

Quartermaster's report 2025

During 2025, Alan and Chris offloaded some of the quartermaster duties to me. I now keep an eye on stock levels and arrange purchase of jars and lids, fondant and syrup when required. I arrange deliveries and coordinate with logistic companies and unload and stack stock. I also arrange collections by members particularly in the winter months when the apiary is closed.

Issues arising in 2025.

Generally the supply of stock has run smoothly. I look around for the most competitive suppliers before purchase and currently we are using Rawlings for jars and lids and Wyefield Apiaries for fondant and syrup. Rawlings have announced a 8% price increase from 01/01/2026. We did purchase "syrup in a box" from Gwenyn Gruffydd, which was considerably cheaper than jerry can supplies but the inner plastic lining failed on a couple of occasions leading to leakage. We have now reverted to plastic jerry cans for syrup supply.

Logistics companies have negotiated the track to the Kennels Apiary at Shugborough but regularly complain of low hanging branches brushing against their 18 ton trucks. I advise at point of purchase on access issues and recommended maximum size of suitable vehicles (7.5 ton).

Supplying members during the open season has occurred on Saturday mornings after inspections and Thursday evenings. Payment and collection is arranged through a member who has the "Square" app on his/her phone. I arrange collections with members when the apiary is closed. Members are advised on the two methods of payment (credit card on Square at collection or prior BACS payment with proof of transaction) via the Newsletter.

Recommendations for 2026

- More strongly worded advice to suppliers at point of purchase re size of delivery vehicle used by logistics companies.
- Possible trimming back of branches by NT on access track to Kennels.
- Continued regular notifications in the Newsletter to members on how to pay and how to collect supplies.
- During the open season, it would be helpful for members, if there was a list of members who had the "Square" app on their phones who could be approached for payment and supply (I am not able to be regularly available for this during the open season).
- Members with "Square" on their phones to check they are signed in, currently by Chris or Alan, every 90 days.

Steve Gibbins 19/01/2026