



Tim Lovett

Director of Public Affairs

Past President

BBKA

The BBKA



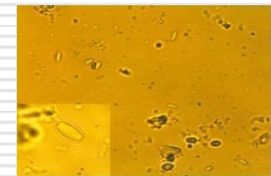
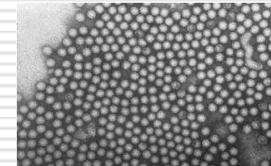
- ❑ National Association of beekeepers made up by 64 Area (county) Associations comprising 220 Local Divisions or Branches
- ❑ 20,500 members (+ 8,000 in last 30 months)
- ❑ Educational Charity – No: 212025
- ❑ Governed by an Executive Committee of 13 Trustees reporting to its Annual Delegate Meeting
- ❑ Objects: i) to promote and further the craft of beekeeping
ii) to advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment

Threats to honey bees



Diseases:

- Foul Brood (American and European - notifiable)
- New exotics (Small Hive Beetle, Tropilaelaps – notifiable)
- Varroa
- Viruses
- Microsporidians – Nosema apis and ceranae
- Colony Collapse Disorder - CCD?



Weather

Habitat – Forage availability

Bad beekeeping

Regulatory effects – veterinary medicines regulations

Pesticides



The BBKA & Pesticides



BBKA approach is pragmatic

Necessary to meet food requirements

Major contribution to productivity

Safety depends on correct use & stewardship

Risk based rather than hazard based



BBKA Engagement



Historically damage to colonies a problem

BBKA engaged with agro-chem companies reducing losses notably (1990s onwards)

Input to UK pesticides guide – good practice

Emphasis on best practice & stewardship

Dialogue with companies to be properly informed



BBKA objectives



Neonicotinoids appear to be a step forward

Conflicting / insufficient data on possible sub-lethal effects

BBKA calls urgently for more research

Regulatory environment must be updated also

Concerns: i) immediate ban may slow research

ii) older / dirtier products may fill the gap

Appropriate action must be based on evidence