



# KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter No. 71 January 2014

## BEE DISEASE INSURANCE

All Registered and Junior Members of Kent BKA are covered by Bee Diseases Insurance for the first three colonies. Additional Premiums may be paid for up to 39 colonies. Other categories of membership (Friend, Partner) do not include this insurance. Any claim by Junior members will need to be made by their parent or guardian because beekeepers under the age of 16 years are unable to take out insurance policies.

The additional premiums are:

- Up to 5 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £2.00
- Up to 10 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £5.25
- Up to 15 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £7.75
- Up to 20 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £9.50
- Up to 25 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £11.10
- Up to 30 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £13.60
- Up to 35 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £16.10
- Up to 39 colonies (including the basic three) an additional £18.10

Making a claim on your policy is very simple. You need to:-

1. Contact your local Bee Inspector who will inspect your bees and confirm the presence or absence of symptoms of notifiable disease. Details of your local inspector can be found by entering your postcode in the search facility on the National Bee Unit's website.
2. If notifiable disease is confirmed the Bee inspector will give you a claim form. Please ensure all sections of the claim form are completed before sending it, along with a copy of your insurance receipt for the current year, to the Claims Manager whose details are below.

### When does cover start?

BDI premiums are paid in respect of the calendar year, 1st January to 31st December. Insurance cover becomes effective each year from the time that the member's association receives his or her membership subscription and additional premiums.

Where such payment is made after 31st March cover will not commence until 40 days have elapsed from the payment of the subscription and any premium due. This is known as the 40-day rule. This is to prevent members starting or increasing cover during the active season when they may have already discovered the presence of disease.

### Compensation Rates for 2014 season

The rates of compensation for property insured are:-

British Standard Brood Frame	£2.20
All other Brood Frame sizes	£3.05
British Standard Shallow Frame	£1.65
All other Shallow Frame sizes	£2.25

Slotted Zinc Queen Excluder	£6.55
Wire Queen Excluder	£15.15
Plastic Queen Excluder	£4.00
Polycarbonate Quilt	£16.15
Open Mesh Floors	£10.00
Saleable Honey (40lb maximum)	£2.50/lb

Subject to Condition – Excellent-as New, Good or Poor.

No other property will be paid for. e.g. hive bodies are not covered.

Top bars for TBH/Warre hives will not be included under "Any other frame size"

Compensation for destruction due to Small Hive Beetle incorporates a hive allowance.

If claims have been made in the previous two consecutive seasons compensation will be reduced by 25%.

If claims have been made in the previous three consecutive seasons compensation will be reduced by 50%.

The maximum compensation payable to an individual is £2,500 in any one year of insurance.

More details may be found on the BDI website:

<http://www.beediseasesinsurance.co.uk/home>

All claims are processed by

Bernard Diaper, BDI Claims Manager,

57 Marfield Close, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B76 1YD,

Tel: 07711 456932

E-mail: [Bernard.Diaper@beediseasesinsurance.co.uk](mailto:Bernard.Diaper@beediseasesinsurance.co.uk)

## EDUCATION

### INTRODUCTORY BEEKEEPING COURSE 2014

IDEAL FOR POTENTIAL BEEKEEPERS, THOSE JUST INTERESTED AND ANYONE WHO CARES ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT (NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE is necessary)

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**10.00 a.m. – 12.00**

**Methodist Church Hall**

**Wakeley Road, Rainham, Kent**

**(near Rainham railway station)**

**COST £8.00 per session (refreshments included)**

**The courses are for 10 sessions plus free practical sessions.**

**YOU do not have to be a Medway resident to take part.**

**All stationery etc. provided**

Contact: T. Clare, Medway Beekeepers' Association, 89 Chalky Bank Road, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 7NP

### **Wisborough Green Division - West Sussex BKA Beekeeping Course suitable for Beginners, Improvers, and Non - Beekeepers**

Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2BF.

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Assemble from 9.00 for 9.30-5.00 p.m.

The course is suitable for those who wish to discover what is involved in keeping bees but will also be suitable for those who have kept bees for some time. It will largely follow the syllabus of the BBKA Basic assessment but with variations. This course is based on nearly 50 years experience, not just repeating what is in books.

**Subjects covered will include:-**

How to learn about bees	Feeding
Obtaining bees and equipment	The colony in winter
Different kinds of bees	Swarming and dealing with it
Where to site hives	Making colony increase
How bees live naturally and how we can manage them	Handling bees carefully
What bees collect - nectar, pollen, propolis, water	
Colony Management	
How bees store the crop	

**Course fee** £40. Second and subsequent attendees booked together £35\*. Under 16 with a paying adult £15\*.

Price is per head to include lunch, refreshments, and our own booklet "Basic Beekeeping". Please note: Those marked \* will not receive "Basic Beekeeping". Additional copies available on the day at £5.

For existing, paid-up WGBKA members the fee is reduced to £30.

**Enquiries:-** Roger Patterson. roger-patterson@btconnect.com 01403 790637 or 07976 306 492

**Booking:-** Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AU. 01798 343470 petworthgordon@btopenworld.com preferably using the form on the website.

**Cheques payable to:-** WSBKA Wisborough Green Div.

Web Site [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk)

## **Bromley 2014 Course for Beekeeper Beginners**

Bromley Beekeepers, a branch of Kent Beekeepers Association, will be running another course for those contemplating a beginning in beekeeping. Starting in the first week of March, which is too early for the opening of hives, we'll obviously begin in a classroom setting. We shall look at the practicalities of beekeeping, and how that relates to the activities and requirements of the bees themselves. Towards the end of the ten weekly meetings Spring hopefully will allow some hands-on activity in the branch apiary. The syllabus followed is one devised by the British Beekeepers Association.

**Dates:** the course starts on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and runs weekly till 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Please note there will be no meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April (Easter Monday).

**Times:** 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm, with a 6.00 pm start for apiary sessions.

**Cost:** £75.00 (which includes a text book).

**Tutor:** Bob Jackman, with the assistance of members of Bromley Branch

**Location:** While the course is located in the London Borough of Bromley, please note that the location in the extreme north of the borough is easily accessible to residents of Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth.

**Contact:** Bob Jackman.

**E-mail:** rfjackman@yahoo.co.uk

## **County and other events**

### **54<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING OF THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

The Chesford Grange, Chesford Bridge,  
Kenilworth CV8 2LD

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ONE DAY SEMINAR**  
**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
**"What is Honey?"**

**Eleanor Whitter:** What we should expect to find in honey

**Ray Vidler:** Commercial honey processing and packaging

**Dr Falko Drijfhout:** True realistic levels of neonicotinoids; are they a threat to honeybee survival?

**Norman Carrek:** How far do honeybees travel to forage?

Tickets £24.00 David J Abson, 6 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford CB22 4NT  
01223 834620

[The ticket price includes lunch and light refreshments; a vegetarian option will be available (if requested in advance).]

**BBKA 37<sup>TH</sup> SPRING CONVENTION**

Harper Adams University

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Lectures, Workshops and Courses

N.B. Trade show open Friday and Saturday

For more details of the programme, ticket sales and accommodation visit the BBKA web site at [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)

**BIBBA 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**  
**COMBINED WITH THE SICAMM BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**  
**26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

BIBBA (Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association) is pleased to announce its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in collaboration with SICAMM (*Societas Internationalis Apis Melliferae Melliferae*) its European partner.

The conference, hosted by South Clwyd BKA, is open to everyone, with its core focus on bee improvement and the management of native and near native honey bees.

The three day event will take place from 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at the Pavilion, Llangollen, North Wales, where delegates will learn about improving their own stocks of honey bees, whilst enjoying an excellent and varied social programme.

For those wishing to extend their visit, the Llangollen area benefits from stunning scenery and a variety of activities and culture to suit all tastes.

Enquiries to: Trisha Marlow 07812 518822 or  
[bibba.uk@gmail.com](mailto:bibba.uk@gmail.com)

Pre-registration is now open at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/8429168871](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/8429168871)



*Further details of the event, when available, may be viewed at:*

BIBBA: [www.bibba.com](http://www.bibba.com)

SICAMM: [www.sicamm.org](http://www.sicamm.org)

If you have any branch information or articles you would like included, please e-mail [Jennifer@spon-smith.com](mailto:Jennifer@spon-smith.com)

## **OPT IN OR OPT OUT**

At the beginning of our financial year we modernised our membership renewal and new member forms and you will see there has been a change to the section headed "Release of contact details".

The control of disease is an important part of beekeeping. Many of you have signed up to Beebase and receive notification of any outbreaks of AFB or EFB near you so you can be extra vigilant. You may also receive a visit from a seasonal bee inspector, depending on how close to your apiary any outbreak occurs. It is, of course, a matter for members whether or not to take advantage of this facility, hence the option on the form to decline.

Like all organisations, we have to abide by data protection legislation. Some people are reluctant to disclose their e-mail addresses but being able to contact members electronically results in a significant saving in time for branch secretaries and also reduces branch outlay on postage, paper etc. I find blind copying a very useful tool.

*JENNY SPON-SMITH*

**Alan Byham**, our Regional Bee Inspector, retires at the end of December. Alan has worked in the South East since 1999 and is well known to many of you. You will have found him easily approachable and generous with his time and we send our very best wishes to him in his retirement.