North Somerset Beekeepers

(a Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association Reg Charity No 271717)

Keeping a Colony at the Branch Apiary

The purpose of the Branch Apiary is for teaching and training; people who have participated in the 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course may keep a hive on the apiary during their first year of beekeeping subject to the following conditions:

1) The facility is available to new members getting their first colony. They must be FULL members of the North Somerset Branch. Full membership includes insurance against foul brood disease and third-party liability. **Under no circumstances can we allow colonies not fully covered by this insurance on to the apiary site**.
2) Members will be limited to **one** hive on the apiary; if the number of participants on the course exceeds the number of available spaces, then the Apiary Manager will determine the allocation.
3) Members may place colonies supplied by approved members of the Branch straight on to the apiary site. Colonies obtained from other sources must be disease free, and the Apiary Manager reserves the right to ascertain that such colonies are disease free before allowing them onto the site.
4) Members are responsible for their hives and the state of their colonies, and are expected to inspect them weekly throughout the summer season. Normally this will be at the Sunday sessions unless other arrangements are made with the Apiary Manager. Experienced Beekeepers will assist new members in the management and inspection of their colonies for the first season. **Under no circumstances may a new beekeeper open any hive in the apiary without an experienced beekeeper present**.
5) Members agree that the Apiary Manager and the experienced beekeepers assisting at the apiary have the right to inspect their colonies at the apiary and to take whatever action they determine necessary in order to secure the health of the colony and the apiary, or to deal with swarm prevention or similar; this condition will apply whether the member is present or not.
6) Members must practise good beekeeping hygiene by wearing clean beesuits, regularly washing tools, and keeping wax or other scraps in sealed containers.
7) Members **must** keep a record card in the roof of their hive. The card must be kept up to date and **must include the member's contact details**.
8) If a member's colony swarms, and the swarm is subsequently collected by a North Somerset officer, ownership of the swarm passes to the branch and disposal of the swarm shall be determined by the Swarm Liaison Officer or the Apiary Manager.
9) Member's hives must be removed from the apiary site by the end of the following February.
10) Members are expected to assist from time to time in general apiary maintenance or as a member of a working party to carry out specific tasks.
11) None of the above implies that the Branch takes liability for members' colonies. This is an informal agreement and where situations are not defined in detail we expect everyone to work together in the best interest of the apiary and the Branch.

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