



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

November 2018

Edition 09

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Editorial

We are now into November: bees have been put to bed; mouse guards are on; bees are fed; hives have been strapped up to protect against high winds, heavy snows, animals and other random acts of Nature that can knock them over. I have even added extra insulation this year, in the form of Kingspan under the roof. I was at my apiary this weekend and WOW they are still flying really well. I showed them a copy of The Express and advised them that cold weather has been predicted!

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the November edition of the YBKA newsletter. I've almost completed the rounds of the various associations listening to their AGM reports. I attend these not as Chairman but wearing my other hat as area representative, a role that I thoroughly enjoy.

I get to meet lots of members, lots of characters and to listen to stories of their beekeeping year, their triumphs, failures and tribulations – then I have a cup of tea and a biscuit.

On Monday 29 October it was the turn of Wakefield & Pontefract BKA to hold their annual meeting. After 25 years at the helm Alan Brown decided enough was enough and graciously stepped down as chairman – only to be elected in the same breath as vice president!

The YBKA AGM will take place on Saturday 24 November 2018 so put the date in your diary and come along to hear what has been happening in our Yorkshire Beekeeping Family. The AGM is your meeting so come along, say hello and maybe bring along some new members with you.

As always there will be free refreshments and a buffet lunch provided and the day's proceedings will start with a talk from a guest speaker. This year it is Dr. Rinke Vinkenhoog from Northumbria University who will be talking about "Urban versus Rural Pollination".

As he explains, modern agriculture often makes the countryside a less welcoming place for wild flowers and their pollinators, whereas urban and suburban areas can offer surprising possibilities.

One final push for the Bee Improvement Course run by Roger Patterson and to be held in York on 10 November and Huddersfield on 11 November. Places still available so let's give the event the support that it deserves.

Phil Gee

YBKA Chairman

Saturday 24th November : YBKA AGM – Harrogate Showground

Asian Hornet Sightings

Asian Hornet sightings latest on the 15th October at Dungeness

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 the moment should set out MONITORING traps for Asian Hornets baited with meat or fish

For an NBU guide on how to make a trap, click [here](#) (this is PDF document)

For an NBU video guide on how to make an Asian hornet trap, click [here](#) (you tube video)

Government news article [here](#).

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

The Yorkshire Beekeepers Countryside Live Honey Show

Once again, our annual county honey show held at the Countryside Live event on the Harrogate show ground, was a resounding success. As many of you will know this is an open honey show. Anyone within the county or from other counties, who are not actually members of Yorkshire Beekeepers, can come along and exhibit their honey and wax products.

The winners of each class receive a beautiful prize card and winning rosette; with prize monies for first, second and third places given by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society. Our best in show and winner of the blue ribbon this year was Mr. Andrew Woolhouse of Barnsley BKA with 6 magnificent jars of soft set honey in the for-sale class. Congratulations!

We had a wonderful display this year. Some new members who attended our mead making classes in 2017 and 2018, came along. One of them won a second-place card on their first attempt! A first-time exhibitor from Harrogate Beekeepers won the Novice honey class. Great to see great to see new people coming along and getting involved in the show.

We always need more members to come along with exhibits and take part in this show. After all, it is the main "shop window" for all Yorkshire beekeepers to show off their honey, wax and mead products to the public. Visitor footfall exceeded 10,000 again this year. As further incentive, if you attend as an exhibitor or a steward you can bring along 25 jars of your own honey or as many candles or beeswax moulded figures, to sell on our stall. This gives your products a high public profile and encourages people to buy from you again, throughout the year. We have some first-class honey and wax exhibitors within our great county of Yorkshire. Let's all pull together to make our honey show an even greater success! If you have never shown before, why not have a go next year? You may even win a prize in the process!

I have been the YBKA Chief Steward of the show for 17 years now and can honestly say I have enjoyed every one. I can remember when the event was held at various venues around the county, before we settled on the splendid, central, location of the Harrogate Show Ground, in 2005. Sadly, 2018 has been my swan song. I have now decided to retire from the post and hand over the reins to my successor, Mark Millard, Secretary of Wakefield and Pontefract Beekeepers. Mark is an excellent exhibitor himself. I'm sure you will continue to support him and all the team, along with any new members who come forward to make this show go from strength to strength. I would like to thank all the Stewards, who have helped make the show the success it has become, for their dedication over the years, a great team!

For the time being, I will continue to help set up the YBKA pavilion at the Great Yorkshire Show; organize volunteers for this event and, with the help of Tony Jefferson, be doing live bee handling. So still involved in the wider event year, whilst making space for Mark to make the Countryside Live event his own. Good luck to everyone involved and remember, this great show needs the support of all associations not just one or two! All exhibitors, even from beyond our county line, will continue to be made welcome.

Dave Shannon.

Retired Chief Steward 

Microscopy Certificate Course 2019

Following the successful courses, we ran in 2015 and 2017, we are repeating the course on our biennial cycle. This course is designed to mirror the highly acclaimed course that has been run in Harrogate by the Harrogate & Ripon Beekeepers' Association and we are grateful for the assistance and support they provided to help us offer the course in Sheffield.

The course is open to all beekeepers and will take participants through the entire syllabus of the BBKA Microscopy Certificate, showing them how to set up a microscope, extract and identify pollens from honeys, check bees for diseases, and make slides - preparing candidates for the assessment that takes place in November.

Full details [here](#).

Beverley BKA Members Meeting Monday 3rd December

Margaret Murdin BBKA President Talk

We are pleased to announce that the speaker at our Members' Meeting on Monday 3rd December will be the BBKA President, Margaret Murdin.

Margaret's talk will cover two topics: "What does the BBKA do for you" will be covered before the refreshment break. After the break we have a talk titled "The queen".

Members from other Districts will be most welcome. There is no charge on the door but a small donation for tea and biscuits is appreciated and we run a raffle with tickets at £1. I also understand that Margaret plans to bring along some of the new BBKA Special Edition Guide Books and these can be purchased for a cash payment.

The location of the meeting is:

The Darby and Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham, HU16 4AZ.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. and we are usually finished by about 9:30.

Many thanks,
Allan Carswell,
Secretary, Beverley Beekeepers' Association.

Monday 3rd December Margaret Murdin BBKA President Talk

The Darby and Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham, HU16 4AZ.

Invasion of the 'frankenbees': the danger of building a better bee

Another, more controversial, response to the slump in bee populations is in the works. This is the plan to create a more resilient strain of honeybee – a genetically modified superbee. The technology for creating GM honeybees is in its infancy, and still confined to the laboratory. But, if successful, it could lead to a hardier species, one that is resistant to natural and manmade hazards: viruses, varroa mites, pesticides and so on. If we can't change modern farming practices, the thinking goes, maybe we should change the bees.

The prospect horrifies many bee people ... Full story [here](#).

Basic Assessment Information

The Basic is a great way to consolidate your learning after your first full year of keeping bees and earn a recognised BBKA qualification. **It enables you to start Module exams, if you wish and helps you, through further education, to become a better beekeeper.**

Basic assessments update from 2018

- 20 Candidates achieved a Credit & 10 Passed, a great result!
- 30 out of 31 beekeepers passed their exam, a 96% pass rate, in line with National figure of 95%
- Top YBKA Associations for entries were:
 - Richmond 8; Bradford 6; Doncaster 4; Beverley 4; Leeds & Huddersfield 3

2018/19 Winter Module Study Days

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

The YBKA winter module tutorials are the ideal way to learn and study with a group of like-minded beekeepers.

Each tutorial will cover an overview of the syllabus, with an expert tutor, who will guide you through what is required within the module.

Held at the YBKA pavilion at the Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate, from 10am till 3pm

Saturday 3 November 2018 with Clare McGettigan - Module 1 Honeybee Management

Saturday 8 December 2018 With Roger Pool & Dave Shannon - Module 2 Honeybee Forage & Products

Saturday 12th January 2019 with Ivor Flatman - Module 3 Honeybee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning

Saturday 9 February 2019 with Wendy & Simon Maslin - Module 7 Selection and Breeding of Honeybees

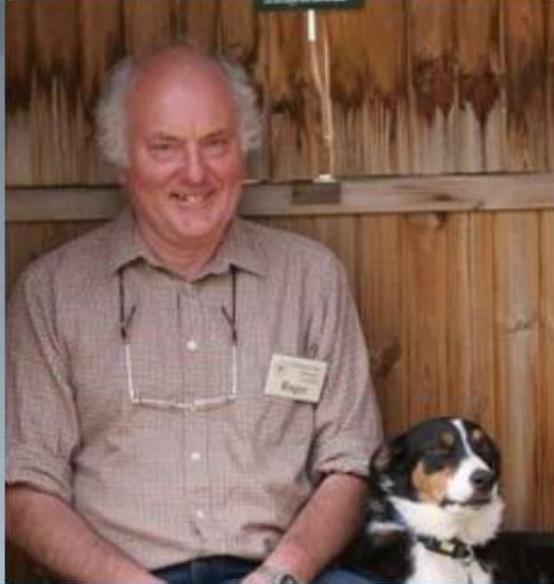
These tutorials are free and are a great way to learn together in informal surroundings. There is no obligation to **take** an exam.

To book a place please contact Elaine Robinson YBKA Education Officer: education@ybka.org.uk

advising which Study Day(s) you'd like to book a place on & which Association you belong to



YORKSHIRE
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



ROGER PATTERSON

BEE IMPROVEMENT EVENT

York 10th November or Huddersfield 11th November

Roger Patterson, who owns and manages Dave Cushman's famous beekeeping website, is coming to Yorkshire across 2 dates in November, to spend a full day with YBKA members, talking on the subject of Bee Improvement. To include assessment of colonies, recording positive characteristics, bee breeding and queen rearing techniques. The event is suitable for beginners and experienced beekeepers alike.

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

District Events For All

Yorkshire Beekeepers Association have 21 district associations that run events through the year. Below are districts and their events where they are happy for any beekeeper from any of the district associations to pop in if they wish

Richmond & District BKA 2019. District website [here](#).

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

Winter program is;

- Mon 7 Jan Ian Glastonbury - top bar hives
- Mon 4 Feb Louisa & Michael Ells - Our first year
- Mon 4 March Gerry Collins 'Selection & queen rearing for the hobbyist beekeeper'
- Mon 1 April Mike Samworth 'Using microscopes for beekeepers'

Beverley BKA hold their winter meetings at The Darby & Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham, HU16 4AZ.

Meetings start at 7.30pm and run until about 9:30 pm. We have a refreshment break and raffle. Our winter programme is as follows:

- Monday Nov 5th - Beverley BKA's AGM, followed by Question Time
- Monday Dec 3rd - BBKA President, Margaret Murdin
- No Meeting in January 2019
- Monday Feb 4th - Hull Allergy Unit
- Monday Mar 4th - An Introduction to Bee Watching, Dr Africa Gomez
- Monday Apr 1st - An update on The Flow Hive &The Bentley Hive, John Tunnicliffe

If your district is running events where they are happy for beekeepers from other districts to attend please email the newsletter editor the details and I will add them in here for all to see and share.

Jobs in the apiary in November

November signals the end of most of our direct work with our honeybee colonies. Most years this is the time when the weather starts to deteriorate and when we have our first frosty nights. Your bees will begin to cluster together in the brood box to ensure that the temperature at the centre remains around 19C.

All your colonies will have been treated against varroa and fed with syrup, to provide some 55lb of stores for winter. Now is the time to fit those mouse guards or, if your hive floors have short, swivel-door entrances, to shut them down to a single bee space. Insert a biro in the entrance and close the door to touch it for a helpful measure of a single bee space. I recommend you place an insulating pad or carpet square on top of each crown board. Without this, the bees need to work harder to maintain an optimal ambient temperature. I remove my varroa drop boards leaving the open mesh floors uncovered so that air can circulate. This prevents a build-up of damp, the enemy of the honeybee, whilst not bothering the bees at all. Put a heavy stone on top of each hive lid to prevent them being blown off by strong winter winds.

I do not recommend strapping the hives kept in out-apiaries, as it makes them easier to steal! You can safely strap-up hives kept in your garden, or close by. Make sure that your hives and your apiary site is left clean and tidy. Don't encourage vermin by leaving old combs exposed. If you have green woodpeckers local to your apiary, make sure you have protected your hives with a barrier of mesh about 5/6" away from the hive itself and well pegged down. Although the season is now virtually over, remember to visit any out apiaries regularly, to make sure all is well. Clean up and take home any boxes that need to be stored or repaired.

November is a time for reflection. Plan and list your intentions for the season ahead and make sure you have all the equipment you need to achieve them. Print off new record sheets for 2019. Review the performances of your various hives over this past season. Check for: temperament of the bees; the queen's laying capacity; amount of forage collected and the hygiene and cleanliness habits

of the colony. These markers will help you decide on the best colonies to breed from to improve your stock next year. Good records are crucial to good beekeeping.

Melt down all the old wax you have gathered up throughout the season. This can be exchanged for new foundation or even to have a go at making candles, or other wax products in the winter months. For beekeepers with one or two seasons under their belt, it may be time to think about taking one of the BKKA module exams. These start in November, but you can usefully begin to study for the year ahead. Check out the YBKA website for details and contact our Education Officer, Elaine with any queries. Learning more can really help your beekeeping proficiency and skills. Have a go!

Enjoy your beekeeping down time

Dave Shannon.

The Science Behind Bee Keeping

Fungus provides powerful medicine in fighting honey bee viruses

A mushroom extract fed to honey bees greatly reduces virus levels, according to a new paper from Washington State University scientists, the USDA and colleagues at Fungi Perfecti, a business based in Olympia, Washington. In field trials, colonies fed mycelium extract from amadou and reishi fungi showed a 79-fold reduction in deformed wing [virus](#) and a 45,000-fold reduction in Lake Sinai virus compared to control colonies. Full details [here](#).

Sunflower pollen has medicinal, protective effects on bees

Bees fed a diet of sunflower pollen show dramatically lower rates of infection by two separate pathogens, suggesting medicinal and protective effects for pollinators in peril. Full details [here](#).

Bees need it colourful

Stopping bee extinction is a goal of scientists. Researchers have discovered that a diversified plant environment helps bees in maintaining stable populations. Full details [here](#).

Saturday 10th November : Bee Improvement day – York

Winter Module Study Days

Saturday 3 November 2018 with Clare McGettigan

Module 1 Honeybee Management

THORNE

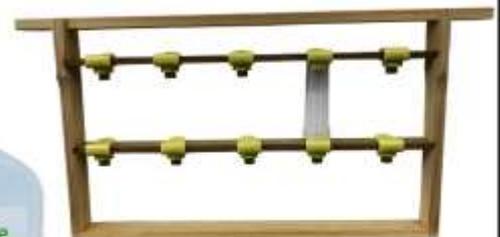


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YAS Rep	Ivor Flatman	ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk	01924 257089 07751 061753

President: Lord Gisborough, Gisborough Hall, Gisborough, Yorks TS14 6PT

Calendar of events

3rd November : YBKA Study Day – Harrogate Showground

Friday 9th November : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

10th November : Bee Improvement day – York

11th November : Bee Improvement day – Huddersfield

Saturday 10th November : Module Exams

Saturday 24th November : AGM – Harrogate Showground

8th December : YBKA Study Day – Harrogate Showground

12th January : YBKA Study Day – Harrogate Showground

9th February : YBKA Study Day – Harrogate Showground

BBKA Forum

The BBKA have a new online forum. This is the web address. Pop along, sign up and say help.

www.bbkaforum.co.uk

Classified Adverts

Do you have anything for sale, if so please email newsletter@ybka.org.uk the editor for a free private sales listing

Winter Module Study Days

**Saturday 8 December 2018 With Roger Pool & Dave Shannon -
Module 2 Honeybee Forage & Products**