

## **Fleet Beekeeping Association**

### **Apiary Rules and Regulations**

Introduction.

The Rules set out below are intended to regulate the apiary sites for the mutual benefit of all, most especially with respect to disease and swarm control.

1. The site shall be under the control of the appointed manager and his/her deputies (the Management).
2. No hives will be accepted until the member has paid a full FBKA membership subscription and signed a declaration accepting these Rules. The member will receive a key to the gate upon payment of the key supply cost.
3. No hive shall be deposited there without prior agreement by the Management who shall have the right of inspection of the hive and to refuse permission on grounds of disease or temper. If prior varroa treatment is required, the hive(s) may be moved to the site after 7 days from the application.
4. Members depositing hives must have completed a Beginners Course and/or satisfy the Management that they have adequate experience to look after their colony(s) in such a way as to minimise interference with other site users and the public in general. They undertake to work towards taking the BBKA Basic Assessment.
5. Hives shall be positioned as directed by the Management on the marked pitches allocated. The member must supply and position a suitable foundation for the hive; eg a 600 x 600mm concrete paving slab. The hives shall be on a suitable hive stand, ie no plastic milk crates. A maximum of 1 full hive or 2 nuclei can be positioned on each plot, except in emergency, eg for swarm control.
6. Members agree to share their contact details with other members using the same apiary. Any details shared between members must be used for the sole purpose of sharing apiary related information.
7. The member undertakes to manage his/her colony(s) in an appropriate manner with proper and timely inspections/manipulations to minimise swarming, use approved treatments as required, take care not to encourage robbing, and maintain a record card for each colony. He/she gives consent for the Management to make inspections at their discretion without prior notice.
8. Swarms of unknown origin taken on or near the site will be deemed to be the property of the Association. Any member taking such a swarm must notify the Management without delay. The Management should also be informed if a swarm is from known origin e.g. hive in plot C
9. To minimise the introduction of disease, members will only wear clean clothing and washable gloves on site. Gloves and hive tools shall be cleaned before inspecting a third person's hive.
10. If any notifiable disease is suspected, the Association's Disease Officer (or failing him the Management) must be informed without delay.
11. The member shall practice integrated pest management (IPM) and co-ordinate approved varroa treatment with the other members on the apiary site.
12. Brood frames should be marked with the start date and shall be in use for a maximum of 3 years before renewal of the foundation.
13. The site must be left in a clean & tidy condition with all gates padlocked shut.
14. Members will be responsible for maintaining the area directly surrounding their hives, and to help with annual upkeep of the apiary as a whole.

15. Car parking is limited at the sites, and cars shall not cause an obstruction to other members or the general public.
16. The fees for use of the apiary shall be determined by the Management Committee and be paid in advance for the year up to March 31st. At the discretion of the Management, hives that remain on site for less than a calendar month may be entitled to a 50% rebate.
17. Hives must be removed from the site within 4 weeks of receiving written notice so to do from the Management.
18. Members must inform management if they no longer require a space on the apiary, so that the space can be reallocated to another member on the waiting list.
19. In the event of dispute, the Association President will act as arbiter concerning these Rules.