more flexible scale of payments based on the numbers of hives located in apiaries.

NOTES:

The original levy order was based on 16 hives per apiary. As a result, beekeepers who have less than 16 hives per apiary are paying a greater proportion of the levy. It is felt that the levy would be more equitable if it was scaled according to the number of hives in each apiary.

For example:

apiaries of up to 16 hives - scaled levy 1  
apiaries between 17 - 32 hives - scaled levy 2  
apiaries of more than 33 hives - scaled levy 3.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they review the present system used to levy beekeepers.

Amended Remit CARRIED 14 For 1 Against 1 Abstention.

Remit 18 - Otago Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that the basis for the collection of our levy be on beehives owned.

NOTE : Reworded to comply with rule 19)d)

NOTES:

The present system is clearly not equitable, with beekeepers with smaller sites subsidising those with apiaries with high hive numbers on 1st June. Hives are often stockpiled at that time of the year, a legitimate reason to declare fewer sites. Increasing the levy per site will only worsen this inequity. Hives are still the best indicator of a beekeeper's potential income and as such are the fairest measure to base the levy upon.

Remit CARRIED 8 For 7 Against. A Poll was called for : 582 For 426 Against.

Remit 19 - Canterbury Branch

That this Conference recommend to Executive, its concern about the widespread chemical poisoning of bees and makes strong representations to the Ministry of the Environment, MAF and ERMA with the view to reducing chemical poisoning by regulations.

Notes:

Suggested Regulations

a. No flowering plant be administered with any substance likely to kill bees or render nectar and pollen toxic to

bees unless by permit. The issue of a permit would involve notifying all beekeepers within a 2 km radius of the crop the substance to be used and the date and time of application.

b. A permit be required to advise, sell, purchase and use any substance toxic to bees. Permits only to be available to persons with a chemical proficiency license issued through 'ERMA or such appropriate body.

c. The costs involved in the above suggestions be recovered from the chemical companies.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommend to Executive that they make strong representations to the Ministry of the Environment, MAF and ERMA with the view to reducing chemical poisoning of bees.

Amended Remit CARRIED by 15 For 1 Abstention.

Remit 20 - Canterbury Branch

That this Conference recommend to the Executive that an injunction be placed on the sale of spray surfactants (wetting agents) until research has been carried out to-declare them bee safe or bee unsafe and labelled so.

Moved that this Motion be withdrawn. (L McKenzie / P Smythe) Motion Carried.

Remit 21 - Auckland Branch

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that all findings from the investigation undertaken into the use of drugs in honey producing hives, be published with a view to having all drugs banned.

NOTES:

Our Branch feels it is extremely important that NZ maintains its "Clean Green" image, by the banning of all antibiotics in honey producing hives. Not only does this affect our exports, but must reduce the strength of our stand against the importation of undesirable products into the country.

We believe that some beekeepers will soon be promoting their honey-as being produced from non drug fed hives. This Remit refers to our Remit 5 of the 1996 AGM which was amended to the Executive investigate the use of Fumilligan in honey producing hives and investigate the use of alternatives This was passed. The last recorded report said that the matter had been sent to ARAC.

This Remit was DEFEATED : 5 For 11 Against

Remit 22 - Bay of Plenty Branch

That this Conference recommends to Executive that it establish a Finance Sub-Committee to provide advice on financial planning, monitoring and reporting.

Notes:

Problems with significant income not being disclosed in the accounts, double payments to creditors and poor figures provided for financial planning indicate the need for some external assistance for the Executive. The Executive will retain all decision-making responsibility and accountability - the committee would simply ensure our financial situation is suitably monitored and planned into the future.

This Remit was DEFEATED 5 For 11 Against.

Remit 23 - Bay of Plenty Branch

That this Conference recommends to Executive that a subcommittee be set up immediately after Conference to research the structural changes needed for the NBA Administration to bring it in line with modern competitive requirements along the ideas expressed in the 1998 BOP Rule

Change Proposal, with the aim to implement the new changes at the Conference 2000 in Gisborne.

Notes:

A whole year has passed without any noticeable progress. We are aware of an increasing industry-wide awareness that the NBA needs to look at its structure and bring about the necessary changes. While there has been much talk about such a reorganisation, there has been little action, probably because the current structure (and a high level of personal commitment from some Executive members) just managed to cope with the increased pressures placed upon it by changes in government policy.

The ongoing changes to government servicing of the beekeeping industry will increase these pressures. In effect, the politicians' decision to restructure government services is also forcing the NBA to restructure so that the Association can cope with the shift in responsibility from government to industry. There will be adverse consequences for the future development of beekeeping in this country if the NBA does not restructure to some extent.

There is a need for an effective policy capability within the association which is not vested in the transitory elected executive. Government is likely to continue to make "decisions which could adversely effect the profitability and success of the beekeeping industry (Australian honey imports are an obvious example).

To be successful in the government policy arena in the future, the NBF needs to retain a person who has proven and effective channels of communication with government, and who can argue with both conviction and a strong understanding of beekeeping technical matters.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends to Executive that a subcommittee be set up immediately after Conference to

research the idea of structural changes for the NBA Administration.

Amended Remit CARRIED 15 For 1 Abstention.

Remit 24 - Bay of Plenty Branch

That this Conference recommends to Executive that it demonstrates openness and transparency in management and administration, allowing membership access to information as of right, choosing to treat requests for information in the same way a government agency would.

Notes:

Ironically, members have been obtaining information about/from the NBA from the Minister's office after the NBA refused to release. Financial information, reports and copies of correspondence should be available to our membership without the sense of "secret society" that has prevailed in the last few years.

Privacy concerns, (true) commercial concerns and costs of provision can all be addressed - this remit attempts to re-establish the principle that unless there is a really good reason to refuse a request, information should be available for our membership.

Remit CARRIED 12 For 3 Against 1 Abstention.

Remit 25 - Canterbury Branch

That this Conference recommends' to Executive, that the NBA use Federated Farmers as an umbrella organisation to provide:

- a. Administration services
- b. Better access to Government
- c. Better access to trouble shooting when necessary, e.g.

spray poisoning, public relations and education.

d. Close liaison with other land users.

Notes:

a. NBA administrative costs are ridiculous at present.

b. Federated Farmers have the ear of Government.

c. It is extremely difficult for the average beekeeper to keep his finger on the pulse when he is busy running his own business.

d. Staff writers in Straight Furrow would be available to inform of bee related issues.

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommend to Executive, that the NBA investigate the use of Federated Farmers or a similar provider, as an umbrella organisation to provide:

a. Administration services

b. Better access to Government

c. Better access to trouble shooting when necessary, e.g. spray poisoning, public relations and education

d. Close liaison with other land users.

Amended Remit CARRIED 11 For 5 Against.

Remit 26 - Waikato Branch

That this conference recommends to Executive that in the light of the current financial crisis, it is not the appropriate time to restructure the administration of the NBA.

Note :

We believe it would be prudent to await the results of the investigation that the Executive is currently carrying out.

Remit DEFEATED 6 For 9 Against 1 Abstention

Remit 27 - Gary Jeffery

That this Conference recommends to Executive, that the NBA investigate replacing the MAF (AgriQuality) in fields of disease inspection, issuing export certificates etc. Note: Reworded to comply with rule 19(d)

Note:

The idea of the PMS is excellent but cost projections mainly attributed to MAF (AgriQuality) is placing the project in jeopardy.

Motion to withdraw this Remit (L McKenzie / D Stedman)  
Motion Carried.

Remit 28 - Nelson Branch

That this Conference recommends that Executive takes active measures to highlight the dangers of feeding honey (or honeyed water) to birds.

Note : Reworded to comply with rule 19(d)

There is a need to get a simple message out through mass media, "Don't feed honey, feed sugar and water".

Amended to read:

That this Conference recommends, that local branches take active measures to highlight the dangers of feeding honey (or honeyed water) to birds.

Amended Remit CARRIED 8 For 7 Against 1 Abstention

Remit 29 - Ron Morison, Hawkes Bay

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that support be given to those branches participating in activities aimed at increasing public awareness of the benefits of Beekeeping.

Note: Reworded to comply with rule 19(d)

Note:

Some branches mount displays at A & P Shows, Young Farmers Field Days or similar venues where the risks of diseases and the value to the economy of Beekeeping is stressed. These activities are as important as marketing but receive no funding.

Moved that this Remit be withdrawn (S Berry / P Berry).  
Motion Carried.

Late Remit 1 - Alan McCaw

That this Conference recommends to Executive that they investigate without delay the data available from both the NBA register of members and the Apiary Register to ensure that the information available for Apiary Levy collection is accurate and complete.

Remit CARRIED 16 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions.

The Chairman declared the Conference of Delegates closed.

The Annual General Meeting was reconvened:

Annual Report

Moved that the Annual Report be lifted off the table. (S Lee / S Brown) Motion Carried

The Annual Report was discussed.

Moved that the Annual Report be received (F Lindsay / L. Olsen). Motion Carried.