

# Y.B.K.A. eNews

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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Volume 14 : July 2010

Welcome to the July 2010 eNewsletter : Issued 30th June 2010

Jump to page....

[Chairman](#)

[July 2010](#)

[Education & Examinations](#)

[Queen Rearing Course](#)

[Queen Rearing Notes](#)

[Calendar](#)

[GPC](#)

[RBI](#)

[Bee on Willow](#)

[New Honey Container](#)

[Halifax Tree](#)

[Bee Gloves](#)

[Data Protection](#)

A Message from Our Chairman

Jobs for the coming month

Information from Wendy Maslin

A review of the Clive de Bruyn Weekend

Two Yorkshire Experts give advice

What is happening in YBKA

Welcome new members of GPC

Contact the Regional Bee Inspector

Bee Photograph

Would you buy this ?

Growing well

Want to buy better disposables ?

Guidelines for District Associations

## A Message from Our Chairman

With 2010s longest day now behind us I hope you have all had successful spring and early summer honey crops. Beekeepers in my own area have done very well, having the best first half year for some 6-7 years.

With the Great Yorkshire Show and many other county shows now looming my thought now turn to the preparation for this years honey shows. Over the last few years we have had a slight decline in entrants in the honey and wax sections of most shows but this year I am pleased to say the G.Y.S honey show one of the best honey shows in the country now has achieved some 12 new entrants from all areas of the county and beyond. I think most of these are from up and coming new beekeepers showing for the first time which is very good news.

Great news, and good luck to you all, and don't forget it's the Yorkshire beekeepers open honey show at the Countryside Live event at the Harrogate showground on Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sun. the 24<sup>th</sup> of October when we would like all exhibitors to tell a friend and come along with your entries. We have very prestigious trophies to be won by anyone who is an associate member of the Y.B.K.A. but all are welcome even from outside the county. Anyone wishing to be sent an entry form and time table of events please email me on [dave@aprilcourtapiary.co.uk](mailto:dave@aprilcourtapiary.co.uk). We really need support from both old and eager new beekeepers that can if they wish just enter the novice class for members who have never won at the show before. This is a great two day end of year show with many other attractions, so come along and enter, then bring along the family for a great day out at the Harrogate showground

I would like to close with a personal thank you to Clive De Bruyn who came up from the South to deliver his two day event held at our headquarters at Harrogate pavilion and tutor some 25 association members in the art of queen rearing.

Happy Beekeeping  
Dave Shannon

## July

What to do in July is a bit more complicated than the usual month ahead article...

If you are a new beekeepers who has recently purchased a nuc then...

Use a feeder to build up your nuc so that the bees have a full box of drawn foundation to expand into. The bees could also draw out some super foundation if they are a strong colony. If the weather holds you should get some honey this year, especially if you have balsam near you..

If you have colonies that came strongly through the winter and live near a urban area then...

The colonies should have reached their maximum population of around 50,000 and hopefully if the weather is good they will be hard at work collecting a honey crop. The swarming impulse will gradually die away towards the middle of the month but with the weather we are having continue to check for swarm signs - you don't want to lose bees now. Should a swarm occur later despite your best efforts, it will need luck or assistance to establish itself adequately for Winter.

The lime honey flow has almost finished and the main floral honey flow from bramble and willow herb are just starting. There is no sign of balsam starting to flower yet. July will be a good month to remove surplus honey to create space for the balsam crop.

Colonies will pounce on any bits of honeycomb from manipulations, and will start to rob if the opportunity presents itself, so take care in the apiary. Confining manipulations to late afternoon or evening may help avoid this. During the last week remove completed supers.

Colonies prepared for going to the heather should be readied for the move during the last week of this month.

If you live in the monoculture countryside then...

The rapeseed and legumes are now over so finding food becomes a problem. Get ready to move colonies to rape or to an area of balsam.

Or

If you are a combination of the above, then make your own choice for each colony.

## Jobs for the month

Continue weekly inspections

Watch for swarms

Add supers (up to 1 a week)

Prepare extraction equipment and storage

Place nucs into full hives or combine with current colonies

Render wax scrapings, burr comb and brace comb

Monitor mite drop - if you get more than 10 per day consider treatment  
but if colony is going to produce honey only dust with icing sugar

[Bill Cadmore, Editor](#)  
[back](#)

## New Honey Container

Spinks-Compac (the YBKA supplier of honey jars, plastic buckets and other packaging) would value the opinion of beekeepers.....

Would you purchase the honey container shown below ?

The container holds 12oz of honey. It is made of clear plastic with a hexagon embossed shoulder and stands upright easily. The flat surface is ideal for attaching an ordinary printed label that does not have to be especially shaped (as did the squeeze bear label). The gold plastic top has a one-way valve that prevents honey escaping unless pressure is applied - if it falls over no honey is lost.



The price is not set yet and would depend on probable uptake by beekeepers but will be less than the squeeze bear price.

Please email your views to [ybkanews@ntlworld.com](mailto:ybkanews@ntlworld.com) Your views will then be passed onto Spinks-Compac who will then make a decision as to whether they will stock this new item.

[back](#)

Regional  
Bee  
Inspector

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[back](#)

## Examinations and Education

As I write it feels more like autumn than summer and my attention is already turning to the programme of events for the closed season.

However, it's not too late to apply to take the basic exam this year so forward your application forms to me please.

We now have some more beekeepers qualified to assess the basic examination so you may like to consider inviting one of them along to a summer apiary meeting and maybe asking them to demonstrate what is expected of the candidates when taking this assessment. Most of these people will be known to local associations but I can put you in touch with them if required. And, on the note of meetings, similarly association secretaries may wish to ask an examiner along to a winter meeting as part of your programme. I will happily come along, as your regional examination secretary, if I am able, to any of your associations and give a 15 to 20 minute overview of the BBKA exam system and can take any of your suggestions about the wider field of education back to the Yorkshire General Purposes committee. (GPC)

At the GPC we are again supporting candidates wishing to undertake modules in 2011. Modules 2 and 3 will be covered by putting on some tutorials. These sessions will be held in the pavilion at Harrogate on a Saturday morning. The dates are yet to be arranged but will be available, with further details in the next news letter. I would strongly recommend the correspondence courses for any of the modules, as these are designed to take you through the syllabus and will cover all aspects of it. It is an excellent way to study for the exams and the tutorials will be an additional support through this process. It is our intention to cover all the modules in this way over a 3 to 4 year cycle.

Finally, taking an exam will not make you a good beekeeper but it will make you a better beekeeper and I am convinced that the process builds confidence helps maintain standards and in so doing means that our teaching of those coming up behind us is on a sound footing.

Wendy J. Maslin

YBKA Education and Examinations Secretary.

[back](#)

## Queen Rearing Weekend

This excellent weekend was very well attended by members of several district associations, many of whom had some experience of queen rearing but including some recent beekeepers new to the idea.

It was a packed practical weekend with tasks spaced out to give a real experience of each aspect of queen rearing by grafting. The need to set up starter colonies with a particular mix of bees was fully explained as were the processes of using mating nucs, mini-nucs and grafting itself. It is interesting to see just how many of us reached for our glasses in order to be able to see larvae young enough to be grafted - I needed a magnifying glass.

Attendees had a good time working together with just a touch of competition between the groups - it was fun to watch experienced beekeepers role-playing actions before



having to perform them in front of their peers. I was impressed that everybody wanted to do things as well as they could even though Clive's 10 week course was being condensed into two days.

Clive himself was a very interesting course leader interspersing detailed beekeeping knowledge with tales from his many years of working with our little friends. His many hints and tips on how to increase your chances of successful grafting were well received and everybody present recognised that we were talking to a man who knew what he

was talking about because he really had done it .... and done it again and again.





The photographs show a few of the course members carrying out various tasks on the day. At the end of the course the YBKA executive committee stressed their commitment to developing queen rearing in Yorkshire with a view to setting up a chain of breeders using a large gene pool to produce good quality Yorkshire bees - gentle, non-swarming, disease resistant and good producers.

The GPC would be pleased to set up a cooperative bulk purchase scheme for districts that would like to develop their queen rearing expertise. Give your ideas to your area rep.

The GPC would also like to remind members who attended the course that there is an expectation that some sort of cascade activity will happen in each district, ideally with each district running a queen rearing course of its own - warts and all first time round.

Special thanks to John Whitaker who's idea the course was and who did all of the admin. Thanks also to Dave Shannon and Ivor Flatman who supplied the bees. Tom Robinson and David Allan acted as 'gofer' for the course. John supplied the tea and Wendy supplied the cakes. Thanks to all involved.



An expanded version of this article has been supplied as a separate document. This gives details of the Y.B.K.A. Queen Breeding Project and will hopefully appear in a national beekeeping magazine soon - hence it cannot be printed in our newsletter.

## The Halifax Trees

The trees, donated by Halifax District, planted outside the pavilion at the Yorkshire Showground are doing well and growing nicely. In the photograph below we see two members of Halifax admiring their contribution to the Y.B.K.A. facilities in Harrogate.



[back](#)

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GPC

[back](#)

## QUEEN REARING

You should receive two separate files with this newsletter giving information on Queen rearing. These articles, by Tom Robinson and John Dews, are sent separately in order to keep the file size of the newsletter small enough for those members who do not have large file broadband internet connections.

[Bill Cadmore, Editor](#)

[back](#)

### Course in a Case BBKA New Beekeepers Course Package

This new package from B.B.K.A. is a real advance on the materials that were available to associations wanting to teach a course for new beekeepers; While almost all of the materials are available as individual items the idea to bring them together in a single package is a good one.

What is new are the notes about 'how to teach' and 'teaching techniques' which should help us move away from the dry and dusty lecture process as well as avoiding the 'death by powerpoint syndrome'. The pack contains an Individual Learning Plan for each participant, information leaflets, NBU leaflets and a learning record card. Experienced teachers will easily work with these and less experience members should find that they are a real help in motivating novices and keeping the learning alive and interesting.

Included in the case are two very good DVD's, a photographic frame, a made frame and an unmade frame together with the Healthy Hive book of photographs. The Tutors Notes are extensive, though sadly confined to a printed manual rather than being available on disc.

There are powerpoint shows for each session but these do not dominate the sessions. Some practical activities are suggested but the package still does not go far enough (in my opinion) to encourage participants in 'active learning activities' - I would like to see some small group work and problem solving activities suggested to enliven sessions - problem based learning is very effective with adults.

Having said that I still think this is a good package and all districts should consider buying it and using it. It will help establish a base standard for what we teach and how we teach it.

One sour note - why is it that Yorkshire, with our very large membership and 23 districts, gets only 1 free copy ? It seems that the size of a county does not matter - each county gets one copy - despite the fact that Yorkshire puts a huge amount of money into BBKA each year - 12 times more than some counties. Come on BBKA - lets have a few more copies, many of our districts are bigger than a lot of counties and pay far more into the national association.

The Course in a Case will be available from Wendy Maslin ([wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk)) as soon as I manage to pass it onto her. Wendy also has the application forms for districts who wish to buy CIC - £50 if you buy before October.

Bill Cadmore

[back](#)



Calendar

**YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

**EVENTS CALENDAR 2009/10**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
BBKA Module tutorial	Normanby Pavilion GYS	19 December 2009
BBKA Module tutorial	Normanby Pavilion GYS	9 January 2010
BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting	Stoneleigh Warks	16 January 2010
YBKA GPC meeting	Normanby Pavilion GYS	5 February 2010
BBKA Module tutorial	Normanby Pavilion GYS	20 February 2010
YBKA Spring Conference	Normanby Pavilion GYS	6 March 2010
BBKA Module Examinations	Normanby Pavilion GYS	20 March 2010
YBKA Honey Judges workshop	Normanby Pavilion GYS	27 March 2010
BBKA Stoneleigh Conference	Stoneleigh Warks	16,17,18 April 2010
YBKA Bishop Burton Conference	Bishop Burton College Beverley	24 April 2010
YBKA GPC meeting	Normanby Pavilion GYS	7 May 2010
YBKA Queen Rearing course	Normanby Pavilion GYS	12 & 13 June 2010
YAS Countryside Days	Great Yorkshire Showground	15 & 16 June 2010
YBKA GPC meeting	Normanby Pavilion GYS	18 June 2010
Great Yorkshire Show	Normanby Pavilion GYS	13, 14, 15 July
YBKA GPC meeting	Normanby Pavilion GYS	24 September 2010
YAS Countryside Live	Great Yorkshire Showground	23 & 24 October 2010
YBKA GPC meeting	Normanby Pavilion GYS	3 December 2010
YBKA AGM	Normanby Pavilion GYS	4 December 2010

[back](#)

Bees on Willow



Photographs by Chris Wright

[back](#)



## Data Protection and Beekeeping Associations

The following statement seeks to give guidance on data protection and beekeeping districts as clubs or societies. It is a response to a question from Richmond District to the Y.B.K.A. General Purposes Committee. Please be aware that while we believe this statement to be accurate it is not a legal document.

As a club or society district associations do not have to register with the The Information Commissioners Office but do have to follow the law with regards to data protection. For our purposes this can be summarised as:-

The district should hold the information securely on a single computer with a secure back-up disc kept separately. Alternatively a single written copy should be maintained in a secure location.

The information held should be only that data that it is reasonable for the district to hold in order to carry out its function as a club or society.

The information of associate members should be used only within the district for the purposes of the association.

Full members are also members of Y.B.K.A. and B.B.K.A. and therefore the data can be used within these organizations too, but only for the purposes of the association.

The district should not pass the information to any party other than Y.B.K.A. or B.B.K.A., who in turn must not pass data to any third party. There is one exception to this - see below \*.

The district should tell members what data is held, where it is held and what it is used for.

Data must not be held for longer than it is needed.

Y.B.K.A. and B.B.K.A. are bound by the same rules as the district and must comply.

\* Y.B.K.A. recommends that members details are passed onto the Regional Bee Inspector (R.B.I.) by the district associations. The R.B.I. holds this information securely.

The reason for this is so that all members can be quickly informed of any disease outbreak in their area.

The information also allows the R.B.I. to contact members to arrange disease inspections.

The information can be used only for the purpose stated and cannot be passed onto any other government department or other organisation.

District associations must tell members that information will be passed to the R.B.I. and give members the opportunity to not have their information passed on.

A separate document, Compliance with the Data Protection Act - A Brief Guide, has been sent to district secretaries with this newsletter.

[back](#)