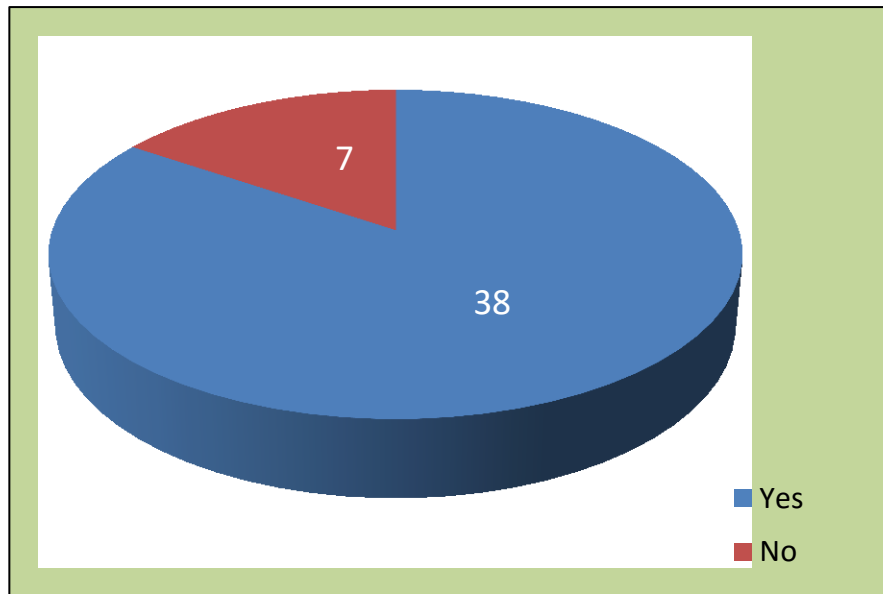


# **Responses to LBKA Members Survey 2015**

Jim Agnew  
LBKA Secretary  
Nov 2015

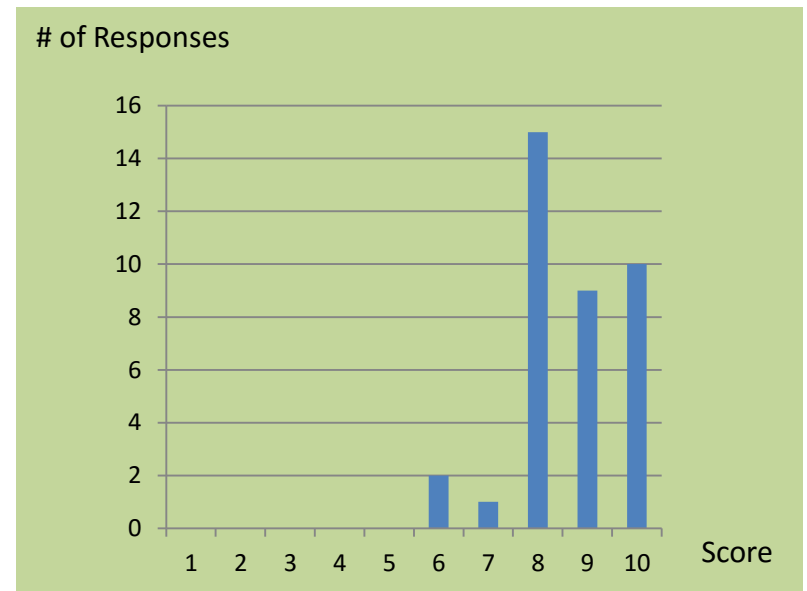
# Section A - Lectures

Do you regularly attend Association Lectures?



Number of Respondents = 45

If 'Yes' How satisfied are you? Out of 10



Average Score = 8.6

Q. If you answered 'No' is there anything the Association could do to encourage you to attend more often?

- Split meetings between Dundalk and Ardee/Dunleer
- Record presentations and make them available on the website.
- Earlier finish time

Q. Do you have any suggestions as to topics/activities you would like to see covered in future?

- History of Beekeeping
- Wax Processing
- Candle making
- Mead making
- Pollen
- Propolis
- Setting up an Apiary
- Dealing with aggressive bees
- Another Jim Fletcher lecture on nutrition
- Over-wintering bees
- Hygiene, in general, for equipment over winter (e.g. using acetic acid)

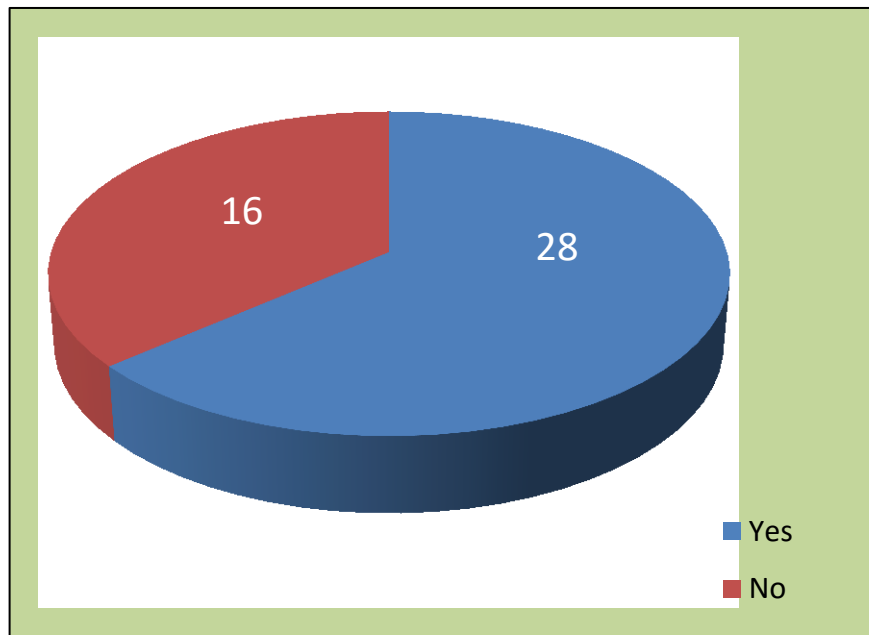
(Continued)

Q. Do you have any suggestions as to topics/activities you would like to see covered in future?

- Disease control / Prevention / Identification
- Apidea usage
- Hygiene in the hive
- Short films on beekeeping
- 'Practical' lectures on bee breeding & general beekeeping
- Making your own hives
- Assembling frames
- Separating honey from brace comb wax
- Swarm control and signs of swarming
- Disease identification
- How to identify a good queen versus a bad queen
- Ask members to submit questions /problems before the lecture, spend time answering those
- Information on the FIBKA examination system
- Queen Rearing
- Microscopy

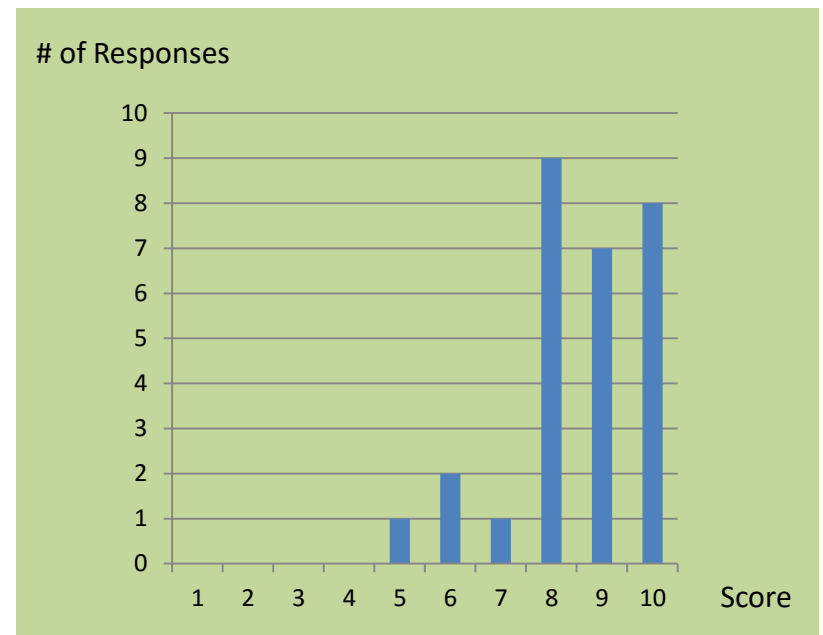
# Section B - Practical

Do you regularly attend Practical sessions?



Number of Respondents = 44

If 'Yes' how satisfied are you? Out of 10



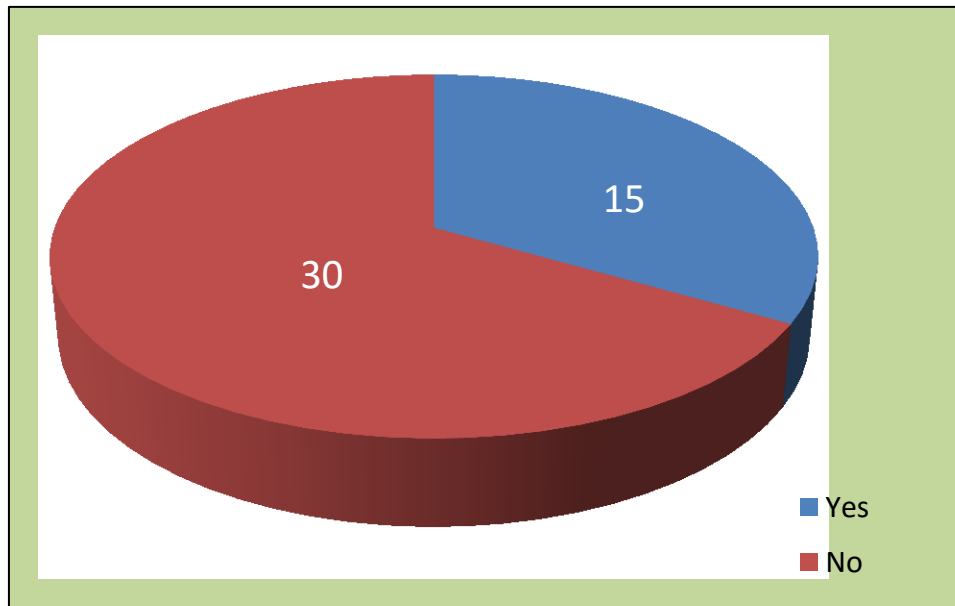
Average Score = 8.5

Q. Do you have any suggestions as to topics/activities you would like to see covered in future?

- Breeding Techniques
- Dealing with pests, applying treatments
- How to produce soft-set honey
- Processing wax – candles, balms, polish, soap, etc
- Focus on practical demonstrations for beginners
- Start practical demonstrations before new members get bees
- Swarm prevention/control
- Basic woodworking for beekeepers
- Apidea usage and management
- Hygiene and disease control
- Over-wintering
- Queen rearing
- Visits to members apiaries
- How to make splits for increase of stocks
- 6.30pm is not a time that suits everyone, could we run some sessions on Saturday mornings

# Section C – Honey Show

Have you taken part in the Association Honey Show?



Number of Respondents = 45

Q. If you answered 'No' were there particular reasons? What might persuade you to take part in future shows

- Lack of experience, knowledge in preparing honey
- Didn't think my honey was good enough
- Didn't have honey
- Lack of confidence
- Not interested in that aspect of beekeeping

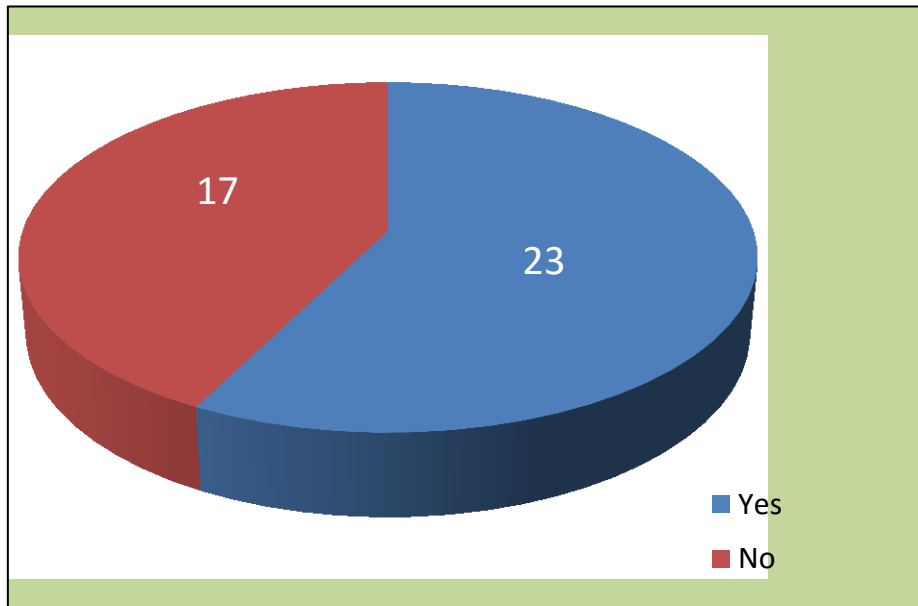
Q. If you answered 'Yes' have you any suggestions as to improvements we could make for future shows?

- All honey classes in 1lb jars only
- Be better organised
- Better promotion of the show, pictures in local papers
- Have a proper display structure
- Provide more feedback for entries that don't win
- Better labelling of categories
- Have more trophies
- Open the show to the public, possibly include it in the Dundalk Agricultural Show
- Provide competition for learner levels
- Give more notice of the show
- Run practical classes (small groups) where experienced beekeepers can show novices what is required



# Section D – FIBKA Examinations

Would you be interested in taking part in study groups for the FIBKA Intermediate Exams?



Number of Respondents = 40

Exams already held by respondents:

Intermediate Practical	8
Intermediate Scientific	3
Apiary Practical	2

# Section E – Bee Breeding

The Association is actively considering setting up a Bee Breeding Group to improve the stocks of *Apis mellifera mellifera* in our area. Would you be interested in taking part in such a group? Please select one choice:

Responses received:

Yes, I want to take an active role & learn/teach the skills to raise quality queens – 15

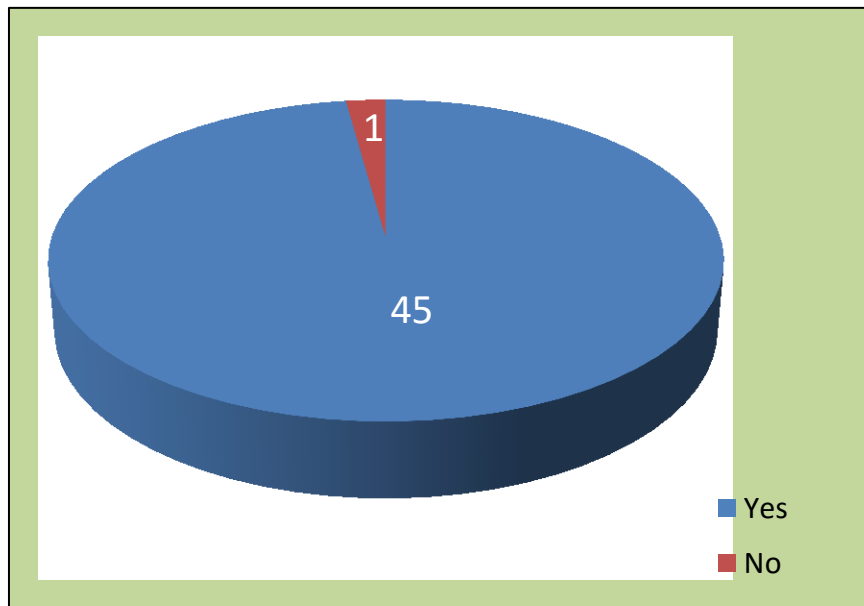
Yes, I want to join the group as a member who can obtain virgin queens – 15

No thanks – 0

In addition 14 people checked both of the 'Yes' options (beekeepers eh?). So in total 44 people expressed interest in / support for a local Bee Breeding Group.

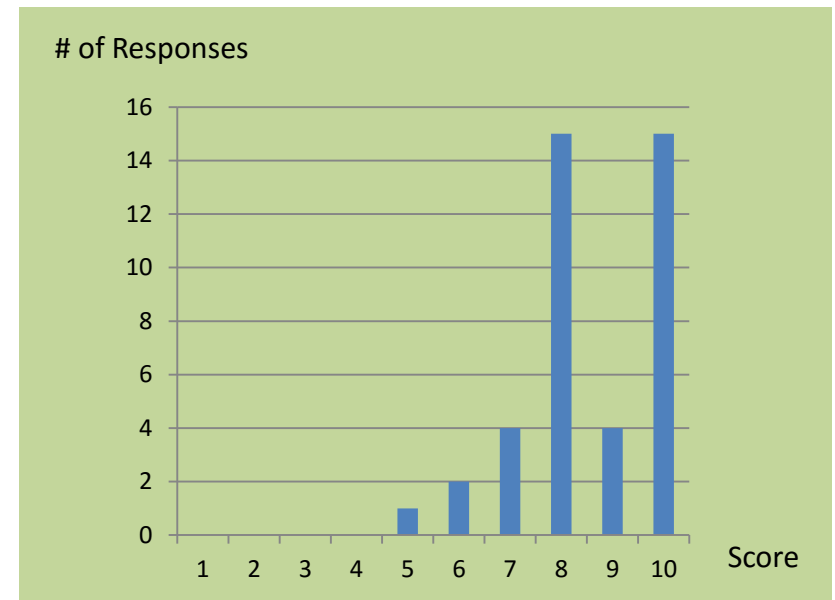
# Section F - General

Do you think the membership fee is good value?



Number of Respondents = 41

How happy are you with the work of the Association?



Average Score = 8.6

## Q. Have you any other feedback/ideas/suggestions/ that you would like to share?

- Have 'general' talks early in the season, aimed at beginners
- Hold practical classes for beginners – making boxes, frames, etc.
- Focus on Pollen and Propolis products
- Have a junior beekeepers course, to bring on the next generation
- Develop of programme to promote beekeeping to the younger generation
- Have a demonstration hive in the club for training and promotion
- Focus more on bee health
- Publish articles on beekeeping in the local newspapers
- Provide mentoring for beginner and novice beekeepers
- Promote *Apis mellifera mellifera* only, in Co Louth.
- Hold a lecture on queen rearing, by a very respected practitioner
- Provide broader learning opportunities
- Have an up to date website
- Set up small groups of members to work and visit each others site
- Organise regular Saturday and evening drop in meets at the association apiary
- The quality of bees supplied to beginners was poor, no queen records and aggressive
- Members should supply local bees to beginners, should over winter 1-2 nucs for sale

# Grouping of results

## General Topics

History of Beekeeping  
Pollen  
Over wintering bees  
Disease  
Nutrition  
General hygiene  
Swarm control and signs  
Good queen vs bad queen  
FIBKA exam system  
General talks for beginners  
Queen rearing

## Practical

Setting up an apiary  
Making hive parts & frames  
Separating honey from wax  
Applying treatments  
Hygiene – using acetic acid  
Good queen vs bad queen  
Swarm control and signs  
Making splits for increase  
Winter preparations  
Apidea usage/management  
Practical Microscopy  
Preparing honey for show

## Products

Wax processing  
Candles, Balms, Polish, etc  
Mead  
Pollen  
Propolis  
Soft-set Honey

## Bee Breeding

Colony Assessment  
Queen rearing techniques  
Bee supply to members  
Mentoring  
Colony management

## Disease

Hygiene  
Prevention  
Identification  
Control

## General

Communication  
Promotion / Awareness  
Online  
FIBKA Examinations  
Honey Show  
Mentoring  
Junior Beekeeping

Thank you for your valuable feedback  
and for all the great suggestions!