Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers' Association
(SC048618)

DSBA Nucleus Colony Specification and Guidelines

This document has been put together for members of Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers Association (SC048618) to help the purchasers and suppliers of nucleus colonies.

A nucleus colony comprises 5 to 6 frames, with bees and brood having been laid by this year's queen, and sufficient food to allow them to be transported and become settled.

As an association we are keen that local bees are provided. Consequently, we would ask suppliers to carefully consider the genetic pedigree of the queen in relation to the colony's behaviour, in an effort to ensure the colony is manageable.

For the purposes of this document, unless otherwise stated, the specification is based on British Standard National brood frames. Larger frame types can be considered on an individual basis.

DSBA recommended specification:

Frames

- 5 British Standard National brood frames, no more than 2 seasons old, with Hoffman side bars or plastic spacers
- Well-constructed
- Predominantly fully drawn comb

Content

- 4 out of 5 frames covered in bees, free of signs of disease
- 3 out of 5 frames of brood in a good pattern with all stages of development, and laid by the queen provided
- 1 frame of stores (located over the five frames)
  ½ frame of pollen (located over the five frames)

Queen

- Locally bred (if not this should be highlighted)
- Emerged in the year of supply
- Thorax marked with the international queen marking colour code for the year of emergence
- Wings clipped only if required by customer

Certification

A statement of provenance and hive record will be provided and include:

- Date of Emergence
- Varroa Treatment (if any)
- Name, address and contact telephone number of the Supplier

Maximum Cost and Additional Services and Supplies:

For the 2024 season, £250 is the agreed maximum cost and will cover the five frames, bees, brood, food and delivery. Additional services (follow up visits etc.) or supplies (additional frames, foundation feeding etc.) that are agreed between the two parties should be fully documented between both parties with costs specified.

Collection or Delivery:

The supply period is likely to be from May through to mid-July, though the weather will play a large part in the timing.

The date and time for collection or delivery will be agreed between the Supplier and the Purchaser.

The Supplier will assist with transferring the frames to the Purchaser's hive on delivery if required.

Delivery (if required) will be to an apiary within a 20 mile radius of Dunblane. Any travel costs in addition to this specified distance should be mutually agreed.

A date for the Purchaser to return the brood or nuc box (if left) is to be agreed between the Purchaser and the Supplier. The return is the responsibility of the Purchaser (unless agreed as part of the sale).

Costs incurred for additional visits (unless the problem stems from the supply) would be the responsibility of the Purchaser and agreed with the Supplier.

Code of Conduct

Any problems should be raised within 28 days of the completion of the transaction, and the aim would be for the Supplier and Purchaser to resolve the situation amicably. In the event that the problem cannot be resolved between the two parties, DSBA will assist with communication and resolution where there is a written request. A panel of three DSBA Trustees would meet and aim to resolve any issue. The panel's decision would be final.

DSBA take no part in handling any financial aspect of this arrangement.

Suppliers who do not wish to agree to the above guidelines should advise DSBA by email to supplies@dunblanebeekeepers.co.uk and they will be removed from the Suppliers list.

Agreed by the Board April 24