



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

Edition 14

May 2019

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Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the May 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter. Sitting here with my thick jumper on and wondering what on earth is happening to Spring.

One minute we are being told that we have had the hottest Easter on record and now being told that this is the coldest May Day on record! Oh, the joys of British beekeeping.

The annual Spring Conference has now been and gone with slightly less numbers than last year. Initial feedback is that everyone enjoyed the event and all the speakers were complimented on their presentations.

As would be expected the various workshops were well attended and even better ones are in the pipeline for next year.

The YBKA General Secretary who organised the event will be sending out requests for feedback soon and it helps formulating next year's conference if members can give their comments, good or bad. Only by listening to you can we improve future Spring Conferences.

Phil Gee
Chairman

Asian Hornet

Identification Posters

For Printing

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[Website information](#)



ROGER PATTERSON & JIM PEARSON BEE IMPROVEMENT / QUEEN REARING PRACTICAL 2 DAY COURSE

**Huddersfield BKA Apiary 22 / 23 June and 24th / 25th June.
£65 including all lunches and refreshments**

Roger Patterson, who owns and manages Dave Cushman's famous beekeeping website, is coming to Yorkshire across 2 dates in June, to spend 2 full practical days at the hive with YBKA members, on the subject of Bee Improvement. To include assessment of colonies, recording positive characteristics and practical queen rearing techniques. The event is suitable for beekeepers with 3 years+ experience and 4+ hives, who want to set up a queen rearing group or want to seriously improve their bees

**See YBKA website for details and to make a booking
<https://ybkln.org.uk/events/category/events/>**

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 over the phone).

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

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

BBKA syllabus details are here

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

Who Is Your Association Education Officer?

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

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

Mead Course
Click here
to book online

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



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

Mead Course

Click here to book online

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

Do your BASIC beekeeping Assessment in 2019
It's easy, it's awesome, it helps to improve your skills

Book through your association education officer
Go back and read the article you've just passed

[BBKA BASIC syllabus - click here](#)



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!](#)



Beverley Beekeepers' Auction Synopsis

The last Sunday in April saw our annual auction of bees, beekeeping related items and occasional peculiarities held at Woodmansey, just south of Beverley. We again benefitted from awareness of the event through our local radio station where we have also discussed the threat of Asian Hornet invasion.

We had a recent record 23 colonies entered, mostly in poly nucs which are proving to be an increasingly popular method of selling stocks. The colonies' make up varied between having 3 to 15 frames containing brood and between 5 and 20 seams of bees!

Prices were proportionate but the larger colonies when split down would have been the better bet for experienced Beekeepers.

Someone without a bee suit and close to the bees received a sting before the auction had commenced. It turned out he had a local pest control business! Perhaps it is expected that bees which have travelled 50 or 60 miles in the back of a van are not likely to be upset when just liberated! We routinely leave the travelled colonies of bees for 3 hours to settle before the selling time to reduce issues for buyers approaching the temporary apiary.

There were 350 lots submitted, of which 2/3 were labelled, catalogued and set out on the preceding evening. This is a relatively new system permitting a smoother start on the auction morning with an earlier starting time of 11am.

The quality of entries was again high. Over several years we have been promoting a standard of hive and hive part entries that is '*suitably cleaned and prepared for immediate use, especially by a beginner*'. This has necessitated rejecting some lots where the seller has not abided by our auction guidelines.

We are grateful to those in authority who have supported our aims to maintain a good standard. Once again all our colonies were APHA inspected prior to arriving at the auction venue.

From an auctioneer wearing a pink shower cap to demonstrate a new look for extracting, to the ever-popular bacon butties (for which some regular attendees travel 50 miles) the day was a success with again no buyers premium being taken. We have had a good day, again we met new and old friends and liaised with beekeeping neighbours. We would hope to run a similar event next year along our established lines.

There have been fishermen style tales of colony sizes and advice shared especially to new and less experienced beekeepers. Bargains for both buyers and sellers were to be had. We are grateful for the donated items from members who had left the craft.

The auction hall was cleared of lots and swept by 4pm.

A full and exhaustive spreadsheet of the day's transactions arrived in my inbox within 3 hours of the closure of the auction! Many professional businesses and a few government departments should be envious of this attention to detail.

Thanks to the ever-popular catering team, the helpers, especially our transaction coordinator Chris Powney, the auctioneers and most of all to our Auction guru Dave Hodgson and his wife for organising and effecting another popular, entertaining and successful beekeeping day.

Simon Maslin

Tony Jefferson's Views on the 2019 YBKA Conference

I think YBKA have now developed a reasonable balance between practical workshops and formal lectures, however nothing is stable and should look for ways of improving the event.

I thought the speakers on the morning were really good and some excellent presentations, certainly not the dreaded 'death by PowerPoint' approach.

As always at such events a main benefit is the networking and catching up with fellow beekeepers, the social side of such events like this are difficult to value.

The week before I was fortunate to attend another extremely well organised and informative event – the NEBEES convention in Newcastle. This too was an excellent event.

However, being of strong 'Yorkshire blood' or is it deep pockets and short arms? - our own YBKA event does offer truly fantastic value for money at £20 including Lunch and free tea/coffee all day (and a mug to take home) in comparison the NEBEES event is circa £45. But don't let that put you off NEBEES – it was a great event, so when people ask what does YBKA do, this is an example of subsidising the event to keep the building hire and food to a cost only basis, in fact possibly making a slight loss on the event to then be offset from the YBKA reserves, after all that's what we should be spending our cash on.

It is just a pity we cannot get more people attending, it would be good to get the event up to 150 mark. I did pick up a range of positive comments from those in attendance, I would like to see the feedback regarding any negative comments as these are clear markers of areas to improve for future events.

There is always a balance in the afternoon workshops, looking back I can only see that the time for the workshops could be longer and booking them caused some confusion. Think we are in danger of trying to fit too much in.

But balancing it with trying to give more options for people, is always going to be a difficult balancing act.

Work is now ongoing for planning the 2020 event so if anyone has ideas then please feed them forward, as the organising committee really do need inputs to develop a wide and varying program.

Finally – can I give thanks to the organising committee, without their tireless work and stressing the event would not have been possible.

Tony Jefferson

Volunteers Wanted For Great Yorkshire Show

It's that time of year again, the time to submit to me names of your members who would like to come along as a volunteer at this year's show in the Y.B.K.A Pavilion and Bees garden. Please send this to all your members asap.

This year's show dates are the Tues, Wed, and Thurs. 9th 10th and 11th of July. I would love to get members from every association, however, due to the time factor I have to take names on a first come first served basis.

You can volunteer for either all three days, two days or just for even one day of your choice. Unless that day is fully booked. Last year the volunteers were all sorted within the first 10 days of notification, so please don't delay in contacting me asap when your secretaries let you know. Today's date is the 7th of May so please pick up that phone and get booked in.

All volunteers get a free pass to enter the show which I will send out to them nearer the time for each day they volunteer. Plus, a free lunch every day and all drinks/ teas coffee and squash.

Due to the sheer volume of traffic it's always best to arrive early on show days. I am there from 7-30am and would like all volunteers to arrive at the Pavilion no later than 9-00am. Thank you.

The name and number to call is Dave Shannon, on 01302-772837 and please call between 6-00pm and 8-00 pm. With the dates you wish to volunteer and your own names and contact details ready to receive your tickets. I will take a max of 4 persons per association to allow all association members to take part.

Dave Shannon
Pavilion and Bees Garden Steward.

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

Do your BASIC beekeeping Assessment in 2019
It's easy, it's awesome, it helps to improve your skills

Book through your association education officer
Go back and read the article you've just passed

[BBKA BASIC syllabus - click here](#)

John Dews Memorial Lecture – A summary by Tony Jefferson

Organised by Whitby BKA as a special meeting in March.

We decided to run the meeting as a tribute to John Dews. Members were very interested in the ongoing – *treat / don't treat debate*.

John moved to the Whitby area following his teaching career in South Yorkshire, his beekeeping initiatives were always based around breeding and maintaining local black bees. This continues to be a widely respected passion in the Whitby association. John had written extensively in most of the beekeeping press, together with Eric Milner; his selection and bee breeding book a recognised 'go-to' source. He had been an active BIBBA member for many years.

One particular passion was centred around native bees managing to survive, despite the ravages of varroa and the treatments imposed by beekeepers. In the early 90s, when varroa arrived, John did not drop into the establishment views; he maintained a firm belief regarding parasite / host relationship. It was a very sad day in early 2011 when we lost such a beekeeping character. However, his techniques and aspirations continue to this day among dedicated Whitby members. The special tribute meeting was arranged to suggest us all that varroa may be a beekeeper problem rather than a beekeeping problem (more later)

Dorian Pritchard kindly offered to be the keynote speaker and to present his detailed paper titled, "just *what happens if you don't treat for varroa*". This paper is more of a research paper and explained how Dorian had not treated for varroa since 2012.

Dorian is a retired lecturer in human and medical genetics and has over 40 years beekeeping experience with native bees. His experience is centred on learning from bees and beekeepers and challenging the written word. This came as a welcome change to his professional career centred around many text books and research papers. The talk promoted the phrase: "ginger *bandits*" to simply explain the difference between *Apis Mellifera Mellifera* (AMM) native dark bees and various crosses. The term "ginger bandit" is now a stock description and very apt.

The lecture was arranged at Hinderwell Saint Hilda's old School and was attended by a wide cross section of people from all over the YBKA patch (including; - Darlington/Whitby/Cleveland/Ryedale/Wakefield/York/Malton). Tony Jefferson the WBKA Secretary outlined his approach to varroa management as well as delivering a short tribute to John Dews. Brian Lightfoot the WBKA Chairman also gave a report on his own observations and varroa measures. These 2 supporting talks served to indicate that the work initially pioneered by John is still ongoing in Yorkshire, and on a scale that is more than just a couple of colonies for a couple of years

Dorian explained in quite graphic detail how his bees had demonstrated killing behaviour of varroa mites and the development of the activity over the breeding cycle or size of brood nest. At times his research struggled as he did not have much varroa in his AMM hives to study. Then the Eureka Moment when he inherited a swarm containing ginger bandits and finally some varroa to study.

In summary: it is suggested that in normal native dark (*AMM*) colonies of the North of England, pupal stages are hypersensitive to infestation. Low grade mite invasions are therefore arrested by the early death of infested capped brood, providing a high basic level of resistance. Phoretic mites are also destroyed by aggressive grooming by house bees, so that these colonies are virtually completely resistant to *Varroa destructor* and the viruses it carries

The meeting finished with presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Sheila Rawson for her valued contribution to progress John's work and maintain his apiary. Dorian's article was first published in "Bee Improvement and Conservation" Summer 2018 issue 51, pp 6-12. published by BIBBA – copies were handed out to all persons present and can be obtained from BIBBA.

By the way, does anyone know that wing vein plots (morphometry) is known as the Dew's Plot? Have a look at Dave Cushman's website for further information.

Tony Jefferson

Wax Processing Summary



Yorkshire beekeepers joined Harrogate & Ripon beekeepers for our first joint Education event at the Harrogate Hive and Honey Pavillions at the Yorkshire showground this month.

Our tutors, Richard & Shirley Bond, John Chandler and Sarah from HRBKA shared their skills in wax processing, to make a wonderful array of candles, wax flowers and wax blocks. We were joined by Chris Smales from Whitby BKA who proudly showed his invention of a wax solar extractor which tracks the sun for efficient extraction. Chris won first prize in the inventions category at the National Honey Show.



Richard & John, covered extracting wax with steam, from super and brood combs, as well as processing wax cappings and brace comb; followed by a practical from Shirley, on how to produce perfect wax from the 'dry' process of filtering and final cleaning.



In the the second half of the course, Shirley showed us how to use our cleaned wax to produce attractive candle shapes from silicone moulds and we all tried the art of hand dipping candles. Sarah illustrated great dexterity by creating wax flowers and rolled candles.

A fascinating day, covering many wax skills, with the tutors all keen that we have a go in the novice class at the Yorkshire show, or enter our local shows this year with our wax products. Yorkshire beekeepers joined Harrogate & Ripon beekeepers for our first joint Education event at the Harrogate Hive and Honey Pavillions at the Yorkshire showground this month.

Elaine Robinson, Education Officer YBKA



Jobs in the May in Apiary

It's been a very confusing start to the season for bees, with high temperatures in February then frost and cold winds in April, preventing beekeepers in some high-altitude areas from even checking their brood boxes until now. May really kicks off the start of our beekeeping season with spring flowers appearing and the trees bursting into colour and life. Pollen is beginning to flow into hives in abundance along with new, fresh, nectar encouraging queen bees into production.

As previously advised, your newly built frames for brood boxes and supers can now be completed with fresh wax. On a nice warm day replace any old, damaged or really blackened frames with new foundation for the bees to draw out. Preferably do a Bailey Comb Change, quite a simple task and one that encourages all the colony onto newly drawn comb. This is best done when there is a good nectar flow in progress (especially good for beekeepers with oilseed rape nearby). Alternatively, a large rapid feeder is the way to go - one that holds around 6 pints of liquid sugar feed to help the bees draw out the new foundation. By doing this you can actually increase the productivity of the hives and gain more surplus honey to extract over the next few months.

Ensure your queens are well-marked and if not, re-mark them. Having them clearly visible is time-saving when you start your weekly colony inspections, particularly from May when swarm season commences. There has been much speculation about swarm loss and its causes, however, if you perform weekly inspections on your hives and identify the appearance of queen cells, most of the concern for colony loss can be avoided. Don't confuse queen cells with queen cups - the small dish-shaped cups that bees produce at times. Strong queen cells, loaded or "charged", contain white Royal Jelly in the base with a small lava floating on top. Don't wait until the queen cells are sealed or your bees will swarm! But even if delayed from swarming by bad weather, you will not know whether a sealed cell contains a viable, live queen or even, perhaps, a dead worker bee!

As soon as good, open, queen cells are detected you need to be able to put a strategy in place to avert the risk of swarming and provide yourself with the opportunity to increase your stock. If you want to do the latter, it is important to have some pre-prepared nucleus hives ready to house your new colonies, ideally with frames of clean comb, or frames of foundation if comb is not available. Then proceed as follows:

- First, find your queen and remove her, from the parent hive, to a safe place. You can put her in a cage and keep that in your pocket, if necessary.
- Now find a frame containing a good, open queen cell. Check this frame carefully, to make sure there is only the one queen cell present. If you find more, cut them back. Place this frame in the middle of the nuc box, marking the position of the queen cell, on the top of the frame.
- Take a second frame from the parent colony, that contains mostly sealed brood and older larvae. Again, check it carefully to make sure it contains no queen cells and if you find any, knock them back. Shake this frame into the parent colony brood box, once or twice, to dislodge any flying bees and place it, with the younger, nurse bees adhering into the nuc box, to one side of the frame with the queen cell.
- Repeat this same process with a third frame of mostly sealed brood and older larvae and place it on the other side of the frame with the queen cell.
- Add a frame of stores from the parent colony if you have frames of comb to complete the nuc box or, if you need to complete the nuc with frames of foundation, you will need to add a feeder of thin syrup. This will provide the fuel for the young bees to draw the foundation into comb laying-space for the new queen, once mated.
- Remember to reduce the nuc entrance opening, to prevent robbing, if feed has been applied.

At this stage I usually move the nuc box to the position in the apiary where it will remain. Leave it alone for about 21 days, allowing time for the new queen to have emerged, mated and begun laying. Hopefully by then eggs can be seen and you will have a second, viable, colony. With several good quality queen-cells you can repeat this process.

On the day of beginning this manipulation, you have the original, parent hive, depleted of some frames and nurse bees and the old queen safely put away (in your pocket or kit box). Now, you have a choice:

- **Either:** With another, good, open queen cell, you can raise a new queen to lead this original colony through into the following year. To do this, check all remaining frames carefully, to make sure there are no more queen cells present and if you find any, knock them back. Put the frame containing the chosen, good, open queen cell in the middle of the box and flank it on either side with frames of young brood, then frames of sealed brood, then stores and make up the full frame complement with frames of clean comb or foundation.
- **Or:** You may decide to keep the original queen of this colony and return her to the brood box after checking all remaining frames for queen cells, knocking back any that you find and making up the brood frame complement with frames of clean comb, or foundation.

This second strategy runs the risk of further swarming later in the season if the colony raises further queen cells. Keeping older queens in colonies can add to the risk of superseding. It seems as if drones are less sexually active/fertile than they used to be and the risk of an older queen running out of eggs, through poor mating, seems to be increasing. I prefer to keep a new, young, queen in the parent colony and dispose of the older queen. This may seem harsh, but it does work.

Increasing your stock gives you the chance to “rescue” a colony that might otherwise fail. For example, if a virgin queen from one nuc fails to return from a mating flight, you will have another queen-right colony to unite the queen-less colony with.

This technique for making increase is a simple strategy for new beekeepers to practice.

Selection of queens from an individual hive by grafting is a more advanced option and will be covered in a later edition.

Hope you all have a great season.

A reminder! Honey Show time is only a few months away. Schedules and entry forms for the Great Yorkshire Show (**9-11 July**) can be obtained directly from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society at Harrogate. Or you can contact me on 01302 772837 or Peter Lewis (chief steward) on 01484 684668 asap.

I am looking for YBKA members now, who wish to volunteer at the YBKA Pavilion at this year's GY Show. You can volunteer for any number of the 3 days. Contact me on the number above, 6-9pm. All drinks and a lunch will be provided each day, as well as free entry into the show-ground.

This is on a first come first served basis

Look forward to hearing from you and happy beekeeping

Dave Shannon.

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 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

The Strangest Colony

The Utility Infrastructure Team working at Wilton International site in the NE near Redcar, came across a rather unusual find whilst tidying up some discarded road cones in a disused area of site.

When they moved 2 old road cones it was a bit of a shock to find established colonies of bees inside the cones and they had to make a rather hasty departure from the area. Fortunately, Tony Jefferson is the site Senior Responsible High Voltage Electrical Engineer and was on hand to take away their problem.

One of the cones was a very strong colony with lots of incoming pollen (see photo of the discarded cone on its side)

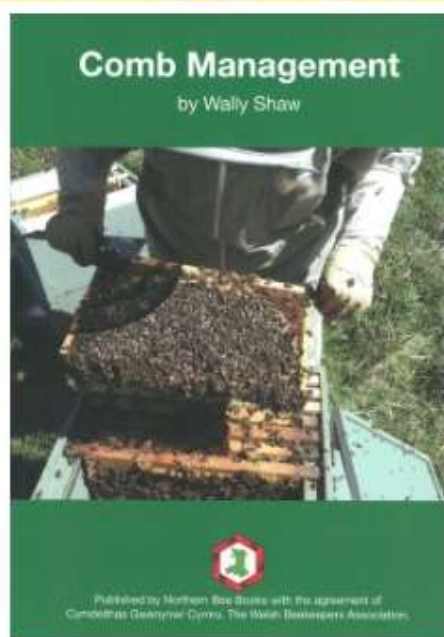


The other was a small cluster that may not survive the disturbance and relocation

Both are moved to a more suitable location, with the larger colony sat on top of a brood box and both colonies rapidly re-orientated to the new entrances



Comb Management by Wally Shaw



Don't miss this important part of beekeeping and colony health, covered in another classic title by Wally Shaw, from Northern Bee Books

Visit www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

Science Behind Bee Keeping

Interplay of pollinators and pests influences plant evolution

Brassica rapa plants pollinated by bumblebees evolve more attractive flowers. But this evolution is compromised if caterpillars attack the plant at the same time. With the bees pollinating them less effectively, the plants increasingly self-pollinate. In a greenhouse evolution experiment, scientists have shown just how much the effects of pollinators and pests influence each other.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190411145124.htm>

Beekeeping Related YouTube Videos

Open Dry feeding of pollen supplement to bees in Canada

Open feeding dry Ultrabee to my Apiary. After the hives are set out, we set out feed for the hives to take before natural pollen becomes available

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPZ7V7lcY6I>

Good Blogs on the T`interweb

The nucleus method of swarm control by Dr Evans.

Almost all beekeeping associations – and most books – teach Pagdens’ artificial swarm as the recommended method of swarm control. Here’s an alternative ... the nucleus method of swarm control.

<https://theapiarist.org/the-nucleus-method/>

the Dameree method of swarm control by Dr Evans

The principle of the method is very straightforward.

I particularly like Demaree’s comment that any swarm prevention method that *“require a divided condition of the colony, using two or more hives, is not worthy of a thought”*.

<https://theapiarist.org/demaree-swarm-control/>

Do You Really Need to Worry About Pesticides on Your Kale?

Last week the Environmental Working Group (EWG) published its annual “Dirty Dozen List” and highlighted Kale near the top of its list of foods with “pesticide residue contamination.” They want you to buy your Kale as Organic. EWG claims to base that recommendation on data from the USDA’s Pesticide Data Program (PDP), but a closer look at the actual data suggests a far different conclusion – that the Kale in our food supply is quite safe and that there is not the big difference between organic and conventional that they imply.

<http://appliedmythology.blogspot.com/2019/03/do-you-really-need-to-worry-about.html>

Mite Drift Quantification

There’s been a lot of discussion on “mite bombs” and the drifting of bees and mites from hive to hive. But there’s been surprisingly little research to measure exactly how many mites actually do manage to successfully catch rides into other hives. I’d like to offer an opportunity for beekeepers to answer that question ourselves.

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/mite-drift-quantification/>

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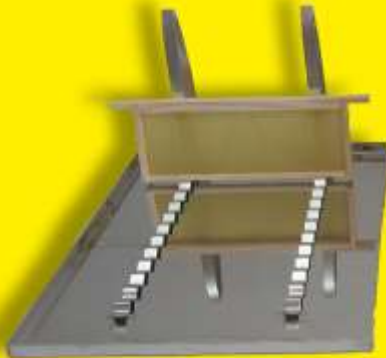
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YBKA Calendar of events

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.

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
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Doncaster	Dave Shannon	01302 772837 / 07907 856515
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Whitby	Tony Jefferson	stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk 07749 731945

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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

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:

<https://hbka.org.uk/event/hbka-auction/>

Auction starts at 12:00

Viewing has been from 10.30

Lots accepted from 09:00 till 12.00am

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

Bees for sale must be accompanied by the form downloaded here: [Colony Description Form 2019](#)

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

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

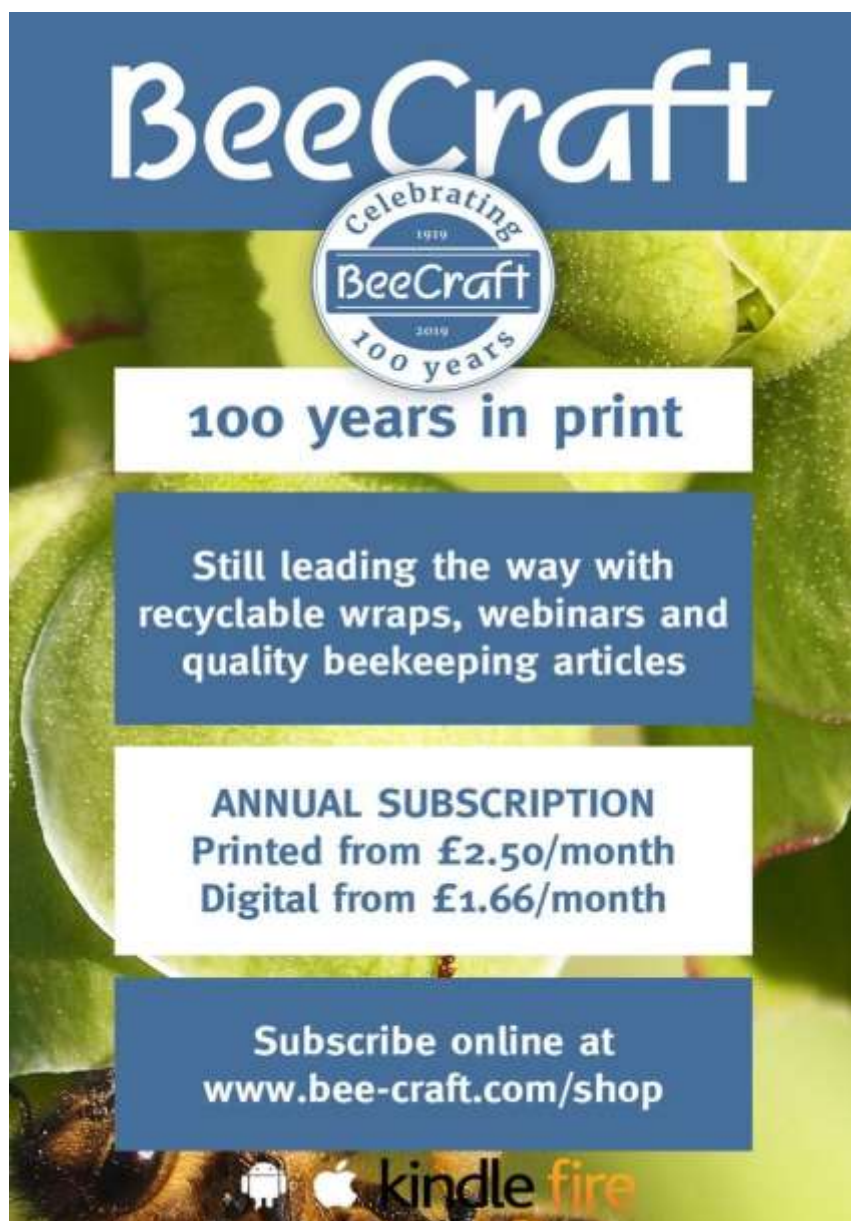
Print out and hang up lots of copies in
the association apiary for people to
pick up and take away

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

The image is a vertical advertisement for BeeCraft magazine. At the top, the word "BeeCraft" is written in a large, white, serif font on a dark blue background. Below it is a circular seal that says "Celebrating 1919 BeeCraft 2019 100 years". The background of the entire advertisement is a close-up photograph of green leaves. There are four main text boxes: a white box with "100 years in print", a blue box with "Still leading the way with recyclable wraps, webinars and quality beekeeping articles", a white box with "ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION Printed from £2.50/month Digital from £1.66/month", and a blue box with "Subscribe online at www.bee-craft.com/shop". At the bottom, there are icons for Android, Apple, and Kindle Fire.

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

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

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)

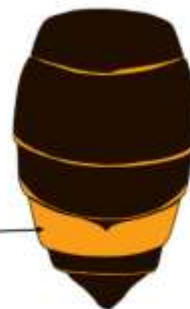
Asian hornet nest



'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.

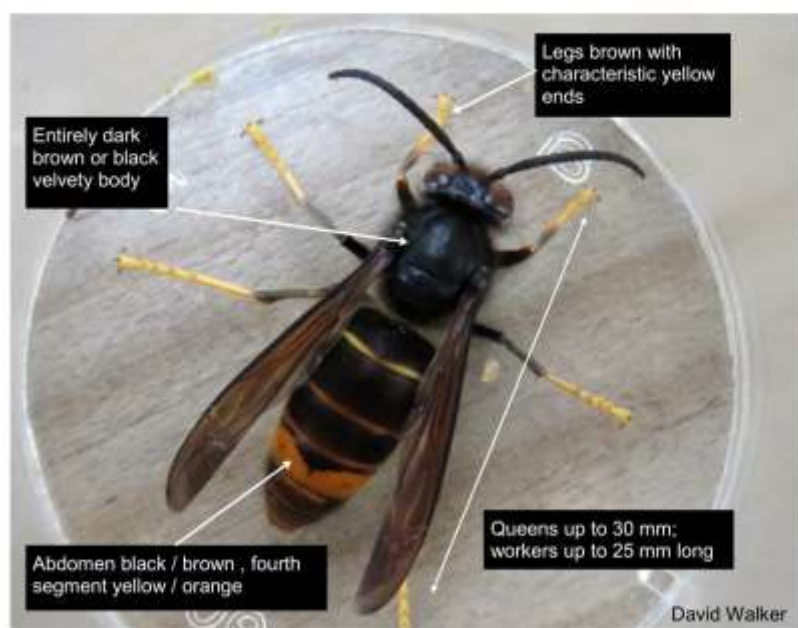
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

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

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

