

23.10.

06/06/97

To: The National Beekeepers' Association Executive.

Gentlemen,

This is a letter to express my deep concern of the Publication of the President's June report to the world via email on the 3.6.97 by the President.

I have never changed a single letter in any report he has supplied to the Magazine in the nearly two years I have been the Editor or would a single letter been changed in this June report.

**My main concerns:**

1. damage it has done to my and my companies reputation, I have asked for a legal opinion on the next step for us to pursue.
2. the damage it has done to your Association.
3. the cost of this report to the Association and Executive members.

Let me expand my concerns over 2 & 3.

2. Can you imagine the thoughts of the new (apiary register) people when they read this report? They will have the impression of a bunch of unprofessional people with a major infighting problem, remember most of these people wont really want to pay us a levy and are only doing so as we have found out who they are, then they read this report!

We at our own cost met two weeks ago with the Manawatu Amateur Club to talk to them and get them on the National Beekeepers' Association side. We will repeat this exercise with the Franklin Amateur club this Sunday (our cost). We are passionate about this industry and its future and believe the above actions reflect this. If I hadn't taken the time to put my thoughts on paper over this report, you wouldn't have known that we had spoken with these people, as we don't blow our trumpet, but just go out and do it.

3. The cost to us and our company over this report has been very large even without the magazine appearing in Beekeepers' homes (I can not hope to imagine how many calls we will receive once the magazine appears in the beekeepers hands). We have had numerous calls from Branches and individuals wanting to know what is going on with the President, and offering us support. I know some of the Executive have also been fielding calls, who pays for this?

I have been snowed under with calls from the new levy payers complaining about having to pay a levy without having to respond to the report allegations. We are averaging 12 calls a day, yesterday 18 from new levy payers complaining. One of them works next door to our new office and he has done a great spiel on how he pays for my modern office etc! (oh dear)

Gentlemen, I am sorry I feel so strongly about this issue that I have had to write to you. If this report had appeared as normal in the magazine, I would not have had such a problem with it, just the method of sending it to all in sundry, which is not the correct procedure.

Yours sincerely

Harry Brown  
Contractor to the National Beekeepers' Association