

ADVICE FOR BEGINNERS

Welcome to the world of beekeeping. It is an exciting one and a lifelong learning curve.

The first piece of advice I can give to beginners is to join your local association. They will have a wealth of experience and knowledge you can tap into. Finding a beginner's course or an experienced mentor is a bonus, and your local association will hopefully help with that. You can find your local association from the **Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA)** website. Please see a list of useful websites below.

Key advice for beginners is:

- Learn as much as you can from official verified resources, experienced beekeepers and teachers, ideally before you begin beekeeping yourself
- Join a local association
- Be aware that second hand equipment or swarms may have disease
- Register on BeeBase
- Get a local mentor if possible

It is worth joining the SBA as it provides a wealth of accurate evidence-based information that is relevant to Scotland. Beware of information you find on the internet, and YouTube as much of it is either for a different country or climate and it can be full of misinformation. Joining the SBA also provides you with public liability insurance.

The other key source of information is BeeBase. I highly recommend you register as it is free, and provides lots of information and advice on pests and diseases as well as information about your responsibilities as a beekeeper. You will be notified if you are within 3 KM of an outbreak of notifiable diseases such as European Foulbrood (EFB) and American Foulbrood (AFB).

If you need advice on your bees or beekeeping, feel free to get in touch. I wish you all the best and hope you have happy, health bees.

www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/ / www.nationalbeeunit.com/

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