

Y.B.K.A. eNewsletter November



2012 Queen Colour = YELLOW

1st November 2012 : Volume 16 : Issue 11

Chairmans Notes

What a year ! A beautiful spring with very good spring build-up and then downhill until now. I've never had to feed bees in July before - Nor have I ever had every colony in the apiary wanting to swarm when the hives are almost empty of stores. What a year !!! The reassuring thing is that many better beekeepers than myself are reporting an identical experience to my own. Further good news - my bees have survived so far and so we go into winter full of stores.

I hope that those who have just started beekeeping are not put off. Beekeeping is an addictive hobby because it is so enjoyable but spending a fortune on sugar syrup just to keep your bees alive and not being able to look through your colony because it rains everyday can take the edge off things. Please don't be dispirited - fingers crossed for a good cold winter and a beautiful summer next year.

Away from the apiary Yorkshire members have been busy winning many of the classes at the National Honey Show - Yorkshire once again retained the County Smallholder Shield - The FOURTH YEAR in a row - do we get to keep it now ? Special mention of Yorkshire member Karen Parkin who won third place in the Open Light Class - Karen, who is a member of Whitby BKA, only started beekeeping two years ago. Well done and congratulations to all the other Yorkshire members who were involved in the show. A fuller report is given below.

Yorkshire BKA also played a major part in making the Yorkshire Agricultural Society Countryside Live event a big success. The YBKA Honey Show is a part of this event and attracted many excellent entries helping the show attract record numbers of visitors. Well done to all involved and special thanks to Dave Shannon who organises the show on behalf of the General Purposes Committee.

Also - Well done to Paul Seage (Bradford BKA) whose photograph has been selected as the front cover image for the 2013 BeeCraft Calendar. Lovely photo Paul.

It was also nice to be given unsolicited praise for the work done by Peter Longbottom (Wharfedale BKA). Two new beekeepers who trained with him have separately sung his praises. Great work Peter.

Congratulations too to the many (too many to name individually) members who have passed their beekeeping examinations this year. Some at BBKA used to comment that Yorkshire members were not good at taking the exams - they can't say that now. Wendy Maslin continues to do an excellent job for us promoting education and training.

I'm sure that many more Yorkshire Beekeepers have done lots of other wonderful thing that I don't know about - so well done to everybody - and can you let us know about them so that we can sing your praise and inspire others to have a go at new beekeeping experiences.

Stay positive and cheerful.
Bill Cadmore

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Note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the the YBKA General Purposes Committee.

Editor

Bill Cadmore

send items to bill.cadmore@ntlworld.com

104 Hall Lane
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 5JG

Telephone 07847476927

Please Note:-

The change in layout to the enews this month is in response to a request from a member. Where possible we will seek to meet any requests members make about format etc.

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Y.B.K.A. Calendar

We hope to see many more members at our events in 2012/2013.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| November 23rd 2012 | GPC Meeting |
| December 1st 2012 | Yorkshire Beekeepers Association AGM YBKA Pavilion Harrogate Showground HG2 8PN |
| January 2013 | BBKA ADM |
| February 2013 | Val Frances will give a talk on beekeeping examination techniques |
| March 16th 2013 | "Bee Breeding, Queen Rearing & Making Increase" Tutorial |
| April 12th, 13th & 14th 2013 | BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams University Campus Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB |
| April 20th 2013 | Yorkshire Beekeepers Association Annual Conference York College Sim Balk Lane York YO23 2BB |

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Jobs in the Apiary for November

Looking out from my little office window over my garden I can see that Autumn has arrived with the leaves now falling from the trees. There are a few late flowers still in bloom in the garden but none that are beneficial to our bees now. All of your bees should now be well fed with adequate stores to see them through the next four or five months of this dormant winter period. You may still see the odd bees emerging from the hives on a nice day when the sun is shining and the temperature is raised a little by the warmth of the weakened winter sun. This will be mainly toilet flights, or workers bringing in vital water supplies to quench the thirsts of the whole colony. Or they may be using it to help them manipulate solid stores into good food source to sustain them over this period. All your colonies should have been treated against the Varroa mite and the colony will have now slipped into a semi-dormant cluster.

It is vital at this time to ensure that all your hives have mouse guards fitted to the entrance to stop pesky mice getting in and, not only eating up the vital stores, but damaging the combs as they eat their way through, leaving great holes in your drawn combs.

All my colonies are on open mesh floors and I keep them open throughout the winter, this allows all the detritus the bees make when chewing through combs to get to the food source to drop away onto the floor below. Likewise with any odd varroa mite that evaded your last treatments they will fall through the mesh and perish. A good tip is to place an empty brood box or super underneath your floor, this lifts the floor upwards and keeps out the strong wind and chill but still allows for excellent ventilation. It is also vital at this time of year, especially for beginners, to leave the hives alone. Do not open them up now at all, even for a peek to see if things are ok. If all the above have been completed then your bees will do fine until next spring, with a little luck.

This is unless you treat your colonies with Oxalic Acid. In which case this is best done in mid to late December on a sunny day when the wind is very light and the outside temp is 8 degrees or above. At this time of year your brood within the colony is virtually none existent, and that means there is nowhere for any mite still within the colony to hide inside capped brood cells hence this particular treatment has a far better rate of success.

Place a heavy weight or stone on the hive roof to stop it blowing off and allowing cold rain and snow from getting in. Remove any hive straps left on your hives especially in out-apiaries, remember thieves are about even in winter. Regularly check things are ok, and if a friend is away keep an eye on their hives until they return. Try to site your out-apiary colonies out of site of other eyes and away from roads and footpath walkways where people can see them, even erect a small barrier if this isn't possible to hide them.

When all these things are done this year of beekeeping in 2012 has basically come to a close. I think looking back over this year many will want to forget it as one of the worst years on record for cold, rain and overall horrible weather month after month and throughout the whole year. Lots of you I hear have had no honey surplus at all and I don't believe the rest fared much better. So hears to 2013 and lets hope the 13 is lucky and not the reverse for all you beekeepers out there. Lets look forward to full supers and strong colonies for the forthcoming year.

Happy beekeeping to each and every one of you
Dave Shannon

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THE COUNTRYSIDE LIVE AND YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS HONEY SHOW

As the majority of Yorkshire beekeepers know, we hold our annual Yorkshire beekeepers honey show now at the Countryside Live autumn show event held on the Harrogate showground on or around the 20th to 21st of October every year. We used to move around the county to various smaller county shows to hold this event but over the years a lot of these smaller shows ceased to exist due to varying reasons and finding suitable locations became ever harder to find. When the Yorkshire Agricultural Society asked us if we would like to move to their new autumn show some 7-8 years ago the committee decided it would be in the best interest of all to move there and have a central location for all competitors and visitors alike. Over the years this has proved to be an excellent move as the show and the honey show grow from strength to strength. We have an excellent venue for the honey show and members can bring along their families and spend the day looking at all our shows exhibits and wander around the rest of the show that covers everything from sheep and cattle, horse jumping and stalls filled with a variety of goods from clothing to gourmet delights. This year's honey show was the best yet with record entries of the highest calibre in all classes. We had a considerable number of new exhibitors this year; a lot of them new to showing and even relatively new to beekeeping, but the standards within the show remain very high indeed.

Show Winners

Overall best in show and blue ribbon winner

Miss C. H. Cooper from Wakefield BKA with a very impressive floral display done in pure beeswax.

Runner up and Reserve Champion

Mr. Mike Hobson from Doncaster BKA with the best two jars of creamed honey

The Yorkshire beekeepers trophies:-

Yorkshire Herald trophy

Mr. T. Jefferson who won the, for most points in show

Yorkshire Post Trophy for most points by a Y.B.K.A member in show.

Mr. T. Jefferson

Y.B.K.A Challenge trophy for most points in classes 15 to 20 inclusive.

Mr. T. Jefferson

The Horstman Cup trophy for the best light honey in the show

Mr. Gregg Sharp from Barkstone Ash BKA

Runner up in this class was Mr. John Whitaker also of Barkstone Ash BKA.

The William Slinger Trophy for best frame of honey for extraction and cut comb

(joint combined points) from 1st 2nd and third went to Mr. C. Smails of York BKA, a new exhibitor in the show. Congratulations.

The Albert Parkinson trophy for best bottled ling heather

Mrs. W.J. Maslin of Beverley BKA

The Chairman's Gavel for best honey in the 4 jar class "4 different varieties"

Mr. T. Head for Doncaster (a district association award)

I would just like to finish by thanking firstly our two senior honey judges this year, Mr. A. Woodward of Doncaster and Mr. A. Brown of Wakefield for their excellent work. All my stewards for the excellent work they did throughout the two days of the show. And finally all the exhibitors who took part in the show and made it a resounding success. Thank you and congratulations to each and every winner and participant without whom the show would not exist. Finally for all you new and old beekeepers out there who would like to participate next year, please give me a call from Easter onwards and I will send you an entry form and schedule of the show nearer the show time. Also if you enter the show you get a free exhibitors pass into the show as an added bonus

David A. Shannon
Chief Steward

The Winners



Miss CH. Cooper



Greg Sharp



Mike Dobson



Wendy Maslin



Chris Smailes



Mr T Head



Tony Jefferson

[TOP](#)

Message from Membership Secretary

I would like to thank all the Treasurers/Secretaries who do all the right things at the right time and make my job so much easier.

I know that several associations will have recently changed officers at AGMs and I hope that they will welcome a word of explanation. Please contact me if you have any queries on ednamphillips@talktalk.net or 01422 882144

We try to keep the membership list up to date so PLEASE send me the names and (correct) addresses of new members as you receive them, in ones, 2s, 3s or groups. I can then register them with BBKA and they will receive a Welcome Pack and the monthly newsletter. I also welcome news of change of address and all the other bits and pieces to keep the list accurate.

Capitation is paid in March and August and I will contact the associations at that time to explain procedures.

Many thanks for your help
Edna Phillips

FOR SALE

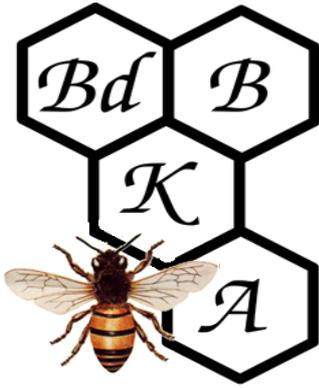
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A Beekeeper's Diary (October)

26th September

For two days it rained incessantly. Even today when it was forecast to be fine there were heavy showers. At the end of the day the river levels were as high as we have ever known in the 35 years we have lived here. Of the three routes out of the village, only one of them is passable. From our house we look out upon a wide expanse of water as the river has engulfed the ings on either side of the river and in places must be about a quarter of a mile wide. The water levels would need to rise another three foot before our home would be affected and the area of water is now so great that it is not conceivable that it can rise much higher, but, rather worryingly, the water level has reached the bottom of the hive floors in the home apiary. I can only hope the bees will be OK. If the water does enter the lower few inches of the hives I guess the bees will simply move higher into the hive until the flood recedes. There is nothing to be done. Without a boat I can't get close to the apiary.

1st October

The water has receded a little, though all but one route out of the village remain closed. I've visited all my apiaries, and in most cases have had to walk across the sodden land to reach them as it was not sensible to risk taking the van. With just a few exceptions the bees now have sufficient winter stores and I'm able to remove the feeders. I place a square of carpet above the crown board to provide top insulation but leave the mesh floor open. This completes the year's beekeeping.

Now is the time to consider how the year went.

As regards honey crop, it wasn't so bad. This was largely due to the enormous harvest I managed to get in the early Spring, a result of the beautiful spell of weather we enjoyed in March, April and early May. But the summer crop was disappointing, to say the least, though judging from reports from other beekeepers I should be grateful for the little I managed to get. The heather gave enough to just about justify the effort. The unsettled weather we suffered from the middle of May through to the end of July was a challenge. Without feeding, swarms and small colonies would have starved. One could not help but feel sympathy for newcomers to the hobby.

But besides these generalisations of circumstances over which I had no control am I pleased with the way things went? Not entirely.

I totally failed to keep swarming under control. The warm spring resulted in some very early swarms. Family imperatives took me away for eight days in May. I had checked every hive for queen cells before going, but there was going to be at least ten days before I was able to revisit them. I'd hoped to get away with it but returned to find swarms hanging from every other bush in the apiaries. After that it was weeks before I felt that I was in control again. The bees got it totally wrong too. They swarmed during the fine spell and then the virgin queens found mating difficult when the weather became unsettled.

My experiments with rearing queens were only partially successful, but I did feel that I had at least established my method and techniques.

The preparation of the colonies which I took to the heather was inconsistent. Some colonies did remarkably well, while others produced nothing.

And then there was the disappointment of my attempt to take the BBKA advanced husbandry examination.

On the other hand, when I think about it, there were things to be pleased with.

Although there was little honey, the bees in the most part are going into the winter in good condition. The varroa drop resulting from the autumn treatment was very light which I take to indicate that the IPM

regime I'm employing is being effective. I'm not convinced that the threat from varroa has lessened in any way. I'm monitoring for nosema in a more regular way and while finding a few spores, again the infections seem light.

It's pleasing to see how the new cadre of beekeepers at our association have developed. Most of the colonies belonging to these new beekeepers are going into the winter in good condition, a real achievement bearing in mind the miserable conditions during the summer.

I won a first and second prize for my honey at the Yorkshire Show. For someone who, for years, has been rather dismissive of honey shows I'm surprised how much this pleased me.

Our association seems to be prospering. Membership is growing and there are new people stepping up to the plate and taking on the responsibility for the administration, sharing the load.

My new redesigned jumbo feeders worked well in practice during the autumn feeding. When you have several out-apiaries it is a bonus to be able to feed a colony in a single visit. I have got in mind a small improvement, placing a mesh over the feeding slots so that the lid can be lifted without releasing bees.

So I look forward to the next year, new ideas and the challenge of not repeating mistakes.

11th October

The association AGM. It was, without doubt, the best AGM I've ever been to. Although we remain a small association, attendance exceeded that which is normal for the YBKA. There were lots of positive contributions from the floor and more people were putting up their hands to help with the running of the association and the events. After the business, tea and cakes, our chairman gave a talk on the ways that we can use our computers to help with our beekeeping. This turned out to be a lot more interesting than the first impressions of the subject matter might have suggested.

18th October

I spent the whole morning baking a fruit honey cake for the YBKA honey show, and it turned out not to be time well spent. The burnt top will ensure that it can't be placed – in fact I shouldn't even enter it, but I've run out of time to bake another. So this must be added to the list of things to achieve next year – bake a half decent honey cake. I'm marginally more confident about my honey entries.

23rd October

We spent the weekend in the Isle of Man, where I grew up. Like the UK in general, it's been a miserable summer over there, but the weather during the weekend was delightful. Here in Yorkshire the countryside is drab. Over there the fuschia hedges are still in flower, as is the gorse.

When we returned yesterday I could see that the ivy that clings to the trees that line our lane is coming into flower and today it is covered in honeybees. Also Greg had returned my exhibits and I'd won the soft set class, with a second in the light honey, which Greg won. Not so bad, except it was Greg who beat me in the light honey! I think the cake was thrown to the pigs.

John Whitaker
Barkston Ash BKA

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Mead – finally some success

I first started exhibiting honey in local shows at the age of 12, and first exhibited at the Great Yorkshire Show at 15 years old, it was a really good way of providing a little more pocket money. I have continued since then but did have a few years break whilst attended University in Bradford and then a demanding project manager job at Nissan which took me to Japan a few times, therefore making exhibiting a rather difficult. However whilst I was 'out of the game' the reigns were picked up and held quite successfully by my Nephew, Richard (pocket money reasons again) For a junior it really is a good way of extending your pocket money, if you play your cards right and you get your parents to pay the entry fees, transport you and your entries to the show then pocket the prize money = result.

I feel over the years I have enjoyed successes in just about all the classes, including cakes, but excluding wax (more on wax later) but felt I needed to have a go at the mead classes.

I did venture into making mead in the early days as it always intrigued me as to how the various bottles of mead could be made. I also recall the best exhibitors at the time were not inclined to give away any of their secrets, so it remained a bit of a mystery. My own efforts did have a few disasters, one I recall was a rather loud bang in the middle of the night, my bedroom was downstairs and the adjoining wall was the coal house, a bottle of rather dubious quality mead stored in the said coalhouse had exploded and the cork was actually embedded in the ceiling.

I have also done a fair bit of judging in my time as well and sometimes the mead classes have to be approached with caution (one well known judge described it as crossing the M1 blindfolded – you never know what is going to hit you) as the quality can sometimes be rather alarming. It is good to watch the Judge's first facial reactions when sampling meads – sometimes its good for a laugh.

However things have changed since the YBKA have run a number of mead making workshops. Allot of the myths have been put to bed and many tips for producing quality meads have been generously handed over. From a personal view I can report that the help I have had from Michael Badger and Erica Osborn at the workshops and since then have really contributed to improving my own mead making abilities.

The whole concept of mead and its various versions may sound complicated at first, but Michael and Erica have cut through the confusion and brought things down to a simple level that can be tried out by anyone. The biggest problem I had however was finding a good local home brew shop to buy the ingredients. I use Allan's Brew Shop in North Ormesby, Middlesbrough, as they are always willing to give lots of practical advice and are relatively cheap. They are even cheaper than online and the advice is free – but you must not be in a hurry when you call in, as the talk will last a while – you have been warned !

I have now been making mead for the last 3-4 years and this year have had much greater success, at the recent Countryside Live YBKA honey show I managed to get 1st in both the dry and the sweet classes – the Judge commenting on how close the competition was and how much difficulty he had to decide the winners. At the National Honey Show - I managed a second prize in the Open class for dry mead – that certainly is a hard ticket to gain. (Tony Fletcher from Richmond BKA – will certainly agree) I also got a commended in the other class.

I am progressing my accreditation of the International Federation of Mead and Honey Wine Judges and I must confess to this being the criteria for improving my own mead making.
(info on IFMHWJ - To achieve accreditation candidates must be active mead makers as well as successful exhibitors. In addition they must have experience with stewarding and judging. Achieving accreditation is only achieved by hands on involvement and being currently active in the field of mead and honey wine. The candidates are expected to have a wide knowledge of Meads; have an understanding of Honey Table Wines; have knowledge of all the types of honey wines including vinegar, marinades and non-alcoholic

beverages made with honey; recognise common faults and errors; be fully conversant with usual show practice and rules; understand the methods commonly used for allocating awards and show management.)

Perhaps my next venture should be into sorting out my beeswax entries – that's a whole different game completely!

So go on and have a go – it is actually simple. Once you get a good recipe and method for ordinary mead then it's fairly straightforward to start introducing fruits and spices – If I can do it anyone can.

If you produce a batch that you feel you could happily sit in front of the fire and drink it socially – then it's a good brew and worthy of exhibiting!

Tony Jefferson
Stonelea Apiculture

giftaid it

Now is the time that you are all paying your subscriptions for the coming year's beekeeping.

Your Treasurers and Membership Secretaries will be dunning you for money. Why not make that money go further by taking advantage of the governments' offer to increase it by 25%. Any UK taxpayer (and that includes most pensioners) are eligible to make a Gift Aid Declaration. Armed with that declaration the association can claim back from HM Revenue & Customs the tax you have paid on your subscription. For every person who has completed a declaration, your local district association will get back at least £3.60 on the YBKA and BBKA capitation fees alone.

If enough of you do it then next year membership of your local association could be free!

Ask your Membership Secretary for a Gift Aid Declaration and make your membership go further!

Bob Hunter
Hon. Treasurer
rmwhunter@blueyonder.co.uk

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My Basic Experience

AFB or EFB, crikey which one is which? I knew I probably needed to go back to the books and study a bit more when I was only able to contribute 3 correct answers to the Christmas Quiz last year. So perhaps it was no surprise that I was a little reluctant to commit to taking my Basic Beekeeping Exam in 2012. Somehow though, I found myself smiling and agreeing to it, filling in the form and sending a cheque off for £15.00.

To be honest I didn't think much more of it until I got a call asking what date would be suitable. I had been lucky enough to attend a morning session in Harrogate earlier in the year, where the association teachers were being briefed on how the exam should be conducted, and what things they should be looking out for. I actually went to serve the teas and coffees, (its thirsty work talking bees all morning), but perhaps it gave me a head start. Gleaning little gems of information like a Hoffman frame should have 11 nails in it - if it's put together correctly!

I was told that 93% of people pass the Basic exam and it's only a pass or fail, there are no degrees of success. It sounded like the odds were in my favour, but I still didn't want to be in the 7% so I got the books out. I am in my third year of beekeeping, which is the recommended length of time to be keeping bees before taking the exam. I felt comfortable with the practical part of the inspection but knew I needed to revise a little on diseases (back to the Christmas Quiz again), as there is quite a big section on this during the exam.

The big day came and it was absolutely pouring down and showed no signs of stopping. I wasn't even sure if the exam would go ahead but I drove to the Apiary and sat in the car watching the rain, waiting for the assessor. He arrived early, keen and raring to go. Unbelievably the clouds parted and the sun came out as we were talking, so we were soon suited up and on our way.

The exam itself involved doing an inspection and talking the assessor through what I was doing. I had to point out the things I could see like Pollen, Honey, Drones and workers. I found that as we progressed through the hive it took more the form of a conversation than a test. The assessor passed on lots of really helpful tips and advice like not resting frames on the floor and using a water spray rather than a smoker. I soon forgot my nerves and got immersed in conversation. The assessor keeps Black Bees and has been carrying out selective breeding for a number of years. Due to the location of his Apiary he thought his bees may be influencing the colony we were inspecting. Which was great news for our apiary as our

Queens can go find a better class of Drone, not such good news for the assessor if his Queens fancy a bit of rough of course!

After a thoroughly enjoyable inspection we went back to the car and I was asked a number of questions to enable me to demonstrate my overall knowledge of Beekeeping. There were no trick questions, and with all the extras the examiner added in, I came away knowing so much more really useful stuff. Having said that, I don't think I could have done the disease section without doing some studying first. Next I had to build a frame, which again I had practiced – and I hope I scored full marks; I got the 11 nails in straight at least.

Exam over, I came away feeling that I had learnt so much more. I think I forgot it was a test. To have someone come and look through a colony of bees with you, who has such a wealth of knowledge and experience is an opportunity too good to miss. It has boosted my confidence considerably, and was £15 very well spent. So if you have been keeping bees for about three years and haven't done the Basic exam yet - my advice would be go for it – you won't regret it.

By the way I passed the exam – and am looking forward to the Christmas 2012 Quiz!!

Tina Jenkins,
Beverley Beekeepers.

Logo Competition

While the present Y.B.K.A. logo is excellent in its detail and perfectly expresses 'who we are and what we do' there are some problems with it: The major one is that we can find nobody in Y.B.K.A. who has any of the original drawings or who has a really good quality copy of the logo (i.e. 10MB TIFF or paper equivalent - if you have one please contact Bill Cadmore); A minor one being that it is very detailed and therefore does not display well on headed paper, business cards and on screen.

The GPC do not wish to abandon the present logo but agreed that it would be interesting to see what sort of logo a younger generation might design for us. This has the additional advantage that a younger generation finds out that we exist. With this in mind we are inviting students in secondary school, especially those studying design at advanced level, to design a logo for us. We are offering a prize of £100 for the winning entry - enough to act as an incentive for high quality work (and much cheaper than employing a designer to do the job for us).

Graham Crerar, the Y.B.K.A. Press Officer is organising the competition - so if you are a teacher wanting more information please contact him:-

Graham Crerar <Graham.Crerar@civica.co.uk>

[TOP](#)

Success at the National Honey Show

Another show season is now over, it is quite a relief to get all exhibits back from the National Honey Show, for me it is a busy couple of weeks as the National follows the Yorkshire Beekeepers Honey Show at Countryside Live in Harrogate. Preparing exhibits for both shows is quite a challenge as it involves preparing 2 lots of exhibits as I have to take my entries to Thornes on the Tuesday between the 2 shows so that they can transport them to London on the Wednesday, then its a long day on the Saturday to 'nip' down to London and back (a mere 590 mile round trip). Often I wonder why I do it but it is the opportunity to meet all friends and catch up on news. This is especially so with the Irish exhibitors the 'banter' and leg pulling between us all is really first class.

Then its the pleasure to find out what results each of us have been awarded. with exhibiting the motto has to be "its not the taking part that is important - its the winning" Yorkshire have again won the County Small Holders Shield for the 5th time (4th in succession). Any awards contribute points which are allocated against the county.

This year one of our latest successes is a newish and rather keen beekeeper from Whitby, Karen Parkin. Karen and her sister Jacqui Orrell started keeping bees only 3 years ago, but you could say that it had been a rumbling urge for some time as their Father used to be a beekeeper – its always in the blood ! Her Son Mark has also managed to get bees established at the local school – so they are a real beekeeping family.

Karen entered 4 classes at the National after gaining a YBKA Judge Merit award at Egton Show, she then entered the Countryside Live gaining a 2nd and 3rd. But her National success was really fantastic when she gained a commended in the Medium Honey Class and a third in the Open Class for Light Honey. Out of 45 entries of Light Honey - to get placed in this class is really a brilliant achievement. (I am not too sure Karen actually realises how much an achievement this is) it just goes to show that the new beekeepers really can compete at the highest level and show the 'Old hands' a thing or two.

Chris Smailes from Ryedale BKA also had good success at the YBKA Honey Show at Countryside Live, Chris is another new exhibitor, also encouraged by the YBKA Judge Merit Award scheme – we will be looking to continue the scheme during 2013. Not many were awarded in 2012 due to a number of shows cancelled due to the poor weather.

Speaking as an Exhibitor since the age of 10 (blimey thats now 40 years !) I am sure I am not alone in welcoming this new competition. All of us that do exhibit, are keen to pass on our tips (well not all of the tips) and to be beaten by one of your own members is just as good a reward as winning yourself, (well almost).

So hopefully next year we can get a few others trying out their skills.

It is my strong belief that, if you sell honey to the public, then you should demonstrate the quality of your sales products by putting them on the show bench. It is also a great opportunity to showcase or advertise your quality honey.

Tony Jefferson

NOTE: A full list of results has been sent with this newsletter as a separate attachment

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The Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association

Registered charity number 509743

**Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the
Yorkshire Beekeepers Association
to be held on Saturday 1st December 2012 at the Normanby Pavilion Great
Yorkshire Show Ground Harrogate commencing 10:30hrs**

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee

10:30 - 11:45

**Guest speaker: Joanna Schup
“A year in my apiary”**

11.45 - A.G.M.

Agenda

- 3.1 Apologies for absence
- 3.2 Minutes of the March Conference
- 3.3 Matters arising
- 3.4 Chairman's address
- 3.5 Secretary's report
- 3.6 Treasurer's report and budget for the following year.
- 3.7 Confirmation of nominated holders of Beecraft shares
- 3.8 Confirmation of Trustees
- 3.9 BBKA ADM
- 3.10 YBKA Annual Conference
- 3.11 Countryside Days
- 3.12 Great Yorkshire Show
- 3.13 Equipment Officer's Report
- 3.14 Y.A.S Report
- 3.15 Examinations Officer's Report
- 3.16 Newsletter Editor's Report
- 3.17 YBKA Website
- 3.18 PhD research project support.
- 3.19 YBKA constitution review
- 3.21 Election of Officers
- 3.22 Matters for consideration for the Executive Committee
- 3.23 AOB

Closure

NB: Lunch taken 12:30 - 13:30

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Bee Cosy

One of our YBKA members, Chris Wray has just launched a new product the “Bee Cosy” to help with the wintering of bees. Chris’ apiary is in an exposed location on Beamsley Beacon where he needs to maximise his colonies’ use of stores. For some time, therefore, he has been testing the merits of different forms of external hive insulation, combined with weighing his hives and using temperature sensors inside the hive.

The development of the Bee Cosy is the result. It is a breathable, waterproof, insulating cover to go over the hive.



Chris’ website www.beecosy.com explains that it is designed to be fitted when the temperature falls below 7C as colonies begin to consume increasing amounts of stores at this point. By raising internal hive temperatures, the Bee Cosy reduces the amount of stores colonies need, helps colonies move across frames to their winter stores and avoids moisture and condensation in the hive. Visit www.beecosy.com for more information on the wintering of bees and the merits of the Bee Cosy. Chris has also volunteered to speak at any Association meetings this winter that would like to know more about the impact of winter on bees. He can be contacted at chris@beecosy.com.

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Yorkshire Beekeepers Association

General Purposes Committee

Chairman

Mr William Cadmore
01132160482
bill.cadmore@ntlworld.com

Vice Chairman

Tony Jefferson
07749731945
stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk

Hon. Secretary

Brian Latham
01132643436
brian.latham@ntlworld.com

Hon. Treasurer

Bob Hunter
01484 713671
rmwhunter@blueyonder.co.uk

Equipment Officer

Roger Chappel
roger@rchappel.orangehome.co.uk
01325315741

School Day Organiser

Phil Gee
01422886114
07769650059
pjgphilgee@aol.com

NBU Representative

Ivor Flatman
01924 252795
07775 119436
ivor.flatman@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Honey Show Organisation

Dave Shannon
01302-772837
dave_aca@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

Bill Cadmore
01132160482
bill.cadmore@ntlworld.com

Area Representatives

Simon Maslin
maslin@maslin.karoo.co.uk
01482 656018

Christopher Barlow
chrisbarlow02@yahoo.co.uk
01924 835090

Education/Examinations

Wendy Maslin
01482 656018
wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk

BBKA ADM Delegate

Tony Jefferson
07749731945
stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk

Information Officer

Graham Crerar
07855959749
graham.crerar@civica.co.uk

Web Master

David Lamont
07968817153
dave@mtvhosting.co.uk

YAS Representative

Michael Badger
0113 294 5879
buzz.buzz@ntlworld.com

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Regional Bee Inspector

Ivor Flatman

tel. 01924 252795

e-mail ivor.flatman@fera.gsi.gov.uk

NBU office: National Bee Unit, The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York, UK, YO41 1LZ

Email: nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 01904 462510

Web site: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/>

BEEBASE

Have you visited BeeBase recently ?

Look at the record keeping system available to you. Well worth considering as a place to keep you own colony and apiary records. Why not build its use into your beginners and basic exams courses ?

Sad News

An end to most Bee Research in Yorkshire

University of Leeds

The Institute of Integrative and Comparative Biology has moved from University of Leeds to Sussex University. All of the research into bee diseases has ended at the university.

Some research will continue comparing the role of a variety of pollinators in agriculture although there are rumors that this will also move - to Reading University.

University of Sheffield

The research group lead by Dr Steve Martin at Sheffield University has also now stopped work. This was a real surprise when one considers the body of excellent work that the unit has carried out. Steve has also been a good friend to YBKA over the years. We wish him and his team well in whatever the future holds for them.

Each of these research groups have carried out useful work which have helped us understand how disease is spread in honeybees and how bees can cope with disease.

The National Bee Unit

As far as I can tell this means that the only research project going ahead in Yorkshire is Ben's PhD project at the National Bee Unit.

We are going to debate the ways in which YBKA can support this project at the AGM in December. Hopefully you have already discussed the pros and cons of this at your district meetings. See the last enews for more details of this project.

Let us hope that this project stays in Yorkshire.

Bill Cadmore