

F.A.Qs.

How much time do I need to keep bees?

About 30 minutes per hive per week from April to August. Extracting and processing the honey takes about 2-3 hours per hive. Winter is a time for checking and cleaning equipment and preparing for the next season

How much does it cost?

If you make your own hives it keeps the cost down, but you do need protective clothing, a hive tool and a smoker, plus of course the bees. Allow about £150 for basic kit (this has to be once only) plus £180-£250 per hive plus £125 for bees per hive. It is best to start with two hives, then you can make increase from your own bees.

Where do I get bees and where can I keep them?

The Association can help you obtain bees. A site for hives does not need to be big. In most cases your garden will be suitable, or you can approach a farmer or landowner for a site. Bees are not usually allowed on allotments.

How much honey will I get each year?

This is very variable, but you could get about 50lbs per hive. In 2017 honey was selling for about £6.00 per 1 lb jar.

Will I get stung?

Yes, you will get stung and yes, it hurts. Most people experience some local swelling, but this becomes less each time. Only a small number of people are truly allergic.

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Can I sell the honey?

Yes, the law allows you to sell your own honey.

As it is a food product there are of course some regulations, but they are simple and fully explained in a BBKA leaflet.

BBKA?

The British Bee Keepers' Association. The parent body for British bee-keepers. It also provides "bee insurance" for Association members. Its website is

BBKA.org.uk

How do I start?

Join your local Association.

BADSBKA is a friendly and supportive group of about 150 local beekeepers. We run "Wannabee Days" and "Taster Days" in April-May where you can come along meet bee-keepers, learn some basics and visit our club's apiary to have a look inside a hive.

We also run various courses during summer to give you a good theoretical knowledge and regular practical demonstrations at the Association's apiary. We can provide the bee suits during the practical training and help you to gain experience and confidence in handling bees before you commit yourself to buying your own colony.

To join either e-mail to Alla Neal (Treasurer) at lapa11@hotmail.com or write to 28 Berkeley Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HZ

BADSBKA MEMBERSHIP.

Registered Member (RM) £32.00 per year
Provides BBKA membership including Public and Product Liability Insurance and Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) (up to 3 hives)

Partner Member (PM) £18.00 per year
Must have same address as a Registered Member. The subscription includes BBKA Partner membership, and the same rights and entitlements as a RM. BDI is not included.

Associate Member (AM) £18.00 per year
Does not include BBKA membership, no BDI, no voting rights at AGM of BADS-BKA.

Country Member (CM) £18.00 per year
For non-beekeeping members, includes BBKA membership without insurance. BDI not applicable.

Junior Member (JM) £9.50 per year
For beekeepers under the age of 18.

There is a great deal published today about bees and how to keep them, but we recommend you to start with "Guide to Bees and Honey" by Ted Hooper.

Honey bees were on the planet and thriving twenty million years ago, but our way of living threatens them like never before.

Join us to help them.

Our website bads-bka.org

I think I would like to keep bees but I'm not sure how to go about it.

Inside this leaflet are answers to some FAQs. You are bound to have more questions, but start by reading through the information on the BADSBKA website at bads-bka.org.

You can contact the Association Secretary Sheila Orr at sheilaorr5@hotmail.com who will answer any bee query that you may have, but best of all, get involved, join in.

On the inside pages and on our website are details of what the Association can offer; keeping bees and joining the Association means that you become part of a craft that has existed for thousands of years and today, more than at any other time, the bees need our and your, help.



The Association

The Bournemouth and Dorset South Beekeepers' Association (BADSBKA) was formed in 2008 by amalgamating Bournemouth & District Beekeepers Association and The Beekeepers Association of Dorset South.

The aim of the Association is to promote the craft of beekeeping, encourage new beekeepers and raise people's awareness of bees in the environment.

The Association provides:

-  A body of expertise in beekeeping;
-  Beekeeping courses and workshops;
-  Help and support to local beekeepers;
-  Mentoring for new beekeepers;
-  Summer meetings at the Association apiary;
-  Winter meetings with talks and lectures;
-  An extensive library;
-  Quarterly Newsletter;
-  An annual Honey Show.



Are you interested in becoming a Beekeeper?



We can help you.
www.bads-bka.org