

RULES OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION AUCTION (updated 2024)

1. The Auction of Bees and Beekeeping equipment is being organised by the Gloucestershire Beekeepers' Association, (hereinafter called 'The Association'), acting solely in the capacity of agent between the Buyer and Seller.
 2. The Association will appoint Stewards to supervise the running of the Auction, and an Auctioneer to conduct the bidding. The Stewards have the right to refuse entry of any Lots of bees or equipment without giving the reasons for doing so.
 3. A 'Buyers Number' system will be used to speed up selling. Before the sale all prospective Buyers must obtain a numbered card from the Auction office, at a cost of £5, giving their full name, address and phone number. Bids will normally be in steps of not less than £1.00 and bids will not be accepted without showing a bidder's card to the auctioneer's steward on concluding a successful bid. Only one bidder's card will be issued to any individual for the full duration of the sale, and will not be re-issued under any circumstances. This Card must be surrendered to the Auction office on settlement of your account at the end of the Auction.
 4. The Auctioneer will have the right to accept or reject any bid, and in the case of any dispute the Auctioneer's decision is final. All sales transactions, other than those carried out by an authorised equipment supplier, must be carried out via the official auctioneer, the Association reserves the right to charge commission if it becomes aware of private transactions taking place on the Auction site.
 5. Lots are sold 'as seen' and the Association takes no responsibility for any statements or descriptions of the lot(s) made by or on behalf of the Vendor, and no statement by any member of the Association will be deemed a guarantee of the value or worth of the Lots sold.
 6. When selling several identical Lots, the auctioneer may offer the bidders a 'Buyers Option'. That is that the successful bidder for the first lot has the option on the remaining Lots at the same price. If the offer is not taken, then normal bidding restarts.
 7. Commission will be charged to the Vendor at 12.5%. No commission is charged to the Buyer or on any unsold Lots.
 8. The Vendor must complete an Auction Entry Form, supplied by the Association and shall include the following information:-
 - (i) The name, address and phone number of the Vendor
 - (ii) A description of the goods
 - (iii) Any reserve (if required)
 - (iv) The signature of the Vendor
- The signature of the Vendor confirms that they agree to abide by these rules and any directions or decisions of the Auctioneer, and Auction stewards without reservation.
9. Lots may only be entered on the day of the sale. Items will only be accepted at the Auction site between 8.00am and 11.00am on the day of the sale. All items must be checked in by a steward, and details of each lot entered on an Auction entry form, bidding will commence at 12.00 midday.
 10. Lots of live bees may be entered for Auction at the sale.

It is the Seller's responsibility to contact their Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI) to certify that the colonies to be entered in the sale are free from notifiable pests and disease. The inspection of the colonies will take place at the Seller's apiary within 14 days of the day of the Auction. Each colony is to be accompanied by an original **Live Bees Entry form** signed by both the SBI and the Seller. The Certificate of Inspection part of the Live bees Entry form is to be signed by the SBI

and the Seller's declaration part of the Live bees Entry form is to be signed by the Seller. GBKA will retain the Certificate of Inspection and the Buyer is to retain the Seller's declaration. At the time of the inspection the SBI will mark both hive parts and all frames in the colony.

No colonies will be accepted for sale without an original signed Live bees Entry form.

11. The bees must be delivered to the Auction by 9:00 on the morning of the sale. The colonies will be inspected on the day of the sale by an appointed experienced beekeeper to ascertain the state of the colony, its suitability for sale and to confirm that all frames and hive parts bear the mark of the SBI.

All Lots must be removed by the Seller (if unsold) or the Buyer (if sold) before 19.00 on the day of the sale. The Seller is responsible for ensuring safety and security until a lot is sold; immediately thereafter the Buyer is responsible.

GBKA will forward the details of both Sellers and Buyers to the National Bee Unit. The GBKA will not be held liable for any deficiency or misrepresentation by the Vendor, nor enter into any arbitration on behalf of the purchaser should there be any form of dispute with the Vendor at any time.

12. Lots become the property of the Buyer at the drop of the hammer. Unsold Lots and Lots failing to reach their reserve price remain the responsibility of the Vendor.

13. Payment must be made on the day of the sale, before goods are removed, and can be by cash, cheque or card.

14. No Lots may be removed from the Auction site without a copy of the purchase receipt form issued by the Auction office, after payment has been made, for all of the Lots bought by any individual bidder. For security reasons all Lots leaving the Auction will be checked against the purchase receipt. Small items will be retained by the Auction stewards and will be released at the end of the sale on production of the payment receipt form bearing the appropriate lot number.

15. Payment to Vendors, after deduction of commission, will be by cheque about 45 days after the Auction.

16. All Lots must be removed from the Auction site by 6.00pm on the day of the sale. The association reserves the right to dispose of Lots left on site after this time, and a minimum disposal charge of £25 will be levied.

17. Traders are welcome to sell equipment at the Auction. The cost is £20 per stand.

18. The Association will not be held responsible for any loss, damage, injury, illness or accident, whatever the cause, occurring before, during or after the Auction.