

To: The Secretary NBA and Executive Members.  
 Date: 5 May 1995.  
 From: Russell Barry  
 Subject: Voting NBA.

I have not been at home much lately - busy with exports of bees to Canada. I have heard nothing from Richard Benemann re voting NBA. So I decided to fax some of my views on voting for NBA matters, so you have them in time for consideration before our meeting on Tuesday.

I think we need to keep in mind that some beekeepers feel that our association should be for full-time commercial beekeepers only. The fact that we are representing the hobbyist and part-time beekeeper and the commercial beekeeper is probably rather unusual compared with most other farming organisations.

The strength of our association comes from full-time commercial beekeepers and we must not alienate this group by altering the balance of voting structure in favour of the hobbyist and part-time beekeeper, as the commercial beekeeper is the major source of the NBA's income and will remain so under the proposed Commodity levy ~~and~~.

The altering of the balance of the voting structure will, I believe, happen if the Commodity Levy is put in place with the current voting system, as there will be many new small beekeepers having to belong to our association i.e. those part-time beekeepers with 2 apiaries or more - up to 50 hives - who have not had to be a member of our Assoc in the past.

The hobbyist beekeeper tends to want to make beekeeping more enjoyable while a full-time beekeeper needs to make beekeeping more profitable. This changing in balance of the voting emphasis may well be to the detriment of beekeeping profitability.

In a business like ours, which has a large number of working shareholders, working full time in the beekeeping industry, it seems unreasonable that the Company only gets a maximum of 12 votes.



Not only are the full time owners of the business not receiving a fairly based vote but also we employ many full time beekeepers who rely entirely on the beekeeping industry for their income. We as their employer, have a responsibility to them to keep the beekeeping industry profitable. Many of these people have a considerable stake in the industry as they have vested many years into learning the art of beekeeping. Many other larger beekeeping operations are in a similar situation where they are under-represented by the voting structure of the NBA.

I think there are some other important observations to be made. Over the last 10 years the NBA has spent a considerably higher percentage of a beekeepers income than it used to and this percentage may well increase as government forces us into further 'useful lays'.

Summary: If the Commodity Levy comes into force there will be a number of changes. There will be a far higher number of smaller beekeepers as members of our Assoc. and this will tend to swing the voting to the smaller beekeeper from the position we are in at the moment. The current position already penalizes larger beekeepers.

I believe we must be an Assoc. which is democratic, where the smaller beekeeper cannot dictate the direction of our Assoc by more than their percentage of financial contribution to the Assoc.

My proposal for voting on any poll vote is:-

All past levies to the Assoc. to be paid in full before any voting entitlement.

One vote for every \$50 site levy, or part thereof, paid for the current year by 'X' date.

I believe if anybody is unhappy with this suggestion, they should be prepared to accept an alternative.

If there is to be a limit placed on the number of votes any one person or organisation shall have, to cast in our Assoc, then that person's or organisation's financial contribution to our Assoc. should cease at the point where maximum votes are given.



I am not in favour of this latter recommendation. I believe the former suggestion is better as it gives a better indication as to the percentage of the industry one is responsible for.

In the past I have been in favour of the voting to be based for each beekeeping operation, on the number of people engaged full-time in the industry.

The number of apiaries farmed is not quite as good as the number of people employed full-time, but is closely related and we will have these figures.

I ask you to support:-

1. All past levies to the Assoc. be paid in full before any voting entitlement.
2. One vote for every \$50 site levy, or part thereof, paid for the current year by 'x' date.

*Arnold Young*