



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

Edition 16

July 2019

Contents

[Chairman's Notes](#)

[July In The Apiary](#)

[Bee Health Day With Burton
Beekeepers](#)

[BBKA Modules – Enrol Now](#)

[What 3 Words](#)

[YBKA Husbandry Days at Whitby](#)

[YBKA Autumn Module Sessions](#)

[BBKA Basic Assessment Application](#)

[Know Your Education Officer](#)

[YBKA / BIBBA Queen Rearing Review](#)

[Thank You For your Website Opinions](#)

[Mead Course](#)

[Take The BASIC](#)

[YBKA Calendar](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Committee Details](#)

[Asian Hornet Information](#)

[AHAT's – contact info](#)

[Identification](#)

[ID apps](#)

[Website information](#)

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the July 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter.

Summer appears to have arrived and hopefully your bees will have survived the June Gap. Notification from the National Bee Unit recently warned us to keep an eye on our colonies as there was evidence of bees running low on stores. Always good advice from the NBU and hopefully beekeepers took note and the appropriate action.

Basic assessments are under way and, as mentioned previously, successful candidates will be reimbursed with their application fee. The results of the BBKA March Modules have now been published and I would like to congratulate Patrick Martin from Halifax BKA on becoming our latest Master Beekeeper.

The annual Schools Day event took at the Harrogate Showground on 11 & 12 June. 250 children aged between 7 and 9 visited the Normanby Pavilion and were introduced to all things bee related. They saw live bees, examined pollen and bits of bees under a microscope, tasted honey and generally had a good time with each child taking home a rolled candle.

My thanks as usual to the trusty team of Kath & Alan Brown, Jim & Geoff Pearson and Stuart & Margaret Atkinson who make the event run so smoothly.

So, enjoy the rest of the summer and hopefully a good honey crop as I get ready to set off to Harrogate once again, this time for my three-day stint at the Great Yorkshire Show.

The phrase 'Glutton for Punishment' comes to mind – but I do enjoy it – honestly!

Phil Gee
Chairman

Asian Hornet

Identification Posters

For Printing

Click Here

July in the Apiary

Last year saw record high temperatures for June and July, a stark contrast to this year with cold nights, heavy rains and changeable conditions. In terms of beekeeping this has led to a lack of any surplus honey. What was brought in by our bees one week was consumed by them the following week whilst confined with the bad weather. Beekeepers have had to be continuously topping up feeders just to keep colonies alive. In some areas, colonies have died of starvation, leading to a severe warning from the Bee Unit to prevent more colonies dying through lack of food stores.

Starvation has led to colonies robbing hives in neighbouring apiaries and even the weaker hives within their own apiary site. Let's hope that from July onwards we see significant improvements in weather. Until then, I suggest that you keep your hive entrances to a minimum and constantly check your hives' food supplies over the next few weeks. If you do have to feed, make sure you don't spill any syrup around the hives as this encourages and often starts a robbing frenzy. Robbing can wipe out your colonies as the bees fight and compete for food and also carries the risk of spreading disease from outside sources into your apiaries.

Regarding food sources, the natural, local, forage has bloomed two to three weeks in advance of the usual times. Personally, I am convinced this is the result of climate change. The brambles we normally get in mid / late July are now virtually finished, hurried off by torrential rains.

Now is the time to do your routine checks for varroa. June and July are the months when both your colonies and the resident mite populations are at their peak. As we are still within the swarming season, colonies are still producing drones - the perfect hosts for varroa build up. Check drone cells by uncapping them, with an uncapping fork, looking for build-up of mites, both within the cells and on emerging bees. There are several varroa treatments available that can be used, without affecting the honey in the supers - if you have any!

For me, the month of July is 'thinking ahead' time, preparing to get hives ready for the heather (for those lucky enough to be near the moors or able to travel to them). Another, more controversial, crop nearing readiness is the Himalayan Balsam. This is a high yielding source of forage, for those with a local abundance. As ever, keep a close eye on the amount of available space within the brood boxes and replace old damaged combs with foundation to alleviate congestion. Don't forget to add supers as required.

Happy beekeeping
Dave Shannon.

Bee Health day with Burton Beekeepers

I attended a very useful course about Bee Health with Burton Beekeepers on 8 June. The full day course was run by Colin Pavey and Ben Bowen, both inspectors from the National Bee Unit and focussed on a wide range of topics to ensure bees are kept in good health.

The NBU inspectors covered subjects such as the importance of apiary hygiene; varroa treatment options; Asian Hornet and other pests such as the small hive beetle and tropileal mites plus, what to look for during hive inspections for disease. We had the opportunity to see a shook swarm for changing combs to bring bees back to good health. This was followed by a bee disease quiz to check our knowledge.

Colin summarised by advising all beekeepers to check the brood, both sealed and open, twice a year. This can only be achieved by shaking bees off the comb and carefully looking at each one. Also, monitor and treat for varroa, carefully following manufacturer instructions.

The NBU inspectors gave 4 top tips to ensure your bees are healthy:

1. Aim for strong bees: Select the ones that are robust. Queen rear from your best colonies and cull queens in poor stocks. Join a local queen rearing group

2. Feed: Bees that are short of food are vulnerable to disease. Ensure all your colonies have a minimum of 40lb food by the end of September, don't leave it too late. Keep an eye on stores at every weekly inspection.
3. Clean comb: Bees "roar away" after a shook swarm. Old comb is a disease reservoir. As a minimum, change 1/3rd of your comb every year
4. Control swarming: Colonies are severely weakened by losing 3/4 or more of your bees and are less likely to last winter, as they produce less honey, unless you help them out

A final key message from the NBU inspectors was to make sure your hive locations are registered on Beebase. This enables the NBU to contact you if a notifiable disease or pest is found, within 3km of your apiary

If you're keen to learn more, consider taking a BBKA Healthy Bees assessment. This new assessment is relevant for anyone who has kept bees for 3 years. Like the Basic, an approved BBKA assessor asks candidates questions about disease and pests, whilst undertaking a hive inspection. It includes the opportunity to demonstrate manipulations like a Shook Swarm or a Bailey Comb Change for getting all the old comb out of your hives.

This is great opportunity to improve your skills and get some coaching from an experience Master Beekeeper. Check out the BBKA Healthy Bees syllabus on the BBKA website. I'm taking my assessment later in July, will keep you posted!

Elaine Robinson
YBKA Education Officer

BBKA Module Exam – Enrol now

BBKA Module exams will next be held on 9 November at YBKA Pavillion Harrogate
Deadline for applications to BBKA is 30 September, so should be sent to Elaine Robinson, YBKA Education Officer by 23 September at the following address:

Middlefold Farm,
Hebden Bridge
HX7 7PG

Application form can be down-loaded here.
<https://www.bbka.org.uk/exams-and-assessments-of-the-bbka>

What3Words App

Being a beekeeper can get you in to a some quite isolated locations and if the worst was to happen and you needed the emergency services to help then it can become quite difficult to explain where you are.

This is where this app "what3words" app comes in extremely useful. This is now being used by emergency services up and down the UK ([here](#)).

How does it work? It's very simple: for every 3m square area on the planet, this app gives each single square a set of unique 3 words, so you can pass those 3 words (that you get from the app) to an emergency operator and they know exactly where you are.

So, for example:

York Minster is shot.before.large .

The YBKA Pavillion at the Great Yorkshire Showground is insect.love.funds

And some random track in the middle of nowhere near Milby is sizing.headlines.lashed

The best thing is, it's free! Download the app [here](#)

YBKA Husbandry Training Part 3 - Whitby

Ten YBKA beekeepers and I, joined Tony Jefferson and Brian Lightfoot of Whitby BKA for a day's training on 22 June, based in Tony's apiary near Ellerby. This was the last of 3 sessions covering the BBKA General Husbandry syllabus.

We covered the subjects of swarming, using the Snelgrove Board for swarm management and how to quickly check for swarm cells when using brood and a half. Tony goes further and doesn't use queen excluders at all, believing this is a more natural way for bees to build their nest. Snelgrove is especially useful when space is short and a method that Brian uses in his apiary, for proactively splitting colonies ahead of swarming preparation, or a modified method when preparation is already underway to prevent swarming. All swarm control methods work on the same principle; splitting off one of the three components of a hive: flying bees, brood and house bees and the queen.

Also covered were: moving hives, feeding bees for winter and how to conduct comb inspections for disease, especially useful as Tony used to be a seasonal bee inspector. Finally Tony emphasised the useful skill of 'shedding flying bees' to other hives when wanting to rebalance numbers of bees in hives; reducing numbers to help find the queen or boosting numbers when preparing colonies for the heather, by simply moving a hive from its original location and putting a receiving hive or nuc in its place to receive flying bees.

The training for BBKA general husbandry assessment was carried out in apiaries in Doncaster, Huddersfield and Whitby over May and June this year. Thanks to Tony Jefferson, Brian Lightfoot, Jim Pearson, Mark Millard, Dave Shannon and Gerry Collins for tutoring the training and the associations for hosting and proving access to their colonies. We all gained new skills and knowledge and enjoyed learning from the tutors and each other.

Any beekeeper interesting in taking the BBKA assessment next year can download the syllabus and an application form from the BBKA website. A key message from all the trainers was to prepare well ahead and keep good hive records



Elaine Robinson
YBKA Education Officer



2019 Autumn Module Study Days

Are you thinking of taking any of the BBKA Module examinations, or currently studying for them?

The YBKA winter module tutorials are the ideal way to learn and study with a group of like-minded beekeepers

Each tutorial will cover an overview of the syllabus, with an expert tutor, who will guide you through what is required within the module

Held at the YBKA pavilion at the Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate, from 9.30am till 3pm

Saturday 2 November with Simon & Wendy Maslin

Module 5 Honeybee Biology

Saturday 7 December with Bronwen White & Roger Pool

Module 6 Honeybee Behaviour

These tutorials are free and are a great way to learn together in informal surroundings
There is no obligation to apply for taking an exam

To book a place please register via the following link on the YBKA website

[Click here to register](#)

Please note, places are strictly limited and so offered to current Members of
YBKA only

Elaine Robinson YBKA Education Officer

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 the answers to 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 on 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	Val Francis
Beverley	Simon Maslin
Darlington	Derek Lindsay
Doncaster	Linda Richards
Easingwold	
Halifax	Elaine Robinson
Huddersfield	David Fahey
Airedale	Chris Hardy
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

Mead Course
Click here
to book online

YBKA AND BIBBA BEE IMPROVEMENT PRACTICAL & QUEEN REARING COURSE AT HUDDERSFIELD 22-23 & 24-25 JUNE 2019

By Kirit Gordhandas, Leeds BKA

The 2-day joint YBKA & BIBBA Bee Improvement Practical & Queen Rearing Course which was hosted by Huddersfield BKA was run by Roger Paterson, BIBBA and Jim Pearson (Master Beekeeper), YBKA. They were assisted by Karl Colyer, BIBBA.

I, together with 13 others, was lucky enough to get a place on the weekend course as it was sold out within 36 hours of first being advertised. The cost for the two-day course was £65 which included lunch and refreshments on both days

The course was aimed at, what I would describe as, intermediate beekeepers; those who had kept bees for over three years, had some experience of queen rearing and wanted to improve their bees locally, with emphasis on suitability to the environment, docility, calmness on the comb, ease of management, good use of stores, etc. In addition to the above, my reason for attending was also to learn about setting up a local queen rearing group within my own association based on the BIBBA model.

Prior to attending pre-reading material was emailed out together with a list of links to the Dave Cushman website which gave more detailed background information.

Saturday was classroom based and Sunday was in the apiary. The classroom sessions were a mixture of talks, PowerPoint presentations and discussions instigated as much by the attendees as the tutors. There were many questions asked and credit to both Roger and Jim who between them were able to give detailed answers to every question. The apiary sessions were hands on with lots of opportunity to learn through observation and hands on experience. As a group we were able to put into practice the theory from the previous day and were encouraged to take photographs and video.

Huddersfield BKA had, as requested by Roger, removed a queen from a colony, about 5 or 6 days, before



the course started so that we could see how the bees responded to this. There were some 30+ emergency queen cells including ones that the majority of us would not have identified as a queen cell. An example of the queen cell in question is the one above the obvious queen cell and Jim is pointing it out in the below photograph.

In one of the classroom sessions there had been a discussion about extra-long queen cells and whether this would result in a bigger and better queen. By coincidence there was a capped, extra-long queen cell, so we cut it out and opened it up. What we found was a larva



that had become detached from the food and the workers had continued to extend the cell around the detached larvae. This was the explanation that both Roger and Jim had given the day before. This is clearly visible in the photograph below.

On a personal level I developed the confidence to go into the apiary without gloves and handle the bees. Thanks to Roger for this! I have also been very cautious about picking up queens using just my fingers as I have always been frightened that I would accidentally kill them. I have always used a ring of thorns or a queen catcher. I was encouraged to pick up a drone by the wings and shown how to transfer it to the fingers of my other hand. I was then told to gradually increase pressure on the thorax of the drone to the point I thought that I would kill it. The drone was then released. It was still alive and flew away. The queen can be squeezed with the same force as a drone. Thanks to Jim for this advice.



There was an opportunity to try grafting with a range of different grafting tools. Jim also gave advice on how to modify the steel Swiss grafting tool to make it easier to work with. He also informed us that the original Chinese grafting tool used Rhino Horn.

The course finished with Jim demonstrating his modified Demaree method for making increase and ensuring the old queen does not swarm and how to best use Mini-mating nucs for the introduction of queen cells.

I came away with 14 pages of notes, a similar number of photographs and once home I immediately put

into practice what I had learned and will be grafting into my de-queened hive in the next week.

I am sure that all the participants of the 2 courses would join me in thanking Roger, Jim and Karl for the professional way in which the course was run. Thanks to Huddersfield BKA for hosting the event and finally BIBBA and YBKA for organizing the event.

If you want to find out more about BIBBA then visit their website at <https://bibba.com>

Asian Hornet Information
is at the end of this newsletter
Including
AHAT`s
Identification information
Phone app links

Mead Course
Click here to book online

REVIEW OF YBKA WEBSITE

In the last edition of the YBKA newsletter I asked for your views on the YBKA website.

I have had some emails and I want to thank you for taking the time and trouble to respond.

Your contributions will be included in the discussions at the next YBKA GPC Committee Meeting in July.

Kirit Gordhandas,

YBKA GPC representative.

www.thebeeshop.co.uk

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Book through your association education officer

Go back and read the article you've just passed

[BBKA BASIC syllabus - click here](#)

Northern Bee Books Hold the largest range of new and second-hand beekeeping books in the Beekeeping world!

Natural Bee Husbandry

The International Journal for Bee-Centred Beekeeping. This magazine will be of special interest to beekeepers who for have for many reasons moved away from keeping their colonies in conventional ways, or who prefer their bees to be kept in hives more suited to the bees' needs rather than for the beekeeper's ease of management. 4 issues Annually for £25

The Beekeepers Quarterly

The BKQ is an international English language beekeeping journal which has been published since 1984 by Northern Bee Books and edited by John Phipps. 4 Issues Annually for £30

Our second Hand Books are now available on ebay including various editions of hundreds of titles for learner's, general apiarist's or serious collector's

Here is a direct link to our EBAY shop: www.ebay.co.uk/usr/northernbeebooks



Our NEW LOOK Website:
www.northernbeebooks.co.uk



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!](#)



Encouragement for YBKA Members to take “The Basic”

The YBKA have agreed the following support for associations this season to encourage members, whether relative beginners or more experienced, to take their Basic Certificate this Summer.

Full details on the benefits of taking the Basic, how to apply; the Syllabus and Study notes, can be found on the YBKA website

[basic-assessment](#)

YBKA have also agreed the following support for associations:

- £20 Basic fee to be refunded, by YBKA, if candidates pass the Basic, when results are through in September. We'll review the success, later in the year, to decide whether to re-run this in future years
- £150 Northern Bee Books vouchers for the 'Best' association (highest % of Members who pass the Basic this year) and £100 runner up prize
- £50 Northern Bee Books vouchers for the 'best' Yorkshire candidate (to be confirmed by BBKA when results are out in September)

The prizes above will be presented at the YBKA AGM in Harrogate in November

Please discuss with your committee and plan how to support and encourage your members to take their BBKA Basic Assessment this summer.

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

[BBKA BASIC syllabus - click here](#)

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!

District Events for All

Halifax and District BKA 2019 Events Calendar

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

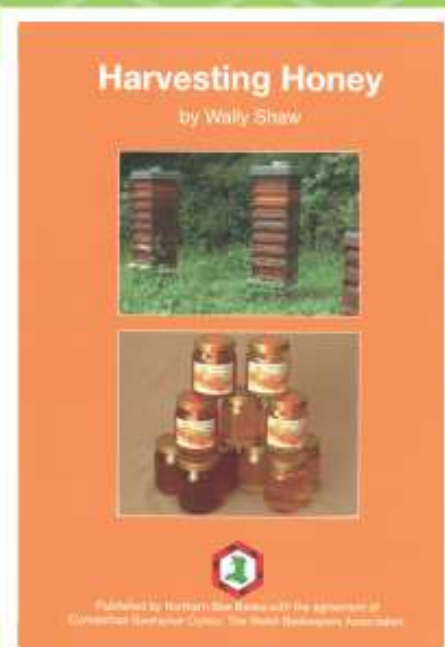
Saturday 26th October 10.00—12.00 Beginners and Mentors Review (Followed by lunch at the Hinchcliffe Arms Woodland View, Cragg Vale Halifax HX7 5TB. Tel: 01422 886114

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

Honey Harvesting by Wally Shaw

Stay out of a sticky
situation around harvest
time with this very
useful and informative
New title.



Visit www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

YBKA Calendar of events

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.

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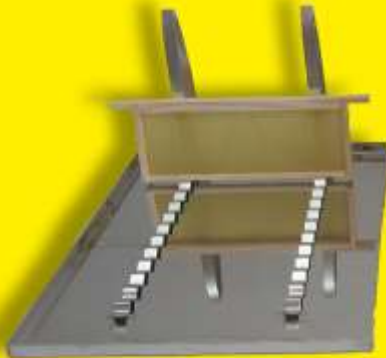
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subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2BXpFns>

Committee

Position	Name	Contact Information
Chairman School Days Organiser Area Rep: Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield & Pontefract	Phil Gee	pjgphilgee@btinternet.com 01422 886114 / 07769 650059
Vice Chair General Secretary Area Rep: Northallerton, Thirsk, Darlington, Richmond, Rydale	Roger Chappel	yorkshirebka@gmail.com 01325 315741 / 07905 190701
Treasurer	Norbert cooper	norbert.cooper@btinternet.com 01937 834 809 / 07957 404 047
Education Officer Area rep: Beverley	Elaine Robinson	education@ybka.org.uk
Webmaster Area rep: Bradford	David Lamont	davidlamont431@btinternet.com 01274 619787 / 07968 817153
Honey Show Chief Steward	Mark Millard	mark.millard@yahoo.co.uk 01924 271 203 / 07497 429 646
Bee Health Liaison Officer Area rep: Barnsley	Ivor Flatman	ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk 01924 257089 / 07751 061 753
Newsletter Editor	Chris Barlow	newsletter@ybka.org.uk 07849 150 837
Equipment/Resources Officer	Derrie O'Sullivan	derrie@ntlworld.com 07801 953 145
BBKA ADM Rep	Michael Badger	buzz.buzz@ntlworld.com 0113 2945879 07958 591 501
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Rotherham	Bronwen White	bron@mistral138.plus.com 01142 307957
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Doncaster	Dave Shannon	01302 772837 / 07907 856515
York & Malton	Vicki Leaf	vicki@glade-farm.co.uk

07847 327 861

Airedale & Scarborough	Linda Schofield	gorluvaduck@gmail.com 01535 609379 / 07853 651 965
Whitby	Tony Jefferson	stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk 07749 731945

District Contacts

Easingwold

Richmond	Peter Creek	creekpeter@rocketmail.com 01748 812075 / 07922 087877
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Northallerton

Malton	Bob Hirst	pamandbob@btinternet.com 01904 706 111 / 07505 865 887
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Wharfedale	John Forsyth	
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Doncaster	Miranda Dickinson	miranda@thorneyford.co.uk 07766 737 682
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Beverley	Simon Maslin	4simonm@gmail.com 01482 656 018
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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:

Beekeeper winding down so some hives for sale

Strong colonies, clean frames, quiet bees, Brood box, varroa floors on all, queen excluder, super. Strong colonies £300 each or buy two for £500 and get a free folding stand. Contact vera.rider@ntlworld.com, Tel: 07828 199 739

The following 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

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



BeeCraft

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Microscopes**

**Competition information can
be found in the May edition of
BeeCraft Magazine with full
details on our website
www.bee-craft.com**

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

AHAT - Asian Horney Action Teams – Join the team

– Contact Ivor Flatman

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 widespread and the NBU will coordinate any response for the present.

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

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, use 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](#)

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)

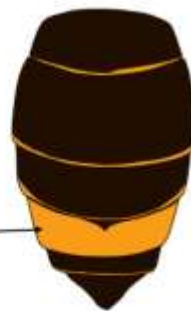
Asian hornet nest



'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.

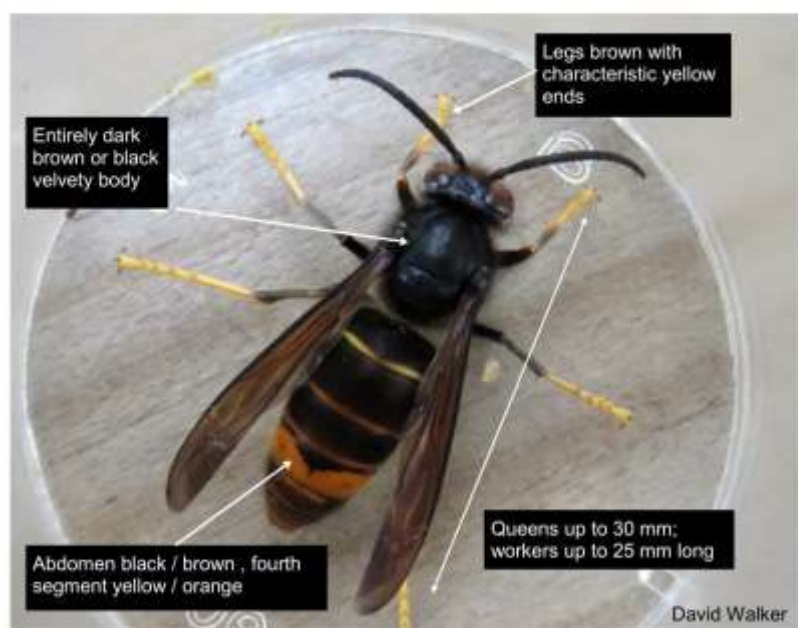
Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, in vehicles, 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.



Key ID Features



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