



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

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Edition 12

March 2019

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Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the March 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter. February came in with a whimper and went out with a bang. Record temperatures of 20+ degrees when, exactly a year earlier we were experiencing temperatures of minus 7 degrees. Some newspaper articles were calling it a 'false spring'.

How many beekeepers were tempted to open up their hives and do a spring inspection? Mine were each opened for just enough time to put on some fondant and pollen substitute. Then from nowhere came Storm Freya with gale force winds and driving rain and I was sent a video of a Cumbrian Apiary taken on 4 March covered in a blanket of snow!

Maybe the name Freya was an omen as it is the name of one of my granddaughters and she certainly makes her presence known.

The YBKA Delegates meeting was held on Saturday 23 February with a record number of attendees.

We were pleased to have along Diane Drinkwater, a new BBKA executive and our BBKA link trustee.

Diane's profile is shown on page 95 of the March edition of BBKA News.

The talk by Gerry Collins was well received as you would expect and, in the afternoon, we had a presentation of the new eR2 BBKA membership registration system by Martin Smith, chairman of BDI.

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**Asian Hornet
Identification Posters
For Printing
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This proved a worthwhile exercise as I know that some associations were a bit anxious on the mechanics of the new system.

During the main business of the day we were pleased to ratify our decision to accept Selby Beekeepers Association as an affiliated association within Yorkshire.

I am sure that the whole of our membership wishes them every success.

Our Annual Spring Conference on Saturday 6 April is our next event and tickets are now available with full details on how to book shown on our web page.
So come along and say hello.

Phil Gee
.

Review of the YBKA Delegates Meeting held on 23rd February at the Great Yorkshire Show Ground, Harrogate.

This was our first experience of a YBKA GPC delegates meeting.

We arrived early for the meeting, having misjudged the traffic conditions, and were greeted with the offer of tea/coffee and biscuits.

We then passed the time by meeting and networking with the other delegates. This was also an opportunity to discuss how our respective colonies have fared over winter and speculating on what the coming season would mean for honey and queen production from our apiaries.

Gerry Collins, NDB and BBKA examiner, gave a very hilarious and entertaining talk entitled, *"Beekeeping techniques for the better beekeeper"* We all learned a lot of simple tips and tricks that we could incorporate into our beekeeping to, in the words of Gerry, make us work smarter and not harder. There were also numerous anecdotes from Gerry about mistakes novice and experienced bee-keepers had made whilst being assessed for the various BBKA piratical assessments. This was an excellent talk which was well received by the audience.

A break for lunch followed and the cold buffet consisted of a wide variety of mouth-watering sandwiches and tasty accompaniments. It was another opportunity for all to socialise and make, in our case, new acquaintances.

After lunch it was the formal meeting of the YBKA Spring Delegates Conference. The gavel was struck on the sounding block by the presiding officer, reports were read, and the items on the agenda were discussed. Anyone who wanted to speak had the opportunity to do so and the meeting was closed with the final strike of the gavel at 2.30pm precisely.

There then followed a workshop on aspects of the GDPR.

We left Harrogate feeling that the conference was a success, the day was not a waste of our time and that all attending had also been well fed and well entertained!

Kirit Gordhandas and Kimberley Macdonald,

Leeds BBKA

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
2. BBKA are running General Husbandry training courses in 2019 in 3 locations (Sheffield, Stoneleigh and London), with limited places. See BBKA website. – SEE DETAILS LATER IN THIS EDITION
3. A Mead and Melomels course will take place on September 14th in Harrogate run by Tony Jefferson and Dave Shannon. Applications to be made online closer to the time. Keep checking the website – SEE DETAILS LATER IN THIS EDITION

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!

AHAT - Asian Horney Action Teams

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. The YBKA are anxious 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 and AHAT's and will be considering the idea of purchasing traps which districts can employ. 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](#)

[An excellent online article here by an Englishman in France who talks about his initial losses and his defence tactics which include stand skirts, muzzles and an electrified fly bat. Full article here.](#)

A promotional banner for BeeCraft magazine's centenary. The background is a collage of bees and flowers. At the top, the word 'BeeCraft' is written in large white letters on a blue background. Below it is a circular logo with 'Celebrating 1919 BeeCraft 2019 100 years'. A blue banner across the middle contains the text 'The longest running UK beekeeping publication is celebrating its centenary in 2019'. Below this, a white box says 'See a free copy before you buy at www.bee-craft.com/try'. Another blue banner says 'Choose between hard copy with complimentary digital or digital only'. At the bottom, a white box says 'Sign up at www.bee-craft.com/shop and join in our celebrations in 2019'.

John Dews

Memorial lecture

Whitby BKA have arranged a special meeting on:

Saturday 16th March

the venue is:

St Hilda's Old School in Hinderwell TS13 5JH

commencing at 1pm - we aim to finish by 4pm

Free entry and free tea/coffee and biscuits on the day

Please let Tony Jefferson know if you are attending so they have an idea of numbers
stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk

Dorian Pritchard

has very kindly offered his services as the keynote speaker and will present:

"How native bees can resist varroa mites"

- *notes of the key points of Dorian's talk will be available*
- *Dorian will outline his many seasons of research observations*
- *backed up with statistical evidence*
- *we also intend to give a brief update on the progression of John Dews work*
- *plus a few local examples of varroa observations*

This important and very interesting research information links closely to the work John Dews carried out in the Whitby area.

John's work has been continuing since his passing by a number of dedicated local beekeepers the local update will be an outline of practical approaches, covering over 100 hives per season, so, it's not a talk based around a couple of hives for a couple of seasons!

Please come along and find out that our local bees can survive without constant treatment When I think of varroa, I ask myself : "is it a bee problem or a beekeeper problem?"

Dorian is a retired lecturer in human and medical genetics and for 40 years has bred and maintained native *Apis Mellifera Mellifera* or the native British Dark Bee.

Dorian's experience is practically gained and from watching the bees (not from books). This meeting will explain the constant battle and efforts promoted by various advisory literature and adding all sorts of "stuff" into the bee hive to eradicate varroa mites may not be the only solution to the problem – or is it actually a problem?

YBKA Husbandry Skills Improvement Programme 2019

Do you know how best 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 diseases?
- Recognise problems with your queen and how best to deal with them?
- Recognise adult bee diseases and apply the correct treatments?

If the answer to any of the above is 'No' then you might be interested in the **YBKA Husbandry Skills Programme** starting in May 2019.

Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association have developed a programme to help beekeepers improve their husbandry skills. We have 3 x One day sessions taking place throughout the county aimed at beekeepers with **3+ years' experience**, who want to improve their skills. Each session will be different and the 3 days will, in total, cover the BBKA syllabus for the General Husbandry assessment. The emphasis is on skills improvement and education, and there is **no obligation** for attendees to be working towards taking the assessment. The course will be a mixture of theory and practical apiary work with the emphasis on the latter, and will be led by a team of highly experienced and knowledgeable trainers.

Please note that candidates must have passed the Basic Assessment AND have kept bees for 3 years or more.

Brief details of the training are:

Session 1: 12th May at Doncaster. Tutors Dave Shannon, Wendy & Simon Maslin
Overview of the BBKA General Husbandry Assessment, preparing for the assessment, hive records, dealing with vicious bees and frame changing, including Bailey Comb Change and Shook Swarm techniques.

Session 2: 2nd June at Huddersfield. Tutors Mark Millard & Jim Pearson
Lifecycle of the queen, breeding through selection, principles of raising queens, use of nucleus hives. Demonstration of queen raising methods e.g. cupkit, grafting, making 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



To Book:

Number of participants are limited to 12 per session

So book early to avoid disappointment

The cost is £20 per session

Or

£50 if you book all three sessions.

Lunch and refreshments are provided.

Please book through YBKA website



ETTER
age 7



YBKA Conference 2019 "A Taste of Honey" Schedule

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

09.30-09.15 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



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 - March

It's mid-February, 15°C and the sun is shining through my conservatory as I write this edition of Jobs in the Apiary for March - a quite unusual temperature for this time of year. However, we are still having near or below freezing night temperatures and harsh ground frosts. I'm pleased that I turned on my greenhouse heater at night!

March can be a very varied month weather wise and a critical time for beekeepers in respect of colony loss. One of the main reasons is the lack of food stores i.e. honey and pollen. It's been a long time since we made sure to feed our bees well for the winter months back in September / October. Most colonies should have gone into winter quite strong: partly the result of last year's very warm summer and partly due to stores building up very late into the season. These same stores are now depleting at a rapid rate. Therefore, it is vital to check the food supplies in each hive, on a warm day, and if they are low, to add a good-sized patty of sugar fondant and another of pollen substitute. You could even mix the two together before giving it to the bees.

As recommended before, use an 'eke', (a 1 to 2inch x 18inch square of timber, the same dimensions as your brood box), placed on top of the brood box, creating a space to place your fondant pollen patty directly on top of the cluster of bees, taking care not to crush them. Quickly replace your supers crown board, lid, and don't forget to add a heavy stone to weight the hive down against the March winds.

Strapping up hives in an out-apiary can make it easier for thieves to take them away!

Other possible causes of colony loss at this time of year include - queen failure and isolation starvation when the bees have a good supply of stores but for reasons beyond our control they refuse to move up or over onto new, full, food frames within the hive.

Check food stocks every 10 days from now until you can see bees actively taking nectar and pollen into the hives. If you haven't checked your hives before now, for whatever reason, it may be too late. If you do find a colony that has died out, don't just leave it. Either, remove it from the apiary site to clean it out immediately or close-up the entrance, to remove the hive later. This will prevent robbing and the possible transfer of diseases. Generally, it is better to take it away and clean it up immediately, to prevent further deterioration of the contents.

Now is the time of year to begin getting extra and replacement frames assembled in readiness for the season ahead. Remember, don't put in the wax until the frame is needed as fresh wax is by far the best. Older wax goes hard and loses its aroma and pliability making it harder for the bees to draw out well.

Why not order some adhesive numbers from your bee supplier, to identify each of your hives? It makes it so much easier when filling in record sheets, to be sure which colony is which and adhesive numbers last longer than marks you might make on the box sides. It's vital to keep good hive records on all inspections throughout the season. This allows you to follow the progress and problems of a colony accurately. The information is crucial when choosing the best colonies from which to rear good queens. Record everything: egg laying capacity; foraging ability; temperament etc.

With all these jobs complete, I hope that many of you are now contemplating undertaking one of the BBKA Module Exams, or the set of three Husbandry Days we are organising, starting in May. The YBKA Spring Conference will be held on April 6th. Soon after this, it will be time to start recruiting volunteers for the three days of the Great Yorkshire Show. This year's show dates are Tuesday 9, Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11th of July. Book your leave from work in advance! Don't worry, I will let everyone know when I am taking names for the Show in the April edition.

Until then, look after those bees, enjoy the Conference and good luck with your exams!

Dave Shannon

Book the YBKA Spring conference online Click here

District Events for All

Yorkshire Beekeepers Association is made up of 21 district associations that run events through the year. Details are given below, of those associations holding events, who are happy to include visitors:

Richmond and District BKA 2019.

We meet monthly, on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at Richmond Golf Club: [Web site here.](#)

Winter Programme

- Mon 4 March Gerry Collins - Selection and Queen Rearing for the Hobbyist Beekeeper
- Mon 1 April Mike Samworth - Using Microscopes for Beekeepers

Beverley BKA 2019:

Winter meetings held at The Darby and Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham, HU16 4AZ.

Meetings start at 7.30pm and run until about 9:30 pm. We have a refreshment break and raffle.

- Monday Apr 1st - An update on the Flow Hive and the Bentley Hive, John Tunnicliffe

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.

Wednesday 13th March - Preparing Heather, Rape and other Special Honeys, A talk by Dave Shannon

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

Book the YBKA Spring conference
online
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Science Behind Bee Keeping

Dangerous bee virus might be innocent bystander, beekeepers urged to rethink fears around deadly virus

researchers have found that the relationship between the Varroa mite and virulence of a virus of honey bees, has been misunderstood. The study challenges the long-held belief that the parasitic Varroa mite transmits the deformed wing virus of honeybees and in doing so changes the virus to make it more virulent and deadlier. Research published today concludes that this belief is incorrect.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190129195223.htm>

Biologists identify honeybee 'clean' genes known for improving survival

The key to breeding disease-resistant honeybees could lie in a group of genes, known for controlling hygienic behaviour, that enable colonies to limit the spread of harmful mites and bacteria, according to genomics research. The researchers narrowed in on the 'clean' genes known to improve the colony's chance of survival.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190215135913.htm>

How bees stay cool on hot summer days

Researchers have developed a framework that explains how bees use environmental signals to collectively cluster and continuously ventilate the hive.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190208124703.htm>

Beekeeping Related YouTube Videos

A Glimpse of My Honey Flow Operating Strategies

A glimpse of my summer honey flow operating strategies from hive split straight to stripping boxes in the fall. I manage my hives in single brood boxes, and because of that I employ many strategies to manage swarming and to maximize my honey crop. I don't focus at all on the split, even though it is a major part of this strategy, I will leave the brood nest management for its own video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGSycKisL1c> The guy's website is www.stepplerfarms.com

The Sustainable Apiary by Mike Palmer)

A lecture given by Mike Palmer at the National Honey Show 2013 entitled " The Sustainable Apiary".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nznzpiWEI8A&t=1s>

Michael's Palmer's website is <https://www.frenchhillapiaries.com/>

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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SHOWS THAT WE WILL BE EXHIBITING IN 2019:

ULSTER BKA on FRI/SAT 15th-16th FEBRUARY

BEETRADEX on SAT 9th MARCH

WELSH BEEKEEPING CONVENTION on SAT 30th MARCH

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION on SAT 13th APRIL

MAISEMORE APIARIES HALF DAY EVENT on SAT 29th JUNE

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW on THURS-SAT 24th-26th OCT



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OR TWITTER FOR SHOW PRICES!**

**FROM 2ND JANUARY 2019 WE WILL BE TAKING
PRE-ORDERS WHICH MUST BE PAID FOR IN
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subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2BXpFns>

YBKA Calendar of events

Saturday 23rd March: BBKA Module Examinations.

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

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

The Beekeepers Quarterly

Currently in its 35th year on issue 134, the first choice magazine for beekeepers around the world.

subscribe @ beekeepers.peacockmagazines.com



Natural Bee Husbandry

On its 3rd year, currently on issue 10, a great magazine about the modern conservation of bees and the use of natural beekeeping methods.

subscribe @ www.naturalbee.buzz

www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

Book the YBKA Spring conference
online

[Click here](#)

LBKA Lincoln District

36th Annual Auction Sale of Bees & Equipment

Saturday 30th March 2019

At the Lincolnshire Showground

Grange-de -Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA

Just off the A15 north of Lincoln

**Bees and equipment accepted for sale from 1:30pm till 5:30pm on Friday 29th March
and 8:30am to 10:00am on the day of the sale**

Viewing from 09:00am Saturday

12½% Sellers commission – 7% Buyers premium

BUYERS CAN PAY WITH DEBIT/CREDIT CARD

To sell or buy, you need to register at the desk before the sale begins and obtain a customer number

The sale will start promptly at 10:30am. Auction of live bees will commence at approx. 1:00pm

Further details can be obtained from lincolngroupsec@gmail.com

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](#)



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

A beginner's Course in Meads and Melomel making

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 the day, please bring along 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 and make your first gallon of brew on your return home. Everything required 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**, allocated on a first come first served basis, so don't delay in booking!

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

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)

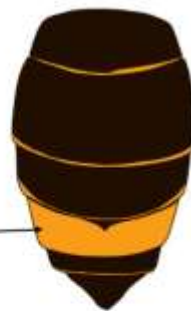
Asian hornet nest



'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.

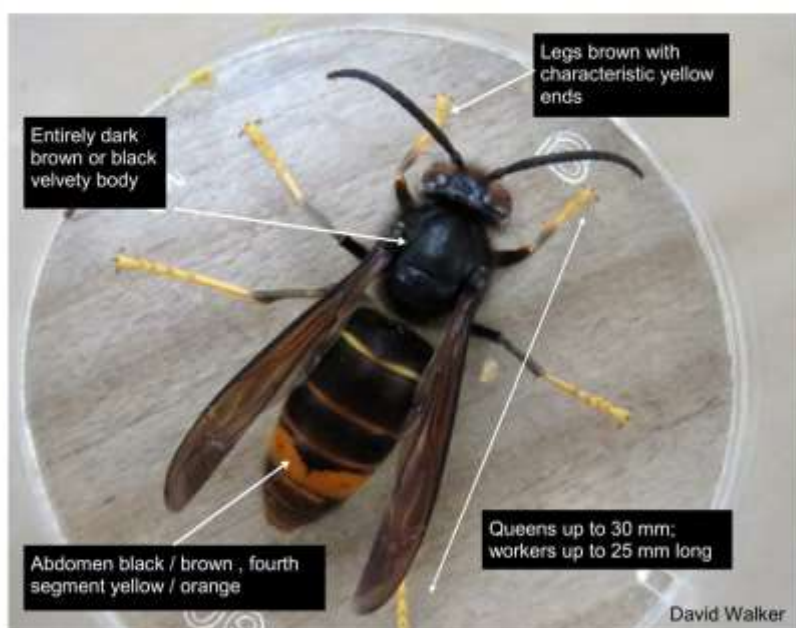
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

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.



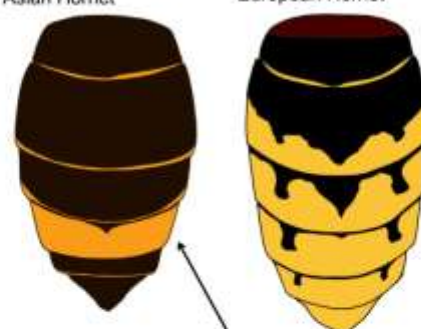
David Walker

Key ID Features



David Walker

Asian Hornet European Hornet



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



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

