

Honey Bee Health Strategy
Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP)
8 June 2020 – Digital Meeting

Attendees:

NAME	ORGANISATION	POSITION
Luis Molero	SG	Lead Bee Inspector
Fiona Hight	SG-SASA	Senior Entomologist
Mairi Carnegie	SG-SASA	Assistant Zoology Manager
Karen MacKenzie	SG	Bee Inspector
Angus MacAskill	SG	Bee Inspector
Jackie Quigley	SG	Secretariat
Bilal Rafik	SG	Office Manager
Rose Huggett	SG	BeeBase Administer
Carol Jackson	SG	BeeBase Administer
Graeme Sharpe	SRUC	Apiculture Specialist
Gavin Ramsay	SBA	Bee Health Convener (past)
Alan Riach	SBA	Past President
Matthew Richardson	SBA	Bee Health & Science Trustee
Phil McAnespie	SBA	President
Margaret Ginman	BFA	General Secretary
Margaret Thomas	NDB	Representative

Apologies:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Murray McGregor	BFA
Bron Wright	SBA

NOTE OF MEETING

Item 1: Welcome and apologies

- Apologies received from Murray McGregor, Bron Wright

Item 2: Minutes and Actions Points (17th March 2020)

- Previous minutes were approved.

Item 3: Lead Bee Inspector update

a: COVID 19 and impact on Bee Health activities:

- There was a lot of uncertainty at the beginning which led to an increase in policy activity regarding risks, more phone calls from beekeepers etc. This has settled down slightly. Face to face training of the 14 new bee inspectors had to be cancelled and an online training package was set up as an interim measure.

- The only inspections in RPID at the moment are bees & potatoes. The guidance is no sharing vehicles and no interaction with beekeepers.
- There are five inspectors doing inspections: Luis, Claire, Gordon and Angus; and Jim has been brought back from retirement.
- Mairi is working with BHIT at the moment and has been invaluable with the EFB Control Plan.
- Rose and Carol have also joined the team and will be managing BeeBase as Graham Lumsden has now retired.

b: Disease Control Strategy Update:

- We have been helping the bee farmers with their inspections. Due to the Corona virus the bee farmers are struggling to achieve their usual compliment of staff.
- Honey sampling is now starting. No Amitraz product should be in the hives during a honey flow; if found it will need to be reported to VMD.
- Inspectors are collecting adult bee samples to continue the sub-clinical EFB detection work in development at SASA.
- BeeBase – sceptical of the beekeeper numbers on Beebase. People will register their apiaries but will not deregister when they have none. Also apiaries and locations not being kept up to date.
- In England the DASH scheme beekeepers enter their own inspection data but we do it for them in Scotland.

c: EFB Control Plan 2020. Review of progress:

- Reporting compliance is variable across the signed businesses and there are difficulties with tracing apiary movements throughout the year. Chasing up the required information is placing an additional burden on both the LBI and SG business support team.
- In 2021 the EFB Control Plan needs to be reviewed. Is it still fit for purpose? What are we trying to achieve?

d: Inspections carried out so far and findings:

- We have completed the following inspections so far:
59 Inspections
24 by the Bee farmers
35 by the Bee Inspectors

There have been 1143 colonies inspected, 58 apiaries, 21 beekeepers.

Four colonies have been confirmed with AFB. This is from 2 apiaries but one beekeeper.

Thirteen colonies have been confirmed with EFB. This is from 9 apiaries and 5 beekeepers.

4: SASA Update

- SASA is essentially closed due to Corona Virus and is only open for essential work. Notifiable pest and disease diagnoses will continue but the varroa screening and adult bee analyses services have been suspended.
- Fiona and Mairi are both working from home. Hanna is the only one going into the lab and processing samples. Paperwork should be done correctly so that Hanna can concentrate on processing.
- SASA should reopen in phase 2 but little will change due to social distancing requirements.
- The Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (investigation of suspected poisoning incidents) is closed and even once it recommences will have a backlog of priority samples, so bees will probably not be high on their agenda when they get back.
- SASA don't have funding for sub-clinical EFB detection work yet so this may not happen until the winter time.
- Fiona is still in touch with Roslin and Ebsoc for schools that are interested in doing Nat 5 in Beekeeping.

5: SRUC Update

- All offices are closed however Graeme is still looking after the SRUC colonies.
- Graeme is continuing to provide support for beekeepers by phone and email, taking calls regarding swarms, colony loss,, chalkbrood etc.
- SG are forwarding on emails and calls to Graeme where appropriate.

6: SBA Update

- All modules are cancelled until 2021. Practical's possibly in July or August depending on social distancing.
- This years IYMD has been cancelled until 2021
- The Autumn Convention has also been cancelled. SBA are hoping this can be done via Webinars.
- SBA are attempting to move their beekeeping promotional activities online.

- There has been an email sent out warning beekeepers about the June gap.
- They are looking at doing educational programmes through Webinars and online training
- Update on the committee of the SBA
Phil McAnespie – President
Enid Brown – Vice President
Helena Jackson – Treasurer
Helen Nelson - Secretary
Gino Abdul-Jabber – ITC Trustee
Matthew Richardson – Bee Health & Science Trustee
Margaret Forrest – Moir Library Trustee
Jacqui Ferguson – Trustee
Fiona Dagge- Bell - Trustee
- **ACTION POINT 25 – Jackie to get list of new committee from Phil McAnespie**

7: BFA Update

- Bee Farmers are very busy juggling other commitments
- The training that was due to take place in France has been postponed until October . but may not be until next year.
- The BFA is now on the Scottish Agricultural Forum. Thanks to Luis for getting us on that.
- There are issues with seasonal workers due to the Coronavirus. This isn't just affecting bee farmers but all of the agricultural sector. DEFRA are going to review the issues with seasonal workers.
- There has been an increased interest in Bee Farming from people who have been furloughed.

8: NDB Update

- Courses have all been cancelled and the advance course will probably be cancelled as well. Hoping to do Webinar courses instead.

9: Terms of Reference

- Members have been given until the end of June to comment on the terms of reference.
- Luis has set a maximum of 3 people per organisation.
- We really need a representative for education which is wider than what we have had previously

10: Honey Bee Health Strategy

- The Honey Bee Health Strategy needs to be reviewed but we have a lot fewer people than Defra to work on it.
- How has the HBHS worked for everyone in the group? Response - ?

11: AOB

- Do you still want these meetings more often, maybe every two months? The current frequency is good.
- Would you like single topic meetings as well? Response generally affirmative.
- The next meeting will be in early August. All updates to be sent to Jackie 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- Content of the next meeting is Terms of Reference and Honey Bee Health Strategy

Previous Action Points			
1	LM to write an article for SBA magazine	Ongoing	Luis (LBI) to write an article for the SBA Monthly Magazine
4	LM to draft new 'Good practice for selling nucs' guidelines & standards and will circulate for comment	Ongoing	This is in the Restocking Options report produced by Gavin Ramsay
5	MG to consult with the BFA and see if she can share the code of good practice from the BFA members with LM	Ongoing	There has just been a meeting. MG will update us shortly
8	MG to invite LM to next BFA meeting	On Hold	LM will be invited to the next meeting but unsure when that will be
9	MG to consider to invite Robert Field to speak to the BFA members, with emphasis on EFB control plan group, on his biosecurity and compartmentalisation methods.	Ongoing	
10	BFA to seek clarification from VetoPharma regarding use of Apivar with honey supers. BFA to discuss this with their members and raise awareness.	Ongoing	Some progress on tis but need to get an update
13	SBA to contact Jim Jeffrey with a piece on emerging solitary bees for spring blog	Completed	Gavin wrote to Jim Jeffrey some time ago but has heard nothing back
17	GS suggested each stakeholder group writes a section on their inputs to the Strategy over last 10 years and sends to LM.	Ongoing	
18	LM to circulate Key Point Indicators and proposed format to BHIP by March.	Ongoing	
23	Luis to circulate document if allowed as comments need to be received by end of March	Ongoing	
ACTION POINTS FROM 8th JUNE 2020			
25	Jackie to get list of committee members from Phil McAnespie	Ongoing	

