



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

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Edition 13

April 2019

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Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the April 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter. Spring has finally sprung – bees flying and plenty of pollen about although some colonies are reportedly low on stores. Saturday 30 March was the first bee related auction of the season at Lincoln and it was like a school re-union with lots of familiar faces recounting their beekeeping successes (and failures) since we last met.

Several lots of bees were being offered for sale and prices ranged from £150 for a good sized nuc to £250 for a full hive. As I write this piece the annual Spring Conference is looming and I am getting ready for a 'cracking day out' as Wallace and Gromit would say.

The YBKA Education officer, Elaine Robinson, is on a mission to encourage all associations to think about planning for the Basic Assessment. She is keen to raise awareness of the benefits of taking what is sometimes referred to as '*the beekeepers driving licence*'.

Apparently, the average percentage of BBKA members having ever passed to assessment is 22% with their goal being to achieve a 45% figure.

Yorkshire BKA, the largest county association in the country, have a figure of only 17% with nearby Lancashire and Sheffield having success rates of 33% and 38% respectively.

So, let's have a concerted effort, with the help of association education officers, to encourage all of our membership to take the basic.

And finally, congratulations to Yvonne Kilvington of Huddersfield BKA who has been recruited by a new ecology charity to enhance ecology education in schools. Yvonne was previously our Education Officer and will now work with the charity's support to increase the number of schools involved in beekeeping. You can read more about this in the April edition of BBKA News.

Phil Gee – Chairman

Asian Hornet

Identification Posters

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BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT 2019

'The Basic' is a recognised BBKA qualification, which leads to a 'Proficiency in Apiculture certificate'. It is a way of validating your abilities to manage a colony of bees and is also useful if you want to prove this to others, as well being a source of personal satisfaction. For example, many Local Authorities will ask to see your Basic certificate, if you ever wish to keep bees on one of their allotments. It is also a part of the wider BBKA Education program, if you'd like to educate yourself further and improve your beekeeping skills.

The assessment takes around an hour, run by a qualified BBKA assessor, it's practical / oral only and involves opening & working a colony of bees and answering some key questions, most of which you'll know already. The assessment will be held either at your local association apiary or one of your local association committee member's apiaries.

There is a syllabus for the **BBKA Basic assessment** (see link at the bottom of this article) & whilst at first glance it may seem comprehensive, it really lists all the things a beekeeper will or should know with 1 or more years' experience. The pass rate is 97% and the Assessors are keen for everyone who enters to pass, they treat it as an opportunity to coach as well as ask questions

If you'd like to apply to take the assessment this Summer, you need to be a current Member of the BBKA / your local Yorkshire association. You should complete the **application form** ([click here for form](#)) and **send this to your local association Education officer or the person in charge of Education in your local association**. The cost is just **£20** (payable to BBKA by cheque or you can call direct to pay over the phone).

Your local association education officer will be keen to support your application and may have a scheme in place to help you prepare for it, this Summer. See the table for who your local Education officer is.

All assessments take place between May and 31 August, they take time to arrange, so don't delay your application.

BBKA syllabus details are here

https://archive.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations_assessments/basic_assessment

Who Is Your Association Education Officer?

If you want to do the BASIC assessment in 2019, these are the people to contact at the various associations

Association	Education contact
Barkston Ash	Graham Crerar
Barnsley	
Beverley	Simon Maslin
Darlington	Derek Lindsay
Doncaster	Linda Richards
Easingwold	
Halifax	Elaine Robinson
Huddersfield	David Fahey
Airedale	Chris Hardy

Mead Course
Click here
to book online

Leeds	Cath Graham
Malton	
North Allerton	
Richmond	Peter Russell
Bradford	Dave Lamont
Ryedale	Rhona Sutherland
Scarborough	
Rotherham	Bronwen White
York & District	Julia Smith
Wharfedale	Laurie Prowse
Wakefield	Mark Millard
Whitby	Tony Jefferson

Asian Hornet
Identification Posters
For Printing
[**Click Here**](#)

AHAT - Asian Horney Action Teams – Join the team

– Contact Ivor

You will have noted in various sources (eg BBKA News) that there are several initiatives intended to thwart the build-up of any Asian Hornet colonies. The emergence of hornet queens is the initial concern and, although we are situated in the northern region of the UK this is not a reason for complacency. YBKA is keen to ensure all our districts are as well informed as possible and we'd like to play a part in supporting members to set up monitoring traps, encourage recruitment of AHAT's and we are considering the idea of purchasing traps which districts can use.

Ivor Flatman will be our co-ordinator, the first port of call if any Asian hornet locations are suspected. To this end it would be helpful if you could supply the name of one of your members who would be prepared to liaise with Ivor should any problems arise. Please supply the details of this person to Ivor Flatman as soon as possible? It should be stressed that beekeepers are not expected to deal with any AH nests or follow up sightings themselves, but it is important that any sightings/captured hornets are reported to the NBU/NNSS via the AH watch app, email etc. Hopefully AH sightings will not be too widespread and the NBU will coordinate any response for the present.

Contact: Ivor Flatman AHAT Co-ordinator - ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk

Mead Course

Click here to book online

Do your BASIC beekeeping Assessment in 2019

It's easy, It's awesome, it helps to improve your skills

Book through your association education officer

Go back and read the article you've just passed



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

A Beginner's Course in Meads and Melomel- Making

Places Still Available

Back by popular demand, a one-day taster course on the making of honey meads/wine both dry and sweet, plus how to make honey fruit melomels
The course will be held at the YBKA headquarters Pavilion on the Harrogate show ground on **Saturday 14th of September**.

The course costs just **£35** to include a starter kit. Your tutors for the day will be senior honey judges **Dave Shannon** and **Tony Jefferson**. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided throughout, but please bring a packed lunch.

Start time is 10am. We will break for lunch around 12.30pm and resume at 1pm. Course to end around 3pm

All attendees will receive a free starter mead/ melomel pack in with the course price, to enable you to start your first gallon of brew on your return home. Everything required (except the honey) will be in the starter kit.



[A selection of two or three meads and melomels will be on hand for attendees to sample in the afternoon after the talks.](#)
[We look forward to hosting another successful course for our members. We have just 24 places on the course, bookable via the YBKA website, click here to book, allocated on a first come first served basis, so don't delay in booking!](#)

YBKA Education Summary

1. Study days are to be arranged later this year for Modules 5,6 and 8, to cover the remaining modules. Most modules will then have been covered over a 2-year period. Dates tba, though likely to run between October and Feb 2019/20. We need experienced beekeepers with good communication skills and knowledge on these subjects to help as tutors. Anyone who is prepared to come forward to help should contact Elaine (education@ybka.org.uk or mobile 07734306895. These courses are only possible with the help and support of tutors, who are willing to share their knowledge and help other, less experienced, beekeepers

The average % of BBKA Members who have passed the Basic as a % of overall membership, is 22%. For Yorkshire, just 17% of our Members have passed the Basic.

BBKA's stated goal is to increase this to 45% of Members who have passed the Basic. The 'best' associations are Twickenham & Thames Valley 46%; Buckinghamshire & Surrey both with 37% and Gloucestershire 35%. Closer to home Lancashire achieves 33%.

If you've kept bees for a year and would like to achieve recognition for your beekeeping skills, contact your Local Education Officer in your association, who will be able to discuss what's involved and how to apply this season. With a 95% pass rate in Yorkshire and nationally, it's a relatively easy way to achieve a recognised qualification for being a better beekeeper!

Asian Hornet Information

THE BBKA IS URGING ITS MEMBERS TO ACT NOW IN ORDER TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DETECTION OF ASIAN HORNETS

Defra has issued new advice that all beekeepers, in areas of the country where there are no Asian Hornets at present, should set out MONITORING traps for Asian Hornets baited with meat or fish late in the year. Early in the year, something sweet.

[For an NBU guide on how to make a trap, click here \(PDF document\)](#)

[For an NBU video guide on how to make an Asian hornet trap, click here \(you tube video\)](#)

[Government news article here. UK sightings in 2018](#)

[A very good documentary about the Asian hornet and its effects in Italy with an English voice over. Click Here](#)

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conference online

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YBKA Husbandry Skills Improvement

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conference online

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Programme 2019

Do you know how to:

- Inspect your colonies for brood diseases?
- Control the swarming instinct in your bees?
- Replace old comb in your hives?
- Maintain the attributes of your best colony in future generations?
- Guard against pests and predators?
- Recognise problems and know how best to deal with them?
- Recognise adult bees and know correct treatments?

If the answer is no, you will be interested in the

YBKA Husbandry

Yorkshire Beekeepers Association (YBKA) aims to help beekeepers improve their skills and knowledge through a series of practical sessions held throughout the year. The sessions are designed to improve the skills of beekeepers and help them to become more successful in their beekeeping. The sessions are held at various locations throughout the Yorkshire region and are open to all beekeepers, whether they are beginners or experienced. The sessions are held at various locations throughout the Yorkshire region and are open to all beekeepers, whether they are beginners or experienced.

Please note that candidates must have kept bees for 3 years or more.

Brief details of the training are:

Session 1: 12th May at Doncaster. Tutors

Overview of the BBKA General Husbandry Award, hive records, dealing with vicious bees and frame change and Shook Swarm techniques.

Session 2: 2nd June at Huddersfield. Tutors Mark Millard & Tony Jefferson

Lifecycle of the queen, breeding through selection, principles of nucleus hives. Demonstration of queen raising methods e.g. cupping up nuclei. Finding, marking and clipping the queen and uniting colonies.

Session 3: 22nd June at Whitby. Tutors Tony Jefferson & Brian Lightfoot

How to inspect for diseases of the honeybee, taking samples of bees for disease testing & varroa control. Swarm control (Artificial Swarm & Snelgrove), moving bees and preparing hives for winter,

See panel on right, for booking details

Photographs courtesy of Christine Balshaw, YBKA Member



Sold Out

To Book:

Number of participants are limited to 12 per session

So book early to avoid disappointment

Cost is £20 per session

Bookings close three

Bookings are provided.

Book through YBKA website

Book the YBKA Spring conference online

[Click here](#)



Saturday 6th April 2019 (08.30am to 4pm) at the Manor Academy, York, YO26 6PA

08.30-09.15 Registration and refreshments

09.15-09.30 Welcome and Introduction

09.30-09.45 Tony Jefferson, Jim and Geoff Pearson, Dave Shannon and Chris Coulson will explain how, where and when they will be running their workshops and drop-in clinics through the day

09.45-10.30 Dr Nicola Kay Simcock - Food for thought, the honeybee as a model animal for the study of physiology

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-11.45 Peter Lewis - The sensory analysis of honey

11.45-12.30 Tom Aspinall - Bumblebees and their ecology

12.30-13.45 Lunch

13.45-15.15 Workshops and discussion groups

Preparing bees for the heather - Tony Jefferson

Preparing honey exhibits for the show - Dave Shannon

Steam wax extraction - Chris Coulson

Selection of breeding stock - Jim Pearson

Skep making- Geoff Pearson

Asian Hornet trap construction – Committee members and NBU

15.15-15.30 Comfort break

15.30-16.00 Beekeepers' Question Time

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Workshops

01.45pm-02.30pm

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1a Tony Jefferson | Preparing the bees for the heather - Main hall |
| 2a Jim Pearson | Can I improve my bees by selective breeding - Balcony |
| 3a Dave Shannon | Preparing honey exhibits for showing - Performing Arts Studio |
| 4a Chris Coulson | Reclaiming bees wax - Activity Studio |

02.30pm-03.15pm

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1b Tony Jefferson | Preparing the bees for the heather - Main hall |
| 2b Jim Pearson | Can I improve my bees by selective breeding - Balcony |
| 3b Dave Shannon | Preparing honey exhibits for showing - Performing Arts Studio |
| 4b Chris Coulson | Reclaiming bees wax - Activity Studio |

There will be on-going demonstrations and practical guidance on skep making (Geoff Pearson) and Asian Hornet trap construction (members of the committee and NBU) in the Main Concourse throughout the day

01.45pm-02.30pm

Tony Jefferson (session A): Main hall (1a)
Jim Pearson (session A): Balcony (2a)
Dave Shannon (session A): Studio (3a)
Chris Coulson (session A): Activity (4a)

02.30pm-03.15pm

Tony Jefferson (session B): Main hall (1b)
Jim Pearson (session B): Balcony (2b)
Dave Shannon (session B): Studio (3b)
Chris Coulson (session B): Activity (4b)

Please note that delegates will this year be able to book the workshops they wish to attend in advance but these will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis so early booking is advised. Delegates should choose a reserve workshop for each session.

Workshop Notes

Tony Jefferson. Tony has many years of experience keeping bees in the Whitby area. He has always specialised in the production of Heather Honey being surrounded by the moors over on the East coast. Year on year he produces tons of honey which is always in very high demand. Tony has written several books on this topic and regularly wins prestigious competitions with this high-quality honey and has recently qualified as a Senior Honey Show Judge. This is a workshop not to be missed and all bee keepers are sure to pick up numerous valuable tips which will help improve their honey production.

Dave Shannon. Dave is an extremely experienced bee keeper (Doncaster BKA) who has excelled in the art of producing honey products to the highest possible standards. He has held the role of Chief Honey Steward for the YBKA for many years and is a fully qualified Chief Honey Judge officiating in the various Honey Shows throughout the year. If you are keen to hear the strategy you need to adopt to stand a chance of getting the top accolades and the tips from one of the top judges in the country then you won't be disappointed.

Jim Pearson. Jim is an experienced bee-man and a master bee keeper. He has dedicated a great deal of time to the art of improving his bees (he claims to be in search of the 'perfect bee') and does this by precise selective breeding. His aim is to help other bee keepers breed good-natured and productive colonies and he will go in to minute detail looking at all the pros and cons. This is a practical workshop which will benefit all bee keepers.

Chris Coulson. For over 40 years Chris has been a 'DIY bee keeper', has written and talked extensively on the subject and has recently made a couple of videos on DIY techniques. Initially, he confesses, the DIY angle was for economic reasons but then environmental ones took over. He now uses as much reclaimed and recyclable material as possible, ranging from food tins to church pews, cooker parts to old pans! He has made his own foundation since he started bee keeping, hence his interest in reclaiming and recycling bees wax. His session will deal with these matters and he'll discuss the methods he has adopted, some successful others not! He has recently built a steam wax extractor which needs more thought. Over the years he has tried to improve his wax recycling but considers this an ongoing process. Feel free to bring your ideas and comments to the workshop.

Geoff Pearson. Geoff needs very little introduction, he is well known for his humour and relaxed style. This workshop, which demonstrates the skills needed to make your own skeps, also gives further insights into how the skill of basket weaving can assist the bee keeper.

Jobs in the apiary in April

April for most Beekeepers prompts the start of a new season of beekeeping. Hopefully the awful winter wet and cold and this year's frosty, snow-blown, weather will have become a thing of the past, as pleasant spring-like warmer weather is starting to unfold.

Up to now you should not even have thought of venturing into your hives to carry out your first spring inspection for 2019. Even now, I must caution against this action if the temperature is below 13C. Ideally you want a temperature of 14 -15C before disturbing the inner brood boxes.

Patience is key. Impatience can be catastrophic for your colony. Young eggs and larva can quickly become chilled and die when exposed to cold winds and low temperatures. So, my message to you all is: be patient and allow the temperatures to rise before diving in and possibly losing colonies.

In April there is still very little nectar available for your bees in most areas. Where I am, the dandelions are starting to bloom, providing another source of pollen and will begin to produce some nectar as the temperatures rise. Many beginners overlook the importance of pollen, as a vital protein source for bees and one they cannot manage without. Without pollen, queens cease to lay causing colonies to collapse. Simply feeding copious amounts of sugar syrup to the bees in the autumn will not meet all their nutritional needs for overwintering. It is crucial to evaluate how much pollen is available too.

Placing pollen patties alongside your fondant parcels directly on top of the brood box, eliminates the possibility of your bees running out. If they don't take it, that's fine but it's best to err on the side of caution, especially as queens begin to increase their rate of lay with warmer weather.

When a nice warm day arrives, then we do our first inspection. We check that queens are laying well and that we have healthy-looking brood at all stages, with light-brown capping's and no perforations. We keep an eye out for any signs of disease, checking that larvae are glistening white with clear segmentation and not twisted and distorted within their cells. If you find anything to cause you concern, try to take a photo and first consult with a local, experienced, beekeeper. If you are still unsure, forward your photo to the Regional Bee Inspector to back up a phone discussion and identify whether your colony should be visited.

If you see your queen on the first inspection and this is not always the case, then make sure she is still well-marked. If not re-mark her. This will be of great value in the months to come.

Don't forget to insert your varroa floors to complete a mite check. For those who didn't use an oxalic acid treatment in mid-winter, this is another vital thing to check before the nectar flows begin. I always say if I find more than three mites on this inspection then I treat, before the problem escalates. Beginners should seek advice on the most appropriate treatments to use in the cooler springtime temperatures

When the temperature reaches 15C, quickly clean off any debris from the floors and any build up between your frames and on the frame lugs. Make sure your queen is down in the brood box before replacing your queen excluders, if removed for winter. If they were not removed, clean them, to make sure your bees can gain easy access through them. Open your entrances a little, to about two inches, as the bees start to get more active. Remove mouse guards now as they can strip off those vital pollen loads as the returning foragers squeeze through them.

Start building up your new frames for the season ahead, both brood and supers. Don't put in your wax foundation yet, but with all the woodwork completed, you can insert the fresh foundation when you're ready to use it. Fresh foundation, with a good aroma, stimulates the bees to draw it out. They are more likely to chew holes through frames of older, dried out foundation.

New-beekeepers, check you have enough boxes for the coming season! For every hive you should have at least 3 supers, an extra brood box and/or a nuke box. This will ensure you're not caught out when queen cells are found and you need to split your colonies.

For those members keeping bees in areas of arable crops, like rape, make sure your extractors are fully functional, oiled, cleaned and ready to go. Those who sell honey in jars should check their honey labels. Check your dates are correct and the labels conform to British honey labelling standards, very important and something that should be checked now before any flows start.

Try to follow these little tips and it will help you get your over-wintered bees building up good and strong.

[Just one other thing: by popular demand, Tony Jefferson and I are running another "How to Make Good Meads and Melomels" day, on Saturday 16th of September. If you want a place, see the flier in this edition of the newsletter for more details. Places are bookable on the YBKA website. We are limited to numbers on the day so get booked in good time to avoid being disappointed.](#)

Happy beekeeping
Dave Shannon.

Book the YBKA Spring conference online

[Click here](#)

District Events for All

Halifax and District BKA 2019 Events Calendar

Please note: **all winter meetings** start at 7.30pm at St Paul's Methodist Church, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax. HX6 2EQ

HBKA **summer meetings** have venue directions or a contact telephone number.

Wed 20th March to Wed 1st May - HBKA Beginners' Course – 7 weeks 7.30 - 9.30

(Price - £75), Good Shepherd RC Church, Cragg Vale, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA, Phil Gee – Tel: 01422 886114

Wednesday 10th April 2019 - "Simple Methods of Making Increase" - Making new colonies and raising queens without fancy methods. A talk by Wally Shaw, Anglesey BKA (A joint meeting with Huddersfield BKA)

Saturday 27th April 2019 - Joint Nosema Screening Day with Huddersfield BKA, Bring your own bee samples for testing. Taylor Hill Centre, Close Hill Lane, Huddersfield HD4 6LE.

Saturday 11th May HBKA - HBKA Auction with Mike Joyce, Brickhill Farm, Scholes, Cleckheaton, BD19 6LY. Tel: 01274 869644

Saturday 1st June - Preparation for Basic Assessment, Redacre Barn, Westfield Terrace, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5DQ

Saturday 15th June - HBKA Social and BBQ Lunch 1pm - 4pm (Speaker to be confirmed.) Brickhills Farm, Scholes, Cleckheaton, BD19 6LY. Tel: 01274 869644

Saturday 29th June - Basic Assessments, HBKA Association Apiary, Church Lane, Southowram

Saturday 13th July 2pm - Garden and Apiary Visit, Also "Heathers and Honey" – A talk by Tony Jefferson, Middle Fold Farm, Edge Lane, Hebden Bridge, HX7 7PG

Saturday 10th August - Halifax Show and Honey Show

Saturday 17th August 2.00pm - Apiary Visit, Also "Bees and Human Health" – A talk by Alan Brook

Saturday 14th September 2pm, Honey Extraction, Dianne and Jeff Gill Tel: 01422 367003

Wednesday 9th October - HBKA AGM

Saturday 26th October 10.00—12.00 Beginners and Mentors Review (Followed by lunch at the Hinchcliffe Arms Woodland View, Cragg Vale Halifax HX7 5TB. Tel: 01422 886114

Wednesday 13th November - "Research into hive activity and lessons learned" A talk by Jane Mossley, Eat Natural – Pollination

If your Association is running an event and is happy for members of other districts to attend, please e-mail details to me at: newsletter@ybka.org.uk and I will make sure it is included in the next issue

Science Behind Bee Keeping

Pesticides influence ground-nesting bee development and longevity

Results from a new study suggest that bees might be exposed to pesticides in more ways than we thought, and it could impact their development significantly. The study looks at the non-target effects of pesticides on ground-nesting bees, a group that actually makes up the majority of bee species.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190313160818.htm>

Honey bees can help monitor pollution in cities

Honey from urban bees can tell us how clean a city is and help pinpoint the sources of environmental pollutants such as lead, new research has found.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190311125141.htm>

Earning a bee's wings

When a honey bee turns 21 days old, she leaves the nest to look for pollen and nectar. For her, this is a moment of great risk, and great reward. It's also the moment at which she becomes recognizable to other bees.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190226112248.htm>

Beekeeping Related YouTube Videos

Life for the Bees

THE ITALIAN "EUROPEAN LIFE" PROJECT TO FIGHT THE INVASION OF THE ASIAN HORNET "VESPA VELUTINA NIGRITHORAX", A BEES'S PREDATOR ARRIVED FROM ASIA.

Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina*) are the real danger for beekeepers because they are attracted by hives, and are not interested in hunting other insects. Their arrival initially caused a slaughter. Whole apiaries were destroyed, and beekeepers were desperate. The fight began to contain this predator. Research institutes and associations of beekeepers got organized. With foresight, since Piedmont region could be the next area of invasion, the Observatory of Apiculture of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Sciences of the University of Turin presented a Life project, obtaining a European grant to develop a strategy to defeat the Asian predator hornet. The LIFE projects concerned with invasive species are one of the instruments that the European Union provide to prevent and fight their diffusion in Europe. LIFE STOPVESPA is a project developed by the University of Turin together with the Polytechnic of Turin, the Association of Beekeepers of Piedmont (ASPROMIELE) and the Abbey of the Benedictine Fathers of Santa Maria di Finalpia. Its aims are containing the diffusion of *Vespa velutina* in Italy, implementing an early-warning and rapid-response system, and developing new techniques to locate and remove colonial nests..."

<https://youtu.be/R5mkyb2KD6I>

Cutting Queen cells out to make honey bee splits

I demonstrate how to cut queen cells, and put them with a frame of bees to do splits. Beekeeping made easy. Beekeepers interested in making their own queens don't miss this video

<https://youtu.be/nP42nLfjq0Y>

YBKA Spring Conference

[Book online here or fill in the application form below.](#)



ANNUAL CONFERENCE (April 6th, 2019)

Application Form (Cost: £10 per person + optional buffet)

Full Name	
District/Association	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone(s)	
Email address	

LUNCH PREFERENCE

Own Packed Lunch (no additional charge)

Cold Buffet (£10)

WORKSHOPS

Session A (1.45 – 2.30)		Session B (2.30 – 3.15)	
Session A (Reserve):		Session B (Reserve):	

To book: either visit the YBKA website www.ybka.org.uk and book on-line, send a cheque (payable to Yorkshire Beekeepers Association) for £10/£20 to the YBKA secretary (Roger Chappel) :4, South View, Brafferton DLI 3LB
or pay by card over the 'phone:
01325 315741/07905 190701.

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COME & SEE US AT THE
BBKA SPRING CONVENTION
ON SAT 13TH APRIL 2019



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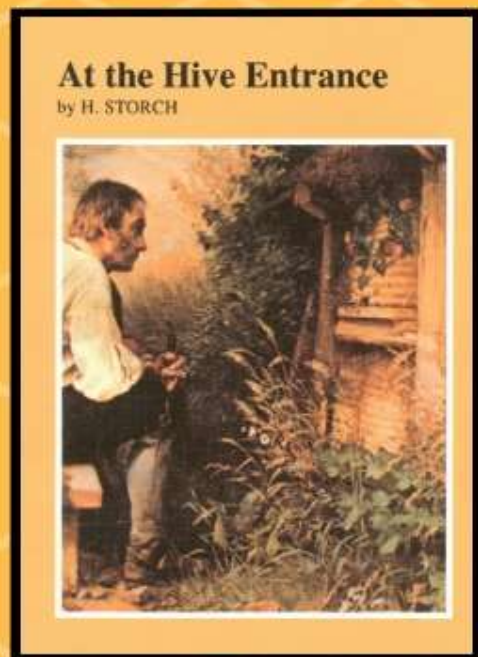


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BBKA Spring Convention - Saturday 13th April
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subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2BXpFns>

At the Hive Entrance By H. Storch



This observation Handbook – shows you, in the words of the author. How to know what happens inside the hive by observation on the outside.

Visit www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

YBKA Calendar of events

Saturday 6th April: YBKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (YORK) – full details elsewhere in this newsletter

12th, 13th & 14th April: BBKA Spring Convention (Harper Adams)

Friday 26th April: GPC Meeting (Venue to be confirmed) 6pm

4th/5th May: Wax Course – a 1-day event x 2 – full details elsewhere in this newsletter

June 4th/5th: YAS Schools' Days

July 9th – 11th: Great Yorkshire Show (Harrogate) – Helpers always welcome and required at the YBKA display

Friday 19th July: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

Saturday, 14th Sept: Mead Workshop (Harrogate)

Friday 4th October: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

(Proposed) Sunday 6th October: Study Day

October 19th/20th: Countryside Live & YBKA Honey Show (Harrogate)

October 24th – 26th: National Honey Show

(Proposed) Saturday 2nd November: Study Day

Friday 8th November: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

(Proposed) Saturday 9th November: Module Exams (Harrogate)

Saturday 30th November: AGM 10am (Harrogate)

(Proposed) Saturday, 7th December: Study Day.

www.thebeeshop.co.uk

Quality Beekeeper Clothing at Affordable Prices
Full Suits, Smocks, Bee Vests & Veils

Full adult suit - £52 (with free postage)
From Somerset

Email: michaeljohnduckett@gmail.com

[Book the YBKA Spring conference](#)
[online](#)

[Click here](#)

Committee

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BBKA Forum

[The BBKA have a new online forum. This is the web address. Pop along, sign up and say hello. www.bbkaforum.co.uk](http://www.bbkaforum.co.uk)

Classified Adverts

Do you have anything bee related for sale or wanting something bee related? If so, please email newsletter@ybka.org.uk the editor for a free sale or wanted listing:

9 frame stainless Steel extractor with large German motor. The extractor is spotless and like new. I kept the manual parts but the motor was bought and retro-fitted. It's a German motor, stainless steel, like new. £500 or best offer. Can deliver to Harrogate or YBKA Spring Convention or can be picked up at Redcar
Contact Vera Rider, email: vera.rider@gmail.com / Tel: 07828 199 739

Overwinter nucs, 5 frames, calm bees, includes a transport box, Will be ready mid-April onwards pending weather. Treated for varroa in September and January. Pick up Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Cost £160.00 Contact Chris, email: Chrisbarlow02@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07849 150 837

BEVERLEY BEEKEEPERS ANNUAL AUCTION

HONEY BEES AND BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

APRIL 28TH 2019

WOODMANSEY VILLAGE HALL

LONG LANE, WOODMANSEY HU17 0RN

Auction of live Honey Bees and associated new and used beekeeping equipment.

Entries accepted Saturday 27th April 18.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs and

Sunday 28th April from 08.00 until 10.30 am

Viewing Sunday from 10.30 am

Auction Commences 11am

Auction of live bees will commence at 1pm approx.

Enquiries to auction@beverleybeekeepers.co.uk or

Dave Hodgson 07875393588

10% seller's commission.

NO BUYERS PREMIUM

Refreshments available from 10.30 am

For all further information please see:

<http://www.beverleybeekeepers.co.uk>

[Bev BKA Auction Guidelines 2019.doc](#)

[Auction Colony Description form 2019.doc](#)

York and District BKA Annual 18th Auction

Date: 11th May 2019 - 9.00am till 3.00pm

Venue: Murton park, York, YO19 5UF

Full details online: www.yorkbeekeepers.com/event/ydbka-18th-annual-auction/

Items accepted from 9.00am with viewing from 11.00am. Auction starts at 12 noon

NB: Bees can be accepted Friday 10th May evening by prior appointment and at your own overnight risk, in secure and sealed boxes. – MUST BE EXAMINED by the Bee Inspector prior to arrival.

INFORMATION FOR BUYERS:

1. Car parking and entry to the Auction are free
2. If you think that you may bid for any items, please register your name with the Steward at the entrance. You will be given a numbered card. Please show this to the Auctioneer when the hammer falls on the sold lot
3. Registering your name does not commit you to buying
4. Lots will be accepted from 09:00 hours, and viewing begins from 11:00 hours. The auction will commence at 12:00 hours
5. The vendor may fix a reserve price on any items by informing the Steward when booking in the lot
6. When multiple lots of the same item are for sale, the buyer of the first lot may have “first refusal” on the rest of the lots at the same price (subject to any reserve placed on them). The Auctioneer will identify such “stand on” lots
7. A commission of 5% will be added to the selling hammer price
8. Items become the property of the purchaser only after payment, which may be made by cash or cheque. We are unable to accept credit or debit cards. Cheque to be made payable to “YDBKA”
9. Stewards will only release goods to buyers on production of a receipt from the Cashier. All lots including those that are unsold must be cleared from the premises by 16:00 hours on the day of the Auction, except for bees which shall be removed by 20:00 hours
10. Entry to the Auction does not include entry to the Museum complex, for which the Museum standard entry fees will be charged

INFORMATION FOR SELLERS

1. Car parking and entry to the Auction are free
2. If you wish to sell any items, please register your name with the Steward at the entrance
3. BEES FOR SALE – BEES MUST HAVE BEEN INSPECTED AND CLEARED by the Seasonal Bee Inspector three weeks or less before they are brought to Murton for sale, otherwise they will not be accepted for sale. Written proof of inspection is required
4. Inspected and cleared bees can be brought the evening before the Auction day, between 19:00 hours and 21:00 hours, if they are to be allowed to fly
5. Lots will be accepted from 09:00 on the Auction day. They should be of reasonable quality and will be scrutinized by the Stewards before being accepted – the Stewards decision being final. It is recommended that all equipment be sterilized before submitting it for sale. Drawn comb, rusty tin ware and items of poor quality will not be accepted
6. The vendor may fix a reserve price on any item by informing the Steward when booking in the items
7. Viewing will commence at 11:00 hours, and the Auction will commence at 12:00 hours
8. All monies due from the Treasurer will be paid to the seller by cheque, posted to the sellers registered address, as soon as possible after the sale. No commission will be deducted from the selling price
9. Entry to the Auction does not include entry to the Museum complex, for which the Museum standard entry fees will be charged

Halifax Beekeepers Association Auction

Saturday 11th May 2019

HBKA Auction with Mike Joyce

Brickhill Farm, Scholes, Cleckheaton, BD19 6LY. Tel: 01274 869644

More details on their website:

www.halifaxbeekeepers.co.uk/events.html

Below information is still to be confirmed

But in previous years

Auction has started at 12.30

Viewing has been from 10.30

Lots accepted from 8.30 till 10.30am

And accepted the previous day between 5pm and 7pm

All bees must be inspected by the seasonal bee inspector before being brought to the auction

Bees CANNOT be inspected on site on the day

Book the YBKA Spring conference
online

[Click here](#)

The following 3 pages are about ASIAN HORNET

Please Print out and circulate the follow pages.

The following 3 pages are all issued
by the NBU

Print out and put in your apiary under
a hive roof

Print out and give to friends

Print out and hang up lots of copies in
the association apiary for people to
pick up and take away

Please print and give to friends, family
and even people you don't really like!

Beekeepers can help to be part of the
first line of defence against this
menace

IF YOU SPOT AN ASIAN HORNET

Contact the NBU

The advertisement for BeeCraft magazine features a blue header with the 'BeeCraft' logo. Below the logo is a circular emblem celebrating 100 years from 1919 to 2019. The background is a close-up of green leaves. The text is arranged in several boxes: '100 years in print' in a white box, 'Still leading the way with recyclable wraps, webinars and quality beekeeping articles' in a blue box, 'ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION Printed from £2.50/month Digital from £1.66/month' in a white box, and 'Subscribe online at www.bee-craft.com/shop' in a blue box. At the bottom, there are icons for Android, Apple, and Kindle Fire.

There is even an APP!!! For Android and Apple

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-app-to-report-asian-hornet-sightings>

Have you seen this insect?

ASIAN HORNET

Vespa velutina

What is it?

An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK.

Suspected sightings should be reported immediately using the details provided at the bottom of this poster.



Where might I see it?

May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls.

Active from February to November across England and Wales.

What does it look like?

- ☐ Slightly smaller than native hornet
- ☐ Dark abdomen, 4th segment yellow / orange
- ☐ Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark)
- ☐ Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet more orange)

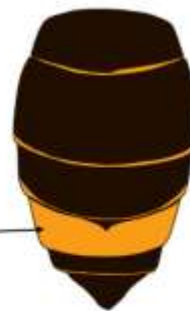
Asian hornet nest



'Hawks' outside honey bee colonies



Asian hornet abdomen Native hornet abdomen



DANGER!

This hornet stings.
Do not disturb an active nest.
Seek advice using the details below.

Report any sightings of this species:

with the free iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**

online at: **www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet**

by email: **alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk**

Asian Hornet

Alert!

Report sightings of this species:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Species Description

Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*

AKA: Yellow-legged Hornet

Native to: Asia

Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

Not easily confused with any other species. Dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. Smaller than the native European Hornet.

Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, in vehicles, or in/on untreated timber. The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.

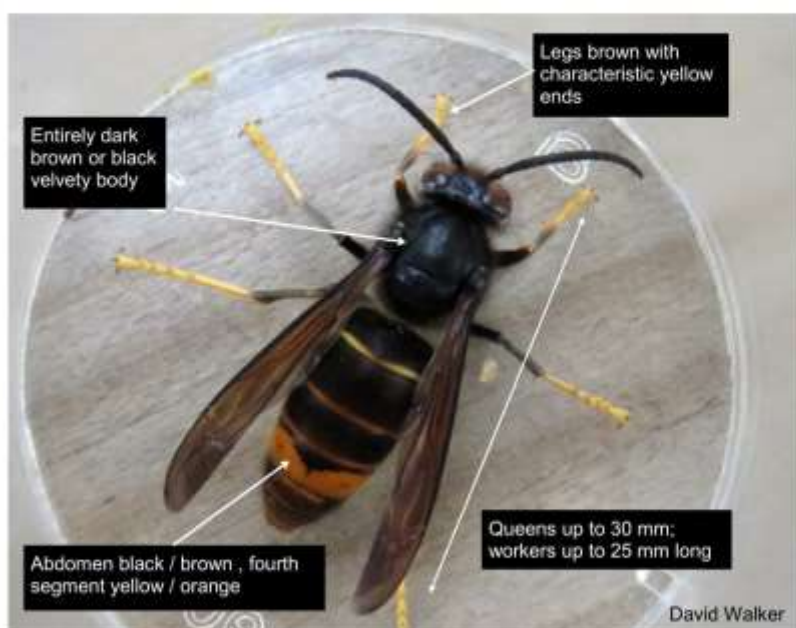
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

Do not disturb an active nest. Members of the public who suspect they have found an Asian Hornet should report it with a photo using the details provided in the red box at the top of this ID sheet.



David Walker

Key ID Features



David Walker



Asian Hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark except for 4th abdominal segment.



Asian hornet "hawking" for honey bee prey

J. Haxaire

Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) for comparison

- Queen up to 30mm long, worker up to 25mm long
- Legs yellow at the ends
- Dark brown / black abdomen with a yellow / orange band on 4th segment
- Head dark from above, orange from front
- Dark coloured antennae
- Entirely black velvety thorax
- Never active at night

Actual size



Q. Rome

Similar Species

European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

- Queen up to 35mm long, worker up to 30mm long
- Legs brown at the ends
- Yellow abdomen marked with brown on the upper part, not banded
- Head yellow from above, yellow from front
- Yellow antennae
- Thorax black with extensive brown markings
- May be active at night

Actual size



Roger Burgess

Mrs. Tonge, National Bee Unit

Giant woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)

- Larger than Asian hornet, female up to 45mm long
- Legs yellow
- Distinctive yellow and black banded abdomen
- Long cylindrical body unlike Asian hornet which has an obvious waist
- Long yellow antennae
- Female has an obvious long sting-like appendage (ovipositor) which it uses to lay eggs in trees

Actual size



Q. Rome

Hornet mimic hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*)

- Abdomen has more yellow stripes than Asian hornet
- Legs darker than Asian hornets
- Only one pair of wings (hornets and wasps have two pairs)
- Large, globular eyes

Actual size



Didier Descouens



Alvesgaspar

Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*)

- More extensive yellow and orange colouration on abdominal segments than Asian hornet
- Yellow markings on thorax unlike Asian hornet

Actual size



Q. Rome

Field Signs

Active April-November (peak August/September). Mated queens over winter singly or in groups, in various natural and man-made harbourages – underneath tree bark in cavities left by beetle larvae, in soil, on ceramic plant pots – potentially any small, well-insulated refuge. Makes very large nests in tall trees in urban and rural areas, but avoids pure stands of conifers. Will use man made structures (garages, sheds etc.) as nesting sites.



For more information visit:

www.nonnativespecies.org
www.nationalbeeunit.com

Report sightings of this species:

Alert!

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Asian Hornet Hunt
Identify & Report to the NBU

