



Statement: Research Fund grant for Acoustic Analysis Study

13 February 2012: The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) announces a grant of £5,600 from its Research Fund to Arnia, a bee research and development company founded by Dr Huw Evans and his co-worker Sandra Evans. The money will be used to conduct research into the use of acoustic analysis to quantify colony disturbance and settling down times following different hive inspection regimes.

The technology involves the use of modern digital signal processors and algorithms designed to recognise specific signals produced by different bee behaviours. This sophisticated technology will be used to investigate and produce data on a subject on which beekeepers disagree and could have implications on the practices employed by beekeepers worldwide.

Huw is very pleased to be working with beekeepers from the Wisborough Green BKA and BBKA Trustee Roger Patterson who will be coordinating the practical work in the apiary.

BBKA members may have heard Huw's work featured on BBC Radio recently. Dr David Aston, Chairman of the BBKA, said: "It is very rewarding for the BBKA to become involved in this work and the use of this technology which may find answers to a number of beekeeping problems that affect all beekeepers."

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For further information please contact: Dr David Aston - david.aston@bbka.org.uk

Note to editors:

About the BBKA:

The BBKA, an educational charity set up in 1874, is the UK's leading organisation representing beekeepers. We promote:

- * the importance of bees in the environment;
- * support for beekeepers through education necessary to maintain healthy colonies of honey bees;
- * awareness of the craft of beekeeping; on behalf of our members, we lobby Government, the EU and





Official Bodies on the importance of providing adequate funding for honey bee research.

About the BBKA Research Fund:

Research, whether investigative or applied, is expensive and the BBKA has to decide where and how its funds can be invested to best effect. The BBKA may support a project with seed corn funding, or part fund a Ph.D studentship or be one of a number of organisations involved in supporting research. The BBKA also considers applications from beekeepers for funding support for scientifically robust research projects.

The BBKA Research Fund has committed £83,800 towards bee research since 2010.

Current projects financially supported by the BBKA include:

University of Sussex: Supporting the work of the Hygienic Bees project;

University of Keele: Measuring pesticide levels in beeswax in honey bee colonies;

University of Keele: Improving Honey Bee Health by Enhancing the Palatability of Food Supplements; and

Ron Hoskins: Increasing the gene pool of honey bees showing hygienic behaviour to Varroa destructor.

For details of how to submit an application for research funding please email david.aston@bbka.org.uk or write to the National Beekeeping Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.

