



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

October 2018

Edition 08

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Editorial

Some interesting stuff this month. Sadly, there has certainly been a lot of activity up and down the country focussed on Asian Hornets. The most active part of the beekeeping season is coming to an end, however there's plenty to do over winter. Get booked on to one of the module dates, details in this issue. Read up on the Asian Hornet and how your bees will need you to help combat this beast. Thanks go to Dave Shannon for guidance on jobs to do in the apiary. Why not pop in to a one of the winter meetings that we have across the Yorkshire district?

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the October edition of the YBKA newsletter.

Well the bees are all sorted for the winter which I hear is going to be a harsh one – just what we want.

The start of autumn heralds the various Annual General Meetings of our local associations where members can hear about the past year, elect new blood to the committees and plan for next season.

The YBKA General Purposes Committee are also busy preparing for our AGM 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, bring along some new members and have your say.

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 – details to follow soon.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter our new Education officer has done a tremendous amount of work in arranging a Bee Improvement Course run by Roger Patterson and to be held in York on 10 November and Huddersfield on 11 November. So, let's have one final push and give the event the support that it deserves.

And finally – I have just read an interesting article on research into improving bee health carried out by North Carolina State University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

They have shown that two different species of bees fed on a diet of sunflower pollen had dramatically lower rates of infection by specific pathogens. Bumble bees were one of species studied but more of interest to beekeepers is that the Sunflower pollen also protected Apis Mellifera from Nosema Ceranae!

Phil Gee

YBKA Chairman

Asian Hornet Sightings

Asian Hornet sighted this last month and confirmed in three places by the NBU.

In Fowey, Cornwall a nest has been destroyed and two new sightings confirmed in Liskeard and Hull

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](#).

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

Saturday 24th November : YBKA AGM – Harrogate Showground

Saturday 3rd November : YBKA Study Day – Harrogate Showground

Saturday 10th November : Bee Improvement day – York



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 Oct 1st - My Rooftop Apiary, Allan Carswell
- 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 October

As I sit here in my conservatory writing the October apiary article for our newsletter, I ask myself, "Is this late September, or are we still in June or July?" It's a lovely sunny day here again and the outside temperature, believe it or not, is 23°C. I was down in one of my apiaries yesterday and there was a flood of activity, bees coming and going from every hive and still bringing in both pollen and nectar and working like on a Summer's day. No doubt over the next few weeks this will all change, but this late good weather is providing a fantastic late rush of stores for our bees.

Looking closely, I could see a mass of bright yellow pollen coming in on my bees in almost every hive, mixed with the light-grey, pollen I usually see at this time of year from the ivy. On further investigation around the apiary area I was very surprised indeed to find a mass of dandelion flowers in a late second flush with lots of my bees in attendance. I saw the same all along the banks of the local river and drainage ditches. A combination, I believe, of the late high temperatures, much needed occasional heavy showers and lovely sunny weather that many of us are experiencing at present.

October is the month when the jobs in the apiary are ending for another beekeeping season. Personally, I like to think of it as the start of my coming year.

When I have ensured all my colonies are queen right; free from any visible diseases; treated against Varroa and if required, given liquid feed to supplement the nectar coming in; I want to check that they all have sufficient pollen stores to last. Pollen is another vital ingredient for overwintering bees. Thinking back, if we have the same winter as last year they are going to need every little bit of it. Aim for a good 50/ 60lb of stores in each hive. With the strong reproduction of our modern queens, I like to add a full super to every hive as I feel just filling up a brood box is not enough to get a strong modern colony through the winter months.

The next thing I do and I know this is very controversial with some older beekeepers is, as follows:

Having removed all my queen excluders for cleaning for the next season, I swap my super from above, to below the brood box. This manipulation works well for me for three main reasons.

1. it keeps the colony in the brood box warmer (all my bee hives have open mesh floors.
2. I usually treat my bees with oxalic acid on the shortest day. This way, the brood box is at the top, giving easier access to the bees for carrying out the trickle method.
3. come springtime, the queen is invariably laying up in the brood box, as it's the warmest place in the hive, rather than in the super, had it been left on top without an excluder.

So, give it a try and see if it also works well for you. It's not always what's written down in beekeeping books that is the best way of doing something, but rather what works for you! Experimentation is very often a good thing, and the phrase nothing ventured nothing gained comes to mind.

So, one or two things still left to do:

- put a quilt or old carpet square on top of your crown board to keep in the warmth. But don't block the vent hole in the crown board. Cut out a small corresponding hole. Heat travels upwards and is lost through the lid if not insulated.
- check your hives are protected against pests, (mice especially)
- place mouse guards on your entrances and ensure that all your boxes and lids fit well with no small gaps.
- place a heavy stone on the lids to prevent them getting dislodged or blown off.
- if your apiary is in an area visited by green woodpeckers, fix a small chicken mesh cage around each hive and over the top, about 6 inches from the sides, all around and peg it down securely. This stops green woodpeckers ruining your hives and killing your brood and bees.
- ensure all your hives are well off the ground on stands or another way. As damp or wet ground is a bad thing with overwintering bees. They need good ventilation and dry conditions.

All these things completed, your bees and hives should be safe and well provided for. Now you have all winter for those other jobs you couldn't get to in mid-season. I will go through these in the next edition.

Happy beekeeping
Dave Shannon.

The Science Behind Bee Keeping

Brood Affects Hygienic Behaviour in the Honey Bee:

Despite receiving much attention, the ectoparasitic mite *Varroa destructor* (Anderson and Trueman) and the pathogens it vectors remain critical threats to the health of the honey bee *Apis mellifera* (Linnaeus) (Hymenoptera: Apidae). One promising intervention approach is the breeding of hygienic honey bees, which have an improved ability to detect and remove unhealthy brood from the colony, and are thus more resistant to *Varroa*. While much hygienic behaviour-related research has focused on enhanced adult honey bee olfaction, less attention has been paid to the olfactory signals that originate inside the brood cell, triggering hygienic removal. Full article [here](#).

Distance between honey bee *Apis mellifera* colonies regulates populations of *Varroa destructor* at a landscape scale:

Inter-colony distance of *Apis mellifera* significantly affects colony numbers of the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*. We set up 15 apiaries, each consisting of two colonies. Each apiary pair was assigned an inter-colony distance of 0, 10, or 100 m. Colonies were rendered nearly mite-free, then one colony in each pair was seeded with 300 female mites (mite-donor colony), while the other remained uninoculated (mite-recipient colony). After 4 months of monitoring, a whole-model analysis showed that apiaries in which colonies were spaced 100 m apart contained lower average mite numbers than 0 or 10 m apiaries. There were interactions among colony type, distance, and sampling date; however, when there were significant differences, mite numbers were always lower in 100 m apiaries than 10 m apiaries. These findings pose the possibility that *Varroa* populations are resource regulated at a landscape scale: near-neighbour colonies constitute reproductive resource for mites in the form of additional bee brood. Full article [here](#).

Comparative Pollination Efficacies of Five Bee Species on Raspberry:

Unlike many other rosaceous fruit crops, commercial raspberry cultivars are largely self-fertile and mostly self-pollinate autogamously. However, their floral morphology does not allow for complete auto pollination, which often yields unmarketable small or crumbly fruits. Insect visitation is therefore essential to maximize raspberry production. Honey bees are typically used to pollinate commercial raspberries, but escalating prices for hive rentals coupled with increasing acreage encourages evaluation of other manageable pollinators. Four other manageable bee taxa—various *Bombus* spp., *Osmia lignaria* Say, *Osmia aglaia* Sandhouse, and *Osmia bruneri* Cockerell—are all promising raspberry pollinators. Full article [here](#).

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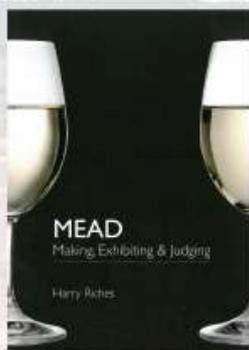
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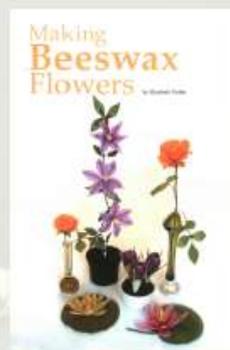
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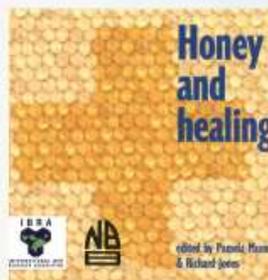
Why not try mastering the art of mead making. A very useful book would be Mead Making, Exhibiting & Judging by Harry Riches.



This title details the making and decorating of flat sheets of wax for petals and leaves; of roses, crocuses, and other wax foundation flowers. "I have been making wax flowers for a long time and I must say that I have really enjoyed it. I hope you will too" Elizabeth Duffin



Keeping Bees without Fuss or Chemicals by Joe Bleasdale. Chemical free beekeeping! Often a controversial but much loved attitude towards beekeeping.



Honey and Healing By Pamela Munn and Richard Jones. Compiled from the IBRA Papers, "Honey and healing: from the hive to the hospital."



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Whitby, Scarborough, Malton & Ryedale & BBKA ADM Delegate	Tony Jefferson	stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk	07749 731945
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

Friday 5th October : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

Saturday 6th October: Autumn Delegates Meeting (Provisional)

20th & 21st October : Countryside Live & YBKA Honey Show (Harrogate)

October 26th – 28th : National Honey Show

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

3rd November : YBKA Study Day – Harrogate Showground

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

Saturday 12th January : YBKA Study Day – Harrogate Showground