

Surrey Beekeeper's Association

Epsom Division

Rule Book

Part II: Beekeeping

1. Introduction

1.1. Definitions: In this part of the Rule Book, SBKA is the abbreviation for Surrey Beekeepers Association, and EBKA is the abbreviation for the Epsom Division of SBKA.

1.2 The role of EBKA: As part of SBKA, the role of EBKA is to promote and further the craft of beekeeping. This part of the rule book describes the facilities provided by EBKA for its members and sets out the rules and procedures which have been agreed to ensure the safety of EBKA members, visitors, guests and neighbours and that good practice is observed wherever association members keep their bees.

1.3 Main Apiary: EBKA's main apiary, known as Upper Mill Apiary, has been established for maintaining colonies of bees, for instruction in the craft of beekeeping and for rearing queen bees.

1.4 Out-Apiaries: EBKA has established a number of out-apiaries where its members may keep their own bee colonies and raise queen bees.

1.5 This rule book contains rules relating to beekeeping in the EBKA apiaries, codes of conduct for the safety and smooth running of the apiaries, guidance on best practice and information about EBKA's apiaries and their management.

1.6 EBKA does not provide facilities for children and young people under the age of 18 years. Any young person wishing to take part in beekeeping or other activities must be in the charge of a responsible adult (parent, guardian or other authorised person).

2. Upper Mill apiary

2.1 Description: Upper Mill apiary comprises land and buildings at Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey JT17 2AF. The building comprises a classroom, a honey extraction room, a toilet, a store and a workshop. There are also store sheds for tools and hive equipment.

2.2 Function: Facilities have been established at this site for members of EBKA to meet and exchange experience and knowledge of all aspects of beekeeping. These include hive management and maintenance, honey extraction and disease recognition and treatment. Other functions include teaching the theory and practice of beekeeping and promoting a public awareness of the environmental importance of bees and beekeeping. Facilities also exist for queen rearing and to enable members to buy and maintain equipment.

2.3 Management

An Apiary Manager appointed by EBKA's Committee is responsible for supervising all beekeeping operations and the maintenance of the grounds (but not the buildings).

2.4 Codes of Conduct and Guidelines. EBKA maintains a Code of Conduct which must be followed strictly by all members who keep bees on the association's apiaries and guidelines on hive management which all members are encouraged to observe. Both are displayed on the classroom notice board at the Upper Mill apiary and on the EBKA website. Amendments may be approved from time to time by the Committee of EBKA. The Codes of Conduct and Guidelines are also reproduced at Appendix A of these rules.

2.4.1 All hives in the Apiary are the property of EBKA and no bee colonies are to be placed in the Apiary without the prior agreement of the Apiary Manager.

2.4.2 No visitor may enter the hive area without first signing the visitor's book and taking advice from the apiary manager or other responsible

person to ensure it is safe to do so. By signing the visitor's book all visitors declare that they are aware of the apiary rules as they affect visitors and that they accept responsibility for following these rules.

2.4.3 No young person under 18 years is permitted to enter the hive area unless accompanied by a parent or guardian and by a responsible beekeeper appointed by the apiary manager.

2.4.5 Protective clothing, footwear and disposable gloves must be put on before entering the hive area. In the case of a serious accident or a bee sting resulting in anaphylactic shock, the emergency services should be contacted by phone immediately.

2.4.6 Written records must be kept for each hive, and these should be updated after every inspection and kept in the classroom. If a planned hive inspection cannot be done due to illness or other emergency, the Manager must be advised.

2.4.7 The Manager or authorised deputy shall be entitled to inspect any colony kept in the Apiary.

2.4.8 Treatment of colonies for protection against notifiable bee diseases and parasites will only be carried out with the knowledge and supervision of the Manager, who may issue special instructions to deal with a particular threat.

3. Out-apiaries

3.1 The locations of the out-apiary sites are given in Appendix B2.

3.1.1 The EBKA Committee may appoint an out apiary manager for each site to act as a point of contact for beekeepers, the land owner and EBKA and to ensure that the Association's Code of Conduct is followed. Each out apiary manager will liaise with the apiary manager at Upper Mill to ensure that sites are well run and that any issues are resolved.

3.1.2 Only full members of EBKA may keep hives in the Association's out apiaries.

3.1.3 A maximum permitted number of hives may be set for each out apiary to ensure that overcrowding does not occur and that any restrictions set by the land owner are observed.

3.1.4 On some sites members may be required to pay a rental fee or to contribute to the maintenance of the site.

3.1.5 Any hives which are not recognised as belonging to full members of EBKA may be removed by the out apiary manager.

3.1.6 Out apiary sites are not owned by the EBKA, and circumstances may arise in which the landowner may require bees to be removed from the site. EBKA seeks to ensure that land owners understand that a period of notice is needed to ensure that hives can be moved safely and at an appropriate time should the need arise, but members should always be aware of and prepared for the possibility that they may be asked to vacate the site.

3.1.7 The Out-APIary Manager and/or land owner may require a beekeeper to vacate a site forthwith if the Code of Conduct is not observed.

3.1.8 Only fully paid-up members of EBKA will be permitted to keep bees in an out-apiary. This ensures that all beekeepers who keep bees on the site are covered by disease insurance.

3.1.9 Recommendations on routine hive management are set out in Appendix A3.

3.2 Code of Conduct for Beekeepers

The EBKA Codes of Conduct for Apiaries are attached as Appendices A1 and A2. They may be amended from time to time by the EBKA Committee.

3.3 Responsibilities of the Out-APIary Manager

3.3.1 The Out-APIary Manager will report directly to the Apiary Manager and Committee of the EBKA and will be responsible for the association's relationship with the site owner or manager.

3.3.2 The Out-APIary Manager will seek to ensure that beekeepers adhere to the Codes of Conduct.

3.3.3 The Out-APIary Manager will be responsible for liaising with beekeepers to ensure that any site fees are paid, and site maintenance is carried out as required.

3.3.4 The Out-APIary Manager will ensure that colonies are inspected and treated for disease as appropriate, and will liaise with the NBU Bee Inspectorate as required.

3.4 Relations with site owners and managers

EBKA will seek to ensure that site owners are aware of the practicalities of moving bee colonies. Any agreement with site owners will seek to ensure that:

(a) The site owner will provide a period of notice to allow bee hives to be moved safely and at the appropriate time of year - ie Autumn/Winter - if the site is required to be vacated.

(b) The site owner will allow beekeepers access to the out-apiary as required.

(c) The site owner will inform the Out-APIary Manager at the earliest opportunity of any problems or planned situation that may affect access etc.

(d) The site owner will liaise with the Out-APIary Manager regarding any local plant treatments involving pesticides, insecticides etc. which may have harmful effects on bees.

Members should raise any issues with the site manager through the out apiary manager wherever possible, rather than making a direct approach.

Queen rearing

4.1 EBKA may raise nucleus colonies or queens for sale to association members at prices to be decided by the Committee. Sales to non-members may be made if the colonies or queens concerned are not required by EBKA or its members.

4.2 Nucleus colonies raised by EBKA will normally comply with the standards set out in BBKA leaflet LO14
http://www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/nucleus_standard-l014_1342859848.pdf and any variation from this standard will be brought to the attention of the buyer.