

Rules and Conditions of use on both Beginners and Teaching Apiary
Apiary Managers - John and Lilian Valentine

The purpose of the teaching apiary is:

- To enable new or intending members to gain experience in practical beekeeping and the handling of bees prior to commencing beekeeping
- To provide education and promotion of the craft of beekeeping.
- To establish a permanent location for association hives and other associated equipment used for teaching and honey production.

The following rules for the Teaching Apiary shall be adhered to:

1. The Apiary Managers, or experienced beekeeping delegates appointed by them, shall be in attendance at all times that members, beginners, or the public visit the Teaching Apiary site.
2. All equipment owned by the V&DBKA and used on the site shall be provided with a suitable means of identification as such (ie branding or permanent marking)
3. No equipment or item shall be removed from the apiary without the **permission or knowledge** of the Apiary Managers. If exceptional circumstances exist, the Apiary Managers or their appointed delegates may provide the necessary authorisation for the movement of equipment.
4. To keep the apiary healthy **all attendees** will either wear washable or disposable gloves and use the dedicated hive tool for each colony.
5. The Apiary managers shall manage all aspects of the Teaching Apiary and have full authority to delegate to other members as required to ensure the smooth running, maintenance and operation of the site.
6. No work or alteration to the apiary shall be undertaken without the full authority and prior knowledge of the Apiary Managers.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the Apiary Managers to appoint appropriate working parties to undertake appropriate tasks relevant to apiary management and maintenance.
8. **No bees** shall be placed on the site or **removed** from site without the knowledge, authorisation and presence of the Apiary Managers.
9. All hives shall be equipped with dummy boards and varroa floors and be monitored accordingly.
10. An example of various hive types or designs shall be provided on site to assist members in the choice of hives. All working hives however shall be BS National.
11. The Apiary Managers shall maintain an annual Inventory of all apiary equipment.
12. If junior members under 18 visit the Teaching Apiary they must be accompanied by a responsible parent/guardian.
13. The Association shall be responsible for ensuring that apiaries are financially self-sufficient and shall operate an Apiary Account for all income and expenditure.
14. A full finance statement shall be provided to the Treasurer for each financial year.

The purpose of the beginners apiary is:

- To provide an area for those beginners who want to start beekeeping but cannot find or provide their own site and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
- To enable beginners to gain practical experience of managing their own hives for a full season based on advice and guidance provided by the Apiary Managers or other experienced beekeeping members co-opted by the Apiary Managers.
- To continue your education it is expected that if you keep a hive on the beginners apiary, you will also assist on the Associations Teaching Apiary

The following rules must be adhered to:

1. Only paid up beginners will be allowed to have use of the site
2. A beginner can keep their bees on the site until March of the following year.
3. Each beginner will initially be allowed one hive each on the site with the possibility of increasing to two.
4. Hives will be sited where indicated with prior permission of the Apiary Managers. All movement of hives must be agreed by the Apiary Managers.
5. All hives shall be equipped with dummy boards and varroa floors and be monitored accordingly.
6. All hives to be marked with identity of beekeeper
7. Hive Records must be kept up to date and should be left on site.
8. Area around hives is to be maintained in a clean and tidy condition.
9. Unscheduled visits to the beginners' apiary shall not be made without permission of the Apiary Manager.
10. Each beginner to bring their own smoker, hive tool, soda water, rubbish bucket and any other relevant equipment required to assist in looking after bees.
11. If for any reason a beginner cannot attend an apiary meeting the **Apiary Managers, or delegate in apiary Managers absence, must be informed** and they will check their hive to avoid any swarming.
12. The apiary managers or experienced beekeeping delegates appointed by them, **shall be present at all times** that beginners attend their bees on the beginners' apiary.
13. If junior members under 18 visit the Beginners Apiary they must be accompanied by a responsible parent/guardian.
14. Any property on the Beginners Apiary shall be the responsibility of the owner and the V&DBKA shall hold no liability for damage, vandalism, loss etc.
15. Any beekeeper not abiding by the above rules will be asked to remove their hive(s) from the site.

October 2010 (amended 2014)