

The Newsletter



Vol no 29 Issue 4 May March 2022

SBKA website www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk



Playing safe Somerset beekeepers wear full PPE and carry smokers in case bees get agitated at hives in Somerton, but the occasional sting is an occupational hazard

It's happened again

We seem to be the 'go to' place for beekeeping photos for the National Daily newspapers. The 'Bournemouth New & Picture Agency' use us as the default place to come for such photographs. Back in 2019 we made it to the front page of The Times, but this time only made it to page 6. We did also make it into The Daily Star, but we're trying to keep that quiet.

Next please! Somerset Live want to pay a visit as well.

Somerton Beekeepers April committee meeting

It was a fairly uneventful meeting with quite a low turnout. Chairman Eric, having recovered from COVID, was able to take the holiday in Northern Spain which he and Jne had long anticipated, so the meeting was conducted by vice chairman Jack Barr.

The apiary report included the three hives kindly passed to us by John Webb, but more of that later. The, now 13 hives seem to all be in good fettle, and on the last inspection showed no obvious signs of swarm preparation.

Several suggestions were made regarding metalling the walkway across the car park and the meadow, to allow for disabled access, as wheelchairs and mobility scooters are not easily manoeuvred over rough ground or loose gravel. These ideas will be investigated and the most suitable & economic solution will be adopted.

Disabled access to the 'Beespace' was also discussed and it was decided, that with the skills at our disposal, we could build a substantial ramp and platform, only having to obtain the necessary materials. The price of timber and all construction materials has rocketed of late and the material alone will cost in the region of £450.

Stewart Gould (county chairman) said that Somerset BKA had decided on a recipient for the New Leaf Award 2022, and that Llew Vaughan of Mendip division, who is autistic, will receive a new hive, bee-suit, smoker and hive tool, but most importantly, he will also be gifted a full working colony of bees. The total cash value of the award was £456.00 . We sincerely hope that the relationship between New Leaf and Somerset Beekeepers will continue into the future.

With COVID problems receding Somerton Beekeepers will be able to attend events and gatherings, and we have already agreed to some school visits & the Merriman Park day in Street on September 3rd. We will also throw open the apiary for the Somerset Farm trail in July . For the last two years, Somerton meetings have been held using Zoom. The monthly premium has been more than compensated for in the time and fuel saving involved in 12 people travelling to meetings, but with the imminent installation of electricity at the apiary, and the lighter evenings, it was decided to hold the next meeting there.

Down-sizing



There comes a time in every beekeeper's life when you realise that you just have too many hives. One of our most respected members, John Webb, (looking rather studious in this photo) made that decision recently and so offered four of his colonies to Somerton Beekeepers for a peppercorn sum, to provision new beekeepers. Joe King and I duly turned up at the appointed time to relieve John of the four colonies, and three of them were transported to the apiary where they are to be split, to make six colonies in total.

The final colony was used to complete the New Leaf Award donation, and was delivered on April 30th, to a very excited 16 year old in Midsomer Norton.

Thank you very much John. You have made one young beekeeper very happy.

Stewart Gould

Mikes Bee Supplies

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Difficult Question

From time to time our members will come up with a real puzzler of a question and this one is no exception.



In conversation with Fred Clarke, Richard Longworth threw this conundrum into the equation.



“I would like to know if anybody has got any ideas of how to keep honey so it doesn't crystallise. The problem is that I live in a caravan and it is too hot in summer and too cold in winter to prevent crystallisation. Can anyone suggest how I can overcome this problem?”

If you can think of a sensible solution, please contact Fred Clarke at pauline.fred@outlook.com. He is just dying to let Richard know.

Apiinvert. Syrup ready to feed bees. Unlike sugar solution it requires no mixing, more readily accepted and less work required for the bees to invert (not wasting energy), more close to a natural food.

13kg 1 - 4 boxes £24 each, 5 + boxes £23 each

Apifonda. If you are venturing on a Queen rearing project this fondant is what you need. Very similar to Apiinvert, it is a paste not a liquid. If a colony becomes light through the course of the winter a dollop of fondant could well be the difference between life and death of the bees.

1 x 2.5 Kg bag £5.00, 1 box 12.5 Kg £25, 2 + boxes £24 each

The Apiinvert can be fed as a 'gee up' in the spring, emergency feeding during the 'June gap' and of course at the end of the season when preparing for winter.

Foundation. National brood and super, 14 x 12 brood available

Eddie Howe email:- redrascal444@gmail.com Mobile 07812 738793

Tel. 01458 272114

OUR SUMMER PROGRAMME.

One of the pleasures that COVID has denied us over the last couple of years is to have a summer programme of visits to members apiaries, to open up their hives, admire their bees, discuss the practical issues that the bees are currently giving them, to get together, and enjoy a cup of tea.

We are delighted to say that we are able to re-establish the tradition this season. Firstly, a big thank you to those members who have kindly invited us to their apiaries. Our first apiary visit is to Michelle Wilson's apiary at Hambridge on this coming Sunday, May 8th, starting at 2.00pm. You have had all the details separately in a mass email, and we look forward to seeing all those who can make it. It would be helpful to let Michele know that you are coming. Her email address is michelewilson1747@gmail.com.

Our June apiary visit is by kind invitation of Jeffrey and Pauline Wilson at Wearne on Sunday 12th. Final details will follow nearer the time.

Our July apiary visit will be by kind invitation of Cath Fraser, who has her bees at Montacute House. This is planned for Saturday July 19th. This has to be checked with the National Trust that they are happy for us all to be there, but that should not be a problem. You don't need to be a National Trust member and the apiary is well away from the house.

Our August apiary visit will be a trip to Buckfast Abbey to visit Clare Densley and her bees on Saturday August 27th. Those of you who have been before will know what a treat this is.

As well as this we are hoping to plan a "Bee Safari". This is when we plan a day when we visit a group of apiaries that are quite close. This is led by an expert, and we all travel from apiary to apiary. Previously our expert has been Meg Seymour, but Meg has now been promoted to the role of Regional Bee Inspector, but we hope that one of the other bee inspectors will lead the day.

All in all we should have a really interesting summer ahead. **Don't forget to bring a washed clean beesuit with you!**

Joe King

Library Bulletin.



Two recent additions to the Divisional Library:

"Good Nutrition. Good Bees." A big thick book, but very clearly laid out and comprehensive.

"The Pollen Grain Drawings of Dorothy Hodges". Reproduces all the pollen grain drawings of Hodges original book.

If you want to make use of the library and the extensive range of beekeeping books, then please contact **Sarah Kent on 01749 670423.**

BBKA INSURANCE for the period 4th October 2021 – 3rd October 2022 Aviva Policy Number: 100746022CCI-011021

Frequently Asked Questions v.4

Over the years a number of queries have arisen about the insurance cover the BBKA has arranged for its Members. The following information provided by the BBKA is designed to help Members understand the cover they have.

As with all insurance, these FAQs should be taken as indicative answers only – the final wording is that contained in the policy and the interpretation rests with the insurance company. You can find policy and confirmation of cover documents at www.bbkanews.com

Any questions not answered here should be addressed to the BBKA office at bbka@bbka.org.uk.

1. As a member of the BBKA what am I covered for on the insurance arranged by the BBKA which is included in the cost of my membership fees?

Third Party Public and Products Liability insurance from the BBKA

The Third Party Public and Products Liability insurance policy automatically covers all Honorary, Registered, Partner, Junior, UK-resident (plus Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey) Individual Members and constituent associations (referred to collectively as "Members") against any financial loss caused by a successful claim against them by a third party for injury or other loss deemed to have been caused by the Member, or their bees, whilst undertaking beekeeping activities or through the normal use of their hive products. The limit of this cover is presently £10,000,000 with each new claim carrying an excess

of £500 for third party property damage claims that is payable by the Member.

2. Does this policy cover my equipment against all risks including theft?

No - unfortunately the BBKA All Risks insurance scheme has been discontinued. As a result, Aston Lark will be unable to offer renewal terms and cover will cease from your renewal date.

The All Risks insurance is was arranged with the unique buying power of the BBKA's 25,000+ members. However, over the period of 3 years + that it ran (since 31/01/2018), less than 2% of members have bought the cover. In addition at least £140 which we anticipate to be unacceptable to the majority of beekeepers with relatively normal levels of (but nonetheless beloved) equipment.on, claims have been relatively high in relation to premiums.

Aston Lark can still offer cover, on a bespoke basis, using options from a wide number of insurers. However, the minimum cost will increase to

For hobby beekeepers, Aston Lark suggest you have a discussion with your household insurers with the aim of adapting your insurance cover to include hives in the open and other insurance covers that may not automatically be catered for. If they are unable to assist, Aston Lark has negotiated facilities that will give most of, or all the insurance cover, you may require on one of more of their own Household Insurance policies but they can only do so by arranging all your Household cover (not just beekeeping equipment).

Aston Lark would be very pleased to hear from you if you would like a Household Insurance quotation, including beekeeping equipment, please contact:

Raquel.addleman@astonlark.com 0161 830 1294

Daniel.hopwood@astonlark.com 0161 830 1283

www.astonlark.com 3 Parsonage, Manchester, M3 2HW

3. Does this policy cover me if my hives have American or European Foul Brood?

No. Bee Diseases Insurance (BDI) provides optional insurance for the replacement of beekeeping equipment should it have to be destroyed due to an incidence of a notifiable disease, such as European or American Foul Brood.

Further information about how Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd operates can be found on the BDI website www.beediseasesinsurance.co.uk

Please note, not all BBKA Associations and Branches offer BDI insurance – please check with your membership secretary.

I pay a small extra premium with my subscription to my local branch each year for BDI insurance. What is this for?

This is a separate premium for Bee Diseases Insurance (BDI). In the event of your bees and equipment having to be destroyed due to foul brood, then this policy will pay out a fixed amount to help you replace your equipment. This is administered totally separately by BDI. The costs of this policy are part of your main subscription to your local association.

4. I've heard something about an excess; am I going to be charged for notifying a claim?

The Liability policy's £500 excess is a market-standard feature in the UK. It exists to impose an element of responsibility on the insured person so as to minimise recklessness.

The excess is limited in scope as it only applies to allegations of property damage. Claims alleging an injury are never subject to an excess.

Additionally, the excess is not payable during the defence phase of the claim. Insurers will provide full assistance and defend against the claim as robustly as possible. The excess is only payable when the decision is taken to make a payment to the Third Party. If the claim is successfully defended, no excess is payable.

The Insurers review the level of excess regularly in conjunction with the BBKA, but this must be balanced with premium considerations, as insurers require higher premiums for lower excess levels.

5. Are all Membership categories covered for insurance automatically?

Registered, Partner, Junior and Honorary members who are UK residents (plus Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey) are covered automatically for insurance as part of their payment of membership fees. Country membership does not include insurance cover.

If you are in any doubt as to whether you personally are registered with the BBKA, you should consult with your association's Membership secretary.

6. Are members of the public who attend Taster Days or visit our apiary covered?

The public are protected by the BBKA insurance when attending a taster day or training sessions. If a member of the public was injured (or their property damaged) and felt this was due to negligence, they could sue the BBKA members supervising the event (although liability should never be admitted, in case this results in cover being invalidated). BBKA Registered, Partner, Honorary and Junior members have BBKA insurance but not Country members. Naturally, BBKA cover would only protect a member of the public if there had been a *failure in duty of care* by a BBKA member.

7. Is it the bees or the beekeeper that is covered?

Bees obviously cannot be sued, so it is the beekeeper that is covered.

If a claim is made against BBKA Member, John, for a loss he caused while looking after Mary's bees during her holiday, then John is covered even though the bees aren't his. Even if Mary isn't a Member, as long as John is a Member he will be covered if he is named in the action.

If it becomes apparent that it was actually Mary that was responsible for the loss and she is named in the action, the policy will only protect her if she is a Member.

8. I am called by a member of the public to collect bees that have swarmed – am I covered? What happens if I charge for my services?

You are covered provided, it is part of your normal beekeeping activities. If you charge reasonable expenses to cover fuel costs then this will not affect your cover. However, if you make a business out of swarm collection this would be viewed differently. You would need normal Commercial Insurance for this business activity which is not covered by the BBKA policy.

9. Is there any restriction on working at height?

No. The Aviva policy does not have a specified restriction for working at height. Broadly speaking, you should not attempt any work for which you do not have adequate equipment, training or experience. The policy does not cover reckless acts, so if you are in doubt seek guidance from someone with the relevant experience or training, or preferably use an alternate method that would avoid you having to climb to height.

10. I sell honey and wax products at farmers' markets and local shows and they need proof of Third Party Public Liability and Product Insurance.

The confirmation of Insurance document available for download and printing from the BBKA website is sufficient to satisfy this requirement. You will need to log-in with your membership number and postcode to access the file, which can be found at: www.bbkanews.com

11. I make a range of skin care products that I sell at markets and via retail outlets – am I covered for Product Liability if anyone makes a claim against me?

The BBKA policy only covers primary hive products – defined as wax, honey and propolis with no other added ingredients. Some examples of covered products are pure honey, lip balms consisting of honey and beeswax with no extra ingredients, and candles with no perfumes or colourings. Bees wax wraps are not covered.

The restriction applies because if a product with added ingredients proves to be faulty, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to prove whether it was the hive ingredient or additive at fault.

For instance, if cakes were covered, the insurance company would require lists of all products made and ingredients used by each and every member, and every product would need to comply with food hygiene and production standards. Premiums would be payable on an individual basis and therefore prohibitively high.

12. The number of my hives has grown over the years and I now supplement my income from beekeeping – am I covered?

The policy is designed for hobbyist BBKA Members, not commercial ventures or bee farmers. With 40 colonies or more you would be eligible for Membership of the Bee Farmers' Association (BFA).

As such, cover is provided up to a limit of 39 hives per person. If you tend 40 or more hives by yourself you should apply for membership of the BFA.

If you share responsibility for the hives with another member, then the hives can be treated as shared between you for insurance purposes. Cover will not be invalidated as long as there are not more than 39 hives per person.

Additionally, insurers view any operation with any direct employees as a commercial venture, which cannot be covered by the policy.

13. I joined my local association in January, when did my insurance cover start?

As a Registered, Partner or Junior Member, your cover started the day you paid your local association subscription and received a receipt. However, if a claim arose between the time of your payment and your registration with the BBKA by your association, you would need to provide definitive proof that payment was made before the incident arose for a claim to be accepted.

14. I am a new direct UK Individual Member of the BBKA; when does my insurance cover begin?

The insurance cover for a new individual Member of the BBKA begins six weeks after he/she is accepted for Membership. When you renew your Membership, cover will start from the date you pay your renewal subscription to the BBKA.

15. As Membership Secretary I update members details on the members register. If some of the names on the list have lapsed or are awaiting renewal (ie have not paid me at the time) are they still covered?

Technically they are in default and would not be covered. However, if a claim arose, each case would be investigated and resolved on an individual basis. In order to avoid this potential exposure, it is imperative that all associations ensure that their Members understand this exposure and are encouraged to pay all dues promptly.

FAQs for Branch & Association Officers

16. I am a Treasurer of my local branch, am I covered for any claims against me as a branch official as opposed to in my beekeeping activities?

The BBKA policy includes what is commonly referred to as 'Trustees Liability' cover for all officials of the BBKA, Associations and branches affiliated to the BBKA. It does not matter whether your organisation is a charity or not for this cover. The amount covered is £2,000,000, with no applicable excess.

In order to be covered by the BBKA 'Trustees Liability' insurance, Association and branch officials must be a member of the BBKA (registered, partner, country or honorary). If a member serves as an officer for more than one Association or branch, he/she only needs to be a BBKA member of one of them.

17. Are Area Associations and branches covered for Public Liability Insurance if we want to hire a hall for a beekeeping meeting/training or attend a public event such as a local show?

Yes, up to a limit of £10 million. Associations that are registered charities or CIOs, although legal entities in their own right, are still covered.

18. If non-members were to break into a teaching apiary and be seriously injured by the bees is the association covered for any claim?

Yes, there would be full cover. If they put a claim in against the BBKA Local Association/Individual member/BBKA itself, insurers would either:-

19) Defend you if there had been no breach of a duty of care, or:-

20) If there had, then negotiate compensation on your behalf and pay it out, along with any legal costs.

It would be just the same for a non-teaching apiary.

Sorry for the length of this document, but BBKA have distributed this information to all associations to be distributed to all members.

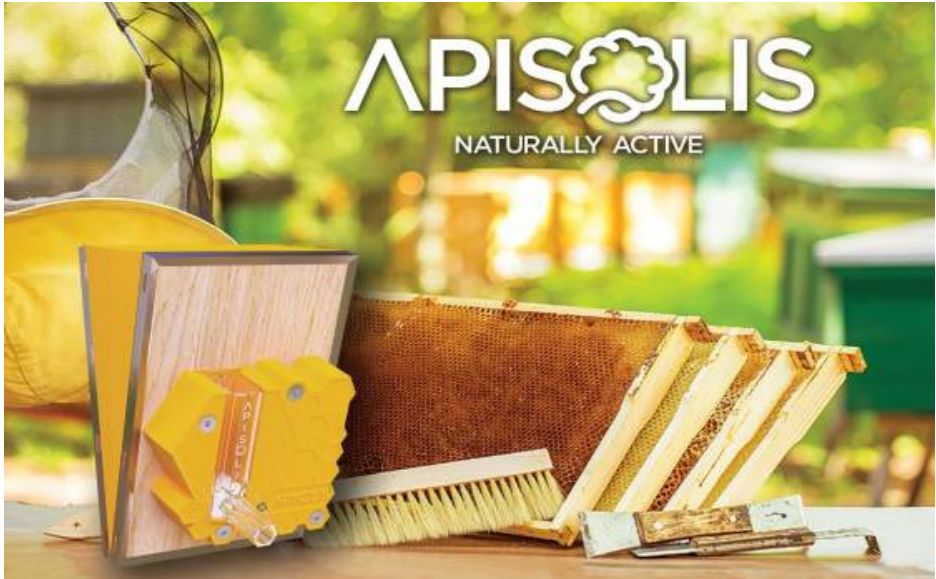
Land for Bees

Hello, I have an enormous garden in Glastonbury, full at present of bees and the plants they love. I'd like to offer the space to a person who would put their bees here and come in and out to look after them. Bove Town BA6 8JE

Contact Christine Robertson

losowek.herbs@btinternet.com

Fed up with smelling like a bonfire all summer?



This could well be the answer to your prayers. It operates just like a normal smoker, complete with bellows, but no fire box, instead it has a reservoir containing essential oils which you can waft over your bees to calm them down. The claims are that you won't be blowing toxic fumes over your bees, or inhaling them yourself. It is true to say that the risk of burning yourself, your bee-suit and your car are completely removed. It seems to work rather like a large artificial vaping E cigarette, with your lungs being replaced by the bellows. Unlike an E cigarette, it is a little more expensive, coming in at a cool £160. It would be cheaper to buy an E cigarette at £41.49 and blow the fumes over your bees. Cheaper still, you could stick with your smoker, because let's face it, you would be hard pressed to spend £50 on a smoker - and the fuel is free.

SOMERTON & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION HONEY SHOW 2022

SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER, KEINTON MANDEVILLE VILLAGE HALL TA11 6ES



No, your eyes do not deceive you, it's time to start thinking about your Honey Show! Once again the show committee is working hard to organise the "Best Honey Show in the West". However we can't proceed unless we have lots of volunteers and we are specifically looking for offers of help with:

- publicity
- someone to organise meals and refreshments for the judges
- someone to organise and run the tea tent
- someone to organise the raffle which is traditionally run on the day
- stewards, both morning and afternoon (these should not be novices)
- volunteers to prepare the hall on Friday evening and return it to its original state after the show has finished
- someone to organise flower decorations

There is a lot to be done to make the show a success ... and **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.**

If you could help with any one of these tasks, and we hope you will, please let one of your Honey Show committee members know as soon as possible. Also don't forget also to start thinking about what you are likely to enter this year. Our target is 300+ entries. Please help us achieve it.

Your Honey Show committee:

David Rose: 01458 259442

Alison Dykes: 01458 850535

Fred Clarke: 01278 722830

Sally Lye: 01935 840694

Dates for your diary

**Beginners Practical Sessions
At our apiary
Second session**

Saturday April 30th
10.00am

**And Saturday May 28th
For disease recognition**

Somerton BKA Honey Show

Saturday September 17th
Keinton Mandeville Village Hall

President

Jackie Mosedale
01458 241146

Chairman

Eric McLaughlin
jandemclaughlin@gmail.com
07910 764069

Vice Chairman

Jack Barr
01458 252850
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