



YBKA Newsletter Edition 21 – December 2019

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Chairman's Notes

I would like to start my first Chairman's Newsletter article with a personal apology to all our members for my absence from the AGM on 30 November. This was due to circumstances beyond my control. I would also like to thank

everybody who voted for me as Chair of YBKA again and outline my intentions for my three years in post.

As most of you know I am a strong advocate for producing better beekeepers through education and will strive to continue in this vein to benefit all our members. The introduction of association teaching apiaries is a great start for all associations and gives the chance for the more experienced beekeepers within associations to help new members become good beekeepers in turn.

It's no good just sitting in the background. We need the experience and expertise you yourselves have gained over years of beekeeping to be handed on to your new beekeepers; encouraging them to start taking their BBKA module exams - beginning with the Basic Assessment. YBKA Education Officers organize the exam venues and arrange for an invigilator to supervise. They also arrange for practical apiary and classroom tutorials for members wishing to take their General Husbandry exam. We chose three areas within our large county for these but we need the use of good quality apiaries and sometimes ask the apiary managers to assist with this as their knowledge of the hives in their care is invaluable. We hold queen breeding programs when experienced, often Master Beekeepers, teach enrolled members how to rear good queens and maintain good healthy stocks of bees.

YBKA Education Officer Elaine Robinson announced earlier she is to stand down at the 2020 Delegates Meeting, to devote more time to her 10 colonies; her studies for beekeeping modules and role of Education Officer for Halifax BKA. Elaine advised the committee that the present system of having just one person organize and carry out all the tasks of the YBKA role was too much. So now we have two Education Officers, namely Kirit Gordhand and Clare McGettigan to share the duties. I am sure that they will work closely together, to achieve long term, good quality beekeeping education to help all our members increase and improve their beekeeping skills

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both to the YBKA committee and thank Elaine for all her hard work and organisation over the past two years; as well as recruiting two, great, replacements.

Over the past two years YBKA has had fantastic feedback from members who have attended our many courses, tutorials and exams. My aims for the next three years are to maintain this high standard and hopefully encourage more area associations to take part in the events arranged by our new officers. Following members' approval at the AGM we have just purchased a

further four microscopes, adding to the four that we had. In the future we are hoping to be able to put together a YBKA Microscopy course for our members.

Our Spring Conference 2020 is changing venue from the Manor Academy at York to the prestigious Yorkshire Agricultural Society Pavilions at the Harrogate Show ground. The venue is situated straight off the main Wetherby-Harrogate Rd. Coming from Wetherby it is the first gated entrance after the Sainsburys supermarket turn off (yellow car park). This change was prompted, in part, by feedback from members who thought the seating in the main auditorium at Manor Academy was too cramped.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of you there.
Full details will be in the Newsletter and on the YBKA website in due course, including ticket prices and how to book your places online.
Many thanks,

YBKA Chair

Dave Shannon

Precis of the YBKA AGM, held on 30 November 2019

On a bright, crisp, morning in November, beekeepers from across the Yorkshire area broke cluster to gather for the AGM. Full minutes are to follow, but for now, some edited highlights!

One task of the AGM is the election of officers and the meeting made the following appointments:

Dave Shannon (**Doncaster**) becomes the new Chair

Mark Millard (**Wakefield**) is now Vice Chair

Another notable change to the Committee line-up is the joint appointment of Clare McGettigan and Kirit Gorhandas (**both of Leeds BKA**) to share the post of Education Officer, as explained elsewhere in this edition.

Norbert Cooper (**Barkston Ash**), thankfully, continues in his role as Treasurer and following the resignation of Roger Chappel, the new General Secretary is little me, Linda Schofield (**Airedale**)

We are fortunate to retain the services of other non-designated officers: Derrie O'Sullivan; Ivor Flatman; Dave Lamont; Chris Barlow; Phil Gee and to welcome the return of Tony Jefferson (**Whitby**) to the post of YBKA Delegate to the BBKA

Our thanks must go to those stepping down from office after varying lengths of service, including Roger Chappel, Elaine Robinson and Phil Gee (who I understand is to be overwintered in a poly nuc, to recoup his energies after an eventful 3 years as YBKA Chair!).

The meeting heard a series of reports on work carried out throughout the year and highlighted the many efforts and positive progress made across the YBKA region.

One of my goals for the 2020 Delegates Meeting and AGM, is to remind attenders to bring an empty container to fill up with the inevitable “left-overs” from the buffet lunch! (Derrie kindly delivered the surplus from this meeting to a shelter for the homeless on the way back to his hive).

Thanks to all YBKA members who made the journey and gave their time to attend the meeting this year. Must crack on with the minutes now, to share with those who could not be there.

Linda Schofield

New YBKA Training Officer and Exams Officer

I'm pleased to announce Kirit Gordhandas is taking the role of Exams & Assessments Officer and Clare McGettigan that of Training Officer, from myself in January. Kirit should be contacted for all applications for Module exams, General, Advanced husbandry and Microscopy assessments. Clare will be arranging Study Days and other beekeeper training, based on what you, our members, would like to see running this coming year. Your local Education Officer will continue to be your key point of contact to apply for the Basic & Bee Health practical assessments. I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting lots of beekeepers over the last 2 years and as a relative beginner myself, I've really benefitted from being involved in Education for YBKA. I wish Kirit and Clare every success in their new positions for YBKA.

Elaine Robinson, YBKA Education Officer

Clare McGettigan Resume

I have been keeping bees at Newton Kyme near Tadcaster since 2010, and very much consider myself a hobby beekeeper as, until recently, I was frequently travelling with work which did not leave much time for practical beekeeping. Lots of travel time did however mean I was able to partly satisfy my beekeeping 'itch' by reading and studying. At the time of writing, I have passed Modules 1 to 7 and await the results of Module 8 which I sat in November. In 2020, I am hoping to have more time to build my practical skills as well as study for the Microscopy assessment.

Although I have personally found it helpful to use the BBKA exams to focus my continuous learning, I recognise that this does not suit everyone! I hope that as I take on this new role, I will be able to build on the great work done by Elaine in providing education days that are of interest and open to all, irrespective of whether they want to sit an exam. I am particularly looking forward to contacting and working with the Education Officers in each of our local associations to understand the support and type of training they require to meet their local training objectives. Indeed, I am happy to hear directly from any of our YBKA members who have ideas on how we can constantly improve our central educational support!

Clare McGettigan

New YBKA Examinations Officer for 2020

I am Kirit Gordhandas, the new Exams & Assessments Officer for YBKA. I will be working closely with Clare McGettigan, the new Education Officer for YBKA.

I am in my 4th year as a beekeeper and I am currently overwintering 7 colonies. I now breed my own queens and believe passionately that beekeepers should be breeding locally adapted bees. I am involved with a local queen rearing group as well training new beekeepers in my local association.

I will be the first port of call for any member of a District Association that is a member of the YBKA who want to sit any of the following examinations:

1. Module Exams,
 - Module 1 - Honey Bee Management
 - Module 2 - Honey Bee Products and Forage
 - Module 3 - Honey Bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning
 - Module 5 - Honey Bee Biology
 - Module 6 - Honey Bee Behaviour
 - Module 7 - Selection & Breeding of Honeybees
 - Module 8 (MUST BE TAKEN LAST) Honeybee Management, Health and History
2. General Husbandry Assessment,
3. Advanced Husbandry Assessment, and
4. Microscopy Assessment.

Application forms for the above exams and assessments should be completed and sent to me at the following address:

Kirit Gordhandas,
19 Balmoral Drive,
Ferrybridge,
Knottingley,
West Yorkshire,
WF11 8RQ.

Your local association Education Officer should be the first port of call for the Basic Assessment and the Bee Health certificate Assessment.

The YBKA email address for the Examination Officer is:

examination@ybka.org.uk.

INFORMATION OF NOTE

1. If you have been keeping bees for over 12 months you are encouraged to enter for the Basic Assessment. This is a practical assessment, usually carried out at a local or association apiary. The cost of entry is £20. Last assessment date is 31st August 2020.

2. If you have been keeping bees for over 3 years AND have been awarded the BBKA Basic Certificate you are encouraged to enter for the Bee Health Certificate. This is a practical assessment usually carried out in a local or association apiary. The cost of entry is £40. Last assessment date is 31st July 2020
3. The closing date for sitting the module examinations in March 2020 is 10th February 2020. The date of the examination is 21st March 2020.
4. The closing date for sitting the module examinations in November 2020 is 30th September 2020. The date of the examination is 14th November 2020.

Full details of the examinations & assessments and an application form can be found at:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/exams-and-assessments-of-the-bbka>

If you are considering entering the Microscopy Assessment in 2020, please note that there is a NEW syllabus effective as of January 2020.

Full details of the new Microscopy Syllabus can be found at:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/practical-assessments#MicroscopyCertificate>

I look forward to receiving your application to sit an examination or assessment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information on any aspect of an examination or assessment.

Kirit Gordhandas

Modules Applications – Local Education Officer, BBKA or YBKA Education Officer

Applications for **March Module exams** (ONLY) should be sent to me at the address given above.

Basic Assessment & Honeybee Health applications for 2020 should go to your local Education Officer, who will organise the assessments (you can find a list of all their names and contact details in the November edition of the YBKA Newsletter).

All other assessments e.g. General husbandry, Advanced Husbandry should be sent directly to BBKA, who will organise the assessments directly with the candidate.

EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT DATES & FEES 2020			
EXAMINATION/ ASSESSMENT	FEE	CLOSING DATE	NOTES (also see appropriate syllabus)
JUNIOR	£5	As Basic Certificate	Aged under 18 only in small groups.
BASIC	£20	1 month prior to taking the assessment	May be held at any suitable apiary. Normally small group of candidates examined on same day Last Assessment 31st August
MODULES	£30.00 each	10 th February 30 th September	ALL MODULES held on 21 st March 2020 ALL MODULES held on 14 th November 2020 Dates for 2021 will be: March 20 th November 13 th
BEE HEALTH CERTIFICATE	£40	28 th February	Must hold Basic Certificate. May be held at any suitable apiary. Normally small group of candidates examined on same day Last Assessment 31st July
BEE BREEDING CERTIFICATE	£80	28 th February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Held at apiary of candidate.
GENERAL CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£80	28 th February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Held at apiary of candidate.
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£120	28 th February	Must hold General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry To be held at Stoneleigh on 29/30/31 May 2020 and

			12/13/14 June 2020 depending on numbers
SHOW JUDGE	£40	N/A	Must hold Basic Certificate. See entry requirements in Prospectus
MICROSCOPY	£60	31 st August	Must hold Basic Certificate. To be held at various venues 21st/22nd November 2020 plus other dates as required
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES	£60 each	N/A	Available for the Basic, all seven Modules and Microscopy theory

Further information including Examination/Assessment application forms and syllabi are available from the web site www.bbka.org.uk

Refunds and deferrals

5. If there is a valid reason for not taking an examination or assessment, a refund can be given.
6. Generally, there will be an administration charge of £10.00 deducted from the refund except:
 - no refunds will be given after the closing date for Modules, or Advanced Husbandry;
 - no refund will be given for Microscopy or General Husbandry if withdrawal is within one month of the assessment
7. Deferral of an exam or assessment is allowed, as an alternative to a refund, provided due notice is given. This is for one year only and there will be an administration charge of half the entry fee, payable on re-application. After 1 year the full fee will be payable. Candidates who have deferred an exam must send an application form with the deferral fee when they wish to take the exam/assessment.

Non-Members

- For the Junior Assessment, BBKA Membership is not required
- For Members of Welsh BKA, Scottish BKA or Ulster BKA an additional fee of £9 will be required.

- All other candidates must hold BBKA membership of some category.

YBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT AWARDS

At the recent YBKA AGM, Elaine Robinson, YBKA Education officer, presented two £250 prizes of Thorne vouchers for the best Associations and a £50 prize for the member with the best overall result. The 2 Associations are Richmond and Halifax. Richmond took 12 Members through the Basic, which was the highest % of members of any association. Peter Russell, Richmond Education officer has an expectation that beginners will take the Basic after their first year and consistently has high numbers of members taking the assessment not just this year but every year. The second Association was Halifax, which had a record 17 members take their Basic, with a very high number of 16 out of 17 achieving a Credit. The secret of their success was to actively promote the benefits of the Basic at meetings and encourage last year's beginners to take part. They also held a training day with theory and practical sessions, which helped achieve the high number of credits.

Karen Taylor, a Halifax Member, achieved the highest score of any candidate in Yorkshire in the assessment.

The YBKA committee have decided to continue with the £20 refund for all candidates taking the Basic in 2020, which is very positive news. Please continue to give new beekeepers support and encourage them to take the Basic & perhaps then they will consider continuing their education with other BBKA exams and assessments

Elaine Robinson, YBKA
Education Officer

Peter Russell from
Richmond BKA & Phil
Gee from Halifax,
receiving their £250 of
Thorne vouchers for
their Associations.



Yorkshire



Karen Taylor from Halifax BKA receiving her £50 Thorne voucher

**DATE FOR DIARIES -
Saturday 18th April 2020
YBKA Spring Conference**

The subject will be "Practical Beekeeping"
Run in conjunction with Yorkshire Agricultural Society (YAS)
Held at the prestige YAS Pavilions complex. (near Fodder)
Lectures and workshops by YBKA members
Trade stands will be in attendance
Northern Bee Books will be there with a vast collection of quality books

Thornes have offered to hold their spring sales items over to enable collection at the conference!

Lunch will be included in the admission cost

Further details to follow - as arrangements are finalised

Phil Gee / Dave Shannon / Tony Jefferson (the initial organising team)

BBKA ADM

Your YBKA / BBKA delegate, (Tony Jefferson) outlined the propositions at the recent YBKA AGM,

The details are in the December BBKA newsletter.

if there are any comments about the various propositions then please contact Tony with your comments.

APIARY PLANNING APPLICATION BY SELBY BKA

Selby Beekeepers Association are happy to report that a planning application has been submitted to Selby District Council for the erection of their Association Apiary in the town cemetery at Selby.

Selby Town Council has provided an unused parcel of land within the cemetery and is fully supporting the project. Apart from being a visitor attraction for the town, on completion of the project, local schools and the whole community alike will be able to visit the apiary and observe the bees at work. There will be a wide variety of education and informative A2 posters around the apiary providing visitors with an insight into the life our honeybees. We also expect to have beekeeping demonstrations at weekends where visitors can sit in the "Bee Free Zone" to watch and listen to a live inspection of a colony of honeybees.

The project has been funded, in full, from the National Lottery Community Fund and we are planning to have our apiary up and running for spring 2020.





Further information and updates will be available on our website at <https://www.selbybeekeepers.org.uk> or on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/selbybees>

Chriss Line

Darlington BKA Honey show

Darlington BKA Honey show had always been held in a local village hall in the evening, with entries being brought in about an hour before judging, entries had got to the 70 plus level. In 2018 the show was held in December and the number of entries dropped to less than 40 with a very low attendance. This was most disappointing, but feedback from members indicated that the show would be better supported if held earlier in the year and in the day.





The DBKA committee decided that something radical had to be done. It was decided that we should try holding the show in a central Darlington location with good public access and earlier in the year. This would give us the opportunity to raise our profile within the local community as well as showcasing the variety and high quality of the products of our bees.

Darlington Covered Market offered us the use of some

empty stalls and it was agreed that we would hold the show there. The date was set for Saturday 28th September with an exhibition focussing on bees as pollinators to be mounted during the preceding week in the market. We made a point of talking to the market stallholders to find out how best we could help each other to increase the footfall to everyone's advantage.

Honey shows are a very important way of ***interfacing with the public***. YBKA and its districts maintain their charitable status only if the charitable aims are upheld and public education is a core one of these aims. The purpose of a honey show is to Improve the quality of beekeeper products and to EDUCATE the PUBLIC on what quality to expect.

Dave Shannon, BBKA Show Judge, from Doncaster agreed to come and judge the show. A new show schedule was drawn up with several OPEN classes to encourage wider participation. Notices about the show were placed in the Yorkshire BKA Newsletter and with other associations in the region. Our own members were all encouraged to take part, with sessions on how to prepare honey and wax for show. New beekeepers were advised about the best cooking techniques for honey cakes.

Cleveland BKA loaned us their staging- thank you very much!

The show was an outstanding success. 142 entries and 24 entrants.

Darlington Mayor opened the show and had to be dragged off to his next engagement! Large numbers of the public came and looked at the entries, some wanted to buy them. The exhibition and live bees were very popular (thank you Mike). We sold all the DBKA apiary honey and all the wax blocks we had, as well as many candles.

It was hard work, but the benefits are large. We have a public following and demand for DBKA and members honey. We have been offered a stall on the Christmas market in Darlington. Our members have the confidence that their honey is fit for sale, and that it is good enough for shows such as the Great Yorkshire Show and the YBKA show at Countryside live. Showing Honey and Bee products is a great way to get new members, educate the public and raise public awareness of bees and beekeeping. So be brave and take the step and do not forget to have the YBKA show entry date (early September) in your diary as well. You won't win if you don't enter.



BBKA MICROSCOPY CERTIFICATE – COURSE OPPORTUNITIES - 1 PLACE LEFT ONLY

Are you thinking of taking your BBKA Microscopy certificate? This course covers all aspects of the BBKA Microscopy syllabus:

5 days with Harrogate & Ripon Beekeepers in Harrogate

HARROGATE & RIPON COURSE – only 1 place left

HRBKA propose to run a Microscopy Course beginning in January 2020. This 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.

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 are here](#)

What3Words App

Being a beekeeper can get you into some quite isolated locations. If the worst was to happen and you needed the Emergency Services' help, then it might be quite difficult to explain where you are.

This is where the app: "what3words" comes in extremely useful. It is now used by Emergency Services throughout 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.

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

December in the Apiary

At this time of year, late November through December and into the early new year, most bee colonies are in semi or full cluster mode. Only the odd bee is venturing out of the hive on milder days, with sunshine, either for toileting-flights or water gathering. The majority will be huddled in a cluster in the brood box.

They rotate from the outer edges to the inside of the cluster and can generate heat within the hive by contracting and relaxing their flight muscles as the temperatures fall. The queen is usually found in the middle of this cluster, where a constant temperature, no lower than 20C, is maintained by the worker bees. Usually, by December all the mid-summer bees have now died off, leaving behind those of late summer/autumn as winter bees. There will be very little, if any, brood at all. Most queens reduce or completely stop laying.

If you have fed them well, to the recommended 50/55lbs of stores per colony, your bees should now have enough stores to last them through to about Easter time next year, when plants will start producing nectar again. However, good beekeepers check their hives on a weekly basis throughout the winter months, hefting them to ensure supplies of food are still adequate, without having to open the hives at all. Some have a quick look down through the porta-bee hole on the crown board to check the bees are still ok. They check that hive lids are still secure and have not been dislodged by strong winds.

This is also an excellent time of year to make sure that your bees are as free of varroa as possible. One means of treating now, is achieved by trickling 5 ml of an approved oxalic acid product between each seam of bees in the cluster. This is best done on a mild day, between the Winter Solstice and the end of December. Oxalic acid products will kill brood, but there is almost none to be harmed at this time of the year. For the small amount of brood that may be present, the sacrifice of this, for the benefit of the whole colony, is a price worth paying.

You can buy a small injection gun that fills to the exact measure with each squeeze of the trigger between seams. This makes the job very easy, especially with two people. The job needs to be done as quickly as possible to maintain the colony temperature. Always wear your bee suit, with gloves and even goggles/face mask. Oxalic acid is a powerful chemical and you must take great care. Keep your smoker lit just in case the bees get angry then you can smoke them down quickly.

I like to keep the apiary clean and remove any cappings that may have dropped to the ground beneath the hives, where bees have removed them as they uncover their supplies of stores. I use the cold months of December and January to treat the outside of hives with a fresh coat of wood preservative. Close up the entrance for 5 minutes to apply a quick coat. This will ensure your hives are protected, externally, against bad weather, without harming the bees safely inside.

This is also a good time to clean and re-coat all your spare supers and brood boxes, getting ready for the season to come. Check mouse guards are secure and that protection against woodpeckers, if needed, is still in place. All this done, just keep checking the supply of stores and hopefully, your bees will be fine.

If you need to move any hives to another site, late December is a good time to do it. Wait until the weather has been very cold for about two weeks and

the bees have been confined to their hive, then close them up and move them to their new location. In the spring they will re-orientate well when they begin to forage once again.

Don't forget to enlist for the Module tutorials planned for the spring, or to take one or more of the BBKA examinations next year, to better your beekeeping skills. Our newer beekeepers can use the winter months to swot for the Basic Assessment next year.

Enjoy this time of year and a Happy Christmas to one and all.

Dave Shannon

Biodiversity and the honeybee

An enthusiastic presentation by a newly formed BKA, after some of the drier moments of the last YBKA AGM, was a welcome relief. A new beekeeping group, populated by enthused individuals, keen to share the craft, had been formed and it seemed there was a lot of interest from the local community. Permissions for land-use for forage and training had been secured, all very exciting, but then the "B" word came up. Biodiversity. Not only that but how were honeybees going to augment the local biodiversity?

There is only one way that honeybees improve biodiversity and that is because they connect the beekeeper to a greater understanding of how an insect interacts with its wider world. A world structured and controlled by humans. Forage and landscape, the incredibly significant role of weather: the significance of toxic environments, also known as farmland, drenched (under most normal agricultural practices) with pesticide, miticides and fungicides and other similarly degraded environments such as parklands, moorland, floodplain, the built environments and our gardens – beekeeping begins to connect our attention to these "managed" places. Beekeeping may even make us change our behaviours. Influence how we see the non-built environment and green it, not just more but better. Lead us to control, even ban chemicals from our own green spaces: we might even buy more organic food. We might start to campaign for the environment!

What beekeeping does not do, by the introduction of a non-native farmed species, is improve biodiversity. Not in any way whatsoever. The science is out there demonstrating this and has been for many years. Think about it – adding thousands of one species to an environment means a depletion of resources for other truly native species competing for the same resources. This super organism, our honeybee, is super effective by its very truly

eusocial nature. With this addition the native species of bee, usually solitary, although some, like the bumble, do make larger colonies of a few hundred bees only, have now been thrust into a world of compete or die.

Why is that? Evolution means most bees (like almost all other species) have evolved to exist within a niche – it's called a specialism. In the case of the bee and its specialised, physiological adaptations, its tongue or proboscis will be a certain length because it will feed off those types of native flowers whose nectary depth is very specific (one of the plant's own specialisms). Solitary bees will only be able to fly a limited distance because they have such a lot of work to do on their own to be effective which will mean their lifespan is equally short – very short. Species' emergence will be time specific as they have evolved with the seasonal availability of site-specific forage. That's why, if you look in your garden in summer over a period of weeks, you might have noticed that you don't see all bee species all the time. The farmed (as that's what we're all essentially doing) honeybee (introduced, of course by Homo Sapiens) is the reason for the demise of innumerable foraging species as they literally "clean up". They have outcompeted native species so much so that the local flora cannot reproduce (check out the impacts in Tasmania). This, in turn, starts to negatively affect insect-eating fauna and soils degrade and denude because local flora is not reproducing. As an introduced and farmed species you can compare them to sheep and the degraded landscapes which surround us all through indifferent management - look at the sheep-wrecked environments of New Zealand, Australia and even our own Lake District to see the horrors of that.

Beekeepers will not like this, but it is a fact. I am a beekeeper. Becoming one has indeed opened my eyes to the damage we must repair, and I thank the honeybee for that. But do not believe, for one moment, that you are improving biodiversity. You most definitely are not.

Chris Hardy
ABKA

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

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

Committee Details

Dave Shannon is now Chair of YBKA

Norbert Cooper continues as Treasurer

Mark Millard is Vice Chair

Kirit Gorhandas Exams Officer

Clare McGettigan - Education Training Officer

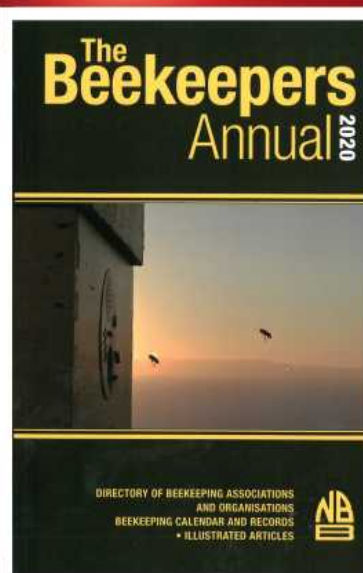
Linda Schofield - General Secretary

Tony Jefferson - YBKA Delegate to BBKA.

Newsletter Editor – Chris Barlow

The Beekeeper's Annual 2020

Now in its 36th year of publication, the Annual is the longest running Annual in the history of British beekeeping. It serves as a reference source, a diary, a hive record resource (which will prove invaluable throughout the year) and a set of articles guaranteed to entertain and amuse. The perfect stocking filler for the enthusiastic beekeeper.



Visit www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

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**The following pages are about ASIAN HORNET
Please print out and circulate the follow pages.**

The following 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

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 few 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 \(youtube\)](#)

[Government news article here. UK sightings in 2019](#)

Have you seen this insect?

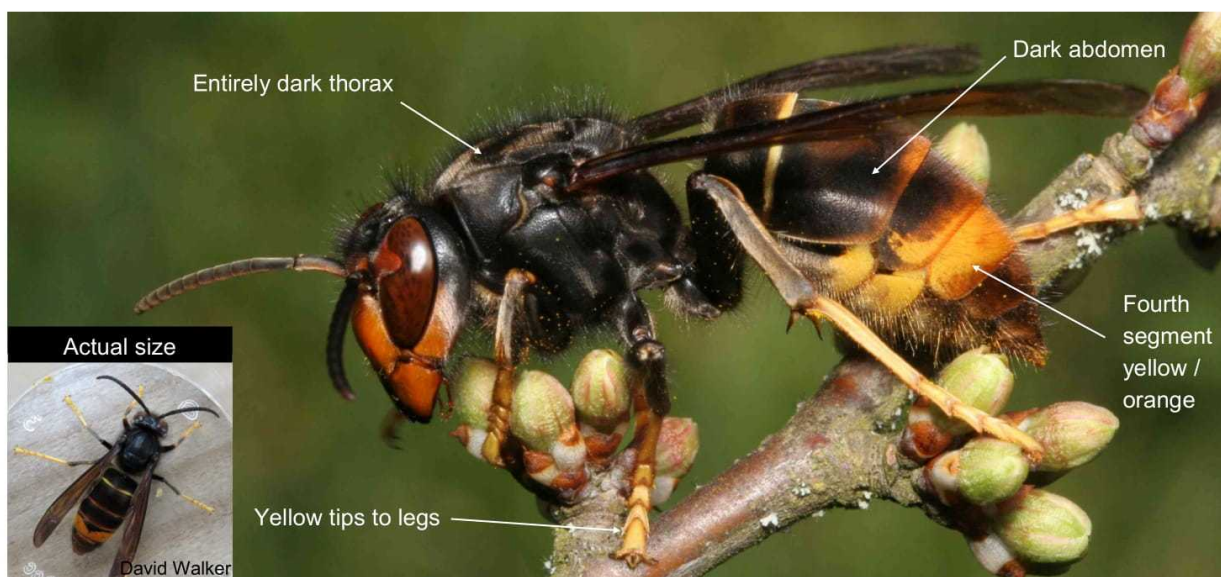
ASIAN HORNET

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)

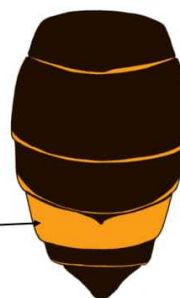
Asian hornet nest



'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 (*Vespa velutina*) for comparison

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

Actual size



Q. Rome

Similar Species

European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

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

Actual size



Roger Burgess



Mia Tonge, National Bee Unit

Giant woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)

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

Actual size



Q. Rome

Hornet mimic hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*)

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

Actual size



Didier Descouens



Alvesgaspar

Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*)

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

Actual size



Q. Rome

Field Signs

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



For more information visit:

www.nonnativespecies.org
www.nationalbeeunit.com

Report sightings of this species:

Alert!

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

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

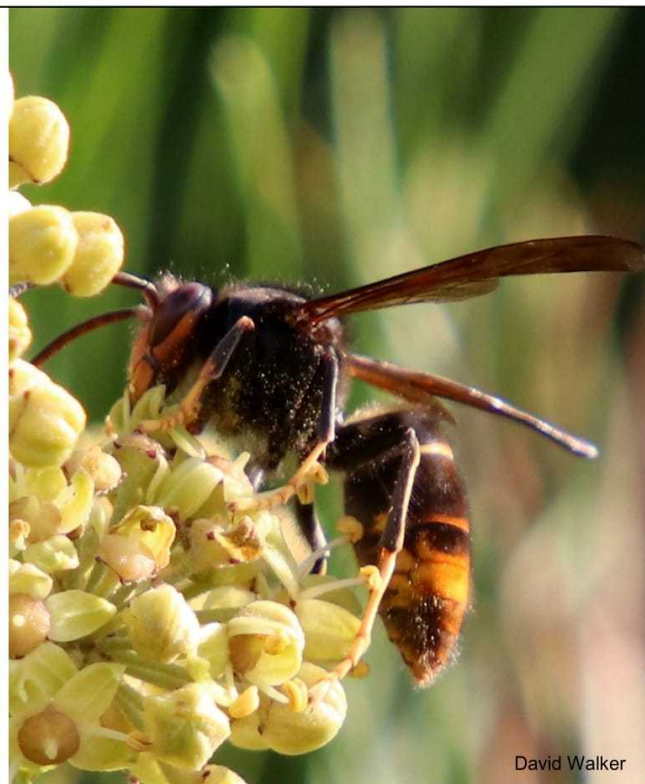
Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

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.

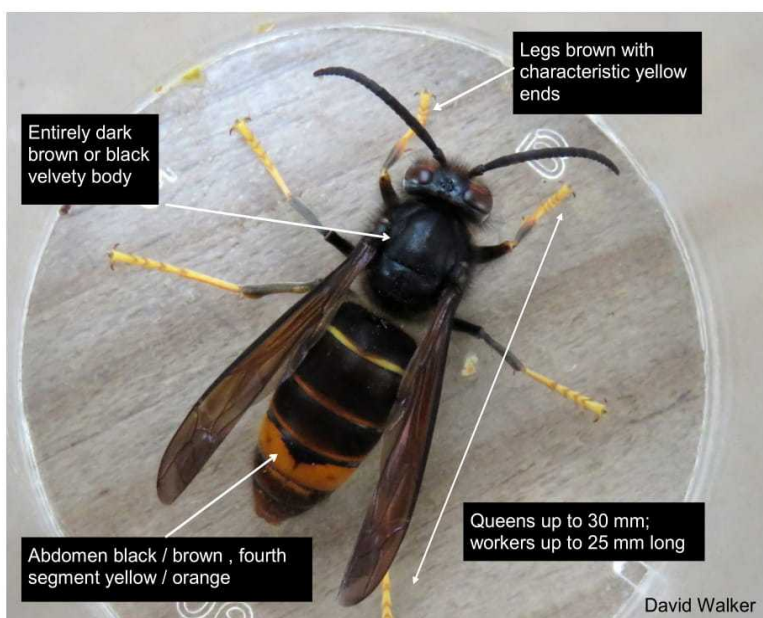
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

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

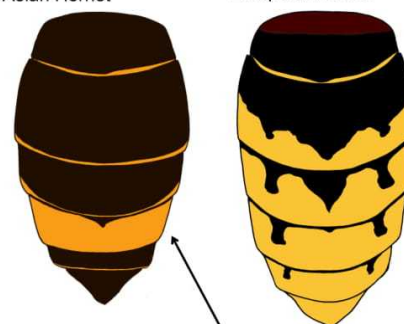
Key ID Features



David Walker

Asian Hornet

European Hornet



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



Asian hornet "hawking" for honey bee prey