



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

Edition 18

September 2019

Contents

[Chairman's Notes](#)

[September in the Apiary](#)

[BASIC Results - Yorkshire](#)

[Microscopy Course](#)

[Selby BKA First New Beekeepers
Association – write up](#)

[BBKA Practical Assessment Results](#)

[Darlington Honey Show – Open To All](#)

[BBKA Queen Rearing course](#)

[What Three Words](#)

[Module Study Dates](#)

[Mead Course – SOLD OUT](#)

[District Events for All](#)

[YBKA Calendar](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Committee Details](#)

[Asian Hornet Information](#)

[AHAT's – contact info](#)

[Identification](#)

[ID apps](#)

[Website information](#)

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the September 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter. Well we are fast approaching the end of another beekeeping season. Many records relating to weather have been broken, from floods to heatwaves. Will we be reporting a record honey harvest and colony increase? – I wonder.

A recent article in The Times newspaper had the headline “*NECTAR SUPPLY DRIES UP AS HEATWAVE MELTS BEEHIVES.*” This was a report from a director of Urban & Community Beekeeping saying that beekeepers were fighting to save their colonies as bees were having to work harder in order to regulate the temperature inside the hives. Better news however reported in the latest edition of The Grocer (I do read other publications in addition to BBKA News and Beecraft you know).

Their headline article was “*BEEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS ARE VITAL FOR UK FOOD PRODUCTION, BUT THEY'RE UNDER THREAT. IS THE FOOD INDUSTRY DOING ENOUGH TO PROTECT THEM?*”

The piece gives details of Lidl placing a heavy focus on honey bees in its latest VitaMini campaign in the Netherlands. This campaign is designed to encourage children to eat more healthily and they have released a special mascot called ‘Bibi Bij’ (Baby Bee) to help raise awareness of the plight of bees.

In Sweden, McDonald's built a mini ‘McHive’ – a to-scale replica of a McDonald's restaurant built as a functional beehive and placed on their roofs.

Asda have been working with seed company Syngenta to plant biodiversity plots on unused headlands at the supermarket's potato grower's farm.

Morrisons are running ‘Project Pollinator’ scheme which aims to set aside land for bees. So far this has seen numbers of bees increase by up to 55% year on year.

Finally, the pizza company Papa John's have created a novelty "pizza for bees" – the "BEEZZA". This is a one-inch pizza covered in flowers – I wonder if it comes with garlic bread?

Phil Gee
Chairman

Asian Hornet

Identification Posters

For Printing

September in the Apiary by Dave Shannon

As we enter into September, we are approaching the end of our beekeeping season for another year. This year has thrown challenges for most beekeepers in our county: even more daunting for beginners who, quite frankly, must have wondered what they had embarked upon at times. With spells of hot weather for one or two weeks, followed by cold and prolonged rainy weeks, our bees have been very hard to organise. Some queens have swarmed out naturally; some have gone queen-less within the 7 day inspection window; whilst other colonies superseded what appeared to be a very good mated queen, causing prolonged periods where no brood was produced within some colonies for 5-6 weeks at a time, culminating in weaker colonies due to the lack of eggs and larvae (new young bees). No sooner had this occurred and all was looking normal again with another newly mated queen, the same happened after producing a mere 4-5 frames of brood.

Another hurdle has been the disastrous heather crop which has produced very little nectar and so yielding little or no honey within the supers and, more importantly, in the brood boxes. The bees rely on these stocks within the supers and brood boxes to sustain their existence through the winter months. Some colonies have swarmed on the moors and others have superseded their queen.

It's my belief that the cold and wet spells during spring and early June resulted in poor/weak mating for a majority of home-reared and selected queens. These queens fizzled out in a matter of weeks causing swarming and supersedures that wouldn't normally happen. It appears that most beekeepers have now managed to stabilise their colonies and those who haven't are very close to it. For some, this has required uniting weaker, queen-less, colonies with stronger ones, reducing the number of colonies going into winter, but giving them the best possible chance of surviving winter as a stronger colony.

We must now turn our attention to feeding our colonies for winter. If you are a novice beekeeper, uncertain how much feed your colonies will need then please ask a more experienced beekeeper who should be happy to help you. It's vital we get our colonies into the end of this month with sufficient stores held within the brood boxes and an extra full super to last the colonies through until possibly next Easter. When we feed our bees at this time of year it's with what is known as a thick syrup: 1 pint of water to 2lbs of sugar. You will need a large saucepan for this. I place 6-8 bags of sugar in my pan than add 6-8 pints of water minus 2 cups. Stir whilst heating. When this mixture starts to thicken and clear turn off the heat and leave it to cool completely before pouring into storage buckets. Repeat until enough is done to allow you to fill several feeders at once. Try to ensure each colony is going into winter with between 50-60 lbs. of stores each. Please do not be afraid to ask a more experienced beekeeper to check your quantities to avoid a winter disaster.

Towards the end of this month mouse guards can be fitted to your entrances, or if using flip open entrances close them down to the width of a biro pen - that's one bee space. This keeps predators out but allows your bees access in and out throughout the winter to gather much needed water and for toileting flights on milder days. Place a large, heavy, stone or weight on your lids, to make sure they don't blow off in strong winds.

I don't agree with strapping up colonies in out-apiaries over winter as this only makes hive theft easier. This may surprise some but it does happen every year.

I am assuming that by now all your hives have been treated against Varroa, if not get it done ASAP. With temps still quite high it's still possible to get those colonies clean of mite going into winter clusters. Apivar strips or Apitraz, a totally different formulation, is excellent at this time of year when your honey crop has been taken off. Finally,

extract whatever honey you have and ensure you store it in a bucket full to the top in a cool place, and with a well-fitting lid to keep it air tight after fine filtering it to avoid fermentation.

Happy Beekeeping!

Dave Shannon.

BBKA Basic results for Yorkshire

Hot off the Press are the results for YBKA Members who took their Basic assessment this year

Some highlights:

- 90 Members passed their BBKA Basic Assessment this year, a 3 fold increase on the 30 Members who passed last year!
- Two thirds of Members who passed achieved a Credit, with a third achieving a Pass
- The top association with the highest % of Members who took their Basic was Richmond, closely followed by Halifax and Darlington
- Halifax, Leeds, Beverley and Barkston Ash had very high number of Credits, among Members who took their assessment
- Many associations rose to the challenge of spreading the word about taking the Basic, with big increases in numbers compared to 2018

See the results in the table for your own Association below.

The BBKA Basic assessment is open to all Members who have kept bees for a minimum of a year. It's a great way to review what you've learnt and spend an hour with a trained Yorkshire assessor, who will not only test your knowledge, but treat the assessment as a coaching opportunity. The assessment takes place during the Summer months, your local Education officer in your association, can explain how to apply for 2020

YBKA has sponsored the Basic this year by agreeing to refund the £20 entry fee for all who passed. Information will be sent shortly to your association how to gain your refund. Certificates and badges for all who passed will be sent to your local Education officer in the next few weeks, as soon as they are received from BBKA

A big well done to all those who took part and passed!

Elaine Robinson

YBKA Education Officer

YBKA Association	Basic passes 2018	Basic passes 2019
Barkston Ash	1	5
Barnsley	0	3
Beverley	3	4
Darlington	0	10
Doncaster	4	0
Easingwold	0	0
Halifax	1	17
Huddersfield	3	3

Airedale	0	0
Leeds	3	9
Malton	0	0
Northallerton	0	1
Richmond	8	12
Bradford	6	10
Ryedale	0	3
Scarborough	1	0
Rotherham	0	2
York & District	0	5
Wharfedale	0	0
Wakefield	0	5
Whitby	0	1
Selby	0	0
TOTAL	30	90

BBKA MICROSCOPY CERTIFICATE - COURSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YBKA MEMBERS

Are you thinking of taking your BBKA Microscopy certificate? There are 2 course options in the North of England for YBKA Members this coming Autumn / Winter, which cover all aspects of the BBKA Microscopy syllabus:

1. 6-7 days with John Charlton at Manchester Grammar School
2. 5 days with Harrogate & Rippon Beekeepers in Harrogate

1. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR COURSE

Bookings on the Manchester course can be done direct with John Charlton at johncharlton151@gmail.com tel 0161 973 8961. The cost for all the 6 or 7 sessions is £80, payable on the first day of the course, plus one jar of honey

MICROSCOPY COURSE WITH JOHN CHARLTON MANCHESTER GRAMMAR DATES:

2. HARROGATE & RIPON COURSE

HRBKA propose to run a Microscopy Course beginning in January 2020. This course will prepare students for the assessment leading to the BBKA Microscopy Certificate.

The course requires a considerable outlay in equipment and a commitment to work at home to produce the necessary slides and to practise dissection. The course fee will be £75.

There will be four all day meetings held on Sundays from January to March, with a final session in July. The dates of the course are 26/1/20, 16/2/20, 8/3/20 and (tbc) 12/7/20.

There will be a preliminary meeting for those who are interested in taking the Course, to be held at the Hives and Honey Pavilion on Sunday 10th November 2019 starting at 10:00. The purchase of equipment, such as microscopes, can be discussed at this meeting.

Booking will be available to non-HRBKA members from 15th September 2019, if there are places available.

Please contact Shirley Bond for an application form and more details.

Shirley Bond

email membership@hrbka.org.uk

Full details of the BBKA Microscopy syllabus is [here](#)

If you are interested in either course, contact John or Shirley direct. Both are likely to be popular!

Elaine Robinson

YBKA Education Officer

SELBY DISTRICT BKA FIRST BEGINNERS BEEKEEPING COURSE

By Kirit Gordhandas, Selby District BKA

Selby District BKA was formed in September 2017 and accepted as a member of the YBKA in 2019.

I met Chriss Line and Paul Snowden in February 2019 at a YBKA meeting in Harrogate. They told me that they were running their first beginners' beekeeping course and invited me to drop in on one of their theory sessions; I took up their offer.

I was so impressed with the enthusiasm of all present that I agreed to be a tutor on the forthcoming practical sessions for beginners.

Of the 23 people on the 8-week Beginners Theory Course, 21 joined Selby District BKA as members. All the 21 members from the theory course and a further 2 junior members attended a follow up free, practical apiary-based training course. The instructors were Chriss Line, Paul Snowden, Rebecca Trippett and myself.



The course was over 8 weeks and the main themes were:

- Introduction
- Identification
- The Queen
- Swarming
- Supers
- General Colony Inspection
- Pest Management
- and
- Feeding.

Each week started with a general catchup chat in the carpark before kitting up to go into the apiary.

Every session was hands on by the participants. All were encouraged to ask questions and, if they had bees, to share what they had done with their bees that week.

As well as the learning opportunities there was also time for some good humoured and friendly games and banter between the participants, e.g. whose smoker would stay alight the longest, who was going to be the first tutor to get stung, etc.

Paul used his experience and knowledge to ensure that the colonies were producing swam cells, in time for the session on swarming. This meant that we were able to demonstrate swarm prevention techniques and to discuss how to use the opportunity to make increase.

The first practical training course to be run by Selby District BKA was judged to be a complete success by both the participants and the tutors. The vast majority of participants have now obtained their own

colonies.

One of the best things to come out of the course is that the participants have kept in touch with each other and share their successes and failures. As a group, they have bonded, to form a community spirit where they help each other out with spare queen cells, frames of eggs/larvae for anyone whose hive is queenless, etc.

As well as focusing on the next generation of beekeepers, SDBKA also focus on the generation after that with their impressive work in schools.

If you wish to find out more about Selby District BKA then we can be found online at <https://www.selbybeekeepers.org.uk> and on Facebook by searching @selbybees.

Here are some of the pictures from the course.



BBKA Practical assessment results

Congratulations to the following YBKA Members who have passed a BBKA practical assessment this summer:

Peter Russell (Richmond BKA) - General Husbandry
Roger Pool (Halifax BKA) - General Husbandry
Richard Senior (Barnsley BKA) - Bee Health
Elaine Robinson (Halifax BKA) - Bee Health

2019 was a good year for BBKA Basic entries, with 95 YBKA Members taking their Basic assessment this Summer, compared to 31 members in 2018. A big thank you to all the hardworking Basic Assessors who took time out to assess & coach these candidates. Look out for an update on how YBKA members did in the next newsletter, when all the results will be through from BBKA!

Elaine Robinson YBKA Education Officer

Darlington BKA Events Coming Up – Open to All

28th September – Honey Show - We are holding our annual honey show on 28th September in Darlington Covered Market DL1 5PN. This is the first time DBKAs honey show has been open to the public and the first time we have had Open Classes. Show Schedule and Entry Form attached. All are welcome to enter the Open Classes. The show will be opened at 9am by the Mayor of Darlington, and will be judged by Dave Shannon of Doncaster. I have attached a schedule and entry form to this email and hope to have one on our website shortly. <https://www.darlingtonbeekeepersassociation.org.uk>

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>

BBKA Queen Rearing Courses

The BBKA is organising courses for beekeepers, with at least three years' experience, at several venues around the country:

Warwickshire: September 14th & 15th at BBKA Apiary, Stoneleigh

Cleveland: September 17th & 18th, venue to be confirmed

Details of other courses will be posted on the website when confirmed.

The whole course is focussed on the General Husbandry standard with the objective of each attendee going home able to run their queen rearing matched to their needs. It will not be prescriptive and will enable the attendees to make up their own mind about the method they would like to employ. It will not focus on grafting, although it is a method that everyone should at least have tried at some point.

The course will be theory plus time in the apiary when different methods of queen rearing will be discussed and demonstrated. There will also be several queen related manipulations, again to the General Husbandry standard.

There will be a maximum of twelve on each course and there will be two tutors. The lead tutor will be Sean Stephenson who has a lot of experience in queen raising and delivering courses.

The cost of the course will be £75 which covers coffee, tea and biscuits but please bring a packed lunch with you. The timing for the courses will be confirmed later but will start on Saturday morning and end on Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to apply for a place on the course, please apply through the website shop:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/departments/training-courses>

or contact the BBKA office on 02476 696679.

What3Words App

Being a beekeeper can get you in to 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 Pavilion 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](#)



2019 Autumn Module Study Days

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

Modules 5 - 1 place left

Module 6 – 3 places left

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

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

www.thebeeshop.co.uk

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kindle fire

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

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

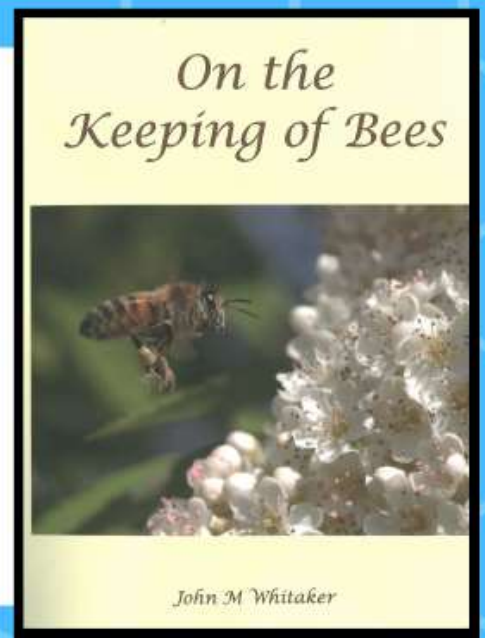
If your Association is running an event and is happy for members of other districts to attend, please e-mail details to me at: newsletter@ybka.org.uk and I will make sure it is included in the next issue

YBKA Calendar of events

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.

On the Keeping of Bees by John Whitaker.

“The book gives a complete guide for the beginner and is sufficiently detailed to help prepare a new beekeeper to the level required by the BBKA basic assessment.” John Whitaker



Visit www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

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Branch Sale Days

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WINDSOR

Saturday 7th Sept 10.00am to 1.00pm

STOCKBRIDGE

Saturday 21st Sept 10.00am to 1.00pm

DEVON

Saturday 28th Sept 10.00am to 1.00pm

RAND

Saturday 12th Oct from 10.00am

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

24th - 26th October

Sandown Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ



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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
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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
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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

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Northallerton		
Malton	Bob Hirst	pamandbob@btinternet.com 01904 706 111 / 07505 865 887
Wharfedale	John Forsyth	
Doncaster	Miranda Dickinson	miranda@thorneyford.co.uk 07766 737 682
Beverley	Simon Maslin	4simonm@gmail.com 01482 656 018
Selby	Chriss Lines	chriss.line@icloud.com 07800 767555

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

Colony on brood and half with plenty of stores

Brood and half with this year's queen and a good amount of stores, brood in all stages. It also includes a single stand. £250. Email: beeshelen@gmail.com

5 frame nuc with open mated Buckfast queen

5 frames with brood in all stages, come in transport box included in the price with marked 2019 queen, calm bees and nice to work. £150

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

<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 be limited 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 2019](#)

[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)

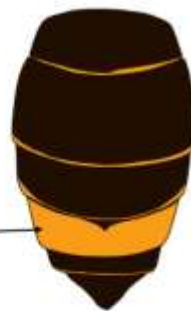
Asian hornet nest



'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!

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Species Description

Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*

AKA: Yellow-legged Hornet

Native to: Asia

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

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

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

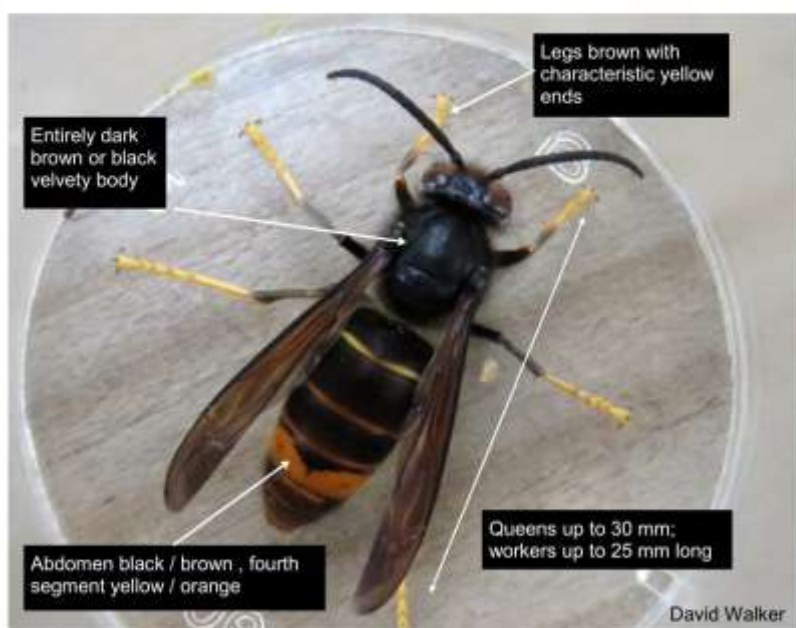
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

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

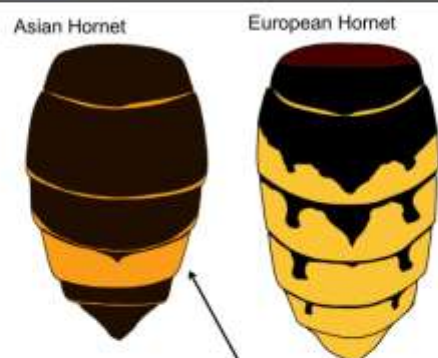


David Walker

Key ID Features



David Walker



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



Asian hornet "hawking" for honey bee prey

J. Haxaire

Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) for comparison

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

Actual size



Q. Rome

Similar Species

European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

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

Actual size



Roger Burgess

Mrs. Tonge, National Bee Unit

Giant woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)

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

Actual size



Q. Rome

Hornet mimic hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*)

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

Actual size



Didier Descouens



Alvesgaspar

Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*)

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

Actual size



Q. Rome

Field Signs

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



For more information visit:

www.nonnativespecies.org
www.nationalbeeunit.com

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