

# Sheffield Beekeepers' Association



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## **WELCOME to Sheffield BKA**

Dear New Member

Welcome to the Sheffield Beekeepers' Association, thank you for joining us! We trust that you'll soon find that we're (mostly) a friendly lot and happy to share our knowledge and information with you to help make beekeeping an enjoyable pastime. Just remember that by far the large majority of our members have been keeping bees for less than two years; you won't be long as a beginner and you won't be alone as a novice. We do, however, also have members who have kept bees for many many years who will be equally keen to give you the benefit of their experience. Just remember – if you ask two beekeepers the same question you're likely to get at least three different answers!

There are several things we do as an Association for our members:

- Hold monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at the Nether Edge Club, 2 Moncrieffe Road S7 1HR, 7pm onwards.
- September to April inclusive we have our "Winter Programme" with speakers from around the country talking on various subjects
- Training for beginners, novices and the more experienced. The beginners' course has been running for several years now and will be repeated starting end-Feb/early-March. Courses for more experienced members take place through the year.
- Maintain two apiaries for training, queen rearing and honey production
- Organise bulk purchase schemes for equipment and supplies earning up to 20% discount on retail prices
- Loan of extractors to process your honey
- Maintain a web site with general information, a calendar for forthcoming events, booking forms for hands-on sessions at our apiaries etc

..... and much more besides

## **Web site**

[www.sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk)

As well as tips and advice you'll find forms on here to register your interest in training, discount purchases and to book a place on a hands-on session at one of our apiaries (see separate info sheets).

## **Get in Touch**

If you need to get in touch with us email is by far the quickest method. Contact information is on the website but in short:

For general questions about bees and beekeeping contact [info@sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:info@sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk). You'll most likely get a reply from our knowledgeable Chairman Phil Khorassandjian.

For questions about membership mail Joy Slingsby on [sec@sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:sec@sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk)

For payment queries it's Robert Jemilianowicz [treasurer@sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk)

For other questions - training or purchasing equipment for example - start with [info@...](mailto:info@sheffieldbeekeepers.org.uk) and we'll pass you on to the right person.

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## Equipment

We hope that you will ask for some advice before you purchase expensive equipment, bees of unknown provenance or second hand hives from diseased apiaries. There are many pitfalls for the unwary but these can be avoided quite easily by following a few simple rules.

We organise a bulk purchase scheme annually – in March/April, giving sufficient time for members to get up to speed before the season begins in earnest. The following is a suggested equipment list for complete beginners. All this can be ordered through our Bulk Purchase scheme at a good discount, but we recommend you take a look at some web sites first and then look to see what we can offer.

### Year 1

- Complete national hive & stand in (Open mesh floor, 1 deep national broodbox with runners, 2 x supers (aka National shallow) with castellated spacers, Queen excluder, crown board & roof)
- Bees
  - Neil Pont in Lincolnshire has provided us with excellent stock for several years, suitable for beginners and experienced beekeepers. Some members are working on a bee breeding programme looking to produce a 'Sheffield bee', suited to local conditions.
- Frames
  - National Deep Brood 10 x Hoffman (self spacing) DN5 or DN4
  - National Shallow Super 2 x 10 x SN1 (needs either bar end spacers or castellations to provide spacing)
- Dummy boards (recommend 2 per hive)
- Foundation
  - Pack 10 wired BS deep foundation
  - 2 x pack 10 wired BS shallow foundation
- Smoker
  - Stainless steel smoker with heat guard
- Hive tool (or two as you're bound to lose one!)
- Full suit
- Feeders
  - Contact - 1 gallon contact (bucket type) - may need empty super around it if only have a 4" roof,
  - Rapid 1/2 gallon rapid feeder may need empty super around it if only have a 4" roof
- Marigold or nitrile gloves

### Year 2:

- Spare hive
- Nucleus box (optional but useful for swarm control/ hiving swarms) wood or polynuc
- Uncapping fork
- Double strainer
- Tank & valve
- Queen catcher
- Queen Marking cage
- Marking pen(s)

### Enthusiast:

- Warming cabinet

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- Micron cloth
- Extractor
- More hives

There are many suppliers offering a wide range of equipment including:-

- E.H. Thorne <http://www.thorne.co.uk/>
- C Wynne Jones <http://www.cwynnejones.com/>
- Maisemore (aka Bees Online) <http://www.bees-online.co.uk/>
- Modern Beekeeping <http://www.modernbeekeeping.co.uk/>
- Paynes Bee Farm (specialist in polyhives) <http://www.paynesbeefarm.co.uk/>
- Simon the Beekeeper <http://www.simonthebeekeeper.co.uk/>

The big suppliers charge for postage but most offer free postage for large orders, typically >£100 or >£200.

In addition there are many other suppliers specialising in certain types of equipment e.g. Clothing

- BJ Sherriff <http://www.bjsherriff.co.uk/>
- BB Wear <http://www.bbwear.co.uk/>
- Apibee Online [www.apibee.co.uk](http://www.apibee.co.uk)

and there are many small makers of beehives e.g. locally

- Richfield (Rotherham) <http://www.rich-field.co.uk/pages/bee-hives.html>
- Peak Hives

Many of the larger suppliers have stands at the main beekeeping conventions e.g. The BBKA Spring Convention, the YBKA Summer Conference

Secondhand equipment may also be available on e.g. Ebay or at physical auctions

N.B. There is always a risk of introducing disease when buying used equipment

Individuals beekeepers will have to make their own decisions on what equipment to buy based on their own judgements on price vs quality. The cheapest equipment upfront may not be the cheapest in the long term taking longevity and reliability into account. Ask for experiences of fellow beekeepers.

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## Meeting Venue

Nether Edge Club, 2 Moncrieffe Rd, Sheffield S7 1HR (NOT our mailing address!)

We meet every second Wednesday of the month – doors open 7pm with the programme starting at 7.30pm. Our Winter Programme runs from September to April inclusive with guest speakers from around the country.

We meet during the summer months also but we do not have formal speakers. We sometimes show a video of beekeeping practices or have a question & answer session where we try to unravel some of the mysteries presented by our bees.

Non members are welcome to attend a few of our meetings to see what's what.



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## Sheffield BKA Sawmill Apiary

At the JG Graves Woodland Discovery Centre,  
Ecclesall Woods, Abbey Lane, Sheffield S7 2QZ (NOT a postal address for SBKA)

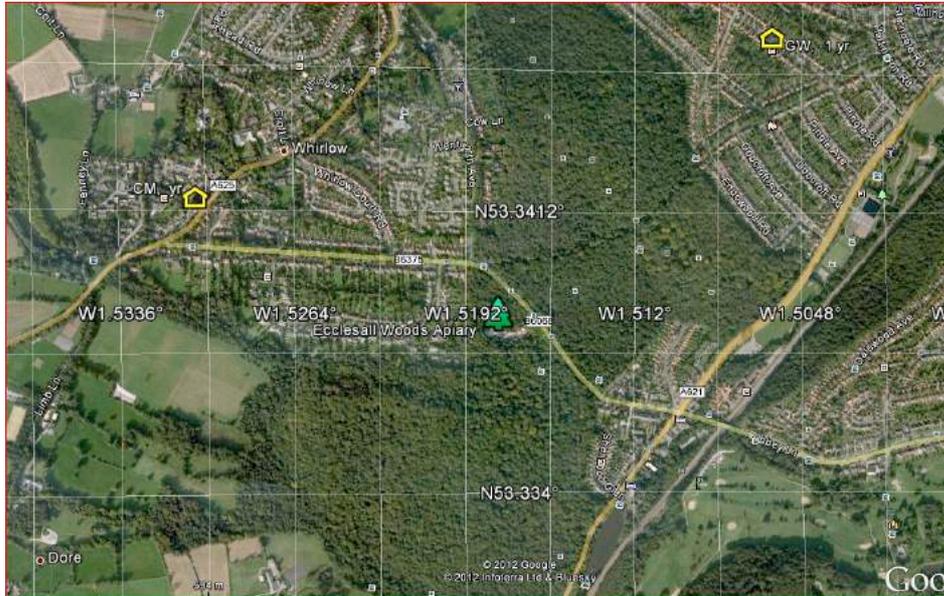


Figure 1: Satellite view.



Figure 2: Approach from the East



Figure 3: Approach from the West

The apiary is located adjacent to the old Sheffield City Council “sawmill” – now the site of the JG Graves Woodland Discovery Centre and home to a number of enterprises associated with wood and woodlands. We are told that the satnav will take you to nearby houses if you use the postcode:

*If you are following SATNAV systems to find us, when you reach Abbey Lane ignore the SATNAV as it will take you to the houses nearby which share our post code. We are accessed directly off Abbey Lane - look for the large white sign just inside the woods and you will find our car park at the end of the track.*

Please use the main entrance at the Centre.

## Apiary Hygiene

Visitors to the apiary should book to ensure that there will be someone there to meet them and to make sure that a bee suit is available for their use.

Please bring your own gloves (standard washing up gloves are recommended) and wear boots or wellies. If bringing your own suit and equipment please make sure that these are clean.