

A SHORT HISTORY

OF

THE NATIONAL HONEY SHOW 1923-1980

BY

J. W. Holt, President, & F. J. Crow, Chairman.

INTRODUCTION

In order that the story of the growth of the National Honey Show, from its inception up to its fiftieth Show, might be more fully appreciated it is felt that a statement of its aims and major objectives should be given. These aims and objectives are set out in the Memorandum of Association of the National Honey Show Limited dated 29th June, 1932 and extracts from these are

“The primary objects of the National Show are to benefit the community at large by the encouragement of bee-keeping and thereby generally to increase in the interests of the community at large the pollination and so the production of fruit, seeds, vegetables and flowers and the production of honey and with a view thereto to succeed to and to take over all or such part of the property, rights, obligations and liabilities of the unincorporated body known as “The National Show of Bees and Honey” founded in the year 1922,* as may lawfully be taken over by the National Show. All other objects and powers of the National Show are secondary and subservient to the above primary objects”.

*The first joint committee meeting of the Kent and Surrey B.K.A.s was held on 10th February 1923.

These secondary objects include:

“To promote, organise, manage, carry on and conduct any show or exhibition in connection with apiculture.

To give awards and prizes for or in connection with shows or exhibitions.

To promote, organise and effect any federation or closer union of bee-keepers or bee-keeping associations.

To promote and encourage education in, and advancement of, Apiculture, and the stimulation of co-operation among Bee-keepers.

To provide for the delivery and holding of lectures, public meetings, classes, examinations and conferences calculated directly or indirectly to advance the cause of Apiculture.

To borrow or raise any money that may be required by the National Show upon such terms as may be deemed advisable.”

Among the many secondary objects omitted from the above list are some which are applicable to the British Bee-keepers' Association of which the National Honey Show was not a Specialist Member at the time of writing the Memorandum.

The Memorandum of course also includes statements regarding the liabilities of members. These are covered in two paragraphs.

The liability of the members of the National Show is limited.

“Every member of the National Show undertakes to contribute to the assets of the National Show, in the event of the same being wound up during the time that he is a member, or within one year afterwards, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the National Show contracted before the time at which he ceases to be a Member, and of the costs, charges, and expenses of winding up the same, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.”

It should be noted that the National Honey Show Limited is a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital.

The organisation which has developed to achieve the aims and objectives of the National Honey Show is of course governed by the Articles of Association. These set up the administrative chain of

Membership

General Meetings

National Council

Executive Committee

Membership is of two kinds.

Individual Members.

Corporate members being County or District Associations of Beekeepers.

Individual Members and the Representatives of Corporate Members have the right to attend General Meetings.

The National Council consists of 6 Members elected by General Meetings (for a term of three years each i.e. two per year), and the Representatives of the Corporate Members, the number being dependent on the size of the Association they represent.

The National Council, which is the governing and policy-making body, appoints the Executive Committee and entrusts to it the day to day running of the Show. This it does by virtue of the Articles of Association - “The National Council shall have the power to delegate any of their powers to an Executive or other Committee or Committees consisting of two or more members of their body or of the National Show.”

It is gratifying to note that although in its early years the financial position of the Show was somewhat in the doldrums, during the latter half of its existence this aspect of the Show has steadily improved. This must be attributed largely to the fact that the National still runs entirely on voluntary labour and the authors would like to place on record their appreciation of the efforts of all those who have helped the Show in the past especially the National Council, the Executive Committee, the Judges, the Stewards and the Traders.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE YEARS

In both 1921 and 1922 the Kent & Surrey Bee-keepers' Associations held a joint honey show at the Crystal Palace and in 1923 they decided to broaden its basis to a National Show. The originally suggested title of "Home Counties Honey Show" was abandoned in favour of "The National Show of Bees & Honey". The first Chairman was Mr. A. Dewey of Kent with Messrs. W. E. Hamlin of Surrey and W. E. Clifford of Kent as Joint Hon. Secretaries. Other members of the Committee were Dr. Courtney Lord, Messrs. G. W. Judge, E. R. Seadon, H. E. C. Carter and A. E. Barnes of Kent joined by Mr. P. C. Thornton in 1924 and Miss M. Whyte Johnstone and Messrs. F. C. Platts, E. J. Waldock, F. E. Moorcroft and A. E. Mottram of Surrey. Other associations in the Home Counties were to be asked to join.

Even before the first meeting to consider the foundation of the show the trustees of the Crystal Palace had offered a cup for competition which was proudly, and justifiably so, announced on the front cover of all schedules up to and including 1935 as the "Crystal Palace £30 Silver Challenge Cup". A recent valuation put the figure at £2,000. Originally the cup was competed for by Associations and the class was for 12

tions, 12 jars each of light, medium, dark and granulated honey and 1 lb. beeswax. By 1929 it was for individuals and required 6 jars (in pairs of light, medium, dark or granulated) and 2 sections. In 1931 the class was again altered to 9 jars and 3 sections and finally in 1948 to its present 9 jars and 1 shallow comb.

In the early days six jars of extracted honey or six sections were required in the Open classes but it is interesting to note that two of the original classes, i.e. Any Original Appliance and Any Interesting or Instructive Exhibit still appear in our Schedule. The first show was held on 11th, 12th and 13th October 1923, had 16 Open Classes and two judges, the Rev. J. G. Digges and Mr. Ernest Walker. It resulted in a loss of £12.9.6.

Gift honey was sold at 2/- per lb. jar and 2/6 per section plus 6d for prize honey which was quite high when one realises that a W. B. C. hive was valued at 44/6. Other 1926 costs of interest are: 9c. gold medal 65/-, solid silver medal 10/- and bronze medal 3/9, plus 1/3 each for cases.

In 1925 a cup was presented by Mr. Hamlin for a new class-36 jars of honey, open to the World. The first winner was Miss A. B. Flower of Bournemouth. At this show there were 1023 entries from 203 Exhibitors and the weight of honey exhibited was 1 ton 13 cwt. The next year the World Class was reduced from 36 to 24 jars.

In 1928 the duration of the show was increased from three days to four (Wednesday to Saturday), staging being done on Monday, judging on Tuesday and the clearing up finished on Sunday. The first convention was organised this year and Sir David Burnett became the first Patron of the show.

In those days the Crystal Palace management put on a large firework display every Thursday evening each autumn and it attracted large crowds. Entrance fee was 2/2 but entrance to the National Show (if tickets were bought from the show organisers) was 1/2 any day so Thursday was a very popular day for bee-keepers to visit the "National".

In 1932 however the Crystal Palace insisted on the extra 1/- being paid at the turnstiles.

In the early thirties one of the duties of the Show Stewards was to try to prevent losses by pilfering. It was noticed that despite the Stewards' efforts, a jar of honey always disappeared from a particular spot on Fireworks Night each year. (An employee of the Crystal Palace was suspected.) One Steward decided to settle this once for all. He acquired a spare label to label with the correct Class and Entry Number a jar of "adulterated" honey. On the appropriate evening this jar was substituted for the one in the position where the jar usually taken was located. To the great joy of that Steward that particular jar of "honey" went. He felt sure the thief would not want another and strange as it may seem in subsequent years there was no theft from that spot.

Until 1933 (apart from the first two) the show was held regularly in September and demonstrations were given in a bee tent within the exhibition hall itself several times a day. The colonies were always provided by Miss Whyte Johnstone. The B. B. K. A. Preliminary Examination

could be taken there and one remembers Dr. John Anderson being one of the examiners, Mr. E. R. Seadon demonstrating foundation making and hive building and Mr. Moorcroft, suitably clad as a French chef with moustache and imperial demonstrating honey cake making.

Dr. F. Thompson gave individual tuition on dissecting for the diagnosis of acarine disease using a mounted watchmaker's magnifying glass. Dr. Thompson used to relate that he had had to give up his general medical practice on account of rheumatism. He accepted the advice to take up bee-keeping and by going to his hive each day and catching a worker bee for the purpose, he contrived to be stung at least once every day for a period of about six months. By this time his health had so improved that he was able to return to practising medicine.

Until 1938 the schedule always included competitive classes for the Trade but in that year the Honey Producers Association had classes of their own and diplomas were awarded to those appliance dealers whose stands were considered worthy of them. Many of the prizes were donated by individuals and firms in the form of equipment, cash or medals.

In 1930 Rev. D. L. Bryce was elected Chairman with Mr. Dewey as Vice-chairman.

The Open light and dark classes now only required 3 jars and classes for squat jars were introduced (in addition to the ordinary tall jars). Incidentally it was possible to buy specially thin tall jars for show completely free from blemishes, the cost 9d each excluding lids. There was no rule about standardisation of lids and some exhibitors had theirs chromium plated. They certainly stood out on the show bench. These were the days before standardisation of hives too: Burgess & Son's advertisement listed six different types of hive that they would be showing on their stand and these did not include Langstroth or Dadant.

Soon after the formation of the National Honey Show, the Kent Beekeepers Association needed a National Honey Show Committee of its own and to save a great deal of bother decided that its Bromley Branch Committee with, of course, the usual ex-officio members, should constitute that Committee. It was concerned to a large extent with the organising of the Kent 'quota' of Stewards at the Show. The Secretary of Bromley Branch was at that time Mr. W. E. Clifford one of the two Joint Secretaries of the Show.

In 1932 the show was incorporated as a limited Company with the title "The National Honey Show Ltd.", the legal work being undertaken free by a solicitor member of the Kent B.K.A., Mr. E. S. Welch. Rev. D. L. Bryce remained Chairman, Mr. W. E. Hamlin became General Manager and Mr. W. E. Clifford Hon. Gen. Secretary and Treasurer, and Miss I. K. Berridge Entries Secretary. The registered offices of the Company were 63 Southlands Road, Bromley, Kent. The main advantage of being a limited company is that the show becomes a legal entity and can act in its own right instead of through trustees. The liability of members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to £1. In 1964 the N.H.S. was registered as a charity and was able to invest in Charifund and obtain the income tax benefits of a charity.

In 1932 too the Sussex B.K.A. joined the show, having their own County Classes and still continue so to do. The class for 24 jars of honey open to the World was won by Mr. C. F. Gee of New Zealand.

Some of the difficulties in running a Show such as the National concern the International Classes. There is the arranging to pick up exhibits from an air port. There was an exhibit from South Africa in Class 1 (Open to the World) one year. Getting the exhibit to the show gave but little trouble but the exhibit could not be returned as South African Law prohibited the importation of honey to that country wherever it had been produced. This law had been enacted for reasons of bee health. In the end the honey was sold and the money sent to the exhibitor.

In the early '30s the financial condition of the show was very fragile and the executive committee had to call for advances from Kent and Surrey B.K.A.s. In 1931 and 1932 there had only been 981 and 877

entries respectively but in 1933 there were 1541 and the financial situation seems to have improved a little but payment of bills had to be delayed until there was enough in the kitty. This situation lasted for years to come.

By 1933 the National Mark Scheme for honey had been introduced and at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture two classes were included in the schedule, i.e. 3 jars each of 1 lb. and ,alb. light honey and the same for medium or dark honey, each jar to bear an N M label. It appears that it did not occur to anyone to ask the Ministry to contribute the prizes until after the show but when requested they did provide prizes for the 1934 and subsequent shows. These classes continued until the outbreak of war.

Amended Articles of Association were drawn up by Mr. Welch and adopted in April 1934. At this time too Mr. Clifford resigned as Hon. Gen. Secretary and Treasurer and was succeeded by Mr. F. H. Lawrence. The registered office was changed to 3 St. Marks Place, Wimbledon.

The 1935 show included a stand from Germany brought by Herr Guhler and his daughter, and the visitor's book showed there were visitors from S. Africa, Belgium, Cuba, Germany, Palestine and U.S.A. The entries topped the 2000 mark for the first time (2127 entries from 392 exhibitors). The magic figure was exceeded on two other occasions, 1951 & 1952, the record being attained in 1951 with 2129 entries.

For several years from 1934 Mr. David Lloyd George became a regular exhibitor and prizewinner for his heather and heather-blend honey and in 1936 he opened the show. One rather amusing situation arose when Mr. David Lloyd George desired to sample and acquire some mead. It was pointed out to him that due to laws which he had had a hand in passing it would be illegal to supply him. (He got his mead).

In 1935 it was decided to have special colour glasses for squat jars but difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable glasses and they were not, in fact, received until after the 1936 show. The price was 1/- per set or 6d. each post free.

During the '30s several Associations had their county classes at the National: Hants and Isle of Wight in 1934 & 5, Warwickshire from 1935

till 1949 except for one year, Dorset from 1935 till the war, Devon from 1937 till the war. Of the counties still exhibiting in their own classes at the show, Essex and Bucks joined in 1947 and Middlesex in 1950. Bedfordshire had classes from 1972 to 1976 inclusive. It should also be recorded that in the 1925 schedule there were classes for members of the Eastbourne & District B.K.A. and of the Gloucestershire B.K.A.

The 1936 show was the last held at the Crystal Palace as within a month it was completely destroyed by fire (except for one tower). It was sad for those who had long been associated with the National Honey Show as they considered the Palace to be its home. In fact, it was often referred to as "The Palace Show". Not only that but the staging for the N.H.S. had been stored at the Crystal Palace and was, of course, all destroyed in the fire, so completely new staging had to be obtained. This was constructed by one of the Committee members, Mr. R. J. Wright and was used until the present metal structures were introduced. It was a blow to find that the original staging was not covered by the Crystal Palace insurance.

THE INTERMEDIATE YEARS

Another suitable venue had to be found and The Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in Vincent Square, Westminster, was chosen. The show was held there in 1937 & 1938.

After the Crystal Palace fire, Sir Henry Buckland, Chairman of the Trustees of the Crystal Palace wrote that we may retain the Crystal Palace Cup for competition provided it was understood that the Cup will always remain the property of the Crystal Palace Trustees. Thus, the "National" has no power to dispose of it.

The Honey Producers Association classes in the 1938 show required cases of not less than 12 jars or 12 sections and 28 lb. tins of honey. The exhibits were not only judged for quality but each had to be accompanied by a card showing the price asked and the quantity available for sale, the exhibit being

treated only as a sample. The H.P.A. also organised a competition determining by the origin of samples of honey tasting. On the last day these samples were labelled and again available for tasting.

Owing to the political crisis at the time of the 1938 show attendance was poor and, in fact, the Army & Navy Stores who did the catering presented to the show a bill for £24 to make up the guaranteed 15 guineas a day. After the 1938 show our present Chairman, Mr. F. J. Crow, joined the Executive Committee and immediately served on the Finance, Schedule, and Lectures and Demonstrations sub-committees. Other notable personages associated with the show in its early days and not already mentioned include Rev. M. Yate Allen, Col. Stoney Archer, E. Graham Burt, Gilbert Barratt, A. H. Bowen, two A. E. Barnes (one from Anerley the other from Lydd), E. E. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Barter, Mrs. Christie, Messrs. Cheetham, Coldwells, H. M.

and S. W. Gadge, C. C. T. Giles, Dr. A. L. Gregg, J. E. and J. W. Holt, L. Illingworth, Herbert Mace, Graham Porter, F. A. Quick, Mr. Ridley, John Silver, J. E. Swaffield and E. A. V. Strudwick.

The R. H. S. Hall was not available for our show in 1939 and it was arranged to hold it in Wimbledon Baths Hall. Schedules were printed and other expenses incurred which had to be met although the show had to be cancelled owing to the outbreak of war. With the loss on the 1938 show, the year had begun with a deficit of £48.1.0; £39.15.10 was owed by the show and there was only £12 in the bank with £10 owing to the show so the secretary was instructed to charge the six Associations using the schedule with their share of the cost and to pay the bills as soon as possible. It was most gratifying that in response to the secretary's appeal most associations and individual members continued to pay their subscriptions during the war with the result that the credit balance in June 1946 was £74.17.4.

No meetings were held between January 1940 and June 1946.

At the June 1946 meeting it was decided to apply for Specialist Membership of the **B.B.K.A.** and the N.H.S. was elected on 28th September 1946.

The possibility of sponsorship has been mentioned recently and it is interesting to note that Mr. Thornton suggested trying to get a newspaper to sponsor the show in 1946. Letters were written to the Daily Mail but nothing came of it.

It was too late to organise a show in 1946 and the Committee had the task of finding a suitable hall in which to hold the 1947 show. Some were too expensive but Mr. Hamlin reported that a large Horticultural show was being held in the 93 acre grounds of Cannizaro, Wimbledon Common, and an invitation to N.H.S. to join in was unanimously accepted. The show was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 5-7th September 1947. Unfortunately Miss Whyte Johnstone and Mr. Herbert Mace felt obliged to resign from the Executive Committee because of the Sunday opening but happily they rejoined in the following year when the days reverted to the usual Wednesday to Saturday. Also the Sussex B.K.A. sent a resolution expressing the opinion that having the show on a Sunday was objectionable.

A rather odd situation arose in connection with this Show. The Stewards needed overnight accommodation and it was arranged to sleep them in a common dormitory in one of the buildings. One Steward was named Jollyman and so it had been assumed the Steward was a 'man'. Fortunately just in time the error was discovered and Miss Jollyman was found alternative accommodation.

In 1947 Councillor W. E. Hamlin J.P. was elected Mayor of Wimbledon.

Mr. Lawrence had expressed a desire to resign as Hon. General Secretary as long ago as 1936 but had been persuaded to continue for the time being on several occasions. In 1947 however he said he really could not continue without help and the Chairman, Rev. Bryce offered to collect subscriptions and was made Membership Secretary. Other offers of help were also made.

A number of alterations were made in the 1948 schedule: the Smallholders Shield was presented; there was one class open to members only (increased in subsequent years to 11, 12 & 13 classes); late entries were allowed on payment of a fee and a draw was held with honey as prizes; the Open Medium Honey Class was reduced from 6 jars to 3 jars, Open Gift classes from 3 to 2 jars and jars in all classes were to be of Ministry of Agriculture tall or squat pattern instead of separate classes for each. The show was held at

Wimbledon Town Hall on 4 days, September 29th to October 2nd. Mrs. R. E. Clark and Mr. A. M. Dines joined the Executive Committee and Mr. Dines was one of the judges. Mr. D. G. Browne was appointed Show Supervisor. After the Show Mr. J. W. Holt joined the Executive Committee.

The Show itself was extremely successful financially, turning a loss of £201 in 1947 into a profit of £220.

After the war there was a ban on the sale of wood for sections other than for heather sections so classes in the 1948 schedule were restricted to heather sections although strangely enough this was not so in 1947.

In 1949 the show was back at the Royal Horticultural Hall and uniquely opened on the Saturday (17th September) and closed on the following Wednesday (excluding Sunday). The first morning of this and the next two shows was reserved for members only. Following talks with the B.B.K.A. the show was titled "British Bee-keepers' Association National Honey Show" but the N.H.S. was to be entirely responsible financially. Each body sent two representatives to the other's executive committee. Only squat jars of M. of A. pattern were permitted with standard commercial screw caps. Several entries in the suggestion book urged that tall jars be permitted as they were more attractive but the Committee kept to squats.

Before the war someone had strongly objected to members of the Committee exhibiting and members were asked not to; now it was agreed that the Chairman, General Manager, General Secretary and Show Supervisor should not exhibit.

Honey was not allowed to be sold in the hall so a jar was given to anyone donating 5/- to the Show Fund.

Each judge was presented with a spoon engraved "N.H.S. 1949" but it was not until 1960 that it became the practice to present engraved spoons to the judges in lieu of fees.

In 1950 Mr. F. H. Lawrence finally resigned as Hon. General Secretary and Rev. Bryce took over as Acting H.G.S.

For the Festival of Britain in 1951 two hives were provided (one from Kent and one from Surrey) for the Homes and Gardens Section.

Mr. Hamlin became Entries Secretary in 1951 and following the Show Messrs. P. Brightman and R. I. Hammond joined the Committee and Messrs. C. C. Tonsley and D. Gavin were co-opted.

In 1952 when our accounts were definitely in the "red" a very determined effort was made by one or two members of the Executive Committee to wind up the Show and dispose of its assets. This was strongly resisted and Mr. W. E. Hamlin finally clinched the matter by saying he personally would guarantee any loss. The Treasurer resigned

and Mr. Hamlin took over the Treasurership of the Show. Mr. Hamlin did, in fact, advance the money required to keep the Show going.

At the A.G.M. Rev. Bryce resigned as Chairman and was made the first President of the National Honey Show. Mr. Hamlin succeeded him as Chairman and now held the offices of Chairman, Managing Director, Hon. Treasurer, and Entries Secretary. Mr. E.A.V. Strudwick who was already Membership Secretary, became Show Secretary as well but he resigned both after the 1953 show and Mr. Hamlin took over these duties too, pro tem.

In 1952 Commander Dixon had provided an indicator board for the Kent B.K.A. County Classes and in 1953 similar boards were procured for all the other sections of the show. Certificates to traders were discontinued in 1953 and honey vinegar which had been included since the earliest days was deleted from the Open classes.

Honey tasting was a feature of shows in the early '50s with honey from different named sources. Another feature of the shows about this time was the beautiful and delicate wax flowers made by Mrs. H. S. Barter.

Arrangements were well ahead for a 1954 show when an emergency meeting was called for 30th July as traders wished to withdraw their stand bookings and reports indicated that the season had been a very

poor one indeed for bee-keeping and entries and interest in the show might well be substantially below average. In addition the cost of hiring the R.H.S. hall had escalated and was a drain on our resources. It was therefore decided to cancel the show for that year.

For a year or two there had been a feeling that we ought to find alternative accommodation for the show and this cancellation gave more time for its consideration. In 1950 the Dairy Farmers Association had approached us to join them but conditions did not appear to be favourable. In 1955, however, it was decided to hold our show within the Dairy Show at Olympia. There were 1140 entries but the restrictions on our activities were irksome. The "National" had always been run by volunteers whereas the work at the Dairy Show was all professional and we had to conform. No County Boards were allowed, no prize list issued, the "National" organisers had no say in the layout and could not erect the stands.

Although the "National" was again held in conjunction with the Dairy Show in 1956 it was almost a disaster. Entries were down to 711 from 142 exhibitors in the classes judged but 48 classes out of 106 were declared cancelled owing to insufficient entries. Apart from this the usual spirit which is so much a feature of the "National" had almost gone. Not surprisingly it was decided not to hold another show with the Dairy Show and once again it was a matter of finding alternative accommodation.

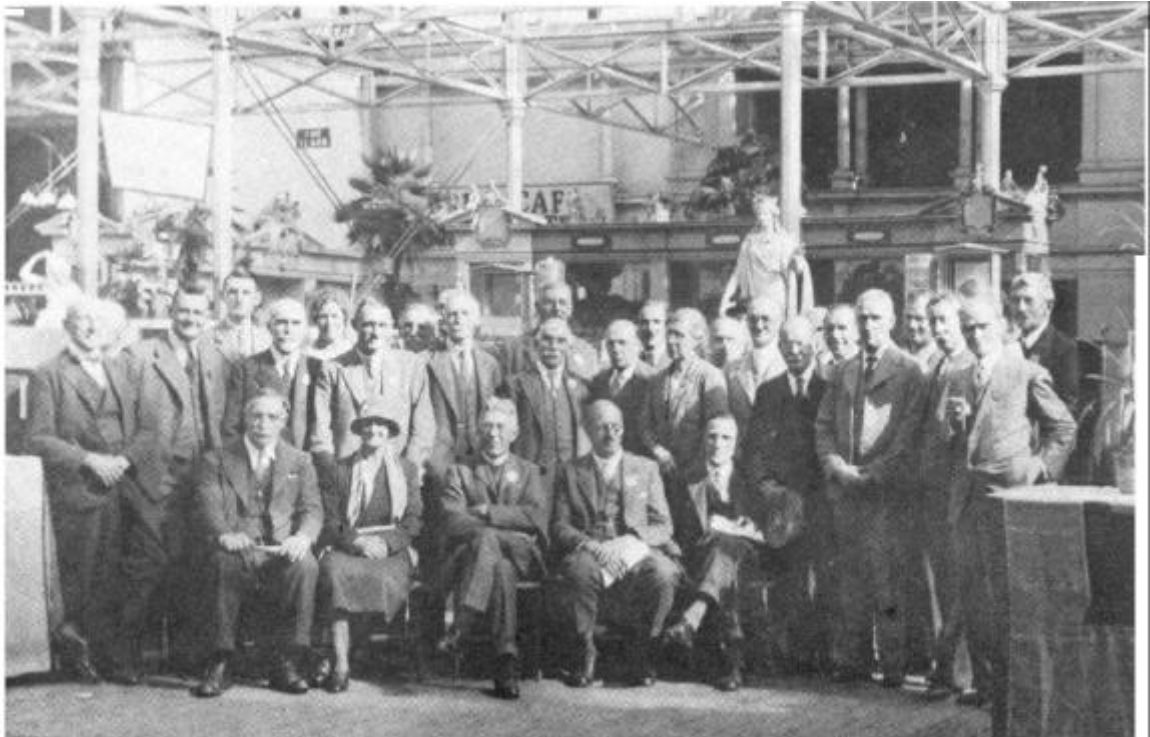
THE CAXTON HALL YEARS

The responsibility of the search for a new 'home' fell mainly on Mr. Hamlin and Mr. F. J. Crow, with help from Mr. J. W. Holt, Mr. D. G. Browne and Mr. McKenna. The eventual outcome was a recommendation



Crystal Palace - National Honey Show 1934

F.E. Lawrence, W.E. Hamlin and Rev. D.L. Bryce



1933 Show at Crystal Palace

Sitting L to Rt: G.W. Judge, Mrs Judge, Rev. D.L. Bryce, W.E. Hamlin, P.C. Thornton.
Standing L to Rt: G. Barratt, R. Quick, J.W. Holt, A. Cheetham, Mrs Meed, J.E. Holt, H.J. Meed, S.W. Gadge, Collies,
Gower, ?, F.H. Lawrence, Miss M. Whyte Johnstone, ?, Major Soden, Humphrys, Miller, W.E. Clifford, Haig,
Beach, Ridley, A.E. Barnes (Anerley).



Dr Thompson demonstrating his of dissection for acarine disease to Gilbert Barratt



N.H.S Showing round the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Wing Commander W.H.Kearney and Lady Mayoress. Frank Crow (Chairman), Maurice Bond (Secretary) and Jack Holt (President).

to the Executive Committee from Mr. Crow with the support of Mr. Hamlin that the 1957 Show be held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, as being an eminently suitable venue. This was agreed by the Committee and the Show has been held there every year since then. Originally, the shows were held on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday but the hall had to be completely cleared by 6 o'clock on Saturday to make way for a dance. This meant that even closing at 3 p.m. clearing up was much too hectic (and the first year the Show even went on till 4 p.m.) Also having to close at 3 p.m. largely destroyed the advantage of Saturday opening. So from 1961 to 1966 the Show was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and from 1967 till the present day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

On 22nd Feb. 1957 the "National" suffered a grievous blow with the death of Mr. Hamlin who had been an official since the foundation. This left the Executive Committee with only one official-Mr. F. J. Crow who was Vice-Chairman and Education Secretary although there were Show Officials. Mr. F. H. Lawrence was the Secretary of the Company but held no office on the Executive Committee. Within a few days Mr. Crow, with the help of Mr. Lawrence had convened a meeting which was held at 1 Gough Square by the grace of Mr. C. C. Tonsley. Mr. Crow assumed the Chair and outlined the situation. It was agreed that Mr. Crow should continue as Vice-Chairman and act as Chairman until the next Annual General Meeting of the Show. He pointed out that he should have a Deputy and Mr. A. M. Dines was appointed to that Office. Mr. Crow insisted that if the Show was to continue, the work of the various Offices must be shared among the members of the Committee. He put forward the view that each office should have its own Executive Officer and that in general no one Committee member should hold more than one office. This was agreed as a principle and has operated more or less consistently since that time.

Mr. Crow wanted the main offices to be filled that night and as a result the following appointments were then made: Mr. D. G. Browne to be General Secretary and Treasurer on the understanding that these offices would be split as soon as practicable, Mr. W. Chas. Davis to be Membership Secretary and Mr. J. J. Jones to be the Secretary of the Executive Committee, an office which had existed some years earlier when it had been filled by Mr. W. E. Jenkins. Mr. F. J. Crow remained as Vice-Chairman, Acting Chairman until September 1957 when at the Annual General Meeting of the Show he was elected Chairman, an office he has continued to hold to the present time. Mr. S. H. Bradly became Entries Secretary and Mr. J. M. McKenna General Show Supervisor with Mr. C. C. Tonsley Lectures & Publicity Secretary, and Mr. C. T. Gallagher Cups Secretary.

In 1955 Mr. J. J. Jones was elected Show Supervisor and Mrs. R. E. Clark, Education Secretary.

In 1925 Mr. G. W. Judge had put forward a scheme for creating a permanent fund of £1000, the interest on which was to meet the expenses of the show each year. Very little was done about it at the time but in

1933 Mr. Hamlin launched the Endowment Fund with a target of £2000, the interest on which would provide the prize money for the show. Over the years he took a particular interest in the fund and following his death it was renamed The Hamlin Memorial Fund in recognition of the work he had done for it.

In 1958 Miss Whyte Johnstone and Mr. S. W. Gadge resigned from the Executive Committee and were made Patrons together with Mr. P. C. Thornton and Mrs. Hamlin.

Recent shows had resulted in a loss and there was much discussion as to whether the show should be moved around the country. This question has cropped up from time to time. Sq./Leader A. N. Stratton suggested that the Corn Exchange in Brighton had many advantages, chief of which was ample and easy parking, lack of which is the bugbear of sites in Central London. Messrs. Crow and Bond visited the hall and reported back to the Executive but it was felt that if once we left London it would be hard to resist claims from other parts of the country and apart from the difficulty of constantly looking for new premises the administration difficulties would be too great. The Royal Show was instanced as a case where moving

round the country had been abandoned in favour of the permanent site at Stoneleigh. Furthermore London has an attraction for those living in the Provinces which other centres may not have.

In 1959 a draw in its present form was inaugurated and Commander Dixon organised it. In 1961 S/Ldr. Stratton took over and he and Mrs. Stratton toured the country selling draw tickets at various bee-keeping functions. The good work was carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Dines in 1968 and in 1972 the present Draw Secretary Mrs. H. Vigrass was appointed. The draw has contributed a great deal to the finances of the show.

In 1959 too second family membership was allowed; wine classes were included in the schedule; September 26th to October 3rd, the week of the show, was designated National Honey Week; Mr. J. Sturdy produced a design for a seal which was accepted and has appeared on all subsequent schedules and prize cards.

In December 1959 Mr. M. C. Bond was elected Hon. General Secretary, a position he held until 1980, Mr. W. Chas Davis was Treasurer and Membership Secretary and Mr. F. Padmore, Education Secretary.

Commander G. F. Dixon had been on the Executive Committee of N.H.S. for some years and in 1960 was appointed General **Secretary of B.B.K.A.** It was largely owing to him that in 1961 the B.A.K.A. took over the lecture programme of the "National" as the **B.B.K.A.** Convention and contributed to the show's funds. Thereafter the show was known as The National Honey Show and B.B.K.A. Convention. Mr. Padmore (Paddy) arranged the convention and continued to do so each year until his death in 1975. Under his guidance the quality of the lectures was kept at a very high standard and evoked tremendous popular interest. On his death Mrs. Padmore kindly agreed to arrange the conventions as Education Secretary and fully maintained the standard. Mr. G. W. Knights took over as Convention Secretary in 1980.

In 1961 the Opening Ceremony by the Right Hon. The Viscount Lambert

T D was followed by the presentation of the Fellowship of the B.B.K.A. to Mr. E. F. Woods for his thesis "Sound and Its Possible Use in Beekeeping" and of the Ministry of Agriculture Award of Merit to Miss M. M. J. Whyte Johnstone, Mr. E. H. Heath and Mr. E. W. T. Morris "For outstanding services to bee-keeping over a long period of years".

In the 1961 schedule a class for beeswax candles was included.

The 1962 show was honoured by the attendance of H.R.H. The Princess Royal to present the cups and trophies. She was received on arrival by the Mayor and Mayoress of Westminster.

Following the Show, Mrs. Hamlin donated a cup to mark the occasion. It is won by the best exhibit in the Gift Honey classes.

In that year the first attempt was made to make the schedule more like a magazine with various articles included and this has been developed in subsequent years.

In 1964 S/Ldr. Stratton instigated a scheme for soliciting interest-free loans from members of N.H.S. such loans to be repayable on demand. Within the year over £1400 had been lent mainly due to the efforts of S/Ldr. Stratton. The Special Reserve Fund as it is called also receives donations and the intention is that no capital or interest shall be used until the fund, excluding repayable loans, reaches £5000.

In 1965 a scheme was devised through Thomas Cook, the travel agents, whereby 15 % reduction in train fares was secured provided at least 50 people took advantage of it. The scheme, however, was not repeated.

The President, Rev. D. L. Bryce, died in 1966., and Mr. F. H. Lawrence was elected to succeed him. In the previous year Mr. Lawrence had been appointed to a newly created office of Judges' Referee. In 1970 he donated an attractive collarette and badge of office to be used by the President of the National Honey Show. He wore it for less than three years as on 11th April 1973 he died and the show lost another of its stalwarts. Mr. Tom Bradford was elected President but unfortunately he died in the Spring of 1974. However, the Chairman had been able to deliver the badge of office and invest Mr. Bradford with it

during his final illness, much to Tom's delight. The following year the present President, Mr. Jack Holt, was elected.

In 1967 the 'National' introduced a scheme whereby winners of Novice, Junior or School classes in any other honey show were offered tickets to admit self and friend to the N.H.S. on any one day chosen by the winner and with it went a schedule and programme of events. This has remained popular and hopefully has encouraged winners to continue and develop their showing prowess.

This was followed in 1969 by the Blue Ribbon Award offered jointly with B.B.K.A. It is presented to the winner of the best exhibit in the show which is expected to have at least 100 entries and entitles the winner to a free entry in an Open class of the "National" and a free admission ticket.

The 1969 schedule contained the first of the feature articles which together with those written in subsequent years are available as reprints bound in individual covers.

In 1969 Mr. S. H. Bradly was made a Patron but within twelve months two other Patrons died; Mrs. B. W. Hamlin and Miss M. Whyte Johnstone and also Mr. G. F. Gosling who had been Treasurer and Membership Secretary since 1963. All sad losses to the show to be followed the next year by the deaths of two more Patrons, Messrs. P. C. Thornton and E. B. Woodbury.

In her Will Mrs. Hamlin left the interest from a fund of £2,500 to the N.H.S. for 60 years so long as the show remained in existence after which the capital is to go to Surrey B.K.A. This, of course, has been of tremendous benefit to the finances of the show.

In 1971 classes for a cine film and cut comb (in accordance with its recent popularity) were included.

The show had been steadily growing in size over the years mainly due to added interest of The Trade & Educational Bodies so in 1972 the area was extended to the York Room, off the gallery of the Main Hall. Mr. A. F. Weedon became Treasurer and Membership Secretary, posts which Mr. A. W. Pring had combined with Entries Secretary for the previous two years. Miss M. Wardle who had given such valuable services in the past mainly by organising the refreshments, was made a Patron. Mr. J. W. Holt was elected Entries Secretary but as he had already arranged his holiday for the busy period Mrs. Meg Meyer kindly consented to act for that year. This was no new experience for her as she had assisted Mr. Owen Meyer when he was Entries Secretary from 1965 to 1968.

In 1973 there was great rivalry between Warwickshire and Cheshire in competition for the Smallholders Shield. When Cheshire were declared the winners they held a party after the show closed on the Thursday and various members provided bottles of mead, metheglin and home-made wines. This was such a success that it has become a tradition irrespective of who wins the shield.

Only six weeks before the 1974 show the death of Mr. J. J. Jones who for years had been Assistant Secretary and Show Supervisor caused consternation but with everyone's co-operation things worked out all right in the end.

In 1974 it was decided to judge the class for the Crystal Palace Cup on the points system as an experiment and it has been so judged ever since. Attendance at the show was boosted by an interview with Mr. J. W. Corbett on the **B.B.C. "TODAY" radio** programme.

So far as the number of classes included in the schedule is concerned, the Open classes have climbed from 16 in 1923 and 23 in 1925 to 55 (including Schools classes) in 1980, mainly in the 40s until 1971 since when they have been in the 50s. The total number of classes first exceeded 100 in 1932 and have fluctuated as Counties have entered and left, the highest total of 144 classes being reached in 1951, 1974 and 1976.

In the middle 1970s the future of Caxton Hall itself was in doubt: the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages had left and some thought the building might be demolished. It was, however, relieved but the 18 cost of hiring the halls was raised by over 50 % and the cost to the show now is around the £1500 mark.

It had long been the practice to show the slides entered for competition in the lecture programme with comments by the judge and the cine films had also been shown. In 1976 a class for sets of slides with commentary was added. Unfortunately soon after this show another enthusiastic and hardworking supporter of the show, Mr. R. I. (Bob) Hammond died. He had for several years been Publicity Secretary.

From the time of the Crystal Palace fire the show equipment had been stored at the offices of Shamrock Press of which Mr. Lawrence was the Principal, at 57 Church Road, Wimbledon. The cost of transport to and from the show each year was becoming prohibitive so in 1978 we were pleased to accept the offer of a room in the basement of Caxton Hall. We had to pay for the room, of course, but there was a considerable saving in transport costs and not only that but three or four helpers were saved the job of loading the lorry on the Monday evening and unloading again on the Saturday morning.

It was also agreed by the Caxton Hall Manager that personal delivery of exhibits could be made during the week preceding the show.

A beautifully carved crest was presented to the N.H.S. by Mr. G. H. Davis who had carved so many crests for County Associations. Our crest is kept at the National Bee-Keeping Centre at Stoneleigh when the show is not on.

The lectures of the **B.B.K.A.** Convention have been so popular in recent years that the question of space has become quite a problem. They are held in the Tudor Room which is the largest available but still people cannot get in to some lectures. This is a matter that is exercising the minds of those responsible and is as yet unresolved.

After the 1979 show, Mr. M. C. Bond resigned as Hon. General Secretary after 20 years but continued as "Acting" until the Spring of 1980 as the new H.G.S., Mr. H. R. Martin could not take over till then. A presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Bond was made at the 1980 A.G.M.

Displaying award cards by the relevant exhibit had never been entirely satisfactory: If placed under the exhibit it was often difficult to read and if stood up it obscured the exhibit. An alternative system of hanging the cards in a frame had been tried but involved rearranging all the exhibits after judging. In 1980 a star system was tried with a master card by each class and the award cards themselves were issued with the prize money. It seems as if this system will be much more satisfactory.

Until comparatively recently the great majority of exhibits were sent by rail but in the last decade or two this mode of transport has lost its popularity. Now practically all exhibits are delivered personally which makes it very difficult to keep up the number of exhibits.

May we end this little history by appealing to every affiliated body to arrange for exhibits to be collected centrally from its members and brought in one batch to the show either in a member's car or van or whatever. Some Associations do this already but if many more did we could easily top the 2,200 entries which would constitute a record.

APPENDIX

PRESIDENTS

Rev. D. L. Bryce	1952-1966	T. Bradford	1973-1974
F. H. Lawrence	1967-1973	J. W. Holt	1975

PATRONS

Sir David Burnett	1928-1930	E. B. Woodberry	1971-1973
Mrs. B. W. Hamlin	1958-1969	Miss M. Wardle	1972-
Miss M. Whyte Johnstone	1958-1969	Sq. Ldr. A. N. Stratton	1975
S. W. Gadge	1958-1972	F. W. Drake	1975
P. C. Thornton	1958-1970	P. Brightman	1975
S. H. Bradley	1969-1974	E. Graham Burt	1975

CHAIRMEN

A. Dewey	1923-1930	W. E. Hamlin	1952-1957
Rev. D. L. Bryce	1930-1952	F. J. Crow	1957

VICE-CHAIRMEN

A. Dewey	1930	T. W. Quarmby	1958-1959
A. E. Barnes	1931-1933	T. Bradford	1960-1973
W. E. Hamlin	1934-1951	A. M. Dines	1974-1979
F. J. Crow	1952-1957	W. S. *Mundy	1980

HON. GENERAL SECRETARIES

W. E. Clifford and W. E. Hamlin (jointly)	1923-1931	E. A. V. Strudwick	1953
W. E. Clifford	1932-1933	W. E. Hamlin (Acting)	1954-1957
F. H. Lawrence	1934-1950	D. G. Browne	1957-1959
Rev. D. L. Bryce	1951-1952	M. C. Bond	1960-1979
		H. R. Martin	1980

HON. SECRETARIES OF NATIONAL HONEY SHOW LTD.

F. H. Lawrence 1932-1972 A. F. Weedon 1973

HON. TREASURERS

Major A. R. Cormack	1951	G. F. Gosling	1963-1969
W. E. Hamlin	1952-1957	H. W. Pring	1970-1971
Browne	1957-1959A.	F. Weedon	1972-
W. Chas. Davis	1960-1962		

ENTRIES SECRETARIES

Miss T. K. Berridge	1932-1935	A. M. Dines	1967
Duties carried out by Hon. Gen. Secs.	1936-1950	O. Meyer	1968
W. E. Hamlin	1957-1964	H. W. Pring	1969-1971
S. H. Bradl	1951-1956	Mrs. M. Meyer	1972
O. Meyer	1965-1966	W. Holt	1973-

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES

Rev. D. L. Bryce	1947-1949	W. Chas. Davis	1957-1962
Mrs. E. M. Lowsley	1950	G. F. Gosling	1963-1969
E. A. V. Strudwick	1951-1953	H. W. Pring	1970-1971
W. E. Hamlin	1954-1956	A. F. Weedon	1972

SHOW SUPERVISORS

D. G. Browne	1950-1956	J. J. Jones	1959-1974
J. M. McKenna	1957	W. S. Mundy	1975
Commander G. F. Dixon	1958		

LECTURES/EDUCATION/CONVENTION SECRETARIES

F. J. Crow	1951-1956	F. Padmore	1960-1974
C. C. Tonsley	1957	Mrs. M. Padmore	1975-1979
Mrs. R. E. Clark	1958-1959	G. W. Knights	1980

PUBLICITY SECRETARIES

C. C. Tonsley 1958-1959 P. Baker 1978

8. 1. Hammond 1960-1976

SCHEDULES SECRETARIES

J. W. Quarmby	1960	H. W. Pring	1975-1977
G. F. Gossling	1961-1962	W. S. Mundy	1978
O. Meyer	1963-1964	B. H. Palmer	1979
O. S. Mundy	1965-1974		

CUP SECRETARIES

C. T. Gallagher	1960-1973	Mrs. J. Chalkley	1975
H. E. Corbell	1974	Mrs. J. Purcell	1976

DRAW SECRETARIES

Sqd/Ldr. A. N. Stratton	1965-1967	Mrs. H. Vigrass	1972
A. M. Dines	1968-1971		

JUDGES' REFEREES

F. H. Lawrence 1965-1972 Mrs. R. E. Clark 1973

PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARIES

E. Greenwood 1968-1978 P. Baker 1979

CATERING SUPERVISORS

Mrs. C. T. Gallagher 1971-1974 Mr. and Mrs. R. Aish 1975-

(Prior to 1971 catering had been organised, notably by Miss Wardle, without an official title.)

CHIEF SHOW STEWARDS

R. 1. Hammond 1974-1976 D. H. Daniels 1977

LECTURE STEWARD

D. Smart 1977

OPENERS OF THE SHOWS

1932 Lord Plender
1935 Lord Plender
1936 David Lloyd George, M.P.
1937 Dr. John Anderson
1938 Sir Jeremiah Colman
1948 Lady Megan Lloyd George, M.P.
1949 J. W. Bowen, Chairman of London County Council
1952 Sir Leslie Boyce, Lord Mayor of London, assisted by Lt. Col. Norman Edwards, Mayor of the City of Westminster.
1953 Sir Rupert de la Bere, Lord Mayor of London, supported by Ald. C. P. Russell, Mayor of Westminster.
1961 Viscount Lambert.

- 1962 W. F. Deedes, M.P.
 1963 Lord Shackleton
 1964 The Earl of Ancaster
 1965 The Earl Spencer, President Northamptonshire B.K.A.
 1966 Mrs. Barbara Cartland
 1967 The Countess of Dartmouth
 1968 J. Lee-Richardson, Chairman National Association for Health.
 1969 Bernard Braine, M.P.
 1970 Peter Scott, Vice-President & Chairman, World Wildlife Fund.
 1971 Ernest Marples M.P.
 1972 Col. Sir Bartle M. Edwards, President, Norfolk B.K.A.
 1973 Robert Dougall
 1974 Andrew C. Smith, President, Scottish B.K.A.
 1975 Tony Soper
 1976 Lord Carrington
 1977 Angus E. V. Maude, M.P.
 1978 Councillor Wing-Commander W. H. Kearney, Lord Mayor of
 Westminster
 1979 John Amis
 1980 Lord Lucas of Chilworth

PRESENTERS OF CUPS AND TROPHIES

- 1935 Lady Plender
 1936 David Lloyd George, M. P.
 1962 H.R.H. The Princess Royal

- 1963 Sir John Wenham
 1964 Sir Peter Agnew, Bart. M.P.
 1965 Sir Godfrey Nicholson, Bart. M.P. President, Federation of Berkshire B.K.As.
 1966 F. W. Drake, President of B.B.K.A.
 1967 E. Graham Burtt, Hon. Life Member B.B.K.A.
 1968 Dr. R. H. Barnes, Past President B.B.K.A.
 1969 Dr. A. L. Gregg
 1970 Harry Allen
 1971 H. J. Wadey, Hon. Editor of Bee Craft.
 1972 S/Ldr. A. N. Stratton, President B.B.K.A.
 1973 E. B. Woodberry, Patron of N.H.S.
 1974 Mrs. R. E. Clark, President of B.B.K.A.
 1975 Percy Brightman, Past President Essex B.K.A.
 1976 Owen Meyer, General Secretary B.B.K.A.
 1977 Harrison Ashforth, President B.B.K.A.
 1978 H. A. Peter, Chairman, Welsh B.K.A.
 1979 D. J. Deasy, Hon. Secretary, Federation of Irish B.K.A.s
 1980 F. E. Renouf, Life Vice-President, Jersey B.K.A.

VENUES OF THE SHOW

1923-1936 Crystal Palace, Sydenham
1937-1938 Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster
1947 Cannizaro, Wimbledon Common
1948 Wimbledon Town Hall
1949-1953 Royal Horticultural Hall
1954 No Show
1955-1956 Within the Dairy Show, Olympia
1957- Caxton Hall, Westminster.

CORPORATE MEMBERS 1980

Assn. of Beekeeping Appliance Manufacturers Avon County B.K.A. Barnet and District B.K.A. Bedfordshire B.K.A. Bee Farmer's Association Bee Research Assn. Federation of Berks. Beekeepers' Assn. Bournemouth and District B.K.A. British Isles Bee Breeders' Association Bucks. B.K.A. Carshalton and District Society of Beekeepers Central Assn of Beekeepers Cheshire B.K.A.

Cornwall B.K.A. Cumbria B.K.A. Derbyshire B.K.A. Devon B.K.A. Dorset B.K.A. Enfield and District B.K.A. Essex B.K.A. Gloucestershire B.K.A. Hampshire B.K.A. Herefordshire B.K.A. Hertfordshire B.K.A. Inner London B.K.A. Ipswich and East Suffolk B.K.A. Isle of Wight B.K.A. Jersey B.K.A. Kendal and South Westmorland B.K.A. Kent B.K.A. Kettering and District B.K.A. Lancashire and North West B.K.A. Leicestershire and Rutland B.K.A. Lincolnshire B.K.A. Federation of Middlesex Beekeepers' Associations Newcastle and District B.K.A. Norfolk B.K.A. Northamptonshire B.K.A. Northumberland B.K.A. Nottinghamshire B.K.A. Oxfordshire B.K.A. Petersfield B.K.A. Saddleworth and District Beekeepers Shropshire B.K.A. Slough and District B.K.A. Soke of Peterborough and District B.K.A. Somerset B.K.A. North Staffordshire B.K.A. South Staffordshire B.K.A. Stratford on Avon B.K.A. Surrey B.K.A. Sussex B.K.A. West Sussex B.K.A. Thanet B.K.A. Twickenham & Thames Valley B.K.A. Warwickshire B.K.A. West Suffolk B.K.A. Wiltshire B.K.A. Worcestershire B.K.A. Worthing Div. Sussex B.K.A. Yorkshire B.K.A.