

Notes from the President

I am writing these notes with a deep sense of regret. I will not be accepting nomination for the position of President at the Annual General Meeting in July. I will be tendering my resignation as an Executive member at the conclusion of the Annual Conference.

If you have read Executive meetings minutes over the three years of my presidency you will know that I have continually sought to improve the administration and organisation of the NBA. Specific areas have included:

- financial accounting and reporting
- awareness of cost benefit in provision of services
- financial and strategic planning
- legislative compliance
- cost and quality of the magazine
- accountability for agreed actions

I have tried to provide the Executive with accurate information, and the analysis and interpretation that allows for informed decision-making.

I have, in doing so, undertaken work that was not strictly in the 'normal' role of the NBA President. I have done this whenever I felt the work was both necessary and when I felt it would not be suitably provided otherwise. Having worked with three Executive Secretaries during my time on the Executive, I am in a good position to make informed comment on the quality of support and

advice available to the NBA.

At the December 1996 meeting, the Executive agreed to enter into a one year contract with Training in Progress for the supply of administrative and editorial services to the industry, with a performance review to take place by mid-year. The Executive was not willing to enter into a longer-term contract until TIP had demonstrated the ability to provide the services to the standard required.

In March I stated that I would be interested in the opportunity to provide a proposal for the delivery of the administrative and editorial contract. In declaring that interest, I told the Executive that I would withdraw from any further involvement in the performance review and the contracting process.

Following the meeting, the other five members of the Executive held a conference call. They resolved to ask me:

- not to allow my name to go forward during the election for NBA President and
- stand down as an Executive member, effective at the conclusion of conference.

I did not think it was appropriate to be asked to resign in this manner by the Executive, and accordingly declined to do so. I was hurt personally by their 'vote of no confidence' in me when I had been honest with the Executive about my interest in the position that I understood

Nick Wallingford was potentially going to be advertised.

At a recent meeting, the Executive reviewed the performance of TIP in relation to the contract requirements. They decided to negotiate a contract with TIP for a further two year period. There would be no tendering or any call for expressions of interest from any other possible suppliers.

In light of my experience of what is required of the NBA President, I am not willing to continue in that role after conference. I am resigning from the Executive, as I am not willing to remain there in view of my expressed feelings about the quality of reporting, planning, advice and information presentation. Neither decision has been made in response to the requests from the Executive, as I do not recognise their right to make such a request of the NBA President.

I would like to particularly thank Richard Bensemann who has served as my Vice President for these last three years. Richard's good humour and willingness to work has made him a trusted and reliable partner in my work with the Executive. I could not have asked for a better Vice President.

I urge every beekeeper to remain informed and involved in the National Beekeepers' Association and industry activities. The industry needs you, as much or more than ever...

Commodity Levy collection process into future

As you are now aware the National Beekeepers' Association is now collecting a levy based on apiaries using the Commodities Levy Act from any person who owns more than three apiaries or more than 10 hives.

The process for collecting the levy is quite simple, at the 1st of June each year the levy payable is established based on how many registered apiaries each beekeeper has. Then in January the National Office will send out an invoice for the levy due. The last day the levy can be paid or the levy payer can enter into a spread payment scheme with the Association is the 31st of March.

Late payments will immediately incur penalty of 10% on the total amount owing on 31st March plus additional interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month

Front cover...

Left to right - Cliff Van Eaton (Advisor), Peter Sales, Richard Bensemann, Terry Gavin (Chair), Dr Mark Goodwin (Advisor), Bruce Stevenson. Absent: Jan van Hoof, Bryan Clements, John Moffat.
Photo taken by Harry Brown, Secretary.

thereafter. As you can see this is based on the Inland Revenue system and is designed to encourage people to pay as soon as possible if they want to avoid an ever increasing interest amount. Also it is worth noting at this point that if you are late with any deferral payments the amount becomes payable immediately and the same penalties apply.

If after three months the levy remains unpaid and no arrangement has been made with the National Office the account will be handed over to a collection agency for collection.

It will be important to ensure any apiaries you do not use are de-registered otherwise they will be levied. Don't forget to register your apiary otherwise under the Pest Management Strategy using the Bio-Security Act you will face penalties

for keeping bees on an un-registered apiary. Also payments and deferrals must be received on due dates otherwise you will be paying extra and may lose the option for deferral in the future.

Richard Bensemann

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