



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

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Edition 12

February 2019

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Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the February 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter. Where did January go to. Four weeks into the new year and many associations have started their beginners' courses or are about to. Those tutors who give up their time and readily impart their knowledge to prospective beekeepers are to be applauded.

The only events on the near horizon are the YBKA Delegates meeting on Saturday 23 February where our newly appointed delegate to BBKA, Michael Badger, will present his report on the BBKA Annual Delegates meeting on Saturday 12 January.

If you haven't done so yet please appoint a Delegate from your association and let our General Secretary know. If you don't send a delegate then your association cannot vote on any propositions. The other event is our Annual Spring Conference on Saturday 6 April and tickets are now available with full details on how to book shown on our web page

You will all have seen the obituary of Allan Jefferson in the January newsletter. Allan, father of Tony Jefferson, passed away on 23 December last. On behalf of the YBKA membership, I attended the funeral service at St. Hilda's Church, Hinderwell, Near Whitby.

The service was certainly a celebration of Allan's life and the church was packed with standing room only. The address from the Revd. Ben Hopkinson, one of Allan's oldest learner beekeepers, was first class.

So, for 2019 let's get on with preparing for the beekeeping challenges ahead, try to keep your New Year's resolutions and let's hope that the snow stays away.

Phil Gee
Chairman

Asian Hornet

Identification Posters

For Printing

Click Here

YBKA Education Summary

1. The deadline for submission of applications for the BKA Module Exams (23rd March) is FEBRUARY 10th. Application forms can be downloaded from the BBKA website and sent to Elaine Robinson with a cheque for £30. She will send them on to BBKA (Elaine Robinson, Middlefold Farm, Hebden Bridge HX7 7PG).
2. Study days are to be arranged later this year for Modules 4,5 and 8, to cover the remaining modules. Most modules will then have been covered over a 2-year period. Dates tba, though likely to run between October and Feb 2019/20. We need experienced beekeepers with good communication skills and knowledge on these subjects to help as tutors. Anyone who is prepared to come forward to help should contact Elaine (education@ybka.org.uk or mobile 07734306895. These courses are only possible with the help and support of tutors, who are willing to share their knowledge and help other, less experienced, beekeepers
3. There will be a Wax and Candle Day to be held in the Hives and Honey & YBKA Pavilions at the Great Yorkshire Showground over the weekend 4th and 5th May. This is a ONE-DAY course so you can book for EITHER Saturday or Sunday. Places will be allocated equally between the 2 associations. Tutors are John Chandler, Janice Fulton, Shirley and Richard Bond and Sarah Haynes. Wax course is now fully booked. Booking the mead course can be done closer to the time on the YBKA website.
4. BBKA are running General Husbandry training courses in 2019 in 3 locations (Sheffield, Stoneleigh and London), with limited places. See BBKA website.
5. A Mead and Melomels course will take place on September 14th in Harrogate run by Tony Jefferson and Dave Shannon. Applications to be made online closer to the time. Keep checking the website.

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](#)

[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.](#)

AHAT - Asian Horney Action Teams

You will have noted in various sources (i.e. BBKA) that there are a number of initiatives being thought about intended to thwart the build-up of any Asian Hornet colonies. The emergence of hornet queens are the initial concern and, though we are situated in the Northern region of the UK this is not a good reason for complacency. The YBKA are anxious 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 and AHAT's and will be considering the idea of purchasing traps which districts can employ. Ivor Flatman will be our co-ordinator who will be 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 me 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's 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

Memorial lecture

Whitby BKA have arranged a special meeting on:
Saturday 16th March

the venue is:
St Hilda's Old School in Hinderwell TS13 5JH

commencing at 1pm - we aim to finish by 4pm

Free entry and Free tea/coffee and biscuits on the day

Please let Tony Jefferson know if you are attending so they have an idea of numbers
stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk

Dorian Pritchard

has very kindly offered his services as the keynote speaker and will present:

"How native bees can resist varroa mites"

- *notes of the key points of Dorian's talk will be available*
- *Dorian will outline his many seasons of research observations*
- *backed up with statistical evidence*
- *we also intend to give a brief update on the progression of John Dews work*
- *plus a few local examples of varroa observations*

This important and very interesting research information links closely to the work John Dews carried out in the Whitby area.

John's work has been continuing since his passing by a number of dedicated local beekeepers the local update will be an outline of practical approaches, covering over 100 hives per season, so, it's not a talk based around a couple of hives for a couple of seasons!

Please come along and find out that our local bees can survive without constant treatment I like to think of Varroa – is it a bee problem or a beekeeper problem?

Dorian is a retired lecturer in human and medical genetics and for 40 years has bred and maintained native *Apis Mellifera Mellifera* or the native British Dark Bee.

Dorian's experience is practically gained and from watching the bees (not from books). This meeting will explain the constant battle and efforts promoted by various advisory literature and adding all sorts of "stuff" into the bee hive to eradicate varroa mites may not be the only solution to the problem – or is it actually a problem?



Wax Course 1 Day Event

From comb to candles and more...



- Steam extraction—Wax from frames
- Steam extraction—brace comb, cappings
- Further wax cleaning using water
- Filtering wax for candle making etc
- Introduction to wicks and candle making
- Rolling, moulding and dipping candles
- Making wax flowers
- Foundation making

Run by experienced tutors
9.30M to 4.30pm

Places Available
5th May 2019
10.00 per person

Hives & Honey
Great Yorkshire

- Tea, coffee & biscuits available
- Bring your own lunch
- Wear old clothes or bring overalls.
- Wax processing is messy!

Bookings

<https://ybka.org.uk/event/wax-course/>

Jointly arranged by
Yorkshire BKA & Harrogate and Ripon BKA

All photos courtesy of Peter Lewis—2017 course participant



Sold out

[Book the YBKA Spring conference online](#)

[Click here](#)

YBKA Conference 2019 "A Taste of Honey" Schedule

Saturday 6th April 2019 (08.30am to 4pm) at the Manor Academy, York, YO26 6PA

09.30-09.15 Registration and refreshments

09.15-09.30 Welcome and Introduction

09.30-09.45 Tony Jefferson, Jim and Geoff Pearson, Dave Shannon and Chris Coulson will explain how, where and when they will be running their workshops and drop-in clinics through the day

09.45-10.30 Dr Nicola Kay Simcock - Food for thought, the honeybee as a model animal for the study of physiology

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-11.45 Peter Lewis - The sensory analysis of honey

11.45-12.30 Tom Aspinall - Bumblebees and their ecology

12.30-13.45 Lunch

13.45-15.15 Workshops and discussion groups

Preparing bees for the heather - Tony Jefferson

Preparing honey exhibits for the show - Dave Shannon

Steam wax extraction - Chris Coulson

Selection of breeding stock - Jim Pearson

Skep making- Geoff Pearson

Asian Hornet trap construction – Committee members and NBU

15.15-15.30 Comfort break

15.30-16.00 Beekeepers' Question Time



Workshops

01.45pm-02.30pm

- 1a Tony Jefferson Preparing the bees for the heather - Main hall
2a Jim Pearson Can I improve my bees by selective breeding - Balcony
3a Dave Shannon Preparing honey exhibits for showing - Performing Arts Studio
4a Chris Coulson Reclaiming bees wax - Activity Studio

02.30pm-03.15pm

- 1b Tony Jefferson Preparing the bees for the heather - Main hall
2b Jim Pearson Can I improve my bees by selective breeding - Balcony
3b Dave Shannon Preparing honey exhibits for showing - Performing Arts Studio
4b Chris Coulson Reclaiming bees wax - Activity Studio

There will be on-going demonstrations and practical guidance on skep making (Geoff Pearson) and Asian Hornet trap construction (members of the committee and NBU) in the Main Concourse throughout the day

01.45pm-02.30pm

Tony Jefferson (session A): Main hall (1a)
Jim Pearson (session A): Balcony (2a)
Dave Shannon (session A): Studio (3a)
Chris Coulson (session A): Activity (4a)

02.30pm-03.15pm

Tony Jefferson (session B): Main hall (1b)
Jim Pearson (session B): Balcony (2b)
Dave Shannon (session B): Studio (3b)
Chris Coulson (session B): Activity (4b)

Please note that delegates will this year be able to book the workshops they wish to attend in advance but these will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis so early booking is advised. Delegates should choose a reserve workshop for each session.

Workshop Notes

Tony Jefferson. Tony has many years of experience keeping bees in the Whitby area. He has always specialised in the production of Heather Honey being surrounded by the moors over on the East coast. Year on year he produces tons of honey which is always in very high demand. Tony has written several books on this topic and regularly wins prestigious competitions with this high-quality honey and has recently qualified as a Senior Honey Show Judge. This is a workshop not to be missed and all bee keepers are sure to pick up numerous valuable tips which will help improve their honey production.

Dave Shannon. Dave is an extremely experienced bee keeper (Doncaster BKA) who has excelled in the art of producing honey products to the highest possible standards. He has held the role of Chief Honey Steward for the YBKA for many years and is a fully qualified Chief Honey Judge officiating in the various Honey Shows throughout the year. If you are keen to hear the strategy you need to adopt to stand a chance of getting the top accolades and the tips from one of the top judges in the country then you won't be disappointed.

Jim Pearson. Jim is an experienced bee-man and a master bee keeper. He has dedicated a great deal of time to the art of improving his bees (he claims to be in search of the 'perfect bee') and does this by precise selective breeding. His aim is to help other bee keepers breed good-natured and productive colonies and he will go in to minute detail looking at all the pros and cons. This is a practical workshop which will benefit all bee keepers.

Chris Coulson. For over 40 years Chris has been a 'DIY bee keeper', has written and talked extensively on the subject and has recently made a couple of videos on DIY techniques. Initially, he confesses, the DIY angle was for economic reasons but then environmental ones took over. He now uses as much reclaimed and recyclable material as possible, ranging from food tins to church pews, cooker parts to old pans! He has made his own foundation since he started bee keeping, hence his interest in reclaiming and recycling bees wax. His session will deal with these matters and he'll discuss the methods he has adopted, some successful others not! He has recently built a steam wax extractor which needs more thought. Over the years he has tried to improve his wax recycling but considers this an ongoing process. Feel free to bring your ideas and comments to the workshop.

Geoff Pearson. Geoff needs very little introduction, he is well known for his humour and relaxed style. This workshop, which demonstrates the skills needed to make your own skeps, also gives further insights into how the skill of basket weaving can assist the bee keeper.

The Apiary in February.

The end of January and all February is a very fickle time of year weather-wise. We might have days when it's well below freezing, followed by a spell of milder weather (as warm as 10-12C in some areas) then flurries of snow. The poor bees are more confused than we, the beekeepers, are!

The best advice I can offer, is to check your bees on a regular basis to make sure they are ok. Heft the hives if you're experienced enough to assess the weight of stores this way or get help from someone if you feel unsure how to do it. If you need to lift the crown board to check the bees have enough stores, make sure you only do so when the temperature is at least 10C, and be as quick as possible. Add only fondant (no liquid feed) if stores are short and place it directly on top of the brood frames, not above the crown board, using an eke for clearance.

At this time of year small colonies can easily become isolated from the food stores and die of starvation. If any of your colonies are weak, covering just two or three frames then always make sure that they have food available directly both at either side and above. It is essential they can access stores easily.

On very mild days it's always a good idea to stand by the hive and watch for signs of life. Can you see at least a few flying bees? If there are no external signs of activity, take a quick peep inside to make sure they are still alive. If not, you should examine the hive contents carefully, to establish the cause of the loss and make sure there are no signs of a notifiable disease. Provided this is not the case, you can either:

- a) close the hive up to clean it out later.
- b) close it up, take it away and clean it out thoroughly, to receive another colony later in the year.

All varroa treatments should have been completed by now. Take some time to check and repair hive boxes in readiness for the season ahead and apply a fresh coat of Cuprinol. As I mentioned previously, you can paint the outside of boxes already in use in the apiary, by briefly closing-up the entrance on a very cold day when the bees are not flying, allowing you time to apply the treatment safely.

Take advantage of the winter sales! Check through all your personal equipment and repair or replace any old or worn items. Check your bee suit and make sure the zips are all in good working order. I add a little petroleum jelly to my zips to keep them running smoothly. Repair any holes in your suit, or if it's too far gone, treat yourself to a new one.

Plan your aims for the coming season and try to stick to them. Send off for the BBKA record cards, or make your own, as I do. Recording is an essential part of your beekeeping.

You can begin to make up frames ready for the coming season, but don't put the wax in until you are ready to use them. The bees work fresh foundation better. If left exposed to the air, wax foundation goes hard and brittle and bees don't draw it out correctly. Store foundation, in an airtight package, if possible, in a warm place and keep it on a flat surface until ready for use.

Hopefully some of you will have attended the module tutorials and gleaned a little more knowledge to help you through the module exams. We have a new, three-part course coming up for beekeepers with more than 4/5 hives and at least 3 years' experience. This General Husbandry course will be held in three locations:

- Wroot, near Doncaster
- Huddersfield BKA apiary and
- Whitby / Ellerby apiaries.

Hopefully these courses will be well-attended and we can get another batch of beekeepers through their husbandry exam. The cost is £20 per single course or £50 for all three.

We have our Y.B.K.A Delegates Conference coming up on February 23rd. I hope to see lots of you there, representing your own associations and listening to our speakers, Gerry Collins and Martin Smith. It should be a great day with a free buffet too!

Wishing you a good season ahead
Dave Shannon.

Book the YBKA Spring conference online Click here

[Delegates Meeting](#)

[23rd February](#)

[More info - Click here](#)

District Events for All

Yorkshire Beekeepers Association is made up of 21 district associations that run events through the year. Details are given below, of those associations holding events, who are happy to include visitors:

Richmond and District BKA 2019.

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

Winter Programme

- Mon 4 Feb Louisa & Michael Ells - Our First Year
- Mon 4 March Gerry Collins - Selection and Queen Rearing for the Hobbyist Beekeeper
- Mon 1 April Mike Samworth - Using Microscopes for Beekeepers

Beverley BKA 2019:

Winter meetings held at The Darby and 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.

- 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 and the Bentley Hive, John Tunnicliffe

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.

Wednesday 13th Feb 2019 - The Asian Hornet lifecycle, reproduction and nesting sites, and how to protect our bees. A talk by Kirsty Stainton, NBU

Wednesday 13th March - Preparing Heather, Rape and other Special Honeys, A talk by Dave Shannon

Wed 20th March to Wed 1st May - HBKA Beginners' Course – 7 weeks 7.30 - 9.30

(Price - £75), Good Shepherd RC Church, Cragg Vale, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA, Phil Gee – Tel: 01422 886114

Wednesday 10th April 2019 - "Simple Methods of Making Increase" - Making new colonies and raising queens without fancy methods. A talk by Wally Shaw, Anglesey BKA (A joint meeting with Huddersfield BKA)

Saturday 27th April 2019 - Joint Nosema Screening Day with Huddersfield BKA, Bring your own bee samples for testing. Taylor Hill Centre, Close Hill Lane, Huddersfield HD4 6LE.

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

[Book the YBKA Spring conference](#)

[online](#)

[Click here](#)

Science Behind Bee Keeping

Honey bee parasites, varroa mites, feed on fatty organs, not blood

Among the many threats to honey bee colonies around the world, one stands alone: the parasitic mite, Varroa destructor. For decades, researchers assumed that varroa mites feed on blood, like many of their mite and tick cousins. But new research suggests that varroa mites have a voracious appetite for a honey bee organ called the fat body, which serves many of the same vital functions carried out by the human liver.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190114161137.htm>

Bee mite arrival in Hawaii causes pathogen changes in honeybee predators

Entomologists have performed a study on the Big Island and found viruses associated with the varroa mite, a parasite of honeybees, have spilled over into the western yellowjacket, a honeybee predator and honey raider. The result is a hidden, yet remarkable, change in the genetic diversity of viruses associated with the larger pathogen community of the mite and wasp, with repercussions yet to be understood.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190108181320.htm>

Beekeeping Related YouTube Videos

Single Hive Management Explained

This is a video created by a Canadian commercial beekeeper who runs around 1400-1500 hives. He discusses in this 40minute long video about the single hive management technique he uses.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=386qWGnt_CU

The guy's website is www.stepplerfarms.com

Beekeeping as a Profitable Side-line by Will Steynor (National Honey Show lecture from 2017)

A lecture given by Will Steynor at the 2017 National Honey Show entitled "Beekeeping as a Profitable Sideline". The National Honey Show gratefully acknowledge the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers for their support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqGDD3i0rv4>

The National Honey Show website is www.honeyshow.co.uk

Morning Prep Afternoon Vaping

A 20minute video about morning prepping and afternoon vaping with Richard Noel. A day's beekeeping in rural France. In the workshop in the morning preparing equipment for treating my bees with vaporised oxalic acid in the afternoon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCk7eOO3-9k>

See Richards website here <http://beesinbrittany.blogspot.com/>

Delegates Meeting 23rd February 2019

@ Harrogate Show Ground - 10am till 4pm

This is event open to OPEN TO ALL to attend
Nomination's should be sent to Roger Chapel : yorkshirebka@gmail.com

Summary of the day

10.30am-12.00pm The talk by Gerry Collins will open the meeting

12.00pm-1.00pm Lunch

1.00pm-2.00pm Main council business

2.00pm-4.00pm Martin Smiths presentation on eR2.

[Full details online here](#)

1. Delegates' Meetings are meetings of Trustees with District Delegates.
2. The purpose of Delegates' Meetings is to provide Districts with an opportunity to discuss and provide direction and guidance to the Trustees on the policy, plans, budget and activities of the YBKA and to formulate policies leading to the adoption of specific Propositions to be submitted to Delegates' Meetings of external organisations to which the YBKA is affiliated.
3. There will be at least one Delegates' Meeting each year, the Annual Delegates' Meeting (ADM), which will ordinarily be held in February or March.
4. Additional or Extraordinary Delegates' Meetings (EDMs), may be instigated by the receipt by the General Secretary of a requisition from the Trustees signed by the Chair or of a requisition signed by the Chairs of at least three Districts, setting out substantive propositions to be decided.
5. Twelve weeks' notice of a Delegates' Meeting will be given, requesting propositions for discussion.
6. Any proposition that a District wishes to submit must be received by the General Secretary at least eight weeks before the date of the Delegates' Meeting.
7. An agenda will be announced at the time of giving final notice of a Delegates' Meeting and no propositions may be considered except those detailed in the agenda.
 - A. The business items of a Delegates' Meeting Agenda will include:
 - B. The appointment of tellers and the recording of numbers present.
 - A. Determination of the state of the meeting's quorum.
 - B. A review of the minutes of the preceding Delegates' Meeting and discussion of any matters arising.
 - C. Presentation, discussion and vote on propositions received.
8. Final notice will be given by the General Secretary by email six weeks before the date of the meeting.
9. Each District may be represented by between one and three Delegates.
10. Names of Delegates must be supplied to the General Secretary by their District at least three weeks in advance of the date of the meeting.
11. Delegates may not represent more than one District.
12. Any Member of the YBKA may attend but may speak only at the invitation of the Chair and with the agreement of a majority of Districts represented.
13. Any person who is not a Member of the YBKA may attend only at the invitation of the Chair and may speak only at the invitation of the Chair and with the agreement of a majority of Districts represented.
14. Where a District is unable to be represented it may nevertheless submit propositions for discussion and may, with the agreement of the Chair, request that written statements be read out in support of its propositions by the General Secretary.
15. The quorum for a Delegates' Meeting is achieved when at least half of the Trustees are present and at least one Delegate from at least half of the Districts is present.
16. The number of votes cast on behalf of each District represented is the number of Registered Members of the District as recorded by the YBKA Membership Secretary three weeks in advance of the meeting.

YBKA Spring Conference

[Book online here or fill in the application form below.](#)



ANNUAL CONFERENCE (April 6th, 2019)

Application Form (Cost: £10 per person + optional buffet)

Full Name	
District/Association	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone(s)	
Email address	

LUNCH PREFERENCE

Own Packed Lunch (no additional charge) Cold Buffet (£10)

WORKSHOPS

Session A (1.45 – 2.30)		Session B (2.30 – 3.15)	
Session A (Reserve):		Session B (Reserve):	

To book: either visit the YBKA website www.ybka.org.uk and book on-line, send a cheque (payable to Yorkshire Beekeepers Association) for £10/£20 to the YBKA secretary (Roger Chappel) :4, South View, Brafferton DLI 3LB
or pay by card over the 'phone:
01325 315741/07905 190701.



THORNE

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Ulster Beekeepers Convention 15th & 16th February
Bee Tradex 9th March

Welsh Beekeepers Convention 30th March
BBKA Spring Convention 13th April

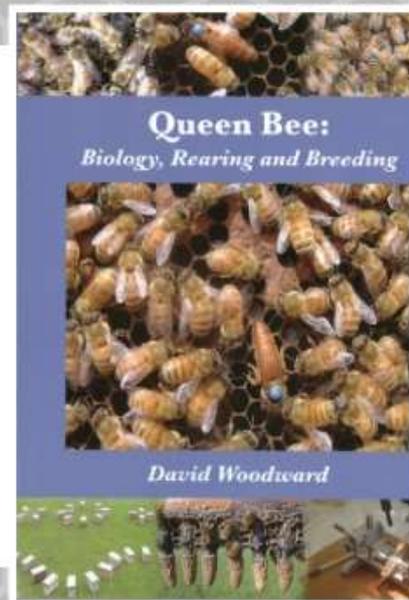
★ ★ Orders taken from Monday 4th February ★ ★

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Queen Bee: Biology, Rearing and Breeding By David Woodward

A wide ranging volume, like no other publication of this subject area in the English speaking world – it deals with all aspects of the queen – biology, rearing and breeding.

Dr David Woodward was head of the Apiculture Department at Telford Rural Polytechnic, Balclutha, New Zealand when he wrote this text book for his students.



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Centenary of the world's best popular beekeeping magazine



Bee Craft magazine is celebrating its centenary this year, an occasion that has already been marked by a letter of congratulations to both the magazine and its readers from HRH The Prince of Wales. Yorkshire beekeepers have been supporting the magazine for 91 years – in 1928, the county became the largest organisation adopting *Bee Craft* as its official organ and helped build on the initiative by Kent beekeepers nine years earlier to establish a fresh voice in beekeeping.

In May 1928, the editor gave Yorkshire a 'hearty welcome' and looked forward to covering 'the happenings in the shire of the broad acres'. Today, we'd like to cover even more of your news too.

Could the then honorary secretary and treasurer of Yorkshire, the Rev M Yate Allen of Doncaster, and the one thousand Yorkshire members have imagined that 75 years later *Bee Craft* would come to be recognised as the world's best popular beekeeping magazine in the world by Apimondia?

Over the years, *Bee Craft* has helped small-scale beekeepers to cope with the Isle of Wight disease when the magazine started, to controlling varroa when it arrived in the 1990s and now of course in trying to keep the Asian hornet from establishing itself in Britain.

Today, *Bee Craft* is one of the most innovative bee magazines in the world. For more than ten years the magazine has been available in hardcopy and online, it has a lively presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, it has a monthly *Bee Craft* Live Q&A video online and it has been among the first to dispense with a plastic postal envelope in favour of a starch-based compostable postal wrapper.

Content has developed apace too. As well as giving practical advice, *Bee Craft* keeps readers up-to-date with news, books and research from around the world. There's some fascinating history too along with insights into the societal and environmental changes that affect bees and beekeeping and some great stories about the characters in the beekeeping world. New features are regularly included to make the magazine colourful, entertaining and above all informative.

Please join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as the new website at www.bee-craft.com.

If you are not yet a subscriber, it's easy and very low cost to sign up on our brand-new website www.bee-craft.com/shop. Don't miss out on the centenary specials that are lined up just for our subscribers. The life-size *Bee Craft* centenary textile apiary will be travelling around the UK to the various beekeeping and other shows throughout 2019. Contact: marketing@bee-craft.com for further information.

We hope more Yorkshire readers will join us this year and we want to hear more of your news and views. Here's to the next 100 years!

Committee

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YBKA Calendar of events

Saturday 9th February – Module 7 Tutorials 10am till 3pm (Harrogate)

Saturday 23th February: Delegates Conference (Harrogate) 10am

Saturday 23rd March: BBKA Module Examinations.

Saturday 6th April: YBKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (YORK) – full details elsewhere in this newsletter

12th, 13th & 14th April: BBKA Spring Convention (Harper Adams)

Friday 26th April: GPC Meeting (Venue to be confirmed) 6pm

4th/5th May: Wax Course – 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.

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)

BBKA Module Exams Deadline

The deadline for submission of applications for the BKA Module Exams (23rd March) is FEBRUARY 10th.

Application forms can be downloaded from the BBKA website

[Click Here](#)

And sent to Elaine Robinson with a cheque for £30

Elaine will record and send on to the BBKA

Address: Elaine Robinson, Middlefold Farm, Hebden Bridge HX7 7PG).

education@ybka.org.uk

Classified Adverts

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

Don't forget that Maisemore, Thornes and Payne's all have their respective sales in January 2019. Selling woodwork and poly equipment. All are well worth a look.

LBKA Lincoln District
36th Annual Auction Sale of Bees & Equipment

Saturday 30th March 2019

At the Lincolnshire Showground

Grange-de -Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA

Just off the A15 north of Lincoln

**Bees and equipment accepted for sale from 1:30pm till 5:30pm on Friday 29th March
and 8:30am to 10:00am on the day of the sale**

Viewing from 09:00am Saturday

12½% Sellers commission – 7% Buyers premium

BUYERS CAN PAY WITH DEBIT/CREDIT CARD

To sell or buy, you need to register at the desk before the sale begins and obtain a customer number

The sale will start promptly at 10:30am. Auction of live bees will commence at approx. 1:00pm

Further details can be obtained from lincolngroupsec@gmail.com

**There will be a Beverley Beekeepers Association auction at the end of
April 2019.**

More details to follow once known

www.beverleybeekeepers.co.uk

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

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:

www.halifaxbeekeepers.co.uk/events.html

Below information is still to be confirmed

But in previous years

Auction has started at 12.30

Viewing has been from 10.30

Lots accepted from 830 till 10.30am

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

[Book the YBKA Spring conference](#)

[online](#)

[Click here](#)



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

A beginner's Course in Meads and Melomel making

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/meads/wines
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 the day, please bring along 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 and make your first gallon of brew on your return home. Everything required will be in the starter kit.

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**, allocated on a first come first

served basis, so don't delay in booking!



The following 3 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 and be part of the first line of defence against this menace

IF YOU SPOT AN ASIAN HORNET

Contact the NBU

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

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

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 abdomen Native hornet abdomen



Asian hornet nest



'Hawks' outside honey bee colonies



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: alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Species Description

Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*

AKA: Yellow-legged Hornet

Native to: Asia

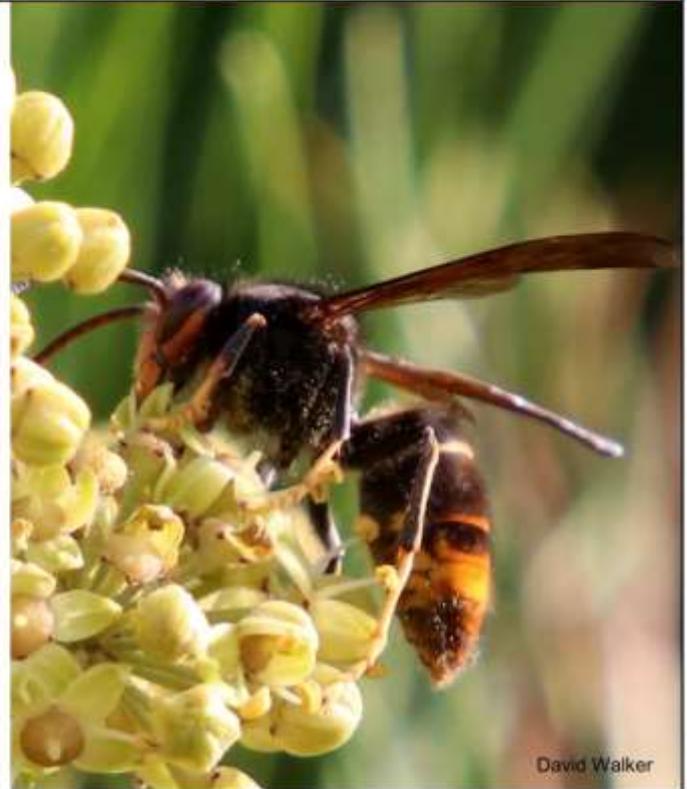
Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

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.

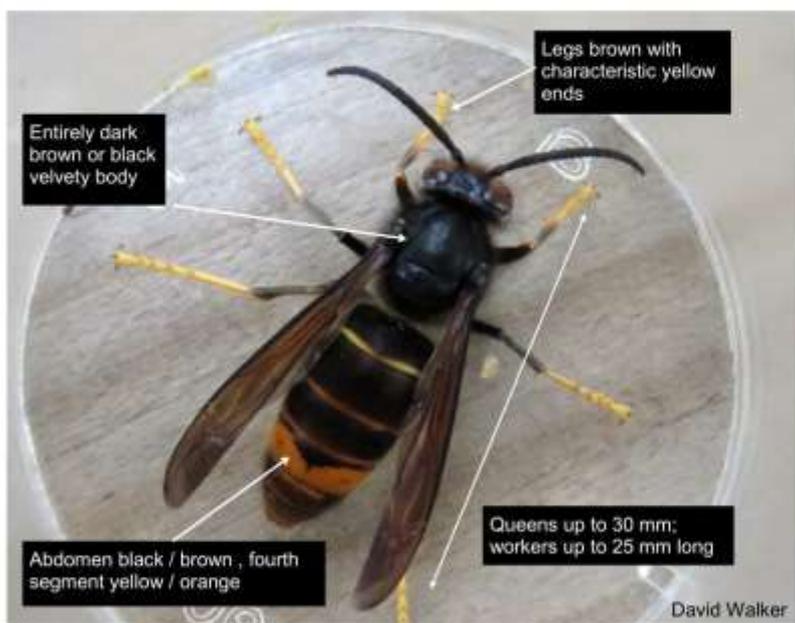
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

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.

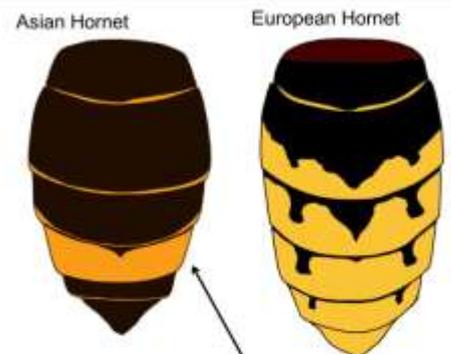


David Walker

Key ID Features



David Walker



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



Asian hornet "hawking" for honey bee prey

J. Haxaire

Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) for comparison

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

Actual size



Q. Rome

Similar Species

European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

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

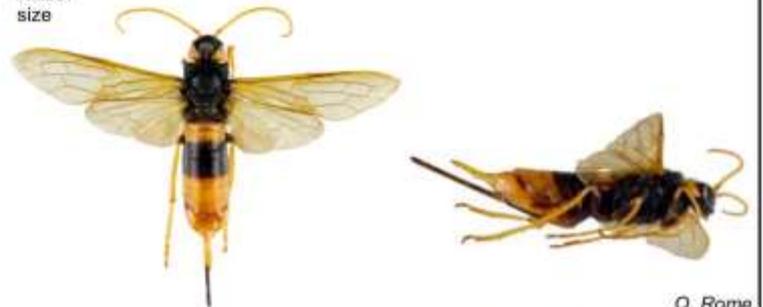
Actual size



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



“YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS

YOU”

Small signature or logo in the bottom left corner.