

Minutes of the 2002 Annual General Meeting and Conference of Branch Delegates of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc) held at the Quality Hotel, Logan Park, Auckland on Wednesday and Thursday 17 & 18 July 2002 commencing at 9.00am on Wednesday 17 July 2002

1 President Don Bell called the 2002 Annual General Meeting to order at 9.00am

2 The President welcomed all to the 2002 AGM and Conference and challenged the meeting to tackle the issues of the next day and one half positively and with open minds.

3 Mayoral Welcome and Official Opening

His Worship the Mayor of Auckland, Hon John Banks welcomed the beekeeping industry to Auckland and declared the Conference open.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor was moved by NBA Vice President, Lin McKenzie and the Chairman of the Auckland Branch NBA presented Mr Banks with a pohutukawa tree to be planted in Auckland.

The Conference Prayer was recited by Mr. Bob Blair of the Auckland Branch, NBA.

4 Meeting "housekeeping".

Don Bell outlined to delegates a change in meeting order and structure to allow for discussion about the future shape of the NBA post the commodity levy expiring in December 2002.

From 9.30am - 12.00pm Thursday 18th July, Dr Mark Goodwin will facilitate a session on options for future structure of the NBA.

5 Presidents Address

President Don Bell presented his Conference address and report for the year.

Bell / McKenzie CARRIED by acclimation

6 Membership Matters

6.1 Apologies

James Ward, Heine Belin, Dudley Lorimer

6.2 Obituaries

The passing of the following was recognised:

Kevin Jacobs, Lin Quaffe, Jimmy Hisshin, L Reid, Ray Muldoon, David Lees, Neil Jenson, Robert Hamilton, Wayne McDougall.

6.3 Recognition of Life Members, Honorary Members & Past Presidents in attendance:

Ivan Dickinson, Ian Berry, Russell Berry, Allen McCaw, Tony Lorimer, Terry Gavin and Mike Stuckey.

6.4 Results of election of Executive Members

The Executive Secretary declared that Mr Lin McKenzie and Mr Philip Cropp had been elected unopposed for the 2002 South Island positions. Mrs Jane Lorimer had been elected unopposed for the 2002 North Island position. The one-year casual vacancy for the North Island is yet to be filled.

6.5 Advice of newly elected branch life members.

Southern North Island Frank & Mary -Ann Lindsay

Canterbury A R (Tony) Taiaroa

7 Presentation MAF Policy

Irene Parminter, from MAF policy made a brief presentation and then ran an open forum regarding initial MAF work

relating to the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification's directive 7.1 to MAF to develop a strategy to keep pollinating bees GM free.

8 Confirmation of minutes of 2001 Annual General Meeting

"The Minutes of the National Beekeepers Association of NZ (Inc) Annual General Meeting and Conference of Branch Delegates held at the Rydges Lakeland Resort Queenstown on July 23rd and 24th 2001 be accepted."

A Richards / T Gavin CARRIED

8.1 Matters arising - nil.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30am for the Conference Photo and Morning Tea.

The meeting reconvened at 11.00am

9 Reports

9.1 Honey Industry Trusts

Ian Berry reported on the Trusts' activities 1/01/01 - 31/12/01.

9.2 Expanding Options for NZ Beekeepers Project

Ivan Dickinson, Chairman of the Project Management Committee reported on progress to date with this project set up with help from MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund.

9.3 Library Christine Taiaroa reported on activities of the NBA's Technical Library.

10 Annual Report and Statement of Financial Position for year 1 January 2001 - 31 December 2001.

"That the 2001 Annual Report and Statement of Financial Position be accepted"

D Bell / L McKenzie CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12.00pm for lunch and Break away
afternoon tours.

Thursday 18 July 2002, Second day of Conference

11 Richard Hatfield talking about the process for the
Commodity Levy Ballot and Biosecurity Levy proposals. Mr
Hatfield also answered questions.

12 9.30am - 12.00pm

A forum/discussion facilitated by Mark Goodwin to discuss
the future of the NBA in light of the ballot result.

10.00am - 10.30am Afternoon Tea

12.00pm - 1.00pm Lunch break

13 Mr Bell called the AGM to order and introduced Dr Derek
Belton, Director Animal Biosecurity, Ministry of Agriculture
and Forestry who spoke about Varroa, market access and
broader biosecurity issues.

Paul Bolger, Varroa Programme Manager then spoke about the
Varroa programme in more detail.

14 Special Meeting to consider Proposed Rule Changes from
Southern North Island Branch declared open at 2.20pm

14.1 THE EXECUTIVE:

Delete rule 16 a)

"The Executive shall consist of six persons who are either
members of the Association or the representative of
corporations which are members, three being resident in the
North Island and three in the South Island" and replace
with...

RULE 16 a): The Executive shall consist of one representative from each branch. Representatives must be either members of the association, or the representatives of corporations that are members.

14.2 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT:

Delete rule 15

"The President and Vice President shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association from the six members of the Executive for the ensuing year 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" and replace with...

RULE 15: The President and Vice President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the association from the body of members present. Should there be an equality of votes, the result shall be decided by the drawing of lots. Those elected take office immediately on their election.

14.3 TERM OF OFFICE:

Delete rule 16 b)

"The members of the Executive shall hold office for two years, commencing at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting immediately following their election and shall at the expiration of their terms be eligible for re-election"

[As executive members are appointed by branches annually, there is no need to limit the term of office]

14.4 QUORUM:

Delete rule 16 h)

"Four members shall constitute a quorum" and replace with...

RULE 16 h) Eight members of executive shall constitute a quorum.

The Executive Secretary read a legal opinion from the Associations Solicitors, Philips Fox, which raised issues about inconsistencies with how the proposed rule changes would impact on the Associations rules. The President ruled the rule change out of order.

15 The President declared the Special Meeting closed and immediately opened the Conference of Branch Delegates at 2.25pm.

16 Conference of Branch Delegates

16.1 Procedural Motions

16.1.1 Appoint timekeeper

"That John Brookfield be appointed timekeeper."

G Cammell / A McCaw CARRIED

16.1.2 Appoint two Scrutineers

"That Mark Goodwin and Murray Reid be appointed scrutineerss"

G Cammell / A McCaw CARRIED

16.1.3 Determine speaking times.

Meeting agreed to speaking times of:

5 minutes mover

3 minutes seconder

3 minutes subsequent speakers

16.2 Remits

1 Remit from Waikato Branch:

(7) That this Conference recommends to Executive that the National Beekeepers Association investigate the re-structuring of the National Beekeepers Association and report findings to a special meeting.

L Olsen / T Lorimer

Note: The workload of Executive and Committee members is excessive and are we receiving value for our dollar?

Conference voting: For: 15 Against 0 Abstentions 1 Rule 26 f (ii) Carried

2 Remit from the Auckland Branch:

(2) This conference recommends to the Executive that at the completion of 2002 conference that the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand is disbanded and in its place a voluntary Commercial Beekeepers Association of New Zealand be established.

"That the remit be withdrawn"

G Cammell / T Lorimer

Conference voting: For: 13 Against 0 Abstentions: 3 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

3 Remit from the Hawkes Bay Branch:

(4) That this conference recommends that the National Beekeepers Association takes immediate steps to become a full industry sector group of Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Incorporated).

Note: With the advent of free trade and an increase in world travel we now need the power of a larger organisation with similar ideals to protect our industry with marketing and

biosecurity endeavours. This does not mean giving up our autonomy and we would always steer our own ship. Our assets would remain and would be "ring fenced". The added weight of 15,000 Federated Farmers members would give us the extra clout we need for submissions to central and local Government.

"That the remit be withdrawn"

J Berry / P Berry

Conference voting: For: 15 Against 0 Abstentions: 1 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

4 Remit from the Otago Branch:

(9) "That this conference recommends to the executive that the National Beekeepers Association of NZ (Inc.) investigate becoming a full Industry Sector Group member of Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc.)."

P Sales / B Clements

The Conference asked Mr Tony St. Clair, Chief Executive Officer of Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc.) to speak about Federated Farmers structure and administration. Mr St. Clair also answered questions. Moved A Richards / T Lorimer that the remit be put. The meeting agreed to put the remit.

Conference voting: For: 13 Against 1 Abstentions: 2 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

The Conference broke for afternoon tea at 3.15pm and returned at 3.30pm when Mr M Bush presented an overview of the past 12 months of the AFB Pest Management Strategy.

The Conference of Branch Delegates reconvened at 3.50pm

5 Remit from the Canterbury Branch:

(6) "That this Conference recommends to the Executive that

the funding for Industry Good projects be sourced from a voluntary membership base fee."

Note: This organisation has been funded by a differentiation in fees payable by members. The funding base has led to considerable debate over the years and depending on the system chosen, has created inequality within our membership with regard to financial impact vs. benefits obtained. The net result of the funding system at present is that 80% of the NBA funding is obtained from 20% of the members. In an effort to create a more equitable balance the Executive has separated the PMS component of the NBA to be based on a user pays system. The industry good component needs to be seen as an equal benefit to all beekeepers regardless of their operation size with an equal financial contribution by all members.

"That the remit be withdrawn"

S Brown / A Taiaroa

Conference voting: For: 14 Against 0 Abstentions: 1 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

6 Remit from the Auckland Branch:

(1) This conference recommends to the Executive that it instruct the Export committee to facilitate and pursue completion of the necessary protocols, to allow the export of live bees to the USA. G Cammell / J Wright Note: It is this branch's belief that MAF and the USDA have had inconclusive discussions on this matter for more than 15 years. It is to the New Zealand Beekeeping industries financial interest to have this valuable Export market, confirmed or denied. The Australian beekeeping industry is reportedly further advanced in this matter than the New Zealand industry.

Amendment moved:

"That after the word USA, the words and United Kingdom be

added"

I Berry / J Berry

Conference voting: For: 16 Against 0 Abstentions: 0 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

The amendment became the motion and was put to the conference

"This conference recommends to the Executive that it instruct the Export committee to facilitate and pursue completion of the necessary protocols, to allow the export of live bees to the USA and United Kingdom."

Conference voting: For: 15 Against 0 Abstentions: 1 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

7 Remit from the Auckland Branch:

(3) That this conference recommends to the executive that the NBA (investigates approaching) all other industries at risk to exotic disease incursions with a view to forming a group to lobby government to create a levy on all incoming containers, packages, and travellers for the purpose of establishing a ready fund for fighting exotic disease incursions. The levy would be targeted at the risk creators i.e. shipping companies, airlines and inbound travellers. Note: The levy would have to be administered by the "at risk" industries, not government. The industries envisaged are agriculture, horticulture, forestry and fisheries.

G Cammell / J Wright

Amendment moved:

"That after the word USA, the words investigates approaching be added"

L Olsen / T Lorimer

Conference voting: For: 11 Against 2 Abstentions: 3 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

The amendment became the motion and was put to the conference

"That this conference recommends to the executive that the NBA investigates approaching all other industries at risk to exotic disease incursions with a view to forming a group to lobby government to create a levy on all incoming containers, packages, and travellers for the purpose of establishing a ready fund for fighting exotic disease incursions. The levy would be targeted at the risk creators i.e. shipping companies, airlines and inbound travellers."

Conference voting: For: 4 Against 10 Abstentions: 2 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Lost

8 Remit from the Hawkes Bay :

(4) That this conference recommends that the National Beekeepers' Association advocates the retention of the Movement Control Line in its present location, with minor changes, when breaches occur. Also, that the Association maintains pressure on Government to make further funding available for eradication/control of outbreaks south of the "Line. Note: While it is appreciated that a few beekeepers close to the "Line" are experiencing difficulties, we feel the overall benefit to the industry in keeping the "Line" in place far outweigh the disadvantages.

J Berry / L Olsen

Conference voting: For: 14 Against 1 Abstentions: 1 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

9 Remit from Waikato Branch:

(8) That this Conference recommends to Executive that the provisions of the Pest Management Strategy for AFB relating to Certificates of Inspections, Annual Disease Declarations

and the destruction of infected Hives are enforced.

Note: The pest management strategy is expensive to carry out. It is however not being carried out as it was designed. Because of this Beekeepers are not seeing the return they should be seeing for their investment in the PMS as far as reduced disease levels.

One of the major objectives of the strategy was that every hive in New Zealand was checked for AFB by some with demonstrated ability to do so each year. Beekeepers could become approved and inspect their own colonies. Otherwise they had to get an approved beekeeper to inspect their hives and fill out a certificate of inspection. Not having to pay someone to complete a certificate of inspection was one of the main incentives for beekeepers to become approved and have a Disease Eradication Conformity Agreement (DECA).

The principle behind the DECA scheme was that if DECA holders failed to meet the commitments they made their DECA could be removed which would result in them having to go to the expense of having to provide a certificate of inspection.

However, since the start of the PMS little or no action has been taken against those non approved beekeepers who have failed to provide a certificate of Inspection. So the threat of having a DECA removed has no teeth.

Several of the large AFB problems that have occurred recently would not have occurred if the DECA requirements and Certificate of Inspections had been enforced. The comment could be made that enforcement is too expensive. It could also be argued that it is more expensive not to as the PMS will not work. There are ways of enforcing COIs that are inexpensive.

Inspections should be carried out on hives belonging to those in default and accounts sent for the work. Most people would pay the account and a % could be added for those who don't pay. The PMS allows liens to be placed on the

property. This threat should be made to encourage payment. The first of these actions should be publicised as much as possible to encourage compliance from the remainder.

Beekeepers in default of their DECA should have their DECA's removed for 1 year which would result in them having to produce a COI. This should provide sufficient incentive for people to conform with their DECA requirements.

In summary if the PMS is not going to be carried out as specified in the PMS strategy, then most of the investment in the PMS is probably a waste.

L Olsen / T Lorimer

Conference voting: For: 13 Against 1 Abstentions: 2 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

10 Remit from the Otago Branch National Beekeepers Association

(10) "That this conference recommends to the executive that they review the effectiveness of the use of NBA Branches to co-ordinate and conduct hive inspections in meeting the PMS audit requirements"

Notes: The Otago Branch membership has been divided over the use of the Branch structure to coordinate and carry out the PMS AFB annual audit of beehives. In particular the work invariably falls upon a few reluctant and already busy commercial beekeepers. As a result we have failed to complete the audit for the last two years. We are concerned this may be a problem with some other branches also and that as a result the national audit, an important integral part of the PMS, may be compromised.

"That the remit be withdrawn"

P Sales / A McCaw

Conference voting: For: 12 Against Abstentions: 1 (Rule 26 f

{ii}) Carried

Late Remit:

The Conference voted to accept the remit

"That this Conference recommends to Executive that the NBA urgently investigate the possibility of introducing Varroa resistant beestock into New Zealand."

There will be discussion at the Conference seminar on this issue. John Harbro of the US Dept of Agriculture who is working in this field will be a keynote speaker. The web address <http://msa.ars.usda.gov/la/btn/hbb/projects.htm> has a lot of background on the issue.

P Sales / L McKenzie

Conference voting: For: 12 Against Abstentions: 1 (Rule 26 f {ii}) Carried

The Conference of Branch Delegates was closed at 4.30pm.

17 General Meeting was reconvened at 4.35pm

17.1 Three Notices' of Motion were debated:

Notice of Motion - 1

Moved A McCaw, Seconded M Bush

"That the NBA 'American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy' Document, Dated 15 April 2002, be withdrawn from presentation to the membership, or the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, as the content is in breach of the provisions for review of the National Pest Management Strategy for American Foulbrood, under the auspices of the Biosecurity Act."

Carried

Notice of Motion - 2

Moved R Berry, Seconded A Taiaroa

"That the meeting urgently recommends investigation of NZ bees for Varroa tolerant stock."

Carried

Notice of Motion - 3

Moved A McCaw

Seconded P Sales

"That the Executive take urgent action to establish a basis for the provision of funding for the activities of the NBA beyond the end of the 2002 financial year."

Carried

17.2 Marketing report from Philip Cropp & Jane Lorimer.

Philip Cropp and Jane Lorimer talked about the research and development going on with an emphasis on dark honey qualities, honey profiles and the quality mark project.

17.3 Elections

Elect the President

Don Bell

Cammell / Lorimer

Don Bell elected.

Elect a Vice President

Jane Lorimer

AR Taiaroa / A Richards

Nom's close - McCaw / Richards

Jane Lorimer elected

Auditor

The Auditor remain the Hamilton Office of KPMG

A Richards / T Lorimer

Carried

Solicitor

The NBA's solicitors remain Mike Smith & Phillips Fox

S Brown / A Richards

Carried

17.4 General Business.

17.4.1 Simon Peacey thanked the Executive for their work on behalf of the NBA and stated his disquiet at the abuse they have had to endure and asked the membership to respect the positions of Executive members

17.4.2 Mr McCaw asked if the Executive intended to fill the casual vacancy for a North Island Executive member. Don Bell assured meeting the executive intends to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

17.4.3 Branch for next conference.

As Mr Clements held the proxies for Nelson Branch it was moved Brian Clements, seconded Jane Lorimer that Nelson Branch host the 2003 Conference. Carried by acclamation. Exec Sec to contact Nelson to ascertain if they are willing and able to host.

17.5 Vote of thanks to the Auckland Branch NBA.

The President moved a vote of thanks to the Auckland Branch for their efforts in hosting the 2002 Conference, which was carried by acclamation.

17.6 Roy Paterson Trophy

2002 NBA Vice President, Lin McKenzie awarded the Roy Paterson Trophy to Dick Vandevelt?

18 Closure

Don Bell thanked all delegates and observers for their constructive input and closed the 2002 Conference at 5.40pm and wished all a safe journey home.