



Association Rules & By-Laws

These Rules & By-Laws represent additional rules of membership of the Basingstoke Beekeepers Association (known also as BDBKA or the Association) under Clause 26 of the Constitution.

Association Rules

1. Bee Diseases Insurance

Every Registered Member must be insured through Bee Diseases Insurance (BDI) within the conditions of that insurance.

2. Notifiable Diseases and Disorders

Notifiable pest and diseases are European Foulbrood (EFB), American Foulbrood (AFB), Small Hive Beetle, and Tropilaelaps mite.

2.1 If you find a notifiable pest or disease, you are legally required to report this to the National Bee Unit. They can be contacted via the NBU website ([click here](#)), where you will find the contact details of your local bee inspector. You can also contact the office team by calling 0300 303 0094 or emailing nbu@apha.gov.uk.

2.2 Any Member except those explicitly excluded by the constraints of the Official Secrets Act¹ shall advise the Association Secretary of any notifiable disease discovered in the Member's stocks of bees together with the locations and movements of those stocks during the weeks prior to diagnosis. The Secretary shall then arrange for this information to be circulated to the Members of the Association.

2.3 The name of the Member will only be shared with the member's consent.

3. Association Apiaries

3.1 Any Registered Member may keep stocks of bees in the Association Apiaries provided that prior consent is obtained from the Association Apiary Manager and that each and every stock of bees is fully covered by Bee Diseases Insurance.

3.2 The Apiary Manager will require the removal of any stocks of bees from the Association Apiaries if he or she believes that the presence of those stocks may be detrimental to

others in the apiary. At least five days' notice in writing shall be given after which the Apiary Manager may remove the stocks on behalf of the Member to a place that in his or her opinion is both safe and appropriate. Any costs incurred during the removal are payable by the Member.

3.3 In the event of the discovery of any notifiable disease in any stocks of bees kept at the Association Apiaries the Association Apiary Manager may take whatever action is considered by him or her to be appropriate without prior notice to the owner of the stocks of bees.

Note 1 The Association believes that only Her Majesty's Government's Bee Disease Inspectors are explicitly excluded under the Act.

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4. Delegates

Delegates to other bodies may be appointed at a General Meeting to represent the interests of the Association to those other bodies (e.g., HBA and BBKA). In the event of a delegate being unable to continue a full term the trustees may appoint a successor for the remainder of the term.

5. Swarm Collection

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council pay a grant to BDBKA for investigating and collecting honeybee swarms. Historically, over 60 swarms per annum allowing an average £20 per callout, which is paid to the collector for out-of-pocket expenses. To ensure the grant is not exhausted in years with more than 60 callouts, 2 more funding routes have been used to protect the total grant where a viable swarm has been collected. These include asking Association members in receipt of a swarm to pay the callout fee, or the Association funds the callout. The protocols pertaining to swarm collection and the payment of expenses are:

5.1 To qualify for the callout fee, the Swarm Coordinator must approve the collection request and give the Swarm Collector a reference number via the WhatsApp app (e.g., Year-Number)

5.2 Swarm Collectors must be approved by the Swarm Coordinator with the skills, experience & equipment; training by going with experienced collectors is available on request

5.3 There is no limit to the number of swarms any one collector can collect and we are grateful for the support we receive from our collectors

5.4 BDBKA does not have insurance to cover the collection of swarms, so collectors do so at their own risk. As such,

(i) Swarm Collectors must not take undue risks to themselves, the property owner, or the public. Critical safety issues include:

(ii) Working at height (i.e., from a platform, ladder etc.) can only be done if the swarm collector does their own risk assessment and carries their own insurance (Publications and resources relevant to work at height – HSE)

(iii) Cutting out swarms from buildings or trees causes damage and should only be undertaken by an approved and insured contractor (external to BDBKA).

5.5 BDBKA has equipment (BeeVac) for removing swarms at up to 6m, without the need for step ladders, ladders, platforms etc.

5.6 The collector should always be paid for a call-out to investigate a potential swarm and for collecting the Swarm on behalf of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

5.7 The householder / property owner does not pay the swarm collector.

5.8 If a swarm is collected on behalf of BDBKA it becomes the responsibility of BDBKA to hive the swarm. BDBKA will either:

(i) allow the collector to keep the swarm (callout fee applies)

(ii) gift the swarm onto another member (callout fee paid by receiving member)

(iii) house the swarm in one of the BDBKA apiary sites (callout fee applies)

(iv) dispose of the swarm if necessary (callout fee applies)

5.9 The Association will keep a list of members seeking receipt of a swarm (known as the Swarm List). Where collectors do not want the swarm, they will post availability to the Swarm List on a first-come basis; on joining the Swarm List, participants are approving having their details shared with other participants. Participants can leave the list at any point, likewise coordinators can remove participants once requested swarm numbers are received.

5.10 Where a BDBKA member accepts the swarm from the Swarm Collector, then the member will pay the collector's expenses, equivalent to the agreed Grant payment. In other circumstances, the swarm collector will be paid the collection fee from the BDBKA grant.

5.11 Where a swarm is housed in an Association hive, on frames and foundation, it is no longer a swarm but a Nuc.

6. Swarm Collection Arrangements & Payment of Expenses

6.1 Swarm is advised to Swarm Coordinator or Secretary (via enquiries), who looks to confirm / qualify the information from the public

6.2 Coordinator / Secretary announces Swarm to Swarm Collections WhatsApp group for collection on first-come basis

6.3 Once the collector is assigned, the collector decides whether they want the Swarm (either prior to, or on inspection / collection). If they want it, they keep it. If there is a false alarm, then call-out noted for records. If swarm not wanted, they offer it to the Swarm List on WhatsApp on first come basis; The Apiaries team may also take part in the Swarm list and/or accept an unwanted swarm

6.4 Coordinator keeps data on collectors, recipients, and false alarms. Expense payments are made:

(i) Immediately to the collector by members receiving swarms

(ii) At end of the season once swarm collection data collated where not given to member.
This single payment will be made up of Grant funds or Association funds for swarms received by the Association

6.5 Treasurer will keep a sub-account in the Association accounts for Grants (receipts and payments) whilst also recording association expenses for swarm payments

6.6 Trustees to revise fees for collections and false alarms annually in advance, based on historical knowledge and residual Grant funds.

7. **Other Diseases and Disorders**

It is considered by the Association that any disease or other problem that could be of significance to other Members should be advised to them where this is feasible and reasonable. It is requested therefore that Members noting significant problems such as Acarine, wasps etc. in their areas, consider advising other members who may have stocks in the vicinity and may also be at risk.

Amendments History

February 2024: Second Draft post Committee review ahead of AGM proposal

January 2024: First Draft