



# THE FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

The Federation, its Council, and its Officers cannot be held responsible for the views expressed in the Newsletter or possible errors.

February 2015

Number 697

General Secretary:  
Martin Moore  
Tilehurst  
Reading  
0118 967 7386  
07729 620 286

**E-mail:** [berksbees@btinternet.com](mailto:berksbees@btinternet.com)

**Web:** <http://www.berkshirebeekeepers.btck.co.uk/>

Newsletter Editor:  
Sue Remenyi  
Curtis Farm  
Kidmore End  
RG4 9AY  
0118 972 3699

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## Editors Corner

I was having a conversation with a friend the other day about dog licences. Never having been a dog owner I was not aware that currently there is no legal requirement to have a dog licence – as there had been when I was a child, and that this requirement ceased in 1987. It seems that today responsible dog owners microchip their animals so that they can be found if lost or stolen. The Kennel Club is in favour of compulsory microchipping and has invested a lot of money in encouraging the habit among breeders and owners. My friend and I agreed that some kind of pet registration was a good thing – maybe it would also help expose negligent or uncaring keepers. My friend then asked me about my bees – and whether there was a need for registration. I explained how we are encouraged to register our bees with the National Bee Unit, but that it was not currently a legal requirement. When I got home, I decided to check up on this a bit more. I was surprised to find that a number of Associations around the country make registering with the NBU a condition of membership – although it seems that this is not all that common and more seem to recommend that this be undertaken.

Signing up with the NBU is simple and free and seems to me to yield only benefits, in that a bee inspector can be called to check a hive, a beekeeper will be informed if there is disease in their area, and if one is unfortunate enough to be attacked by a disease the bee inspector will explain what steps have to be taken and will in some cases come and do the job so as to ensure it is properly executed.

At a recent committee meeting South Chilterns voted on whether to make NBU registration a condition of membership. Although everyone at the meeting was in favour of registration, the vote to make it compulsory was not carried.

So the vote means that our Association beekeepers continue to be treated the same as dog owners.. In both cases the majority are caring and responsible keepers of their animals. There will always be exceptions, but I am left unconvinced that it is the job of our associations to insist that this step is taken.

If you would like to register your bees or find out more about the NBU follow the link below.

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/register.cfm>

*Sue Remenyi*

### **C WYNNE JONES**

Ty Brith Pentrecelyn Ruthin Denbighshire LL 15 2SR

Tel. 01978 790279. Fax. 01978 790265

[wynnejones@btconnect.com](mailto:wynnejones@btconnect.com)

[www.bottlesandjars.co.uk](http://www.bottlesandjars.co.uk) <http://www.beesupplies.co.uk/>

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## Federation News

### BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting, January 10<sup>th</sup> 2015- feedback on voting

BBKA's interactive training website, **ARK**, is now in operation. Funded by DEFRA.

#### Elections

Ian Homer, Margaret Murdin, Howard Pool, and David Teasdale were voted in as Trustees.

John Whittaker was voted in (no objections) as an Examiner. The Treasurer is selected by the EC but has to be approved by the delegates. Martin Smith was approved 61-0, no abstentions.

#### Budget

The budget proposed for 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014/30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 was **approved (50 votes for, 7 against, 4 abstaining)** BUT there will be another special delegates meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to vote on the proposed budget for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015/30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, i.e. before the financial year actually starts!!

#### Propositions

Proposition	Pass / Fail	Description	For	Against	Abstain
1	Pass	+£1 on BBKA fees from April 2016	34	25	2
2	Pass	Introduce whistleblowing policy	59	2	0
3	Pass	Exam Board to review whether to feed back marks to Basic examinees	36	22	3
4	Pass	Hold meetings when results of EFSA neonic review known, probably early 2016	34, 14339	27, 8670	0, 0
5	Fail	Poll all BBKA members re: attitudes to neonics. Yorkshire will pay costs.	29, 10959	30, 11251	2, 799
6	Fail	Adopt Precautionary Principle re: neonics	30, 11109	30, 11368	1, 532
7	Pass	Support continued neonic moratorium (if EU extends it)	35	21	5
8	Fail	Conduct random poll re: compulsory registration of beekeepers	27	33	1
9	-	Exam Board to revise education to enhance its value for employment	withdrawn		
10	Pass	Push for regulation of sugar waste	43	17	1
11	-	More transparency in accounts of BBKA newsletter	Withdrawn		
12	-	Option of receiving BBKA News by email	Withdrawn		
13	-	Votes for "country" and "partner" members	Given to the EC to ponder		
14	-	More details on recipients of honoraria.	Withdrawn		
15	-	More detail of meeting minutes to be visible	Withdrawn		
16	Pass	Lobby to ban import of (honey)bees and bee products following discovery of Small Hive Beetle in Italy. Clarification: yes, all bees, from everywhere.	32	25	4
17	-	Centralised record system	Given to the EC to ponder		
18	Pass	Admit Oldham as a member BKA	55	6	0
19	-	Introduction of <i>regional</i> trustees	Given to the EC to ponder		

*Caroline Bushell, Federation Chair*



**John Belcher**  
*Beekeeping Equipment & Supplies*



Valhalla, 6 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks RG8 7LB

Main stockist for Thorne in Berkshire, wax exchanged. Hives and all accessories in stock during season. Apiguard and all Vita products available, Varroa Gard, Bee-Bay products including Hive Clean in stock, Agri-Nova main supplier for extracting equipment, Sherriff protection and Ambrosia fondant and syrup always available.

*See before you buy and save carriage charges at the same time.*

Tel: 0118 984 2321

Mobile: 07929 586037

Email: [john.r.belcher@talktalk.net](mailto:john.r.belcher@talktalk.net)

## Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association

The year started on 3rd January with volunteers gathering to spring clean our club apiary in preparation for the coming season. All of our spare kit was cleaned, scraped, scorched and stacked neatly in the donkey shed ready for use as and when we need it. Thanks to those that attended on the day for all of your hard work.

Unfortunately Katie Holmes, our secretary, has had to resign due to other commitments. Katie has done a great job for us and we are extremely grateful for all of her hard work and commitment in the past. This does however, leave us with an important office to fill. Anyone taking up the position will receive full support and assistance from our committee and our retired secretary, Lynne Janes, who has always continued to assist and help with this role. If anyone is interested in taking up this position please let me know by email to [ngmarshall@aol.com](mailto:ngmarshall@aol.com).



We held our January meeting on the 16th at the Wokingham Bowls club as usual. The meeting was very well attended and the talk was given by the local Trading Standards office concerning compliance issues with respect to the preparation, labelling and selling of honey and bee related products.

The talk was very well received and some hand-outs were provided which we will try and make available on our web site for reference.

We held the usual raffle, organised by Rita Hempson, who turns up for every meeting to run this for us, for which we are very grateful.

The results from our member's survey, expertly conducted by our webmaster, Gavin Darcy, are now available to us to help guide the committee to add value to membership over the next 12 months. As a result of the survey some of the issues that will be discussed at the next committee meeting include increasing our summer gatherings at the Two Poplars pub from monthly to fortnightly and the roll out of 30 minute training / update sessions for new beekeepers prior to the start of each of our winter meetings. If anyone has any other good ideas as to how we can add value to membership, please feel free to let any of the committee know at any time.

Garth Matthews confirmed that we will be holding a bee Safari again this summer where those attending will visit selected members apiaries to compare ideas and discuss various issues. During the last safari Nick Teall was awarded the honour of "Best Box of Bees" on the day. The tea, coffee and cakes were also excellent so we will certainly be visiting Nick's apiary again if he will have us.

It is also pleasing to note that we have a number of members lined up to do their basic assessment this year as well as a few members that will commence training for the general husbandry

assessment. If you fancy doing some training this year, it is not too late, just let Garth know accordingly.

Our next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> February at Wokingham Bowls Club when a talk will be given by Norman Carreck on the work undertaken by the International Bee Research Association (IBRA).

*Neil Marshall – Treasurer W&WBKA*

A colorful advertisement for 'Becky's Beezzzs' featuring a blue border with cartoon bees. The title 'Becky's Beezzzs' is in large, stylized blue letters. Below it, the text reads 'For all your Beekeeping needs...'. A paragraph states: 'At Beckys Bees we sell top quality mated queens and nucs as well as stocking a wide range of beekeeping products from cedar hives and varroa treatments to smokers and fuel and bee feed.' Another line says: 'All our nucs comply to the standards set by Defra and NBU.' A further paragraph mentions: 'Manufacturers of Correx boxes that take both national & commercial frames, ventilated for optimum air flow when transporting bees. Light, strong and secure.' A 'Stockists of' section lists: 'Top quality cedar hives • Polystyrene & Fly Nuc Boxes • Frames & Foundation • Rauchbox Smokers & Smoker Fuel • Varroa Treatments & Medicines • Vita Gold & Vita Green • Ambrosia Fondant & Syrup • Pollen Substitute • Disposable & Leather Gloves • Bee Suits & Gauntlets • Feeders • Extractors • Jars • And lots lots more...'. A central image shows a beekeeper in a white suit working with a hive. To the right, a blue banner says 'WE SELL LIVE BEES AND MATED QUEENS'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'Visit us online at [www.beckysbeesonlineshop.co.uk](http://www.beckysbeesonlineshop.co.uk) Or contact us 01264 351104 • 07973 423626 • [beckysbeezzzs@gmail.com](mailto:beckysbeezzzs@gmail.com) Distributors for Aulumgaard's Ambrosia Beefeel, competitive quotes for pallet orders.'

## South Chilterns Beekeepers Association

Beekeeping with Zest. Bill Summers and Dave Durrant.



Bill started with a promise that this talk would have an element of comedy, then modestly said: "well you might laugh at us anyway!" But in fact there was a huge amount of technical and scientific information included in their presentation, which showed that these comedians have really done their homework. There's far too much for me to repeat here, anyway it's all on the website and in a forthcoming book, so I'll just touch on a few points, apologising for any errors in advance.

The main principle of the Zewst Hive is to create an environment in which the bees can thrive, and which they can manage, to suit their own requirements and keep themselves healthy. Mostly they need the right temperature and humidity: "thermo regulation is achieved through insulation" we were told!

Our wooden hives are little better than cardboard boxes ("pure luxury" if you're a Monty Python fan) as the temperature changes so quickly and the bees are constantly working because it's too hot or too cold! Insulation slows changes and keeps conditions more constant - the WBC hive was an early, inspired step in the right direction maybe?

There is much more to it than that though - we're aware of the need for ventilation - Bill suggested opening the window to ventilate our room, but we protested it would be too cold, obviously. So how do the bees feel when they've carefully propylised all the cracks and gaps in their hive for the winter, then the kindly beekeeper comes along and whips the whole floor out?! But ventilation is needed to stop condensation isn't it? All that damp, not to mention mouldy frames. Who's old enough to remember condensation on the inside of your windows, and damp walls? Insulation, with a little ventilation, is what cures that - we didn't just remove our floors, did we?

Even more interesting and completely new to me, was the idea that bees use condensation to cool the hive and remove excess moisture during honey production. Bill has seen one side of his Zest Hive covered in a thin layer of propylis to help this process, and when I think of it, when



scorching brood boxes, I've smelt that lovely propolis layer smoking away, noticing that it's only on one wall, but never wondering why that was the case.

Although they promised not to talk about varroa, questions led to our speakers informing us that bees prefer a humidity level in which varroa can't thrive - in fact the humidity attained by the bees actively disrupts the fertility and breeding of varroa!

Amazingly this is not new science, it's been with us since the early 20th century, and don't forget the WBC.

I could go on, I haven't even mentioned the "self sterilising frame concept" using "steri-touch" (not steri-dent!) or the advantages of "cross bonding" and "being able to hang your ropes on the ears of the blocks", never mind the "honey warmer".

Suffice to say, not all of it makes sense to me, but maybe we can improve the way we keep our bees. Are our hives the best they can possibly be for the bees? Certainly they work, but can they be improved? We might call Bill and Dave "crackpots" and laugh at the radical suggestion that we've got our hives all wrong, but it seems to me that they are doing some seriously good work for future beekeeping. To read more about the Zest Hive see <http://thezesthive.com/>

We are pleased to report that our first Winter Workshop on 'Hive Types' was oversubscribed and feedback from those who attended was excellent. The second event on Extracting Honey will be held on 7 March. Our February meeting is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Woodcote Village Hall and the topic is New Food Labelling Rules & Update on Food Hygiene presented by Emily James from Oxfordshire Trading Standards.

*Steve Radford.*

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## **Reading and District Beekeepers Association**

9th December found Reading Beekeepers plus some welcome beekeeping guests from 'pre 1972 Berks'. (now Oxon) for an illustrated talk by Dr Michael Keith Lucas 'Identifying Honey Types & Origins by Pollen Analysis'. Dr Keith Lucas recently retired as a professor at Reading University but maintains a lab at Whitknights where pollen is expertly analysed for forensics use by police forces and other for scientific evidence.

Michael began by tracing the origins of the earliest evolving plant life in the paleocene period, which includes club mosses, liverworts and the like which still with us today. Reproduction in these plants is by shedding spores, which Michael described and illustrated in detail with the characteristic 2 or 3 faces and then went on to describe how the earliest pollen grains can be identified from before the mid Permian extinction. Ninety five percent of both plant & animal species - the earliest herbal survivors, water lilies, surviving it's thought by being sub aquatic. Ferns and bracken continued to reproduce by spores and flowering plants, grasses etc evolved by sexual reproduction of transfer of pollen grains, all of which can be positively identified by electron microscopy including now extinct species & subspecies. Coniferous pollen (wind distribution strategy) was identified on the screen. The characteristic method of reproduction of the early water lilies with their spiky pollen grains characteristic of pollen transfer by insects e.g. bees, illustrated how modern flowers rely to a large extent on bee pollination by having a spiky shape. In addition bees have forked hairs which can easily trap these pollen shapes below the thorax and abdomen and parallel evolution is suggested. Wind pollinated deciduous trees e.g. hazel with its 3 plain smooth shape was shown, together with partly wind pollinated broad leaf trees e.g. European lime (tilia) and the splendid and probably exclusive electron microscope picture tables of pollen shapes were illustrated.

Pollen grains are exceedingly tough and even fossil material can yield perfect shapes enabling Michael's team to positively identify the plant type, enabling identification of the locality of a forensic specimen's resting place. For beekeepers, honey packers and food standards authorities this enables identification of just which blossoms and plants are the source of a particular honey. Various plant types and their honey characteristics were described in detail e.g. holly-hock with pollen that strings-out and can trap bees legs; willow herb, also stringy honey made

by bees from the honey-dew excreted by aphids. This is especially important bee forage in mainly coniferous uplands where aphids rapidly infest new spring growth on larch and spruce. Honey packers use micro-filtering techniques that leave tell-tale traces of the filtration medium which consists of minute fossils of shells of aquatic molluscs ( Kiesegeuhr). Michael also mentioned that industrial origin fakers have tried adding pollen grains of a different origin to micro-filtered honey, but this can be foiled by protein analysis of the honey as each pollen has its own protein signature!

Other pollinating insects were mentioned as well as the fact that many plants are insect specific with appropriate pollen shape. Wind dispersed pollen e.g. from hazel and willow are often utilized by bees as an early season source.

Beekeepers were able to ask questions and we found the talk most fascinating and felt privileged to have such splendid and vital information. With very many thanks to Dr. Michael Keith Lucas. Festive refreshments were provided by our usual energetic beekeepers that cater for us at each winter meeting so many thanks to them also.

February meeting is on Tuesday 10th at our usual venue, 7.30pm prompt start. Speaker is Tom Salter, master beekeeper, senior honey judge and beekeeping husbandry examiner (see more details about Tom on our web site) Topic is 'Getting Started in Queen Rearing. Be there!

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## **Slough Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society**

On Tuesday 13th January we heard Nigel Semmence, Regional Bee Inspector, talk about bee diseases and pests and he gave an update about the main threats for 2015. He talked about the Small Hive Beetle which has featured in beekeeping news since it was identified in southern Italy but he assured us that there are plans in place on how to deal with it if it reaches the UK.

In Nigel's opinion our nearest realistic threat is from the Asian Hornet which arrived in France 10 years ago and which have established strong colonies in the south of France. They target honey bees and work in teams to pick off incoming bees as they return to the hive with full crops. This has the consequence that the bees don't fly, resulting in a reduced honey crop and a poor build-up of bee numbers. Where the hornets have established a strong foothold there are up to 50% colony losses and there have been 5 deaths as a result of anaphylactic shock from their vicious and painful stings.

Nigel urges us to send him a photograph for accurate identification if we do think we have seen them in the UK. More importantly, we should set up hornet traps, which have proved to be very successful in trapping this fearsome pest.

### **Follow up on last month's talk about winter Varroa treatment**

Following the December talk about Oxalic acid treatments by Hasan al-Toufaily from LASI Research at the University of Sussex several of our members were very impressed by the research results for application of oxalic acid using sublimation. One member bought a Varro sublimator whilst two others made home-made kits. All three members have been pleased with the results, noting that where they thought their colonies did not have a serious Varroa problem (indicated by relatively low mite drop numbers prior to the treatment), the mite drop soared in the two days after treatment and one member reports that the effects continued at lower levels for a further eight days. The purchaser of the Varro kit was delighted with the effectiveness and ease of use of the product, but the homemade kit still needs a bit of improvement.

Sublimating oxalic acid seems to be an effective alternative to the trickle method and the fumes seem to reach all parts of the colony as well as the beekeeper! Our member used a standard nose and mouth mask, but felt more protection would prevent the tingling cheeks experienced later!

### **Winter Meetings 2014**

Our winter meetings are held at All Saints Parish Hall, Alexandra Road, Windsor SL4 1HZ. The meetings are usually scheduled on the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 8 pm and refreshments are available.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th February and the speaker will be Roger Patterson on the subject 'Queen Performance'.

General information and details of all our meetings and can be found on our excellent website: <http://swmbks.weebly.com/meetings.html>.

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## Deformed Wing Virus Research

Varroa is the number one bee pest world-wide and acts as a vector for diseases like Deformed Wing Virus (DWV). The November issue of BBKA NEWS featured an article on research being undertaken at Salford University by Prof Steve Martin and his team into Deformed Wing Virus (DWV).

The project aims to understand the premise that DWV is responsible for increasing winter losses as well as to investigate changing DWV strains. Almost all colonies in the UK have a high incidence of DWV. The project aims to get individuals and associations involved in producing a strain map for the UK. 'Crowd funding' is being sought to enable this. Each association provides a sample of 30 bees and a contribution towards the research. Participating associations would get a free copy of the final report and the understanding that they have contributed to a deeper understanding of their bees.

Prof Steve Martin has a long pedigree of bee related studies and publications in the UK and abroad. Just pop DWV into Google and Prof Martin turns up in numerous articles and studies. He has looked at how DWV might explain unexplained honey bee deaths worldwide and particularly in over-wintering colony losses. One of his main research interests is the study of pests and pathogens of honeybees, in particular the varroa mite and its association with the viral pathogens that have led to the world-wide loss of honey bee colonies. This is an important initiative in trying to understand this virus and provide mitigation measures that will help all of us beekeepers.

At South Chilterns we have decided to contribute to this research and would ask our sister associations to consider doing likewise in order to support this valuable initiative.

*John white, SCBKA*

The advertisement is for Bee Basic Ltd. and features a central list of products and prices. On the left is a full-body bee suit, and on the right is a hooded jacket. The text is as follows:

**BEE BASIC LTD**  
**www.beebasic.co.uk**  
*All the protection you need, and more*

Jackets from only **£32**  
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Smokers **£16**

*= bee vests, smocks, hat & veils, tools and more....*

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5 Hillcrest Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1AJ    E-mail: [sales@beebasic.co.uk](mailto:sales@beebasic.co.uk)    ☎ 020 8866 3804  
Bees in it or not except Europe

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## Bee Health and Husbandry month – May

The NBU, BBKA and BDI are encouraging associations to hold microscopy and practical healthy bee training days during May. BDI offer £100 towards the costs of organising these days.

Nigel Semmence, the regional bee inspector for Berkshire, who is part of the NBU, is very keen to run around 4 workshops on one day for around 50-100 people.

The aim of this training is to concentrate our minds on bee health during one specific meeting in the hope that we will take away:

- A conviction that bee health is essential for happy beekeeping
- Some practical tips on how to keep bees healthy
- Clear ideas on how to check the health of our bees
- What to do if a problem is spotted

If you are interested in attending such a workshop please let your chairman know so he can liaise with the organisers.

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### ***Did you know .....***



The Bee Brick, an aesthetic home for bees that doubles as a revolutionary building material, has won the public vote of the Soil Association's Innovation Award.

The Bee Brick has been developed to provide a nesting site to support the declining solitary bee population and is designed to be an integral part of new build projects. It sits alongside current green systems such as solar panels and rainwater harvesting, with the dual function of being a construction material that also promotes biodiversity. The Bee

Brick was praised by delegates for its innovative approach in linking urban environments with conservation and farming.

Read more from <http://greenandblue.co.uk/designs/>

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### ***Equipment for sale***

One of our members has the following kit for sale – mostly used, but some new frames. Please contact Paul Moorcroft on 07503 021162, [paulandrowanmoorcroft@gmail.com](mailto:paulandrowanmoorcroft@gmail.com) if you are interested. Paul is located in Reading.

6 Queen excluders; 1 porter escape; 2 floors; 1 stand; 2 modified commercial roofs; 1 dartington hive complete; parts of a second dartington hive; 1 sun wax extractor; 1 queen raising box; 1 baby burco; 1 super feeder; 1 frame feeder; 1 electric decapping knife; 1 honey ripener; 1 wax extractor; small amount foundation; 1 new mod commercial super kit; 50 frames to be nailed up.

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### ***Land available for an Out Apiary – Newbury area***

I have some 20 acres of woodland and pasture just south of Newbury, Berks (RG20) and would be happy to make some of this area available to a local beekeeper or group to keep some hives. Please email me if you are interested..

*Rory Pope: [rory.pope@ymail.com](mailto:rory.pope@ymail.com)*

### ***For your Diary***

Date	Topic	Event Host	Contact
10 February	Queen Performance – Roger Patterson	Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead	<a href="http://swmbks.weebly.com/">http://swmbks.weebly.com/</a>
10 February	Getting Started in Queen Rearing – Tom Salter	Reading	<a href="http://www.rbka.org.uuk">http://www.rbka.org.uuk</a>
11 February	International Bee Research Association - (IBRA).Norman Carreck	Wokingham	<a href="http://www.wokinghambeekeepers.org.uk/">www.wokinghambeekeepers.org.uk/</a>
18 February	New Food Labelling Rules & Update on Food Hygiene - Emily James	South Chilterns	<a href="http://www.scbka.org">www.scbka.org</a>

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## Association websites

All four Federation member association websites have a lot of information – some of which may only be relevant to that association, but there is also quite a bit that is useful to us all. Here are the links for your reference:

Reading & District Beekeepers Association: <http://www.rbka.org.uk/>

South Chilterns Beekeepers' Association: <http://www.scbka.org>

Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society: <http://swmbks.weebly.com/>

Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association: [www.wokinghambeekeepers.org.uk/](http://www.wokinghambeekeepers.org.uk/)

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## Useful Links, Advice and Information

<http://www.apinews.com/> This website is a mine of information from around the world. You can subscribe to their newsletter.

<http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/newhome.html> This website has a lot of really useful information for the beekeeper.

<http://www.beekeepingforum.co.uk/> This is a portal for all things beekeeping.

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/> The British Beekeepers Association.

<http://hymenopteragenome.org/beebase/> Beebase is a comprehensive data source for the bee research community.

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## NBU Advice for Obtaining Bees:

**Join Beebase** - By joining BeeBase you can access beekeeping information and ask for advice or help from the Bee Unit: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase>.

### Your Regional Bee Inspectors are:

**Southern Region:** Nigel Semmence at: [nigel.semmence@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.semmence@fera.gsi.gov.uk),

The main website is: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/public/Contacts/contacts.cfm>  
National Bee Unit, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1 LZ, tel: 01 904 462 510, email: <mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk>.

**South Eastern Region:** Mr Alan Byham, fax/tel: 01306 611 016

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**Contributions to the Editor** are always welcome as long as they are signed. Anonymous letters and letters not in English will not be published. The Editor reserves the right to withhold names.

**Contributions**, including emails, to arrive with the Editor by the 20th of the month for publication by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Contributions received after this may be held over for a later month.

**Advertisement entries**, to be received by the Advertisement Manager in advance of the 20th of every month. Rates: 2 Lines for £1.00; Commercial rates: £1.00 per line. Please make cheques payable to FBBKA. To be sent to the Advertisement Manager: Mr Jon Davey, 107 Northcourt Avenue, Reading RG2 7HG. Tel: 0118 975 0734.