



Sussex Beekeepers Association Annual Bee Market Auction

Comprehensive Rules, Responsibilities, and Procedures

1. Organiser's Role

The Sussex Beekeepers Association ("the Organiser") facilitates the auction but does not own, inspect, test, or certify any items for sale. The Organiser is not liable for the condition, safety, or suitability of any auctioned items. All risks associated with the use of second-hand beekeeping equipment are accepted by buyers and sellers.

2. Item Condition and Disease Control

- All items are sold **as-seen** and **without warranty**. No guarantees are provided regarding condition, safety, completeness, or suitability.
- Buyers must inspect items before bidding and are responsible for cleaning, sterilising, or scorching equipment before use.
- The Organiser does not verify disease status or cleanliness. Buyers accept all risks, including those related to diseases such as AFB, EFB, nosema, and wax moth etc.
- All equipment must be sterilised before acceptance and use. Electrical goods must be PAT tested.

3. Auction Participation

- Bidders must register before taking part and obtain a bidding card from the Treasurer.
- Buyers agree that items are offered as-seen and without warranty.
- The auctioneer's decision is final; bids are binding once accepted.
- All items must be paid for and collected on the day of the auction. Items not collected may be disposed of at the Organiser's discretion.
- Goods will only be released upon presentation of a receipt issued by the Treasurer.

4. Seller Responsibilities

- Sellers must be the legal owners of items and accept all risks until sold.
- Items must be of reasonable quality; unsafe or unsuitable items will be excluded by the Committee. Drawn comb, rusty tin-wear, and non-beekeeping items will not be accepted.
- Sellers agree that items are offered as-seen and without warranty.
- A commission of 10% will be deducted from the selling price.
- Payment for items sold will be made by direct BACS transfer to the seller's account within 2 weeks of the auction. Account details will need to be provided to the treasurer at the time or immediately after the auction by email.
- A non-returnable entry fee of 50p per lot applies. Starting bids are at least £2.00; reserve prices may be set.



- Once an item is accepted for auction and booking is completed, it cannot be withdrawn from sale.
- Vendors entering items are deemed to have accepted these conditions.

5. Bee Sales – Special Regulations

- All hives of bees must be accompanied by a Certificate of Description, completed and signed by a National Bee Unit inspector within 14 to 2 days before the sale.
- Bees must be delivered in secure, ventilated containers, marked with the seller's postcode and telephone number, and accompanied by the original signed Certificate of Description.
- Bees cannot be released or opened at the venue. The vendor must provide a travel screen and hive strap if appropriate.
- All lots of bees are sold only by the description in the Certificate; buyers may rely on this as a fair indication of contents.
- Both buyer and seller agree that their details may be provided to the National Bee Unit for disease traceability.
- Disputes about bee descriptions must be reported to the Treasurer within 24 hours, with the lot presented within 48 hours. The Treasurer's decision is final and may result in annulment of the sale or a price adjustment up to 20%.

6. Safety and Risk Management

- Clear "sold as-seen" signage and disclaimers will be on display.
- Unsafe items will be rejected; the auction area must be kept tidy and free of trip hazards.
- Heavy items should be placed low; gloves provided for volunteers handling old equipment.
- All auction lots, including bees, must be cleared from the venue by the specified time. Unsold goods and money should be collected from the relevant stalls unless otherwise arranged.