



North London
Beekeepers

North London Beekeepers Annual Report 2022

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Remembering Mary Ogle

It was with great sadness that we heard that Mary Ogle had passed away on the 17th January 2023 aged 96.

Mary had been one of the longest-standing members of NLB, joining North West London Beekeepers (Middlesex) as it was then, in the 1970s.

Mary was Treasurer of NLB and of the Middlesex Federation and also assisted with teaching beekeeping and ran the Honey Show for a number of years. She was a scientist and an academic with a strong character and with a wide range of interests including beekeeping and microscopy. She built her own Dartington Long Hive. Mary was a keen gardener and members of NLB enjoyed numerous Summer Parties in her beautiful garden. For many years she swam daily at the open-air ponds at Hampstead.

With much-missed Margaret (Jars) Jarvie, she founded the Alternative Christmas Party for those select few who preferred not to drive after dark, who enjoyed the comfort of an armchair and a bowl of soup rather than the more boisterous traditional NLB Christmas party.

Her funeral will be held locally in Hampstead, details of which will be announced when known.

Chair's Report

Another busy year with started with the beginners course took place in February with theory sessions on Zoom followed by practicals in April. A fabulous Spring shed party started the season officially followed by monthly members days, practical and taster sessions, the annual honey show and various events. We brought our new observation hive to Highgate Fair in the Square, a great day after a three year hiatus and an opportunity to sell our honey, talk to the public and answer many bee questions. The winter talks got off to superb start with Dr Lars Chikkta sharing insights from his new book 'The Mind of the Bee' and Sean Hearn talked about Warre hives with plenty more still to follow in the new year.

After three great years as NLB's Chair this will be my last as I will not be standing for re-election. It has been a wonderful experience to be part of NLB and help run the association during some of its most challenging years. Along the way I have met some lovely people and looked after many bees in the process but now is time to change things up again with some fresh faces and new ideas.

Many thanks to the committee, our members and everyone who has helped be a part of NLB this year. Looking forward to the new year and a new beekeeping season.

*Kelly Moore
Chair NLB
December 2022*



Apiary Report

Kenwood

We began the 2022 season with 6 strong colonies and finished the season with the same number. This year we have hosted the beginner's course sessions, a taster session, a day for the Basic Examination, 4 members open days, and a members shed party. We were able to take 10 supers of honey from the hives at the end of the season. Some of this honey was sold at the York Rise Festival and some will be held back to sell at events in 2023. Our apiary was visited by the Bee Inspector at the end of June and all the colonies were given a clean bill of health. I would like to thank the regular team who come every week to help out at the apiary. Without them we couldn't manage to keep everything running so smoothly. I would also like to thank those of you who came and helped out at the teaching and members days, your time, knowledge and patience is very much appreciated.

*Helen Rogers
Apiary Manager
December 2022*

Alexandra Palace

After a long and challenging season that included coping with an outbreak of EFB, we have ended on a very good note with 6 strong colonies. After leaving the bees with hopefully enough stores to get them through winter with no feeding, we were left with 2 and half supers to extract honey and for the first time, cut comb which sold very well at the recent events. Looking ahead and planning over winter to shook swarm all hives in the spring. I want to say a big thank you to the Ally Pally team for all the support and hard work you've given. You are a great team!

*Gio Esposito
Apiary Manager
December 2022*



Membership Report

By the end of 2022 NLB had 151 members. Those were: 133 Full members, 10 Partner members, 7 Associate members and 1 Junior member. 151 is slightly down from 154, which was the number of members for the year ending in December 2021.

Renewal of Membership will open on the 1st January 2023 on WebCollect and will cost £30 up until March 1st when the fee will increase to £40.00.

A reminder of the different membership classes offered by NLB:

- A Full Member is an active beekeeper. As part of this membership the person is insured via the BBKA for Public Liability and Bee Diseases.
- A partner Member is a partner of a Full Member, who shares the same postal address.
- An Associate Member is someone who is a member of another Beekeeping Association who chose to also be a member of NLB (for example of people have a second place of residence).
- A Junior Member is a member of under 18 years of age.

Each year when you renew your membership, the fee is divided up to cover BBKA membership including magazine subscription, BDI hive insurance and Middlesex Federation admin fees. The remainder of that fee goes towards NLB to cover apiary maintenance, speaker fees, events etc.

Fee subscription breakdown for 2023:

Total Membership Renewal:	£30.00
BBKA Fee:	£21.00
BDI Fee:	£2.00
Middlesex Federation Fee:	1.00
NLB Fee:	£6.00

Each year the various costs increase but the membership fees have remained the same for over five years. For 2023 the membership fees will remain the same but will increase from 2024 to the following:

From 2024:

Renewing Full Beekeeping Member before 1st March	£34
Renewing Full Beekeeping Member after 1st March	£44
New Full Beekeeping Member	£44
Partner Member	£17
Associate Member	£24
Junior Member	£9

Sarah-Louise Ball
Membership Secretary
December 2022

Education Report

Thanks to the dedication of our experienced beekeepers and volunteers, this year's beginner's course was a success. 25 people enrolled on the course, taking part in 6 theory sessions and 4 practicals. Attendance was strong in the first half of the course, with the majority of learners attending all theory sessions 1-3. This dropped off slightly for sessions 4-6.

The cohort was diverse in terms of age, gender and heritage - confirming that the beginner's course is a great way to widen access to beekeeping and to reach people from all backgrounds.

Throughout the year there was significant interest from the public in attending taster sessions, and in signing up for the 2023 beginner's course. At the moment there are 36 people on the advance notice list.

The taster session in September was also a success, selling out with 12 attendees.

Four members were interested in taking the Basic Assessment, and were prepared and entered for this by Amanda Hayes.

I would like to thank all the committee members and other volunteers who gave their time and expertise to make both the beginner's course and taster session a success.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Helen and Kelly in particular for all their work in delivering the theory and practical sessions. My first encounter with beekeeping in 2021 was through Helen and Kelly, and I can't think of two friendlier or more welcoming ambassadors for our association.

*Maryam Ahmed
Education Officer
December 2022*



Events Report

In February, as part of our “Beekeeping from around the World” series, we heard from Richard Noel about beekeeping in Brittany. The Hive Hour was back in March, with John Hauxwell chatting about spring preparation and swarming, while in April we had a stand in the “biodiversity and rewilding” zone at a Sustainability Evening hosted by UCL Senior School, to mark Earth Day.

Our annual shed party at the Kenwood apiary in May got the season off to a flying start, and in June it was great to see so many people enjoying all the fun of the Highgate Fair in the Square after a three-year break due to covid. Our observation hive attracted lots of attention (and questions!) and we sold oodles of honey, raising valuable funds for NLB and our members.

In September, we had a stall at the York Rise Street Party, an annual neighbourhood get-together with food, drink and entertainment, organised by residents of Dartmouth Park. Lovely weather ensured a great turnout, helping us to sell plenty of honey and Ally Pally cut comb – a very successful conversation piece!

Huge thanks to everyone who helped at all these events – we couldn’t have done it without you!

Our winter talks series started in November, with Sean Hearn talking about his experiences of warre hives, followed by Professor Lars Chittka on his successful book “The Mind of a Bee”. It was great to catch up with members in December at our festive drinks, held at the Gatehouse in Highgate.

In the new year, we’ll be in conversation with Roger Patterson, a special guest after our AGM, and in February Rosi Rollings discusses “Different plants for different bees: the interdependency”.

*Ed Rendell
Events Manager
December 2022*



The Honey Show Report

Date: Wednesday 28th September 2022

Venue: The Holly Lodge Community Centre, Highgate

Judge: Sue Lang, Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association

This year the Honey Show returned to the Holly Lodge Community Centre in Highgate, where we welcomed back Sue Lang as judge. As well as sharing her expert views on the entries, Sue provided some very useful hints and tips on how best to prepare honey, beeswax and candles for showing. As always, it was great to catch up in person over some drinks and snacks. A big thank-you to everyone who helped on the day – your efforts are very much appreciated!

The results are as follows:

Class	1st	2nd	3rd	Highly Commended
A Light Honey	Helen Rogers		Peter Williams	
B Medium Honey	Kenwood Team	John Hauxwell	David Scott	Nikola Sutherland & Frank Ryan
C Dark Honey	Helen Rogers			
D Set Honey	John Hauxwell	Helen Rogers		
E Novice Honey	David Scott			
F Honey Cake	Vicky Clayton & Sudha Madipalli	Helen Rogers		
G Beeswax Block	Helen Rogers	Nikola Sutherland & Frank Ryan	John Hauxwell	
H 3 Beeswax Blocks	Helen Rogers		John Hauxwell	Nikola Sutherland & Frank Ryan
I Cut Comb	John Hauxwell		Helen Rogers	
J Frame for Extraction	Kenwood Team	Alexandra Palace Team	Helen Rogers	John Hauxwell
K Mead				
L Exhibit				
M Candles	Helen Rogers	Nikola Sutherland & Frank Ryan		
N Photograph	John Hauxwell			
O Confectionery				
P Label Design	Helen Rogers			

The Challenge Cup
The Riley Cup
The Marsh Cup

Best Honey in Show
Best Frame for Extraction
Best Beeswax

Helen Rogers
Kenwood Team
Helen Rogers

*Ed Rendell
Events Manager
December 2022*

Treasurer's Report

NLB's financial position is sound, as we managed to increase the reserves by generating a decent operating surplus. The increase over last year's surplus is explained by the non-recurring expense for improvements at the Kenwood apiary in 2021. However, the current environment of rising prices has already left its marks in various expense items.

*Christoph Benkert
Honorary Treasurer
January 2023*



North London Beekeepers - Statement of Account for 2022

2021 (£)		2022 (£)
	INCOME	
4,488.35	Subscriptions & BDI	4,070.14
0.00	Revenues from activities and donations	0.00
1,482.50	Sale of Association honey	1,717.83
0.00	Sale of Members' honey	1,719.67
780.00	Unsold honey	0.00
23.52	Bank interest	1.88
4,364.75	Beginners' Course	5,625.00
1,056.80	Taster Courses	780.00
0.00	Federation Day takings	0.00
2,299.00	Jar and Syrup Sales & extractor rent	2,552.36
14,494.92	Total	16,466.88
	EXPENDITURE	
956.21	Events, Speakers, Meetings	1,273.08
0.00	Secretarial, Publicity, Mailings	16.20
481.35	Classes, Presentation, Teaching	343.84
6,116.37	Apiary	2,252.49
357.35	Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)	383.75
2,642.00	Capitation BBKA and Middx. Fed	2,961.50
1,993.00	Honey Jars, Syrup & labels	2,600.76
311.22	Miscellaneous one off items - 2022: Observation Hive	218.00
0.00	Cost of Members' honey	1,633.69
445.69	Web Site	535.57
459.44	Payment & Subscription Services: Webcollect, Eventbrite, Paypal Sumup	857.16
225.00	Donations	337.50
13,987.63	Total	13,413.54
507.29	Excess of Operating Income over Expenditure	3,053.34
	ASSETS	
at 31.12.2021		at 31.12.2022
1,608.51	Santander Current Account	3,771.87
18,000.00	Santander Reserve Account	17,000.00
1,174.04	PayPal Balance	2,956.70
780.00	Unsold Honey	0.00
-885.44	Debtors less creditors (subs/course paid in advance)	0.00
20,677.11	Total	23,728.57
	FINANCED BY	
20,169.82	Members funds (from previous year's total)	20,677.11
507.29	Operating Surplus for year	3,053.34
20,677.11	Total	23,730.45



The Association owns certain sheds, teaching aids, trophies, books, observation & other hives, apiary equipment, jars, honey, bee medicaments & other items. These are listed separately.

Christoph Benkert
Honorary Treasurer



I have audited the above accounts which are in accordance with the Association's books and records as at 31 Dec 2022.

Hamish Johnston Stewart
Honorary Auditor
5 Jan 2023

Events 2022

A few up and coming events for the year ahead with more to be announced later in the new year.

February

23rd NLB Talk: Rosi Rollings

March

20th NLB Talk: David Evans

18th: BBKA Module Exams

April

21st - 23rd: BBKA Spring Convention

October

26th - 28th: The National Honey Show

November

11th: BBKA Module Exams

