

Charity Registration Number: 1193448

**St. Albans and District Beekeepers' Association (cio)**  
**Apiary Aims and Rules - Revised April 6th 2022**

**Aims**

- To assist in the introduction of new members to beekeeping
- To provide a facility to further the knowledge of more experienced beekeepers and promote their participation in the B.B.K.A. Basic Exam
- To provide facilities to assist in the achievement of high standards of beekeeping in the association

Members & Visitors are to sign in the book held in the apiary shed upon arrival, before tending to any beekeeping activities.

**Rules**

1. Any member using the apiary must agree to the rules set out below plus any other additional conditions laid down by the Apiary Manager/Committee.
2. The Apiary Manager will be appointed by the Association Committee.
3. Apiary Committee to be appointed by the Apiary Manager
4. The Apiary Manager/Committee will control the apiaries and retain right of sanction in its use
5. Two hives per member will be the maximum. Under exceptional circumstances a member may request a further, temporary, pitch from the Apiary Manager/Committee. Swarms may be kept in nuc's prior to assimilation with existing stocks or removal to a different site. Swarms may not be housed at the apiary from any outside source without approval of the Apiary Manager/Committee.
6. An annual rent will be charged per hive, to be decided by the association committee and payable with the annual subs.
7. The owners name and hive records should be kept under the roof.
8. All hive owners will be responsible for:
  - I. The maintenance of their hive(s), and compulsory coordinated treatment for varroa as specified by the association committee. Treatment to be carried out at the same time, as directed by the Apiary Manager/Committee.
  - II. Ensuring that their bees are inspected by the Bee Inspector/Apiary Manager or member of the Apiary Committee and are disease free when brought into the apiary. Are then regularly examined, including inspection by the Bee Diseases Officer/Apiary Manager or member of the Apiary Committee.
  - III. The treatment and destruction of colonies either to prevent or to control disease. Such measures must only be carried out with the agreement of the Apiary Manager/Committee or subject to any conditions which may be in force. If a colony does not build up, dwindles or dies the Apiary Manager/Committee, Bee Disease Officer or Seasonal Bees Officer shall be contacted for advice and information.
  - IV. Empty hives must not contain any combs and the entrances must be blocked up.
  - V. Bad tempered or aggressive colonies will have to be either re-queened or removed from the association apiary.
  - VI. Ensuring that syrup, honey comb etc. are not dropped around the hives (to discourage robbing, wax moths and wasps).
  - VII. Generally acting in accordance with good practice, e.g. removal of honey and autumn feeding, including coordination of treatment for varroa.

VIII. Any keys for the Apiary gates remain the property of the association. Each member is responsible for locking the gates at the end of their visit REGARDLESS if they think someone may be present at the wood yard at Prae Wood. Should the member leave the apiary and/or the association all keys must be returned to the Apiary Manager/committee member.

IX. Members are to carry out necessary steps to prevent swarming of their colonies.

9. Rubbish should always be taken away. Smokers should be used with care and hot ash disposed of safely. ALL FIRES ARE PROHIBITED.

10. All members of the association, but particularly those members with bees at the apiary, are expected to take a keen and active interest in the apiary, ensure its security, prevent damage to the site and its contents, and generally assist in its maintenance e.g. grass cutting, tree planting/pruning, hut painting and repair, and mentoring of new beekeepers on the 'Hives for All Scheme' is obligatory.

11. Failure to observe the rules, the conditions, or accede to the Apiary Manager/Committee's requests, can and does result in owners being required to remove their hive(s) from the site within a specified time.

12. All subscriptions including sufficient BDI must be paid promptly with the annual subscription to safeguard the insurance of all the members. Failure to meet this obligation will necessitate removal of colonies from the apiary.

13. Any request for removal will be given in writing to the last address notified to the committee and failure to remove the hive(s) within the specified period (usually 30 days) will mean that the hives and their contents, including bees, will become the property of the association. The Apiary Manager/Committee may dispose of them as it sees fit. Any proceeds will go to the Association.

14. The association recommends that members do not work alone at the apiary, and have their identity card with them at all times.

15. Members are required to read the emergency procedures in the huts and know how to summon help from the emergency services. It is advisable to have someone stay with the casualty and someone else at the gate to direct the ambulance if possible.

16. Swarm Bait Hives to be placed around the association apiary by the Apiary Manager/Committee on behalf of the association only.

17. Any swarms collected in the association apiary bait hives will be used to replenish/replace members colonies in the apiary if needed before being distributed to other members.

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#### ***BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT***

After the second year, beginners are encouraged to check the BBKA website for up-to date syllabus and how to apply. The beekeeper needs to apply early in April or May to the Herts BKA at:

examinations-secretary@hertsbees.org.uk

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/learn>

<http://www.hertsbees.org.uk/education/training@hertsbees.org.uk>

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This document shall be reviewed/updated annually by the Trustees of St Albans & District Beekeepers Association cio