

Swarm Policy and Guidance Notes (RH comments-26 Jan 2010 + 7th Feb 2010)

Policy

All beekeepers are free to collect swarms and to dispose of them however they choose at whatever price they choose and in whatever condition they choose, The Mid-Kent branch of KBKA cannot and does not act as any sort of regulator.

KBKA provides a free and voluntary point of contact for the public and local authorities (council, police etc) for bee related issues – especially regarding swarms. We regard this as part of our duty to society. In the Mid-Kent area this person is the Swarm Coordinator, a volunteer elected by the branch.

The Mid-Kent branch of KBKA does not collect swarms and does not sell them and therefore nothing to do with swarms appears in the financial accounts.

The Swarm Coordinator will receive notification of swarms from various agencies and then allocate an experienced beekeeper (the Swarm Taker) in the nearest location to that of the swarm who is willing to take the swarm.

The Swarm Taker will liaise with the notifying agency in order to facilitate taking the swarm. The Swarm Taker will be an experienced beekeeper able to deal effectively with the agency and set out the conditions under which the swarm will be taken and the charge involved.

The provision of swarms to members will be on the following basis and understanding that: -

- 1) Those members without bees will be given first refusal,
- 2) The swarm is an unknown quantity and no provenance as to the temperament; freedom from disease or queen rightness and viability can be given.
- 3) David Wood does not charge for a swarm, but gives the opportunity to make a donation to an identified charity. Other Swarm Takers may do the same thing or they may charge money. For guidance as to what is fair check on Thornes' website for the price of a 'posh' nucleus - at present £130, but much cheaper from one member of the Branch. In the past charities providing help for beekeepers in developing countries have benefited from donations made by Mid Kent members.

Insurance

Provided you are a Full Member or an Associate who has taken out the additional BBKA insurance you have public liability insurance when collecting swarms.

KBKA does not provide any other insurance; it is your responsibility to deal with any further insurance matters. You may try looking up Public Liability Insurance on Google and also a look at the Swarms section on the BBKA website. Take reasonable care.

Guidance notes and arrangements for collecting the bees will be provided by David Wood if required at the time of receiving the swarm. Those wishing to receive swarms should contact the swarm Coordinator for their name to be placed on the list.

DW & RH 11/2/2010