



## South Tipperary Beekeepers' Association

*Fact Sheet no. 9*

Good record keeping is essential for proper management of your bees. Without records it is almost impossible to track the important parameters that determine whether or not you collect a crop of honey. Each question should be answered whenever a colony is opened. The below is an example and you may adapt your own system but whatever you use Hooper's five questions must be answered.

### Example of Hive Record Card

Date	1 Room	2 QPL	3 Develop	4 Disease	5 Stores	A Docility	B Steadiness	C Brood Pattern	D Pollen Storage	E Comb Build	Comments
5/6/11	Sup	Cmqo	7 Br	Chb	½ Gal	3	0	3	2	1	

### Hoopers 5 Questions

1. Has the colony sufficient room  
(Answer: Super needed next visit)
2. Is the Queen present and laying the expected quantity of eggs.  
(Answer: Clipped & marked Queen 2011 – 2010 Queen not seen).
3. Is the colony development as fast as others? Any Queen cells?  
(Answer: 7 Frames with Brood. No Queen cells Present).
4. Are there any signs of disease or abnormality?  
(Answer: Chalk Brood present)
5. Are there sufficient stores to last until the next inspection?  
(Answer: Feed a half gallon of syrup).

The interpretations below were devised by Michael Mac Giolla Coda

The Headings and recordings for the five additional columns A,B, C, D, E, may be interpreted as follows:

A =	Docility (Non jumping, non stinging, non following)
B =	Steadiness on comb (Absence of running)
C =	Brood Pattern (Compactness of brood, absence of empty cells).
D =	Pollen Storage (Pollen packed over, around, and under the brood nest)
E =	Comb Building (Speed in occupying supers, drawing foundation, honey storage, and quality of comb capping).

A rating of 0 to 5 is given to each of these characteristics.

- |   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| 0 | = | Unsatisfactory |
| 1 | = | Satisfactory   |
| 2 | = | Good           |
| 3 | = | Very Good      |
| 4 | = | Excellent      |
| 5 | = | Outstanding    |

