

What is the Native Irish Honey Bee Society?

The Native Irish Honey Bee Society (NIHBS) was established in November 2012 by a group of beekeepers who wish to support the various strains of Native Irish Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) throughout the country. It is a cross border organisation and is open to all. It consists of members and representatives from all corners of the island of Ireland.

Aims

- To promote the conservation, study, improvement and re-introduction of *Apis mellifera mellifera* (Native Irish Honey Bee), throughout the island of Ireland.
- To establish areas of conservation throughout the island for the conservation of the Native Honey Bee.
- To promote formation of bee improvement groups.
- To provide education on bee improvement and to increase public awareness of the native honey bee.
- To act in an advisory capacity to groups and individuals who wish to promote it.
- To co-operate with other beekeeping organisations with similar aims.
- To seek the help of the scientific community and other stake holders in achieving our aims and objectives.

www.nihbs.org

www.facebook.com/native-irish-honey-bee-society

Why are Native Honey Bees Important?

- Known as 'Black Bees' due to appearance, but colouration may vary
- Naturally adapted to the Irish climate
- Can be very docile with low swarming tendencies
- Small populations, longevity and ability to fly in poor weather make them ideal for Irish honey production
- Excellent at sparing their stores during bad weather
- Can fly at lower temperatures
- Good honey producers, even in poor weather conditions
- Genetically diverse populations in Ireland

Native Irish Honey Bees are under threat due to hybridisation with foreign strains.



Imports could introduce bee diseases not yet found in Ireland.

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Native Irish
Honey Bee Society
Apis mellifera mellifera

Information & Membership Form



Membership Form (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Email (PRINT): _____

@ _____

Membership fee €25/£25 (1 years membership)

Note: Membership received after September 30 will begin the following January

Please tick

relevant box New member Renewal

Do you wish to assist in the work of NIHBS in the future? **yes / no**

Do you wish to receive emails on updates and events? **yes / no**

Do you wish for your name/general location to be known to other members? **yes / no**

Please send this form and membership fee to

NIHBS Membership Secretary: Mary Hyland,
Dromcroman, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim

Email: nihbs.membership@gmail.com

**Cheques and postal orders made payable to the
Native Irish Honey Bee Society**

Alternatively membership fee can be paid via

Paypal on www.nihbs.org/become-a-member-2/

(send form onto Membership Secretary)

Please tear here

Why Join NIHBS?

By joining NIHBS, you will be helping to support the Native Irish Honey Bee

During the summer, NIHBS help to run and support workshops on queen rearing throughout the island of Ireland. These prove to be very successful and encourage more individual beekeepers and groups to breed the native Irish honey bee. For reports on past workshops, log onto our website.



Members of NIHBS are eligible for schemes coordinated by NIHBS. Such as the Honey Label Scheme.

To date, NIHBS have organised a very successful conference with over 250 attendees. The conference consisted of high profile Irish and international speakers. There are plans for similar events for the future.



NIHBS provides information as to where to obtain Native Honey Bees and Queens. They also hold a list of reputable breeders and suppliers.

NIHBS provides Information on events around Ireland – North and South

Members are eligible for discounts on events run by NIHBS

By joining NIHBS, you will be in contact with a network of other interested beekeepers

NIHBS provide members with a quarterly colour journal – *The Four Seasons*

It contains interesting articles and practical advice from beekeepers in Ireland and abroad, with many contributions from members and non members alike.



NIHBS helps support scientific research into *Apis mellifera mellifera*. Projects currently being carried out in educational institutes include DNA sampling (LIT) and monitoring for varroa tolerance (NUIG).

