



## Weston-super-Mare Branch Avon Beekeepers Association



The aim of the Weston-super-Mare beekeepers group is to offer a friendly educational programme in order to improve the standard of beekeeping in the area and to keep members up to date with the ever changing world of bees and beekeeping. We occasionally have educational stand at local events in order to help the public understand more about the importance of honey bees in the environment.

Members come from Weston-super-Mare and adjacent areas of North Somerset, out as far as Shipham, Congresbury, and Loxton. We are a small friendly group of enthusiasts of varying abilities and we all try to help each other to develop the skills required to look after bees properly and to harvest good crops of honey.

Regular monthly **meetings are held at various apiaries in and around Weston** during the spring and summer and these provide opportunities for personal tuition for new beekeepers. Social events and study groups are arranged during the winter months.

New beekeepers are always welcome and after basic tuition can be supplied with locally bred bees when available. Beekeeping is a craft which takes some time to learn. However with the help and support of an experienced group of beekeepers, this can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. After about two years members are encouraged to study for the 'Basic Beekeeping Assessment' which is a certificate of competence.



### For more information about the Weston branch please contact:

**Secretary:** Ian Firth 01934 844232  
**Treasurer:** Stephen Sands 01934 413053  
**Details of courses:** Ann Westwood 01934 624092  
**Swarm collection:** Please contact one of the above

### A membership form is attached for your use should you decide to join us

Annual subscriptions for 2022/23 are:

£28 for full members – including insurance for 3 colonies  
(Insurance may be purchased for additional colonies)  
£17 for partner members without any additional bees  
£10 for associate members who do not have any colonies

### Answers to some frequently asked questions:

- Q. How much honey will I get from a hive of bees?  
A. *The average harvest is about 40 lbs (18 kilos) but in a good year, bees that are well looked after could produce more.*
- Q. How much does it cost to start keeping bees?  
A. *Allow at least £500 for a beginner's kit, basic equipment, and bees (maybe less if you are able to buy second hand equipment).*
- Q. How do I start?  
A. *It is recommended that you start by joining your local beekeepers branch and attend some hands-on apiary meetings to get your confidence and learn the basics before getting bees of your own and/or going on a course.*



**Weston-super-Mare Branch  
Avon Beekeepers Association**

Please print and complete this form and post it to the Treasurer: Stephen Sands, 1 The Crescent, Worlebury, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 9SR, as soon you have arranged payment from your bank to 'ABKA WSM Branch' at CAF Bank, account 00014037, Sort Code 40-52-40, and stating your surname and initials as the reference requested by your bank

**Membership application for:**

Title..... First Name ..... Surname.....Full membership

Title..... First Name .....Surname..... Partner

Title..... First Name .....Surname..... Associate

Address .....

Postcode ..... E-Mail address .....

Tel Nos: Landline..... Mobile phone .....

**Membership subscription fees for full Registered Member 2022/23** (please circle as appropriate)

1-3 colonies	£28.00	4- 5 colonies	£29.20	6 -10 colonies	£32.70
11- 15 colonies	£35.75	16- 20 colonies	£37.50	21 -25 colonies	£39.10

Colony numbers should allow for planned creation of nuclei and retention of swarms

**Payment enclosed is made up as follows:**

Full Member: as per table above (ABKA and full BBKA membership) £.....

Partner Member: £17.00 (ABKA and limited BBKA membership) £.....

Associate Member: £10.00 (branch membership only) £.....

Donation: (always welcomed and appreciated to support the Branch) £.....

**Total Payment** £.....

**Membership renewals** are due in **November each year and must be received before following 31 January** otherwise insurance cover, free BBKA magazine, and all other rights will lapse,

BBKA Registered Members enjoy BBKA public and product liability insurance; receive all circulated materials from BBKA and ABKA; and have Bee Diseases Insurance for their first 3 colonies covered by the basic subscription [**to retain the cover you must pay additional premium for ALL extra colonies**].

BBKA Partner Members enjoy full insurance cover, except for BDI, and all the benefits of Registered Members, except that they do not themselves receive any circulated material from BBKA or ABKA. This is for individuals who live at the same address as a Registered Member but **a Partner's own colonies must be included in the total number of colonies insured by the Registered Member**.

**Associate Members do not keep bees** but maybe interested in bees and beekeeping, or be Registered BBKA members of another branch or Association. Associate Members are able to attend apiary meetings and other events hosted by the Weston-super-Mare Beekeepers. Associate Members are not recognised by BBKA and do not have any rights or benefits of BBKA membership.

**Donations and Subscriptions, excluding extra BDI for more than 3 colonies, are eligible for Gift Aid.**

**If you are a taxpayer** and would like your Branch and area association to benefit financially by permitting us to reclaim tax from HMRC **please sign the Gift Aid Declaration below**

**I want to Gift Aid my subscription and any donations** I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to **Avon Beekeepers Association**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**You must notify the treasurer of the branch if you:**

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

**Signed**

**Dated**