



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

Edition 15

June 2019

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Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the June 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter.

No too sure what to expect from the weather when temperatures have varied from 26° down to 6° and persistent rain here on the Pennines.

Anyway, the bees have coped for longer than most of us have kept bees so fingers crossed for a good summer crop.

Basic assessments will soon be under way and, as mentioned previously, successful candidates will be reimbursed with their application fee.

As further incentives prizes will be awarded to the best successful candidate in Yorkshire, to the association with the highest percentage of members holding the basic certificate at the end of 2019 and to the association with the biggest improvement in basic assessment passes.

I will sign off now as I am preparing myself for the onslaught of 400+ 7 to 9 year olds at the forthcoming YAS Schools Day.

Wish me luck!

Phil Gee
Chairman

Asian Hornet

Identification Posters

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Queen Rearing Course Summary

I attended a fascinating day on queen rearing that I'd organised for 12 Yorkshire beekeepers, hosted at Huddersfield teaching Apiary in June. Our tutors for the day were Mark Millard a BBKA Qualified beekeeper, (which means he's passed the General Husbandry assessment and has passed 4 Module exams); plus Jim Pearson a Master beekeeper, Basic and Bee Health assessor. Both are from Wakefield and Pontefract beekeepers association.

In the morning, Mark covered subjects such as preparing queenless colonies for cell raising, selecting positive traits from your queens and the importance of keeping good hive records to enable you to select the best traits.

Jim brought the subject of queen rearing techniques to life, with various pieces of equipment from Jenter and Nicot cup kits, Miller frames, cell punching and grafting.

We all had a go at grafting and selecting very young larvae of the right age (day 1 or 2 from developing from the egg) and placing into these cups onto a grafting bar. Easier than you might think! Placed in a hive, the nurse bees will feed with royal jelly and pull out queen cells which are then protected with hair rollers, to prevent any fighting upon emergence and to help the beekeeper select queens for introduction into hives.

In the apiary and away from the classroom, we saw several techniques in action, such as the Jenter box on a comb, where the queen was trapped and started to lay in the cells. These would be transferred into cell bars into a queenless hive. Queen cells were being made on Miller frames too, which really brought the technique to life.

Mark then talked through how to introduce queens that had been raised and how to make up nuclei, which is the safest method of introducing a new queen to a larger hive.

A fascinating day, with lots to learn by intermediate Yorkshire beekeepers. With thanks to Jim and Mark for a fascinating day and to Geoff and David at Huddersfield apiary for hosting the event.

Our final intermediate husbandry day will be featured in next months newsletter, which is being hosted by Whitby beekeepers and will cover swarm prevention and control, moving hives and preparing colonies for winter.

All 3 Husbandry sessions were designed to cover the BBKA General Husbandry syllabus. This is a BBKA practical assessment for beekeepers who have kept bees for 5 years and want to validate their beekeeping skills. A key point is to start preparing early, perhaps after keeping bees for 3 or more seasons. Full details including the syllabus can be found on the BBKA website.

Elaine Robinson
Education Officer YBKA



June in the apiary

From a beekeeping perspective June is probably one of the best months, with moderate temperatures that promote hive activity and, more importantly, keep the bees good tempered. Your bees should have now built up into strong colonies. With activity in the hives, June is also swarming season! I now have three supers on some of my hives to hold the abundance of honey and to allow more room within the hive for the bees. Congestion in the hives is a major contributor in initiating the swarming instincts in worker bees. It is vital that space is available to slow this process down, not only in your supers but, more important, in the brood boxes.

Remove all old and damaged combs and replace them with foundation to build new comb. This ensures more space and also keeps the bees busy producing wax to draw out the frames. With all the new honey coming in, it's often a reaction of a novice beekeeper to start and take off some of this surplus honey and extract it. Caution - please check that your honey is in fact ready to take off before doing so. You need to check the water content of the honey first with a refractometer. The reading you are looking for in your sample is 19 % maximum before extracting. If you have never used a refractometer then please ask a more experienced beekeeper to help you. If you sell honey with a water content above 20% you risk a hefty fine from the FSA. Random checks are the norm. If you're selling to the public also ensure that your labels comply with the latest honey labelling regulations.

Another pointer when taking off your surplus honey is to remember the "June gap". By this term we mean that very often in June, after the spring flow has subsided there is a dearth in some areas where there is very little forage to sustain your bees. It's always a good idea to leave a box full on the hives until the new Summer flow comes in.

May to June is also a good time to start monitoring for that dreaded mite "Varroa" and treat when applicable, also as soon as your spring honey is taken off and before the Summer honey starts to appear in July to ensure the levels are as low as possible. It's an important time to keep on top of your 7 day inspections and act as soon as a loaded queen cell is detected. Don't wait until it is sealed. In their hurry bees often trap a worker bee inside a sealed cell or even seal it before it's ready, so always act when a cell is around three quarters built and you can actually see a young lava floating in Royal jelly.

This is the time to do your splits. Always keep and update records on all of your hives. It's very important to monitor what you see on each 7 day inspection, to be prepared for any eventuality. This is also vital when queen rearing to get the correct dates for the queens hatching. By recording all the years actions you can select the best colony to breed from, selected for good honey gathering tendencies, gentle - not aggressive to handle when inspecting and also if they hold on the combs well as opposed to run all over and ball up over the edges as you're inspecting them.

Bees that don't have a tendency to follow you when you leave the apiary is another selection criteria. These are all good pointers required for the rearing of a good queen / queens. For hives that don't have these tendencies, replace the queens with a better stock when queen cells appear, or you graft from the best hive and replace the queens with inferior qualities.

I hope you enjoy the Summer season and with any luck the weather will kind for us and the bees.

I would just like to conclude by thanking everyone who applied to volunteer at the YBKA pavilion for this year's Great Yorkshire Show. All positions are now filled, your support is greatly appreciated.

Dave Shannon.

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>

Congratulations to the following YBKA beekeepers who passed their March Module exams:

YORKSHIRE

Tristan Allen	Module 1	Credit
Sally Duggan	Module 1	
Michael Gaughan	Module 2	
Michael Gaughan	Module 1	Distinction
Catherine Graham	Module 1	Credit
Andrew Hebden	Module 1	
Sarah Lamb	Module 7	
Helen Lowry	Module 3	
Patrick Lynch	Module 1	Distinction
Patrick Martin	Module 8	
Annette McGaughey	Module 6	Credit
Elaine Robinson	Module 2	Distinction
Peter Russell	Module 5	
Emma Trevarthen	Module 3	

As a result of passing Modules, congratulations to the following YBKA Members have achieved the following qualifications:

Patrick Martin Master Beekeeper and Advanced theory certificate
Peter Russell Intermediate Theory Certificate



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

Review of the Biennial Halifax Bee keeping Auction 11th May 2019 Scholes Lane Cleckheaton

There were over 300 lots including 4 colonies of bees on 7- 11 frames of brood. These colonies reached approx. £130 which was significantly cheaper than the nucs at Lincoln which fetched £150 a few weeks ago. The bees were sold at the half way point in the auction and had been checked for disease that morning by the Regional Bee inspectorate team.

In terms of equipment it went for 1/5th – 100% of the catalogue Thornes price .The equipment accepted was clean and scorched, some of which was brand new and still in wrappers .A full hive with mesh floor , box , queen excluder, 2 super boxes , crown board and roof with undrawn foundation in the supers ranged from £40 - £100 depending on the condition. A Horsley board reached £20 (Thornes price new £66), used nuc boxes were £10 - £30 (Thornes price new £140). Yet packs of shallow foundation reached the same price as Thornes. There were only 2 pieces of 2 poly equipment a nuc and an Apidea

If you were new to auctions then you shouldn't worry as unlike a conventional auction with "every man and dog for themselves" there is a general camaraderie and there are lots of people who will discuss the kit and the estimated prices that lots will fetch. Mike Joyce the auctioneer (and beekeeper of many years) enjoys talking people through various items and gadgets whilst the auction is in flow. There were a couple of bee farmers there who made a big dent in the equipment buying lots of drawn super boxes (think about time, money and effort saved). The majority of kit was National though there were three 14 X 12 brood boxes each of which went for £45. Most hive kit was bottom space but there were 8 beautiful hives all from the same vendor that were top space and illness had meant they could not continue with our "dark art".

How did I get on? My best bargain was a National Twin stock hive not a popular item, it retails for £241, I paid £26 plus 5% buyer's premium taking the grand total to £27.30 .

Was it a good day – it was buzzing. See you in 2021

Nicky Leeth

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 one 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

Your thoughts on the YBKA website.

At the last YBKA General Purpose Committee meeting I agreed to review the YBKA website and gather views from YBKA members as to what they thought of the website.

The website is a resource for the YBKA membership and also can be the first port of call for the non-beekeeper.

I would be grateful if you could spare a couple of minutes to email me with your thoughts about what you think is the good, bad and the ugly about the YBKA website.

I would also value your opinion about how you feel it could be improved to better reflect your personal needs as a YBKA member.

The website can be found at ybka.org.uk and I can be contacted at ybkarep@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk

I look forward to receiving your views on the website by the end of June 2019 so that I can report back at the July committee meeting. The intention is to gather and pass on comments only so the identity of the contributor will be removed.

Kirit Gordhandas,

YBKA GPC representative.

Husbandry Days

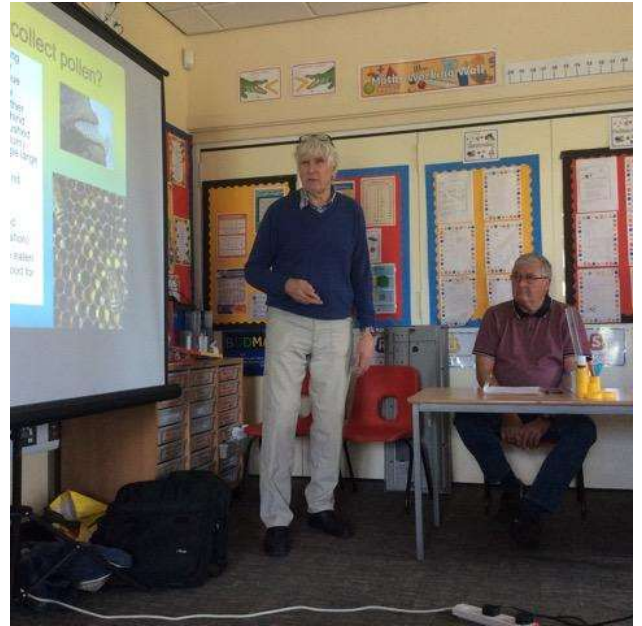
The first of 3 Husbandry training sessions, designed to cover the BBKA General Husbandry syllabus, was held in Doncaster on 12 May. 12 beekeepers, all members of YBKA associations attended the session, which was tutored by Gerry Collins, Master Beekeeper and Dave Shannon, Basic examiner and Senior Honey Judge

In the morning Gerry and Dave covered the requirements of the General Husbandry syllabus, which was followed by an afternoon of practical beekeeping, under guidance of both tutors. This including the opportunity to practise marking and clipping queens, using drones as a substitute. Followed by various comb changing techniques, in particular the Bailey comb change for both strong and weak colonies and a Shook swarm.

Gerry and Dave demonstrated how to manipulate colonies to General Husbandry standards and covered the useful topic of how to deal with aggressive bees.

A very interesting day of theoretical and practical beekeeping. Our thanks for Gerry and Dave for their time and for sharing their knowledge and experience.

Elaine Robinson



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](#)

Countryside Live at Ledsham Estate:
Barkston Ash and Leeds BKA “Beekeeping Experience”
By Kirit Gordhandas, Leeds BKA

Countryside Live is an event that has been held annually at the Ledsham estate for the past 14 years. It is two-day event which sells itself as a country fair for primary school children where “Learning takes place outside of the classroom.” This year it took place on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd May 2019. Barkston Ash and Leeds BKA have jointly been attending this event for over a decade.



As well as the beekeeping experience activity there were a number of other events, such as the Dog and Duck Show from Norfolk, Xtreme Falconry from Dorset, EGGucation, an egg hatching experience, to name a few of the other exhibitors.

Primary schools from all over Yorkshire attended and there are a number of pre-booked activities, Beekeeping being one of them, with the remainder as drop in activities.

[Click here](#) for a short video from the organisers about the event.



The Barkston Ash and Leeds BKA Beekeeping experience was in marque D7, which was twice the size of our neighbours; D6 was the CRODA chemicals workshop and D8 was the EGGucation workshop. We set up five stations. The school children were going to be split into 4 groups and would be allocated a coloured sticker. They would start by watching a short PowerPoint presentation on bees and then breakout into four groups. They would rotate around the four stations which were, dressing up in bee suits, tasting four different types of honey, being shown a cutaway hive and handling the super frames (foundation frame, drawn comb frame and capped honey frame) and finally they would look at an observation hive. A “I’ve seen the queen” sticker was given if they spotted her. All this

had to take place within 25 minutes.



As our activity had to be pre-booked, we had a list of schools, ages and class sizes. The smallest was 20 and the largest was 32. Over the two days we had 3 empty slots but they were soon filled and we had to turn away a number of schools.



The format was the same over two days and the first group came at 10am and we went non-stop save a 30-minute break for lunch until the last of the groups left at the end of the day. The next day it was the same again and in total over 460 primary school children from 4 to 11 years of age, plus their teachers, came through marque D7 to learn about the bees and experience the joys of beekeeping. A number of children and adults were converted over to honey and what was surprising was the number of kids and adults who had never tasted honey before.



Enjoy the photographs from the event!

[v](#)



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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](#)



**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 help 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, pls take advantage!

-£20 Basic fee to be refunded if candidates passes the Basic by YBKA, via Associations, when results are through in September. We'll review the success, later in the year to decide whether to run in future years

-£150 Northern Bee book vouchers for the 'Best' association (highest % of Members who pass the Basic this year) and £100 runner up prize

-£50 Northern bee book 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

Pls share with your committee and plan how to support and encourage your members, to take their BBKA Basic Assessment this Summer.

Elaine Robinson

YBKA Education Officer

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[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

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.

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

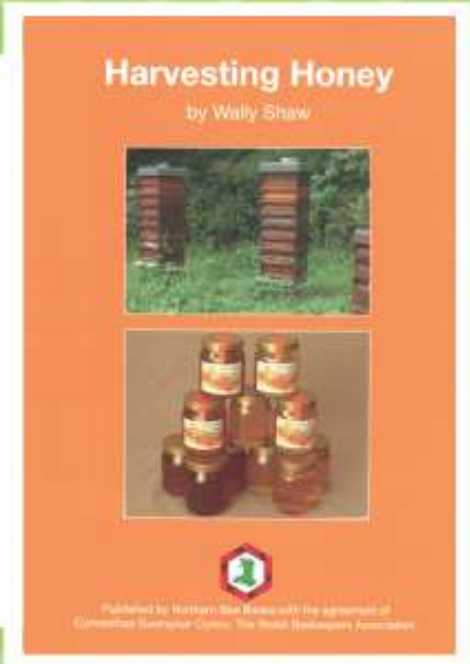
Saturday 26th October 10.00—12.00 Beginners and Mentors Review (Followed by lunch at the Hinchcliffe Arms Woodland View, Cragg Vale Halifax HX7 5TB. Tel: 01422 886114

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

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

Science Behind Bee Keeping

Field trial with neonicotinoids: Honeybees are much more robust than bumblebees

The insecticide clothianidin affects different species of bees in different ways. While it has no demonstrably negative effect on honeybees, it disrupts the growth of bumblebees and threatens the survival of entire colonies. However, the insecticide does not make either species more susceptible to diseases and pathogens, as a massive field study in Sweden shows

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190423133623.htm>

Understanding the power of honey through its proteins

Honey is a culinary staple that can be found in kitchens around the world. Humans have used honey throughout history, and its long shelf life and medicinal properties make it a unique, multipurpose natural product. Although it seems that a lot is known about the sweet substance, surprisingly little is known about its proteins. Now, researchers report new data on honey proteins that could lead to new medicinal applications.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/05/190508113348.htm>

Discovery of RNA transfer through royal jelly could aid development of honey bee vaccines

Researchers have discovered that honey bees are able to share immunity with other bees and to their offspring in a hive by transmitting RNA 'vaccines' through royal jelly and worker jelly. The jelly is the bee equivalent of mother's milk: a secretion used to provide nutrition to worker and queen bee larvae.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/05/190502143511.htm>

Beekeeping Related YouTube Videos

First Swarm Collection of the Year 2018 - Stewart Spinks at The Norfolk Honey Co.

A nice short video on how simple it can be some times picking up a swarm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPpZQJYt4Ig>

YBKA Calendar of events

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.

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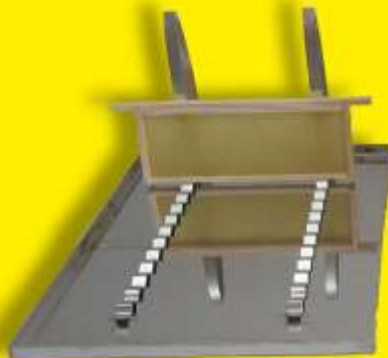
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subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2BXpFns>

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
Area Reps		
Leeds	Kirit Gordhandas	ybkarep@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk
Rotherham	Bronwen White	bron@mistral138.plus.com 01142 307957
Barkston Ash	Greg Sharp	gandjsharp@hotmail.co.uk 07746 986 716
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

Northallerton

Malton

Bob Hirst

pamandbob@btinternet.com

01904 706 111 / 07505 865 887

Wharfedale

John Forsyth

johnsj1984@gmail.com

01943 876459

Doncaster

Miranda Dickinson

miranda@thorneyford.co.uk

07766 737 682

Beverley

Simon Maslin

4simonm@gmail.com

01482 656 018

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

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

**Win a superb eyecam
from Brunel
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 too 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, 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)

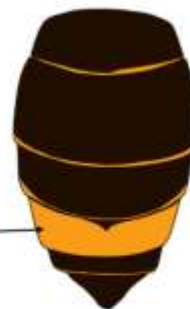
Asian hornet nest



'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.

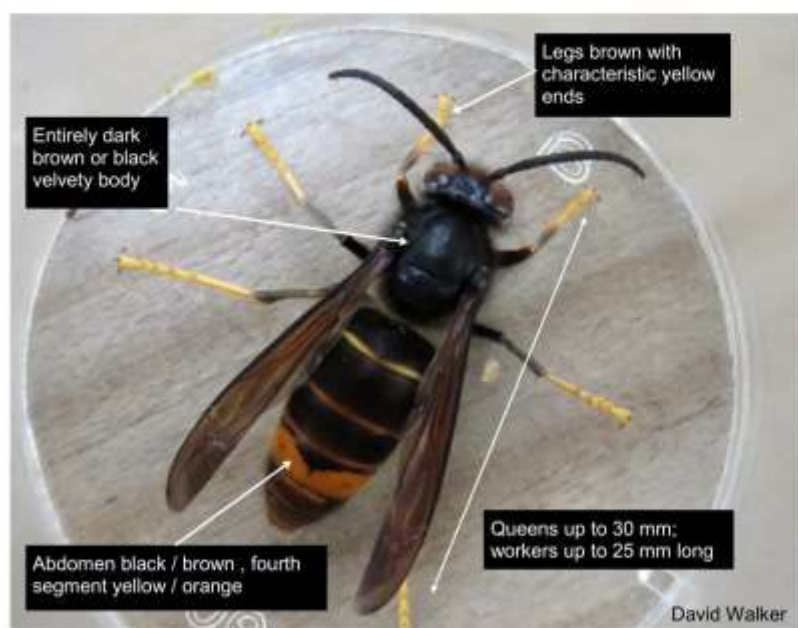
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

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.



David Walker

Key ID Features



David Walker



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

Mia 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