Hi there, welcome to the world of beekeeping. It is an exciting one and a lifelong learning curve. The best advice I can give to beginners is to join your local association. They will have a wealth of experience and knowledge you can tap into. Finding a beginner’s course or an experienced mentor is a bonus, and your local association will hopefully help with that. You can find out if there is a local association near to you from the Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA) website. Please see a list of useful websites below.

Key advice for beginners is: -

* **Learn as much as you can.**
* **Join a local association**
* **Get experience before getting bees**
* **Be aware that second hand equipment or swarms may have disease**
* **Join Bee Base**
* **Get a local mentor if possible**

It is worth joining the SBA as it provides a wealth of accurate evidence-based information that is relevant to Scotland. Beware of information you find on the internet, and you tube as much of it is either for a different country or climate and it can be full of misinformation. Joining the SBA also provides you with public liability insurance.

The other key source of information is Bee Base. I highly recommend you join as it is free and full of excellent resources on Beekeeping and the health of honeybees. There is also the bonus of being notified if you are near an outbreak of notifiable diseases such as EFB and AFB. Bee base provides lots of information and advice on pests and diseases which is invaluable to keeping health bees.

If you ever suspect your bees may have a notifiable disease, please email Bees\_Mailbox@gov.scot urgently for advice.

If you need advice on your bees or beekeeping, feel free to get in touch. I wish you all the very best and hope you have happy, health bees.

<https://scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/>

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/>