

North Somerset Bee Keepers



January 2019

Welcome to the 16th edition of our branch newsletter. As usual your feedback and contributions are very welcome. Please send items to the editor by 25th of the month.

Congratulations to Phil Rogers

Congratulations to Dr Phil Rogers who has recently passed the microscopy course, which is a rare achievement.

Branch talks and educational events – Rob Williams, Programme Manager

Hopefully you feel reinvigorated after the holidays and keen to participate in all the events we have planned for the year. The first is coming up in just a few days.

***Kick-starting your Colonies* by Stephen Brain**, will take place on **Saturday 12th January at Churchill War Memorial Hall, 14:00-16:00.**

The next Winter Cluster will take place at The Battleaxes in Wraxall on Tuesday 15th January at 12md. Everyone welcome.

Following that, the Branch Honey Show will take place on **Saturday 9th February at Tickenham Village Hall.** The Show Schedule will be emailed to all in the next few days. This year, a new honey cake recipe will be used and a new class of *Honey Mead* will be introduced and will replace the photograph class.

Keep your eyes on the branch events programme, which can be found here:

<http://northsomersetbeekeepers.org/activities/>



Membership renewal reminder – Heather Pitch, Membership Secretary

If you haven't already done so, now's the time to renew your Club Membership. Fees were due on 1

November 2018 and anyone who has not renewed by 31 January 2019 will be deemed a lapsed member and will have to pay a £5 re-joining fee. In addition, they will lose their BDI cover until 40 days after outstanding fees are paid.

If you wish to renew, please complete the Membership Renewal and Application Form, which can be found here [NSBK-Renewal-Form](#)

This year we are asking all tax-paying members to complete a new Gift Aid declaration due to changes in the required wording. This will then apply for future years unless your circumstances change. If you are a taxpayer and wish the Club to benefit from Gift Aid, please complete the form found here:

[Gift-Aid-Declaration-NS-2018](#)

I have taken over the role of Membership Secretary and completed forms need to be either posted to me at "Hayne Cottage", 27 Church Road, Winscombe, Somerset BS25 1BJ or emailed to heather@pitch.plus.com. Please do not send them to Richard Ellis as indicated.

Payment can be made online to Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-51, Account No: 01839153. Make sure you put your "Name and Subs" as the reference, e.g. JohnBrownSubs. Cheques should be made payable to "North Somerset Beekeepers".



Free money from the Taxman - Importance of Gift Aid to NSBK's funds – Tony Slater, Branch Treasurer

I thought that if a member completed a Gift Aid form, it would increase the funds going to the NSBK by 25%. Not bad, as it's free money, but I was surprised to find that the percentage is much higher than this.

The reason is that while a considerable slice of membership fees goes to the BBKA (to pay for the main

insurance and publications etc) none of the Gift Aid repayment is passed on to the BBKA.

Have a look at the chart below. A typical membership subscription is £37. You will see that out of this, £19 goes to the BBKA, £5 to Avon Beekeepers Association (the registered charity of which we are a branch) and £2 is spent on the mandatory bee disease insurance. This leaves just £11 for NSBK funds. However, if the member is able to complete a Gift Aid form, then because the BBKA does not share in the tax repayment, we receive a further £6.94, an increase in our funds of 63%.

		How it is allocated			
		BBKA	Avon	NSBK	BDI
Membership subscription	37.00	19.00	5.00	11.00	2.00
Gift aid tax repayment (25%)	9.25	-	2.31	6.94	-
Total available	46.25	19.00	7.31	17.94	2.00

All it takes to complete it is your name and address, date and signature. You don't need any tax reference or NIC numbers.

Send the completed forms to the new membership secretary, Heather Pitch, either by email or post, as described above.

If you have completed a form, but not in the last 12 months or so, could you please do another one. The format has changed a little and we want to make sure the claim records are completely up to date. We don't want to fall out with HMRC if they audit the Gift Aid claim!

One other point to remember is that Partner Members (members who reside at the same address as a Full Member and thereby pay a smaller subscription) need to complete a Gift Aid form of their own as well as the Full Member.

How about studying a BBKA module? – Paddy Brading

Now that the bees are bedded down for the winter it might be a good time to think about studying for one of the modules offered by the BBKA. These modules are a great way to gain insight into all aspects of beekeeping and increase your knowledge and understanding of the ways of these fascinating insects. There are 7 modules which can be taken in any order except module 8 which must be studied last.

Contact the Editor: northsomersetbeekeepers@gmail.com

Some members form a small group and meet regularly to study the syllabus but you can study each module independently if you wish. Exams are available in March and November but are not obligatory.

Until recently, the BBKA had stipulated that you should have passed the Basic exam in beekeeping before you could enter for a module exam. That restriction will be lifted 'in late 2019.'

If you would like to join or form your own group and get started please contact me for more information by email: p_bradings@hotmail.com.

Honey Bee Management – Margaret Myers

I would like to put together a group to study: Module 1 Honey Bee Management. For more information please contact me by email: myers@pandmmyers.plus.com.

The Improvers Course (Basic) Starting on Tuesday 8th January 2019 – Rob Francis

Just a reminder that there are still a few spaces on the Improvers Course. We meet for 7 sessions on every other Tuesday in St Andrews Church Hall in Backwell. At the end of the course you will have the opportunity of taking the BBKA Basic Assessment, if you wish. This acts as a gateway to further assessments.

If interested, contact me at robfrancishere@gmail.com as soon as possible.

The History of Beekeeping in Somerset 26th January, Shipham Village Hall, New Road, Shipham, BS25 1SG

David Charles is a local Somerset beekeeper with long experience; and this should be an intriguing talk.

Christmas meal at Mendip Springs Golf Course

Our Christmas meal was held at the golf club again and once more they served up an excellent meal. A few photos from the event can be found overleaf.

A few photos from the branch
Christmas meal

