**KBKA Swarm and Nuc Priority List**

**Background**

KBKA will maintain a list of Association members wanting bees.  The list will be used when:

* Association members collect swarms they do not want themselves (and wish to pass on to other club members)
* The Association hives are used to produce nus(1) beyond those needed for the Association’s apiary
* Members have nucs they wish to pass on to other members “at cost”.

To be added to the “wants bees” list Association members must:

* Have:
  + A bee suit/ veil and smoker
  + A hive with at least five frames (with foundation)
  + A location for a hive (and apiary or out apiary)
* Be a current member of the KBKA (Associate Members will be expected to upgrade to full members when their bees arrive)
* Have attended a beginners bee keeping course (or similar) recognised by the Association.

The Association’s Secretary will maintain the “wants bees list”. It will be emailed when updated to members listed as swarm collector. It may also be passed to Association members who have raised nucs that they wish to sell

Priority will be given in order of:

1. Length of continuous KBKA membership
2. Not having any bees at present (members with bees willing to take swarms will be placed lower on the list).

**Use of the "wants bees" list**

Association nucs

Any nucs produced by the Association’s apiary for this purpose will be offered to member(s) at the top of the list (one NUC per member).

Member’s ‘at cost’ nucs

It is suggested that the “wants bees” list be used by Association members willing to pass on bees to other members at cost, to identify Association members who want bees.

(Members selling nucs for a profit do so as a private arrangement outside of this process. Both parties to any arrangement are recommended to review the BBKA guidelines for nucs,  [BBKA Standard and Guidance Notes for Nuclei](http://www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/nucleus_standard-l014_1342859848.pdf)).

Swarms

Homing a swarm is generally an immediate need. Association members taking swarms they do not want are asked to use the “wants bees” list. If the Association member at the top of the list cannot be reached or cannot accept the bees in the time frame required then the offer will be passed the next person on the list and so on. Association members being offered swarms should be prepared to respond and be prepared to travel to fetch the bees immediately if required.

**Costs**

Members receiving bees via the "wants bees" list are expected to make a donation to the Association and/or cover expenses as follows:

* Nucs from the Association's hives: £50 (to be paid to apiary manager when nuc is collected)
* Swarms – donation to the swarm collector to cover petrol costs and other expenses, such as their time.

Notes

1 – A nuc, short for nucleus is a small colony of bees that can be expected to develop into a full hive.

2 - Members will typically only be offered one swarm/nuc a year. If a member receives a swarm they are concerned is not viable they should contact the swarm collector as soon as possible to register their concern.