



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

Edition 17

August 2019

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Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the August 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter.

Records broken for the hottest days in July followed by terrific thunderstorms, torrential rain and flooding. I wonder what the bees are making of it all or have they seen it before and got the T shirt.

Despite the weather the bees have been making hay whilst the sun shines and have been filling up supers like mad and notwithstanding a drought, plagues of locusts and frogs honey production in my part of Yorkshire is looking promising.

Basic assessments are still under way with early indications showing a brilliant increase in candidates passing. As mentioned previously, successful candidates will be reimbursed with their application fee. The Great Yorkshire Show took place on 9-11 July and as usual the Normanby Pavilion played host to hundreds of visitors interested in beekeeping. Live bees were on show and sales of honey broke all records.

So, get ready for the heather and look forward to harvesting your supers.

Phil Gee
Chairman

**Asian Hornet
Identification Posters
For Printing
Click Here**



**A Beginner's Course in
Meads and Melomel- Making**

Only Three Places left

Back by popular demand, a one-day taster course on the making of honey meads/wine both dry and sweet, plus how to make honey fruit melomels. The course will be held at the YBKA headquarters Pavilion on the Harrogate show ground on **Saturday 14th of September**.



The course costs just **£35** and includes a starter kit. Your tutors for the day will be Senior Honey Judges **Dave Shannon** and **Tony Jefferson**. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided throughout, but please bring a packed lunch.

Start time is 10am. We will break for lunch around 12.30pm and resume at 1pm. Course to end around 3pm

All attendees will receive a free starter mead/ melomel pack (in with the course price), to enable you to start your first gallon of brew on your return home. Everything required (except the honey) will be in the starter kit.



[A selection of two or three meads and melomels will be on hand for attendees to sample in the afternoon after the talks.](#)

[We look forward to hosting another successful course for our members. We have just 3 places left on the course, bookable via the YBKA website, click here to book, allocated on a first come first served basis, so don't delay in booking!](#)



Hives & Honey Section,

161st Great Yorkshire Show 2019

This year we had over 800 entries, a recent record: 20% more than last year, with 55 entrants. Ten of the best Senior Judges from across the country were pre-invited by the YAS to judge the various categories of staged exhibits across nearly 70 different traditional classes, covering the full spectrum of Hive and Honey Products. Our team of Honey Stewards help to facilitate the smooth running of the event. Many are highly experienced and some, qualified Honey Judges in their own right. We also have some relatively new Stewards and three who are looking to further their experience and/or to provide additional support and help with the judging. The BBKA President (Margaret Murdin) and BBKA Chair (Margaret Wilson) assessed the 'live bees' on the section's Tuesday morning public judging and demonstration.

The standard of Championship Award cup and trophy winners met the usual high expectations. As ever, attention to detail is the key to success. As general feedback: preparation of exhibits needs to be immaculate, with no bits of dirt, scum, bubbles or extraneous material (such as bits of bee) in sieved / filtered honey or rendered beeswax for example. Soft set honey should be both 'set' and 'soft' (not wet, flowing or sloppy). Clear run honey shouldn't show any insipient granulation: naturally granulated honey no phase separation of fructose/glucose sugars; whilst weights/ measures should be as specified.

Presentation is equally important. Use clean jars, matched pairs with, preferably, new gold lacquered or plastic lids. Wipe your jars to remove any stickiness and finger marks before affixing class entry labels. Try to keep them upright bringing them into the Show for staging. These things should all be 'givens', allowing the judge to concentrate on evaluating the actual contents of jar and bottle for aroma, taste and flavour etc. Always read and re read the Schedule carefully, to ascertain both individual class requirements and the rules. They exist, both as standards for preparing and selling honey and hive products in general, as well as to help you to win on the show bench.

Best Exhibit in Show Supreme Champion (a perpetual silver mead mazer cup trophy) was won by a Medium Honey (bell heather and clover) entered by Chris Smailes. The Supreme Champion Beekeeper Award (the Senior Stewards Fruit Bowl) was won by Ivor Flatman for acquiring the most winning points across 14 different, challenging, classes as highlighted.



Peter Lewis, Margaret Murdin, Margaret Wilson



Best Exhibit in Show Supreme Champion (Medium Honey)



L to R: Tony Jefferson, Bernard Diaper, John Goodwin, Tom Salter, Jack Mummery, Debbie Smith

If you have not entered before, do consider getting involved by entering one or more of the various Classes, from honey and beeswax (in most forms and variety), through cakes, mead, honey beer, photographs, microscope slides or the general miscellany category, covering lotions & potions, food wraps, preserves, wax- and bee-friendly fresh flower displays. There is, almost certainly, more than one that might suit your tastes and talents. Please look out for the 2020 Schedule and Entry Form next Spring. Meanwhile congratulations to all this year's exhibitors and worthy winners, and grateful thanks to everyone involved for their time, support and participation - judges, stewards, visitors.

Peter Lewis

New memorial bench for past president of Y.B.K.A., Allan Campbell Jefferson.



Commissioned by his son Tony Jefferson, in memory of his father and given to YBKA to display in the Bee Garden area of the Pavilion. (Dave Shannon left, Tony Jefferson centre and Peter Lewis Honey Show Chief Steward right). Allan's name is beautifully carved on the top back rail.

Things To Do In August

For most beekeepers August is a month of preparations, preparing colonies to survive through winter, and final checks for those fortunate enough to have access to heather. Your stocks for the heather should already be preselected with good new laying queens and strong colonies with many flying bees, plus a strong support of capped brood ready to emerge within the next week or two at maximum. Upon arrival at the heather moors select a site low down and sheltered, the moors can get very strong winds and bleak conditions at times, so give your bees the best possible chance. Allow them to fly uphill to collect nectar then travel downwards back to the hives. This is the best way to site your hives on heather moors. Hopefully, the heavy rains that we have recently encountered will be behind us, bringing a hot autumn with a copious excess of heather nectar for our bees.

From June of this year many beekeepers, even those with vast experience, have suffered from queens that go out and never return, get what seems to be successfully mated, however, then in two to three weeks' time are either superseded or disappear, leaving the colonies once again in a queenless state. I have introduced new queens this year to queenless colonies after they have been queenless for around 7-10 days with no possible chance of

producing a queen themselves. The introduced queen (in a queen cage) was left for 24 hours prior to allowing the bees to eat the way out for her, only to find that, on emergence they kill her, leaving themselves queenless once again. It's fair to say that this year has been a nightmare re queens! Now, due to some colonies being without brood for quite long periods, we are finding some of our colonies very short of pollen. Bees have concentrated on bringing in the late flush of nectar but omitted to gather in sufficient pollen because of their prolonged broodless state. Patties have to be put on to substitute colonies whilst a good amount of new pollen is brought in. The stronger colonies appear to be doing fine, but some weaker ones do need our help.

Summer honey is now taken off and extracted as most has been capped over. This honey still requires checking with your refractometer to ensure the correct water content of the honey prior to storage or sale: remember 20% is the max allowed for a floral summer honey. Anything less is very good but over this 20% is illegal for sale and will ferment if stored away.

When your honey is removed, or if your Varroa count is high, treat your bees to get the mite drop down to a lower manageable level now. MAQS strips if your honey is still on and alternatives if it's off. There are lots of variation treatments available but please select one now and treat your bees as this time of year Varroa mite increase rapidly. For novice beekeepers who are not certain how to treat your bees, don't be afraid to ask a more experienced beekeeper for help within your association. Never use out of date treatments and always follow the manufacturers advice re application and length of time to leave the actual treatments on. As soon as the time has elapsed take off any old treatment that remains and burn it.

Still carry on with your inspections and ensure your colonies are all queen right and disease free going into the late autumn months. Check food supplies with your colonies and if this is not adequate start feeding with a good strong syrup until your hives have at least 55 lbs of stores within the brood box and a super to enter into September. I personally do not believe that our bees can survive the winter months with just a brood box of stores. They also require a further super full of honey to get right through into Easter of next year. Some like to leave their queen excluders on, however, I recommend taking the excluders off. I place my full super underneath the brood box. This gives extra protection in adverse weather over the winter period, as the bees will find the warmest place which will be the brood box on top. It's also ideal for those who use the trickle method oxalic acid treatment on the shortest day as the brood box is uppermost in the hive with easy access. This method is also good in the spring as your queen will always lay in the warmest area - the brood box. In the highest position means you avoid her laying in the supers and having to take out and destroy super wax having had brood within them: a win - win situation.

Now is also time to consider getting your exhibits ready for your upcoming local and county shows. It's very gratifying to get winning prize cards at local shows, so go on and have a go. Filter your honey well and allow it to settle in a nice warm place. Thoroughly read your schedule and ensure your labels and jars match what's written within it. Use a torch when looking at your honey, it should be star bright and no little bits in it whatsoever. Ensure the lids are all new and clean and free of any scratches. If you sell your honey from home you can add 'award winning honey' to your sales board which really brings in a lot of interest.

Wishing everyone a bumper crop despite all the adversities.

Happy beekeeping, Dave Shannon.

Margaret Wilson (Chair of B.B.K.A) visits GYS

In the bees tent (below), we have the very best pairing: Margaret Wilson who is Chair of B.B.K.A (in white) judging the nucleus competition, along with Margaret Murden President of B.B.K.A (in blue) talking and

demonstrating the inner workings of nucleus hives to the public at the year's GYS. Ably assisted/ stewarded by Dr John Canning (in the light brown suit) who is also a BBKA Trustee



The Solar Tracker: solar wax extraction made easy.

By Chris Smailes, Whitby Beekeepers Association

I have often thought that wax is an under-rated product for many beekeepers. It is a valuable commodity and I collect every scrap from my bees. Solar wax extractors are nothing new – I made my first one when I was 11 and I have kept bees for nearly 60 years now. The principle is simple; a box, rather like a gardener's cold frame with a glass lid, containing a cloth filter and a drip tray for collection of clean wax. However, the tricky bit is that the sun continually shifts position in its orbit from east to west.

I am lucky to have four very practical sons, three of whom are graduate engineers, so I set them the problem: make me a cradle that moves the extractor so it constantly faces the sun. They rose to the challenge and after several planning meetings in our kitchen involving the whole family, the Solar Tracker was born.

The first model was a piece of 'shed fettling' and after testing, it worked so well that in 2016 we entered it in the 'inventions' class at the National Honey Show, winning first prize and the HJ Wadey Cup. We were astonished by the enthusiastic reception it gained from other beekeepers who said: "At last, somebody has solved the problem". That started me thinking about making it available to others and I set about small scale production. My key principles were: first, make it affordable; second, use local businesses for manufacturing components where possible.

The end-product is the Mk. 3 version which was on display at the Great Yorkshire Show in July. It locates the sun's position and automatically follows its orbit, maintaining heating/melting efficiency at its peak. No laborious turning by hand. No more wasted days when away from home and the weather is perfect. Simply set and forget! Its green credentials are worth a mention too, since it does not use electricity as a heat source. Oh, and a footnote for those who say solar extraction darkens the wax – it doesn't. Ours won first prize in the Commercial Class at last years' National Honey Show.

Anyone wishing to contact Chris for further details can email: beekeeper51@hotmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/westfieldshoney/>



BBKA Module Exam – Enrol now

BBKA Module exams will next be held on 9 November at YBKA Pavillion Harrogate
Deadline for applications to BBKA is 30 September, so should be sent to Elaine Robinson, YBKA Education Officer by 23 September at the following address:

Middlefold Farm,
Hebden Bridge
HX7 7PG

Application form can be down-loaded here.
<https://www.bbka.org.uk/exams-and-assessments-of-the-bbka>

BBKA HONEYBEE HEALTH ASSESSMENT

I've just completed my BBKA Bee Health assessment this week and would like to share my experience with you and encourage some of you, to consider applying to take the assessment in 2020. The BBKA criteria for entry, is to have 3 years beekeeping experience and have passed your BBKA Basic.

I took the assessment in Sheffield with Bronwen White, who is one of six trained assessors in Yorkshire

The assessment falls into 2 parts: the practical assessment and a verbal discussion about honeybee pests, diseases and poisoning. For the practical part, Bronwen wanted to see how I manipulated a colony and could describe healthy brood as well as how to inspect a comb for disease. I was then asked to perform a Bailey Comb Change for a weak colony; a Shook swarm; collect a sample of bees for disease analysis and demonstrate how to use a lateral flow device for American / European foul brood (AFB/EFB).

The Bailey Comb Change for a weak colony is a manipulation which is useful if a colony isn't building up well and you suspect, or your bees have tested positively, for Nosema. It's a gentler way of moving your bees onto clean comb than a Shook swarm, which is more appropriate for a strong colony and shouldn't be used on a colony with Nosema. The Shook swarm manipulation is also used when a Bee Inspector confirms a positive test for EFB, providing the colony isn't too diseased. I was also asked to show how to use a Lateral flow device for testing AFB and EFB, similar for those of you who may have ever tried a pregnancy testing kit, with a control and test line, both of which turn blue if a positive test from a larvae.

The second half of the assessment involved lots of questions to answer about viral, fungal diseases, varroa, pests and poisoning. All these subjects are covered extensively in the BBKA Module 3 exam syllabus. There are also a full range of guides on the NBU website to help research these.

I will hear if I've passed in up to 6 weeks. I attended the NBU's full day training on Healthy bees with Burton Beekeepers as part of my preparation for the assessment. Plus, as I'm studying for Module 3 at present and doing the BBKA correspondence course, it was all good preparation. As with the Basic, a big positive is the opportunity to spend a couple of hours with a Master Beekeeper, outside your association, so you can pick up tips and new knowledge, during the assessment.

In Yorkshire as well as myself, one other member has taken their Honeybee Health this year. I've forwarded full details of how to take the assessment to all Local Education Officers, so if you'd like to take the assessment next year, speak with your Local Education Officer. Applying is very similar to taking the BBKA Basic. The deadline for applying is usually end of February each year and the assessment is taken in the active beekeeping season up to the end of July. More information about the BBKA Honeybee health assessment and syllabus can be found here:

https://archive.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations/assessments/honey_bee_health_certificate

I recommend taking this assessment to anyone in their 3rd season of keeping bees, or beyond, who wants some assessment experience. It's a good stepping-stone towards the BBKA General Husbandry assessment, which can be a big jump from the Basic. Also, what's more important to a beekeeper than safeguarding the health of their bees?

Elaine Robinson
YBKA Education Officer

BBKA Queen Rearing Courses

The BBKA is organising courses for beekeepers, with at least three years' experience, at several venues around the country:

Somerset: August 3rd & 4th at Quantock Apiary near Bridgwater

Wales: August 10th & 11th at Gregynog Hall, Tygynon, Nr Newtown

Warwickshire: September 14th & 15th at BBKA Apiary, Stoneleigh

Cleveland: September 17th & 18th, venue to be confirmed

Details of other courses will be posted on the website when confirmed.

The whole course is focussed on the General Husbandry standard with the objective of each attendee going home able to run their queen rearing matched to their needs. It will not be prescriptive and will enable the attendees to

make up their own mind about the method they would like to employ. It will not focus on grafting, although it is a method that everyone should at least have tried at some point.

The course will be theory plus time in the apiary when different methods of queen rearing will be discussed and demonstrated. There will also be several queen related manipulations, again to the General Husbandry standard.

There will be a maximum of twelve on each course and there will be two tutors. The lead tutor will be Sean Stephenson who has a lot of experience in queen raising and delivering courses.

The cost of the course will be £75 which covers coffee, tea and biscuits but please bring a packed lunch with you. The timing for the courses will be confirmed later but will start on Saturday morning and end on Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to apply for a place on the course, please apply through the website shop:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/training-courses>

or contact the BBKA office on 02476 696679.

The hard life of the honey bee forager

on 28th August at The University of Sheffield 7pm till 8pm

Talk by Andrew B. Barron

Department of Computing, University of Sheffield

Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney

All of a bee-hive's productivity depends on the efforts of its forager bees. Foraging for pollen and nectar has always been an energetically demanding and cognitively challenging task, but human induced changes to the environment are making this job even more difficult for forager bees. This lecture uses data gathered with state-of-the-art microsensors that track the activity of forager bees to describe just how hard forager bees work. New experiments analyse how pesticide residues in the environment affect foraging efficiency, and the consequences of compromised foraging efficiency for colony productivity.

Andrew Barron is an Associate Professor and Australian Research Council Future Fellow at Macquarie University in Sydney. He is also a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at The University of Sheffield. Andrew has studied honey bee behaviour and neurobiology for 20 years, focusing on fundamental mechanisms of cognition, learning and social behaviour, and how current environmental stressors are impacting honey bee health.

Book here, it's free to attend

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/public-lecture-the-hard-life-of-the-honey-bee-forager-tickets-66547502371?utm_term=eventurl_text

Location:

The Diamond - Lecture Theatre 1, The University of Sheffield, 32 Leavygreave Road, Sheffield, S3 7RD

Speaker information:

Webpage: andrewbarron.org

CV: <http://andrewbarron.org/BarronCV2017c.pdf>

Publications: <http://publicationslist.org/andrew.barron>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=ah1jBk4AAAAJ&hl=en>

Research Gate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Andrew_Barron2

What3Words App

Being a beekeeper can get you in to a some quite isolated locations and if the worst was to happen and you needed the Emergency Services to help then it can become quite difficult to explain where you are.

This is where this app “what3words” app comes in extremely useful. This is now being used by emergency services up and down the UK ([here](#)).

How does it work? It's is 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.

So, for example:

York Minster is: shot.before.large .

The YBKA Pavilion at the Great Yorkshire Showground is: insect.love.funds

And some random track in the middle of nowhere near Milby is: sizing.headlines.lashed

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



2019 Autumn 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 9.30am till 3pm

Saturday 2 November with Simon & Wendy Maslin

Module 5 Honeybee Biology

Saturday 7 December with Bronwen White & Roger Pool

Module 6 Honeybee Behaviour

These tutorials are free and are a great way to learn together in informal surroundings
There is no obligation to apply for taking an exam

To book a place please register via the following link on the YBKA website

[Click here to register](#)

Please note, places are strictly limited and so offered to current Members of YBKA only

Elaine Robinson YBKA Education Officer

Who Is Your Association Education Officer?

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

Association	Education contact
Barkston Ash	Graham Crerar
Barnsley	Val Francis
Beverley	Simon Maslin
Darlington	Derek Lindsay
Doncaster	Linda Richards
Easingwold	
Halifax	Elaine Robinson

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

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

www.thebeeshop.co.uk

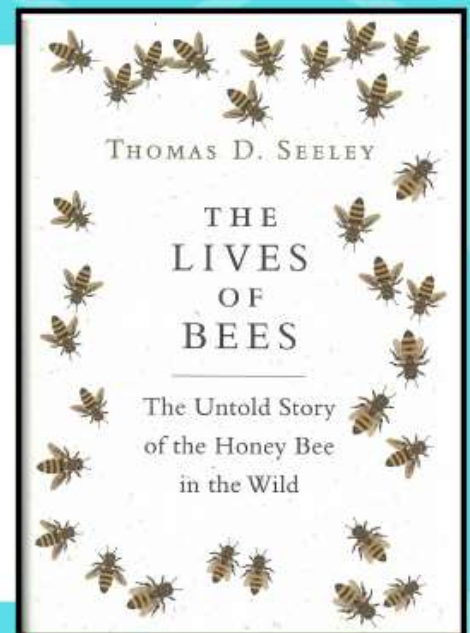
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From Somerset

Email: michaeljohnduckett@gmail.com

The Lives of Bees by Thomas Seeley.

Humans have kept honey bees in hives for millennia, yet only in recent decades have biologists begun to investigate how these industrious insects live in the wild. *The Lives of Bees* is Thomas Seeley's captivating story of what scientists are learning about the behaviour, social life, and survival strategies of honey bees living outside the beekeeper's hive. In engagingly elegant and deeply personal prose, Seeley – a world authority on honey bees – demonstrates how wild honey bees could hold the key to reversing the alarming die-off of the planet's managed honey bee populations.



Visit www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

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be found in the May edition of
BeeCraft Magazine with full
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The average % of BBKA Members who have passed the Basic as a % of overall membership, is 22%. For Yorkshire, just 17% of our Members have passed the Basic.

BBKA's stated goal is to increase this to 45% of Members who have passed the Basic. The 'best' associations are Twickenham & Thames Valley 46%; Buckinghamshire & Surrey both with 37% and Gloucestershire 35%. Closer to home Lancashire achieves 33%.

If you've kept bees for a year and would like to achieve recognition for your beekeeping skills, contact your local education officer in your association, who will be able to discuss what's involved and how to apply this season. With a 95% pass rate in Yorkshire and nationally, it's a relatively easy way to achieve a recognised qualification for being a better beekeeper!

Selby District BKA "Bee Days" at Abbey Primary School and other school visits

By Kirit Gordhandas & Chriss Line,
Selby District BKA

ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Selby District Bee keepers were invited into Abbey Primary School, Selby for two days with 159 Key Stage 1 and 133 Key Stage 2 children teaching them about our bees. Each day started with a 30 minute presentation about bees and then each class came to our workshop sessions. The workshops consisted of four Stations for the children to visit and explore in organised groups before moving on to the next Station.

The workshop Stations were:

- Station 1 - Live bees and trying to find the Queen
- Station 2 - Cutaway bee hive showing how the bees live
- Station 3 - Honey tasting (lots of surprised faces here!)
- Station 4 - Dressing up in beesuits (lots of fun here!)

In all, 12 classes of children had a thrilling experience and a lot of fun! (we think a lot of the teachers did also as they got dressed up in beesuits!). Each day also finished with a walk-in workshop session for parents so that they too could share the experience their children had with us.

We couldn't have done this without the help of our beekeepers and thank Paul, Linda, Chris, Lesley, Kirit, Sandy, Jennifer and Christine for giving up their time to help put on this 2 day event for the children.

Below is a selection of photos from the event



REWARDS OF TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT BEES ...

Following the two-day event at Abbey Primary School we were overwhelmed with a "Thank You" the children had put together for us.

In all, I counted 242 messages spread over 12 pages the children had written us - and we read every

single one of them! They are amazing messages!

I couldn't possibly think of any better reward than this! It will be treasured and remain in our association memorabilia for a long time to come.

Below is a selection of photos from the "Thank You"

OTHER SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Quite apart from this huge event, we've also done presentations over the last few weeks to Key Stage 1 children at Barlby Hill Top Primary (5th June), St Mary's Catholic Primary (28th June) and our next is Longman's Hill Primary (8th July). At each, the children also saw our live bees in the Observation Hive and had fun trying to find the queen. And the children loved it!



BBKA RECOGNITION OF SELBY DISTRICT BKA INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

BBKA acknowledged the the involvement of Selby District BKA in local schools.

See below post Facebook post



District Events for All

Halifax and District BKA 2019 Events Calendar

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

YBKA Calendar of events

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.

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subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2BXpFns>

Committee

Position	Name	Contact Information
Chairman School Days Organiser Area Rep: Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield & Pontefract	Phil Gee	pjgphilgee@btinternet.com 01422 886114 / 07769 650059
Vice Chair General Secretary Area Rep: Northallerton, Thirsk, Darlington, Richmond, Rydale	Roger Chappel	yorkshirebka@gmail.com 01325 315741 / 07905 190701
Treasurer	Norbert cooper	norbert.cooper@btinternet.com 01937 834 809 / 07957 404 047
Education Officer Area rep: Beverley	Elaine Robinson	education@ybka.org.uk
Webmaster Area rep: Bradford	David Lamont	davidlamont431@btinternet.com 01274 619787 / 07968 817153
Honey Show Chief Steward	Mark Millard	mark.millard@yahoo.co.uk 01924 271 203 / 07497 429 646
Bee Health Liaison Officer Area rep: Barnsley	Ivor Flatman	ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk 01924 257089 / 07751 061 753
Newsletter Editor	Chris Barlow	newsletter@ybka.org.uk 07849 150 837
Equipment/Resources Officer	Derrie O'Sullivan	derrie@ntlworld.com 07801 953 145
Area Reps		
Leeds	Kirit Gordhandas	ybkarep@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk
Rotherham	Bronwen White	bron@mistral138.plus.com 01142 307957
Barkston Ash	Greg Sharp	gandjsharp@hotmail.co.uk 07746 986 716
Doncaster	Dave Shannon	01302 772837 / 07907 856515
York & Malton	Vicki Leaf	vicki@glade-farm.co.uk 07847 327 861
Airedale & Scarborough	Linda Schofield	gorluvaduck@gmail.com 01535 609379 / 07853 651 965

Whitby	Tony Jefferson	stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk 07749 731945
District Contacts		
Easingwold		
Richmond	Peter Creek	creekpeter@rocketmail.com 01748 812075 / 07922 087877
Northallerton		
Malton	Bob Hirst	pamandbob@btinternet.com 01904 706 111 / 07505 865 887
Wharfedale	John Forsyth	
Doncaster	Miranda Dickinson	miranda@thorneyford.co.uk 07766 737 682
Beverley	Simon Maslin	4simonm@gmail.com 01482 656 018
Selby	Chriss Lines	chriss.line@icloud.com 07800 767555

BBKA Forum

[The BBKA have a new online forum. This is the web address. Pop along, sign up and say hello.
www.bbkaforum.co.uk](http://www.bbkaforum.co.uk)

Classified Adverts

Do you have anything bee related for sale or wanting something bee related? If so, please email newsletter@ybka.org.uk the editor for a free sale or wanted listing:

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

5 frame nuc with open mated Buckfast queen

5 frames with brood in all stages, come in transport box included in the price with marked 2019 queen, calm bees and nice to work.

The following pages are about ASIAN HORNET

Please print out and circulate the follow pages.

The following 3 pages are all issued by the NBU

Print out and put in your apiary under a hive roof

Print out and give to friends

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

Please print and give to friends, family and even people you don't really like!

Beekeepers can help to be part of the first line of defence against this menace

IF YOU SPOT AN ASIAN HORNET

Contact the NBU

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

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

AHAT - Asian Horney Action Teams – Join the team

– Contact Ivor Flatman

You will have noted in various sources (eg BBKA News) that there are several initiatives intended to thwart the build-up of any Asian Hornet colonies. The emergence of hornet queens is the initial concern and, although we are situated in the northern region of the UK this is not a reason for complacency. YBKA is keen to ensure all our districts are as well informed as possible and we'd like to play a part in supporting members to set up monitoring traps, encourage recruitment of AHAT's and we are considering the idea of purchasing traps which districts can use.

Ivor Flatman will be our co-ordinator, the first port of call if any Asian hornet locations are suspected. To this end it would be helpful if you could supply the name of one of your members who would be prepared to liaise with Ivor should any problems arise. Please supply the details of this person to Ivor Flatman as soon as possible. It should be stressed that beekeepers are not expected to deal with any AH nests or follow up sightings themselves, but it is important that any sightings/captured hornets are reported to the NBU/NNSS via the AH watch app, email etc. Hopefully AH sightings will be limited 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 \(you tube video\)](#)

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

[A very good documentary about the Asian hornet and its effects in Italy with an English voice over. Click Here](#)

Have you seen this insect?

ASIAN HORNET

Vespa velutina

What is it?

An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK.

Suspected sightings should be reported immediately using the details provided at the bottom of this poster.



Where might I see it?

May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls.

Active from February to November across England and Wales.

What does it look like?

- ☐ Slightly smaller than native hornet
- ☐ Dark abdomen, 4th segment yellow / orange
- ☐ Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark)
- ☐ Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet more orange)

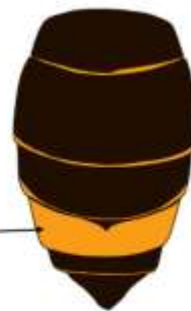
Asian hornet nest



'Hawks' outside honey bee colonies



Asian hornet abdomen Native hornet abdomen



DANGER!

This hornet stings.
Do not disturb an active nest.
Seek advice using the details below.

Report any sightings of this species:

with the free iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**

online at: **www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet**

by email: **alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk**

Asian Hornet

Alert!

Report sightings of this species:

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

Species Description

Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*

AKA: Yellow-legged Hornet

Native to: Asia

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

Not easily confused with any other species. Dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. Smaller than the native European Hornet.

Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, in vehicles, or in/on untreated timber. The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.

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

Do not disturb an active nest. Members of the public who suspect they have found an Asian Hornet should report it with a photo using the details provided in the red box at the top of this ID sheet.



Key ID Features



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