



Weston-super-Mare Branch Avon Beekeepers Association



The aim of the Weston-super-Mare beekeepers group is to offer an educational programme in order to improve the standard of beekeeping in the area and to keep members up to date with the ever changing world of bees and beekeeping. We also have an educational stand at various events during the year in order to help the public understand more about the importance of honey bees in the environment.

Members come from Weston-super-Mare and adjacent areas of North Somerset District, out as far as Shipham, Congresbury, and Backwell. We are a small friendly group of enthusiasts of varying abilities and we all try to help each other to develop the skills required to look after bees properly and to harvest good crops of honey. Regular monthly meetings are held at various apiaries in and around Weston during the spring and summer with special tuition for new beekeepers in the branch apiary. Study groups and social events are arranged during the winter.

New beekeepers are always welcome but it must be emphasised from the beginning that beekeeping is a craft and it does take a long time to learn. After about two years members are encouraged to study for the 'Basic Beekeeping Assessment' which is a certificate of competence.



Annual subscriptions for 2011/12 are:

£22 for full members

£15 for partner members

£10 for associate members

For more information contact:

Secretary: Ann Westwood 01934 624092

Treasurer: Steven Sands 01934 413053

Details of courses: Brenda Davies 01934 843951

Swarm collection: Mark Tilley (Please note that there may be a charge for this service) 01934 822210 or mobile 07976 637131

Answers to some frequently asked questions:

Q. How much honey will I get from a hive of bees?

A. *The average harvest is about 40 lbs (18 kilos) but in a good year, bees that are well looked after should produce more.*

Q. How much does it cost to start keeping bees?

A. *Allow £200-£300 to start with new equipment. Less if you buy second hand.*

Q. How do I start?

A. *It is recommended that you start by going on a course to learn the basics before you get bees of your own. Then attend some hands-on apiary meetings to get your confidence.*

A membership form is attached for your use should you decide to join us.



Weston-Super-Mare Beekeepers

Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association (ABKA)

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Year 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012

Please complete this form and send it, with a cheque payable to "ABKA Weston-super-Mare Branch" for your payment as set out below, to the Branch Treasurer:

Stephen Sands, 1 The Crescent, Worlebury, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 9SR

Title..... First Name Surname..... Full
 Title..... First Name Surname..... Other
 Address
 Postcode
 Tel No..... Email address.....

Membership subscription fees for full Registered Member (please ring as appropriate)

1-3 colonies	£22.00	6 -10 colonies	£27.25	16- 20 colonies	£31.50
4- 5 colonies	£24.00	11- 15 colonies	£29.75	21 -25 colonies	£33.10

Please note that number of colonies includes nuclei and swarms expected during the year.

Payment enclosed is made up as follows:

Full Member: as per table above (ABKA and full BBKA membership) £.....
 Partner Member: £14.00 (ABKA and limited BBKA membership) £.....
 Country Member: £14.00 (ABKA and limited BBKA membership) £.....
 Associate Member: £10.00 (branch membership only) £.....
Donation Always welcomed and appreciated to support the Branch £.....
Total Payment £.....

Membership renewals must be received by 31 January each year; otherwise all insurance cover and other rights will lapse, including delivery of BBKA News and a new Membership Card.

BBKA Registered Members enjoy BBKA public and product liability insurance; receive all circulated materials from BBKA and ABKA; and have Bee Diseases Insurance for their first 3 colonies covered within the basic subscription. To retain cover you must pay additional premium for all extra colonies.

BBKA Partner Members enjoy full insurance cover and all the benefits of Registered Members, except that they **do not themselves receive any circulated material** from BBKA or ABKA. This form of membership is intended for individuals who live at the same address as a Registered Member and provides insurance cover for up to three extra colonies. Additional colonies can be insured by either the Partner or Registered Member.

BBKA Country Members must neither keep nor intend to keep bees in future. The subscription provides no insurance at all; otherwise they have the same benefits as Registered Members.

Associate Members do not keep bees but may intend to keep bees in future, or be Registered BBKA members of another branch or Association. Associate Members are able to attend apiary meetings and other events hosted by the Weston-super-Mare Beekeepers. Associate Members are not recognised by BBKA and do not have any rights or benefits of BBKA membership.

Gift Aid

Donations and Subscriptions, excluding extra BDI for more than 3 colonies, are eligible for Gift Aid. ABKA can reclaim tax if you have completed a Gift Aid form. **If you** have not already signed a Gift Aid form in a previous year and you **are a taxpayer** and would like your Branch to benefit financially by permitting us to reclaim tax from HMRC in respect of subscriptions and donations you make to ABKA please sign the Gift Aid Declaration below (full details are available separately).

I want Avon BKA to treat all payments I have made since 6th April 2011, and all payments I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aided donations
Signed **Dated**