



Coronavirus support package from the IBAClg

22/03/2020

Chairperson Jacqui Glisson

Dear Beekeeping Friends,

What a strange new world we find ourselves in.

It's a worrying time for everyone and we wanted to let you know that we are here to help.

The directors of IBAClg got together to see what we could do to support our members. We have come up with a number of initiatives that we hope will make things easier for you.

Firstly, we have setup a new dedicated email address to support a number of initiatives which we'll now describe helpline@irishbeekeepersassociation.com

I am going to hand you over to our secretary; Garrett Dempsey, who will explain the first initiative.

Initiative 1. Online Beekeeping courses

As a consequence of the coronavirus epidemic a number of our associations have been unable to start or complete their beginners courses.

To that end the IBAClg are offering their expertise and [zoom](#) webinar account to all its associations to enable you to complete your courses online. It will be entirely your content and your lecturers delivering the course to your beginners. All we will be doing is facilitating the IT side.

If this is something you would like to avail of please contact us at helpline@irishbeekeepersassociation.com

I am now going to hand you over to our treasurer; Denis O'Sullivan, who is going to explain initiative 2 to you.

Initiative 2. Association Aid package

We realise that associations will find this time difficult and will have to explore new ways to keep their members in contact and updated. Not only will we be unable to meet in person but many of us will be worried about income and job security.

To that end the IBAclg will be setting up a fund to help our associations through this tough time. In essence we will be setting some money aside for associations to help them to set up new ways to communicate to its members. Technology is proving the most popular answer to this at the moment but perhaps associations have other requirements. The IBA are willing to help support these. Obviously this is not an open purse, but if associations are willing to explain their requirement proposal and how their innovative ideas will work for them, then IBA will certainly help support their idea. We would love to hear from you.

To find out more about this fund and how to apply for it please email helpline@irishbeekeepersassociation.com Terms and conditions will apply.

So, over to Alan Forskitt, our H&S Officer, to discuss initiative 3.

Initiative 3. Bee Buddies

This is going to be a very lonely time for many of us. There are going to be a group of beekeepers out there who will no longer be able to see their grandchildren or use the internet to get in contact with their loved ones.

We are appealing to all associations to identify those vulnerable beekeepers in their association and to set up a support system for those beekeepers. What we envisage is that the beekeeper is contacted by a member of your committee and asked if they would like to take part in the initiative. Once you have consent, volunteers within the association, preferably the same person and one that the beekeeper already knows, will then phone that person once a week for a chat about bees. If there is no one available within your association to make the calls please let me know at helpline@irishbeekeepersassociation.com and we will arrange for someone to make the phone calls on your behalf.

Now Derek Hanley from our PRO committee will be discussing our next initiative.

Initiative 4. WEBINARS: Enjoying something during the coming weeks of social isolation.

There are a lot of recent initiatives to alleviate the difficulties of working from home in the company of many family members, more than we may be used to. The PRO subcommittee is working on a number of webinars with very simple topics.

The first one will be an introduction to honey bees and pollinators. The webinars will be broadcast live to allow for a Q&A session and then uploaded to our [YouTube](#) channel for viewing at a later date. Nobody should expect to become an expert beekeeper after watching these short presentations, this is just an attempt by IBA to communicate with our membership and engender an interest in honeybees, other bees and pollinators amongst the general population.

Check our [website](#), [facebook](#) page or our twitter feed for further details.

We will also be running some live quizzes to follow on from the webinars.

Check the [calendar](#) on our website for details.

www.irishbeekeepersassociation.com

I will now hand you back to our chairperson, Jacqui.

Conclusion

Folks I just want you to know we are there for you.

If you can think of any other way the IBA clg can make things easier for you, [please let us know](#).

If you just need to talk, reach out to us via the helpline@irishbeekeepersassociation.com and someone will return your call.

Stay safe and well. Our thoughts are with you all.

And remember, keep a social distance and wash your hands.