



BDBKA News



Issue 12, September 2018

Upcoming Events



Barnet Beekeepers' Honey Show and Lunch 2018

Date: 22nd September 2018

Time: Noon

Venue: Hadley Community Hall,
29 Hadley Highstone, Barnet, EN5 4PU

Barnet Beekeepers annual honey show. A chance for our members to exhibit honey and wax.

If you need 1lb honey jars these can be purchased from the Association at a cost of £1 each. Contact mary2block@aol.com. (Note that you need **two** x 1lb jars for each entry in classes 3 - 6.)

Check the schedule now and make a careful note of all timings and deadlines for exhibit entries:

Tuesday, 18 September 2018: closing date for postal entries

to Linda Perry, 18 Westcombe Drive, Barnet EN5 2BE

Thursday, 20 September 2018: closing date for email entries

to linda.perry25@gmail.com

Thursday, 20 September 2018: lunch reservations, with fee (@ £10 per person)

to Linda Perry, 18 Westcombe Drive, Barnet EN5 2BD

linda.perry25@gmail.com

cheques payable to BDBKA

Friday, 21 September 2018: Entries to be delivered to Hadley Hall, 8 – 9pm

Saturday, 22 September 2018 – The Honey Show!

12 noon - Honey Show open for viewing

1pm - Members' Lunch - £10 each for members and guests

2pm – awarding of trophies and certificates

National Honey Show 2018

Date & Times:

Thursday 25th October

Lectures and Restaurant 9.00am – 6.00pm

Trade Hall 12:00 noon – 6.00pm

Honey Show 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Friday 26th October

9.00am – 6.00pm

Saturday 27th October

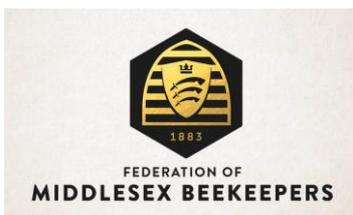
8.30am – 4.30pm



Venue: Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ, UK, from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th October 2018.

Promoting the highest quality honey and wax products with international classes, lecture convention, workshops and beekeeping equipment trade show.

[Click Here To See The Schedule And For Entry Forms](#)



Middlesex Federation Honey and Hive Products Show

Date: 27th October 2018

Venue: Sandown Park, KT10 9RT

The Middlesex Federation Honey and Hive Product Show and the presentation of cups, £1 per entry, entries to be notified to NHS and paid by the 8th October 2018 and delivered to the NHS on the 25th October. However, we can arrange delivery and collection of entries of honey/wax received by 23rd October, contact Geoff or Pat.

Note From The Chair

This has certainly been a season of weather extremes but the hot June/July has boosted the honey crop. Some of us with more than a few hives have been struggling to manage the volume! Back ache, arm ache but luckily buckets full of honey.

All Association Apiaries now have varroa treatments under way and the apiary work is easing up. Just those piles of supers to sort, clean and store safely for the winter. On that note, wax moth seems to be bad this year, so stored supers will need special attention to ensure they are wax moth free and well sealed.

Wasps and hornets are also at record levels this year with numbers set to increase during September. Wasps are always a threat to colonies at this time of year but several small colonies and nucs around North London have already been decimated by European hornets this year. In Cornwall we have an ivy hedge already in flower and covered with a huge number of pollinators, hover-flies, bumble bees, butterflies and honey bees. This is patrolled regularly by hornets not only for the nectar and pollen but to predate on honey bees. I saw several honey bees attacked and killed, dismembered and carried off presumably to be fed to hornet larvae. The hornets frequently fight each other for supremacy over this bountiful source of food, both sweet and savoury. Time, therefore to reduce hive entrances to keep hives open for minimum time, and to be sure not to drop comb, honey or syrup around the apiary.

We have our Honey Show in September and I look forward to seeing you with all the marvellous entries in the show. Lots of prizes and cups to be won. See you there.

Pat Morgan

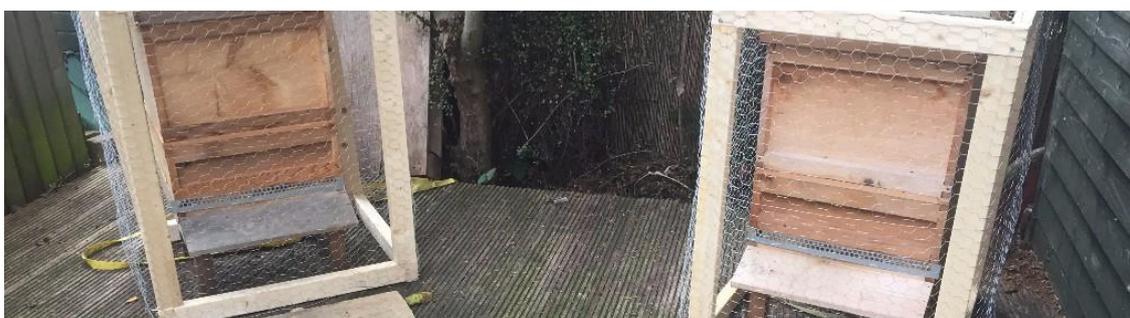
Contributors

A big thank you to Geoff Hood, Pat Morgan and Wilf Wood for their contributions to this issue.

If there are any areas of beekeeping you would like to know more about, let us know and we will try to provide information on the subject. Also, if members would like to contribute any articles please get in touch [here](#). We have members who have been keeping bees for many years and some who have just started: we would love for members to share their ideas and experiences of the beekeeping year through this newsletter.

In The Apiary - September

By Adam Armstrong



Treatment for varroa should be underway to ensure that colonies are as strong as possible going into Spring next year. Continue to monitor mite drops and check out Geoff's article on the approved Varroa treatments in Issue 11. It is well worth a read.

With the removal of the honey crop beekeepers need to check to make sure their colonies have plenty of stores through Winter, and feed with syrup if

required.

We will also need to ensure colonies have adequate ventilation making sure entrances are clear. Damp is often the reason colonies fail over winter. Mouse guards and woodpecker protection should be fitted to hives.

Wax Moth has been a problem for some beekeepers this year. Appropriate treatment may be undertaken in preparation for storing supers.

There have been many outbreaks of EFB in North London, and even a recent outbreak of AFB. It is important to be vigilant and to continue full disease inspections while it is still warm enough to do so. Any outbreaks can be identified quickly and the appropriate action taken. The most common way in which foulbrood transmits is from the beekeeper, but also through robbing by bees from strong colonies on weaker colonies: another good reason to reduce entrances.

Finally, this is a good time to unite weaker colonies, giving them better chances to overwinter.

Is It Too Late For Apiguard?

By Geoff Hood



We are now mid September and Apiguard requires an ambient temperature of fifteen degrees centigrade for optimum results, whilst temperatures may be appropriate now, the full course of treatment lasts for six weeks (four weeks after the second tub is added). In six weeks' time it is going to be that much colder and efficiency rate can fall from about 90% to as low as 65%.

I am often challenged by other beekeepers saying their hive is warm, the bees warm up the cluster to thirty four centigrade degrees and the Apiguard is therefore above fifteen centigrade. Unfortunately it is not the core temperature of the hive that matters for Apiguard treatment, but the activity in the hive by the worker bees. At or below fifteen degrees centigrade, they start to cluster and do not work the Apiguard out of the hive. The ambient temperature is critical and must remain above fifteen centigrade, the temperature at which bees cluster, throughout the treatment.

What alternatives can you use?

MAQS is a formic acid treatment that is available in packs allowing two treatments. MAQS needs only to be on for seven days.

Amitraz is a more modern hard chemical treatment that is less temperature dependent, it is available in the UK as Apitra500 or Apivar500, in packs of five treatments.

Treatment Records

Beekeepers are required to keep proof of purchase and a record of purchase, administration and disposal of all veterinary medicines for a minimum of 5 years under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2011SI 2159.

Further information can be obtained from www.vmd.defra.gov.uk

[Click Here For Veterinary Record Sheet](#)

Preparing Honey and Wax for the Honey Show

By Wilf Wood



On Saturday the 21st July our monthly talk was about preparing exhibits for the honey show. We had two experienced presenters, who are also honey show judges, give us top tips and hints on how to prepare honey and wax for showing, what the judges look for and how they assess and grade the various exhibits.

For the people that attended, we all found the information very insightful with some surprises, at least for me, as some of the practices I had picked up were shown to be completely wrong and would mark my entries down.

If you are reading this article and expecting to get all the information from the presentations, then you will be disappointed, but I hope this is a nudge to tell

you that the committee make an effort to put on an interesting program that needs your support so don't miss the next one.

Here is what you missed.

For honey

- Getting the classification right
- Level of filtering
- Jars and lids
- Pre-show checks and actions
- What the judges check and what will disqualify you
- What not to do
- Tricks of the trade when exhibiting cut comb, chunk honey and a frame
- Useful information about preparing honey cake and biscuits

For wax

- Getting the right wax when uncapping
- Washing and cleaning the wax
- Melting, filtering and mould filling

Our associations honey show is on the 22nd September and we are expecting a good turn out with some top-class entries. There are many classes that you can enter and from my own experience as a beginner in my first year I managed to get everything wrong but still walked away with a couple of prizes, including a first. So take this as encouragement, you don't need to be an expert in showing honey, also there are many other classes such as the honey cake, biscuits, arts and crafts as well so you don't even need to have bees yourself to have a go.

It's all good friendly rivalry and you never know, you might get a pleasant surprise and walk away with one of the many cups or shields to be won.

Common Beehives used in Britain

By Pat Morgan



A Potted History of Beehives

Modern beekeeping, in hives, began with Rev L L Langstroth's observation and description of bee space in 1851 in the USA. This led to his hive design with removable frames, and it still the most commonly used hive world wide. Prior to this, honeybees had been kept in skeps and it was necessary to destroy the colony to collect the honey, next year's colonies coming from swarms collected and overwintered. Initially hives varied in size and very few parts were interchangeable. In Britain there was a strong move for a British design of hive and soon after its foundation the BBKA attempted to establish such a hive and standardise frame size. The hive which came out of this was the WBC (designer William Broughton Carr). Unfortunately, only the inside dimensions of the boxes and the outer dimensions of the frames was originally specified so manufacturers still came up with designs which were not inter-changeable, and so the WBC was found difficult to use. In 1920 one pattern became generally accepted, the Simplicity hive. This eventually developed into the National hive. Since then hive parts have become standardised and other hive designs have been developed and become popular.

Introduction

Most of you reading this will already have chosen and be using your beehives. However, circumstances, location and strain of bee may all change and your hive type may not always remain the best option. The choice is quite wide, but all are a compromise of the needs of the honeybee and the needs of the beekeeper.

In the wild bees tend to choose weather proof cavities of between 20 and 70 litres (depending on strain of bee and size of swarm), usually in wood, about 5 metres above ground with a small entrance for easy defence. This does not make for easy beekeeping.

Beekeepers need a system in which they can inspect easily to control swarming, maintain bee health and harvest honey. If your hives are in an exposed apiary you may choose a double walled hive for greater protection, if you are going to move colonies frequently to different crops or are not able to lift well, simple light weight boxes may suit you best. If you are using your hive as a garden feature a white WBC might fit the bill but if you intend to keep a large number of hives, functionality and cheap and easily available hive parts will be your main consideration.

For most hobbyist beekeepers using the same hive type as most of your colleagues and keeping to the same type in each, if not all, of your apiaries is wise. Then nucs can be made and transferred easily and stored equipment does not become confused. I run modified National hives in London but WBCs (with help) in Cornwall. It is interesting to see how different locations, weather and strains of bee work in the different hives with much the same honey yield. Luckily, the frames are inter-changeable, so I don't have to make multiple varieties.

Steve gave us a good talk on poly-hives earlier this year, so I am going to leave that debate and merely describe hive designs. The other question is of top or bottom bee space. It is said that fewer bees are crushed with top bee space but with adequate care this does not need to be the case. Some hive types can be

built as either, but some are definitely the one or the other. I don't feel this should weigh strongly in your choice of hive.

Top bar hive beekeeping is particularly common in developing countries and is often used in the UK by natural beekeepers who use minimal intervention. It is a different concept of beekeeping and I will not describe Top Bar use here.

Most of our members are taught on, and continue to use, National or Commercial hives. Some are using Dadant or Jumbo Langstroth hives which are the largest and heaviest of all.

I will run through descriptions of the commonest hives in use and finish with a table for easy comparison of sizes and compatibility.

Modified National Hive

Modified because of a change of design during the war years to save wood.



This is a square hive and can therefore be run warm or cold way. It may be assembled with a standard deep or larger 14 x 12" brood box which takes 11 long lug frames with a dummy board. Self-spacing (Hoffman) frames are preferable in brood boxes so in the standard deep box DN4 or DN5 are the

choice. DN5 with the wider top bar gives greater strength and reduces brace comb formation. Usually made of red cedar this hive needs no preservative though this can be done if wished. The supers are light and all boxes easy to lift with a good grip possible under the rebates of the side walls This is a good all-round hive, easy to handle and move between sites and parts readily available and cheaper than some hives. If using the standard deep brood box it may be necessary to increase size by adding a super (brood and a half) or another brood box (double brood) to prevent swarming as the colony builds during spring.

WBC Hive



This is a double walled hive with outer lifts protecting the inner hive boxes which can therefore be made of lighter less durable construction. There is a gap between the inner boxes and the lifts which may help with insulation but

more importantly protects the colony from dampness and ingress of rain. It can be cumbersome during inspections, though the dismantled lifts make good stands for supporting supers while they are off. The boxes are rectangular and must be assembled resting against the inner front baton to avoid bees getting into the space around the boxes. In addition to fit the floor and not allow bees to escape at the back the box, must be run cold way. The brood box takes 10 British standard deep frames and a 14 x 12 brood box is available. Frames are therefore inter-changeable with National hives. Spring build-up can start earlier in a WBC and it may be necessary to double the brood box to prevent swarming. A small hive, light to handle but extra work with the lifts making some manipulations difficult.

It looks good and is fine if you have few time constraints and keep your manipulations simple.

Similar Style Hives of Varying Size

The following hives are all of similar type with cuboid boxes and are popular with commercial beekeepers due to their ease of use and large brood areas which can enhance honey crops.

Commercial Hive

Commercial hives are exactly the same external dimensions as a National hive, but instead of having an external bar the hive is a simple straight sided box and there is an internal rebate to accommodate the frame lugs. Because of this the frames are larger and have shorter lugs. The brood box takes 11 self-spacing frames and is picked up using small hand holds cut into the external wall of the hive. The supers are similar, which can make them difficult to hold when full of honey. This hive gives a larger brood area than the National and some beekeepers use National supers on top of a Commercial brood box because they are easier to handle. Frames can be transferred from Commercial to National hives with the use of a Hamilton converter, which converts a National brood box into a 10 frame Commercial.

Langstroth Hive

This is where it all began, the first design of moveable frame hive which is still used by the majority of the world's beekeepers. It can be assembled with a standard or Jumbo brood box. The standard Langstroth brood box takes 10 frames size 19 x 9 1/8 while the Langstroth Jumbo takes 10 frames size 19 x 11 1/4. Again, this is a popular hive with commercial beekeepers due to its brood capacity and ease of use.

Dadant Hive

This is of similar design to the Langstroth and in size to the Langstroth Jumbo but larger still. It is one of the biggest hives in the world with a brood area of 4000 sq ins. The brood box takes 11 frames 19 x 11 1/4. Side wall width is slightly greater which means they are slightly wider spaced than LangstrothJumbo frames.

Smith Hive

This is another square hive designed and still popular in Scotland. It is a small version of a Langstroth which can easily be moved to the heather and withstands the Scottish climate well. The frames are short lug British Standard frames and so take British Standard foundation and the boxes take 11 frames.

Some less common but interesting hives....

Warre Hive

This hive was developed in France by Abbe Warre, in an attempt to halt the fall-off in beekeeping in the late 19th century but was finalised later in 20th century. He was looking for a solution to allow the bees to exist in as natural environment as possible with minimal effort for the beekeeper. It is not intended that this hive be opened more than once a year for the honey harvest. It is constructed as a series of brood boxes each containing 8 top bars and starter strips on which the bees build their comb. The comb is built in the natural catenary shape of comb in the wild with a curved lower edge. New brood boxes are added below during the season but the individual boxes are not opened

maintaining hive temperature and smell. The bees move down leaving stores in the upper boxes. There is a ventilated roof with a deep quilt and hessian cover for insulation and a varroa floor.



Comb is built down as in the wild with a catenary curved lower edge. Top boxes of honey are removed after the main flow.



Rose Box

This is a one size box hive with similarities to the Warre hive. All boxes take 12 frames and apart from the boxes components are compatible with national Hives. Bees over winter in two bottom boxes which are swapped in position early spring to encourage build-up. Further boxes are added, either between the two bottom boxes or at the bottom, through the season. After the flow all but the bottom 2 boxes are removed for extraction.

Dartington Long Deep Hive

Robin Dartington designed this hive in 1975 and aimed to reduce the dangers of heavy lifting by adjusting the height and weight of the hive parts. He also took account of the bees needs and applied the same principles to his horizontal hive as those used in vertical beekeeping. Although the hive parts are easily managed, the whole thing is heavy, cumbersome and very difficult to move once set up. Swarm control is easy and requires only some minor hive adjustments, otherwise seasonal management is much as any other hive. In his book *New Beekeeping in a Long Deep Hive* (1985) Robin Dartinton describes the use of this hive in detail and I recommend that for further reading if you are interested in this hive.

HIVE TYPES & CHARACTERISTICS

Type of hive	Dimensions	Cells in brood Chamber	Bee Space/ Lugs	Comb area 2 sides	No. brood frames	Super weight(full)
National	18 1/8" x 18 1/8" 460 mm x 460 mm	50000	Bottom/ Long	199 sq in	11	25 lb 11.36kg
14 x 12	"	70000	Bottom/ Long	292 sq in	11	25 lb 11.36 kg
WBC	17 3/4 x 16 3/8 452mmx411mm	45000	Bottom/ Long	199 sq in	10	25 lb 11.36 kg
Commercial	18 5/16" x 18 5/16" 465 mm x 465 mm	70500	Bottom/ Short	275 sq in	11	25 lb 11.36 kg
Langstroth	20" x 16 1/4" 508 mm x 413 mm	6140	Top/ Short	272 sq in	10	30 lb 13.64 kg
Smith	16 3/8" x 18 1/4" 416 mm x 463 mm	50000	Top/ Short	199 sq in	11	25 lb 11.36 kg
Dadant	20" x 16 1/4" 508 mm x 413 mm	85000	Top/ Short	340 sq in	11	40 lb 18.18 kg
Rose	18 1/8" x 18 1/8" 460mm x 460mm	35000	Bottom/ Long	175 sq in	11	30 lb 13.64 kg

If you made it to the end of this, you will be now be aware of the differences and indeed similarities between hives. The choice of hive remains personal, based on individual apiary site, strain of bee and ability to lift and maintain equipment. I would not wish to discourage experimentation as you become more experienced but there is much is to be gained by sticking to one type of hive, the same as your neighbours, getting to know it well and enjoying using familiar equipment.

(With thanks to Thornes and M. Alsop for their pictures).

Workshops and Beekeeping Events

By Geoff Hood



The National Honey Show takes place from Thursday 25th October to Saturday 26th October at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ, UK. See <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk>

If you pay the £20 membership fee to National Honey Show you then have access to all the three days, the lectures and the trade fair. The cost of daily admission is £12.00. Accompanied children under 16 are free of charge.

The NHS show also includes the Middlesex Honey Show which takes place on the Saturday. We have listed a few things that you may wish to attend.

At the show there will be:

A selection of workshops on

Thursday 25th Swarming

Friday 26th General Husbandry Assessment

Saturday 27th Queen Rearing

Friday and Saturday all day Skep Making

New Beekeeper lectures - Saturday 26th

09:00 Dead Bees Don't Buzz - surviving the Winter

10:45 Honey bee communication - a look at how bees share information and communicate with each other

12:45 Honey Bees: Foraging and Feeding

14:15 Managing the Workers

Beeecraft lectures - Friday 25th

Genetic analysis of the Irish honey bee

The Bees Roadzz

The UK native Honey Bee Traits and genetic signature

There is also a selection of lectures that fit in with the BBKA Module exams:

Thursday 25th Examining comb

Friday 26th The glandular system of honey bees, How honeybees manage their drones

Saturday 27th A closer look at factors affecting Queen quality

The 14 lectures are varied and cover a wide range of subjects. The full list of lectures, beginner lectures and workshops are here <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/>

The previous year's lecture are on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiOtlebcpY0Zqqma0H5wLYQ>

Other short courses are run by the National Diploma of Beekeeping at various venues and dates across the country. The next two course in London are Integrated Pest Management, 9th February 2019 and Swarm Control, 23rd February 2019.

The venue is Morden Hall close to Morden Northern Line Tube Station. They normally cost £240 for the day but are currently subsidized to £88 by DEFRA.

Monitor Stores

By Geoff Hood



Due to the early cessation of London forage we are expecting honey bee colonies to be short of food because the Ivy is not yet in full flower. Check your hives by hefting or inspecting for adequate stores and commence feeding sugar syrup if necessary.

Pampering Potions with Dr Sara Robb.

By Adam Armstrong



Last weekend at whalebones, Dr Sara Robb ran a workshop showing how to make your own pampering potions with honey and beeswax. She showed us how to make soap (the easy way), as well as some of her recipes, including; chamomile & honey face cream, beeswax body butter and luscious lip balm in a tube. Each participant was able to take home a luxurious selection of pampering products made with honey and beeswax.

We had great feedback from all the participants of the workshop who were happy to take home the products which they made. Sara answered all our

questions, discussed the ingredients used and the properties they offer and how to make soap safely particularly when making the lye. It was a great day for all who took part and I am sure I won't be the only one to give this a go at home.

It was great to see other ways to use honey and beeswax. Maybe we will see some entries in the honey show!

If you have any topics you would like to have covered, please get in touch!

AFB Notice

AFB - American Foul Brood

An AFB alert was issued by the NBU in North London and beekeepers will be alerted by beebase if an outbreak occurs within 3km of a registered apiary.

It is important to recognise AFB in the hive so immediate action can be taken.

Click the buttons below for more information about what to look out for and for the statutory procedures for controlling honey bee pests and diseases.

Geoff Hood
Bee Disease Inspector

American Foul Brood - What To Look Out For

Statutory Procedures

Asian Hornet

Vespa Velutina - The Asian Hornet

The Asian Hornet has been found in Fowey, South Cornwall, a nest was found and destroyed. Further sightings in Liskeard and Hull have been confirmed and work is underway to identify any nests.

The species predate on Honey Bees and can decimate colonies. It is important that any sightings are reported so immediate action can be taken.

Geoff Hood

Bee Disease Inspector

Other Notices

Regional Bee Inspector

As some of you may already know, our Regional Bee Inspector, Brian McCallum, has resigned and Sandra Gray's team is covering our area now. Sandra has asked that members who are concerned about their bees should contact her in the first instance and that emails or phone messages are accompanied by photos of the frames, larvae etc so she can advise accordingly.

Sandra Gray sandra.gray@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Tel No: [01787 211531](tel:01787211531)

Mobile No: [07775 119430](tel:07775119430)

Ann Songhurst
Secretary

BDBKA News

Barnet Beekeepers On Social Media

Like us, Follow us, and keep up to date with Association, news and events.



Apiarist Suit Discounts For Our Members

Discounts are available from two of the most popular brands in protective suits for Beekeepers to members of Barnet Beekeepers Association. Both BB Wear and BJ Sherriff offer discounts.



Please email our [Membership Secretary](#) who will confirm your membership with Barnet Beekeepers to the supplier you wish to purchase from.



Do You Want To Do The Basic Beekeeping Assessment?

The basic assessment is relatively straight forward and is split into two parts, theory and practical and is carried out in the training apiary.

Please email [Geoff](#) or [Pat](#) for more details.

Committee Members

Chair: Pat Morgan

Deputy Chair/Bee Disease Officer: Geoff Hood

Second Deputy Chair: Wilf Wood

Treasurer: Lester Doman

Committee Secretary: Ann Songhurst

Membership Officer: Mary Block

Social Secretary: Linda Perry

Publicity Officer/Newsletter: [Adam Armstrong](#)

Education Coordinator: Lorraine Patel

Queen Rearing Programme: Ripal Parekh

Association Apiary Managers

Arkley Apiary Manager: Pat Morgan

Cat Hill Apiary Manager: Geoff Beresford Cook

Mill Hill Apiary Manager: Lester Doman

Shenley Apiary Manager: Steve Leveridge

Whalebones Apiary Manager: Wilf Wood

Willows Apiary Manager: Geoff Hood