



# YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Yorkshire BKA Newsletter February 2020

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## Chairman's Letter



As I sit at home today a thick blanket of frost is covering the ground outside. This is in sharp contrast to many days in early February. January saw a real mixture of weather conditions, ranging from mild, to very wet or windy. The fields and surrounding countryside resembled a series of ponds and lakes; the abundance of rain, ruining many crops including our spring honey crops. It's not the most promising start for our bees! I would like to remind all District Associations of our annual Delegates Meeting, scheduled for Saturday 29th of February 2020, at our headquarters building at Harrogate Showground, (the Normanby Pavilion). Each association can send up to three members to this meeting, but only one member will be eligible to vote. If you haven't

done so already, could you please let our secretary, Linda, know who your voting representative will be? As you arrive please see Linda, who will hand out a voting card to each voting delegate. This card will bear a number, that represents the weighting to be given to your association's vote. This is based on the number of Full, Partner, Honorary, County and Schools representative members in your district, as calculated by our Treasurer, Norbert Cooper.

We have an excellent speaker, Mr. Chris Smailes (Whitby BKA member). Chris has vast experience in beekeeping over many decades. His talk will be "How to control and deal with angry and

aggressive bees". A complimentary buffet will be served for all attendees. Again, if you haven't already done so, please make Linda aware of any special dietary needs and we will try to accommodate you. Looking forward to a good, constructive, meeting; including your steers for our Education Officer, Claire McGettigan, about training needs identified in the districts. I know that Claire has some information to share about events already planned for 2020, so far.

A reminder also that we have taken on board the comments of many of our members who were dissatisfied with the Manor Academy as our Spring Conference venue. After much discussion we have arranged rooms at the Yorkshire Agricultural Society's own pavilions at the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate. This is a superb venue, as I'm sure you will all agree when you attend. The conference will take place on Saturday 18th of April 2020.

We have three excellent speakers for the day's event. Our main speaker Gerry Collins NDB, will be supported by Tony Jefferson and Jim Pearson. A full programme for the event, with details of how to pay for tickets (£25 per head, including a buffet lunch) and a location map, appears elsewhere in this newsletter and on the YBKA website.

I am also able to announce that EH Thornes (Beehives) Ltd., will be coming along with a good range of their excellent products for members to purchase on the day, or to collect as a pre-order. I am told that wax exchange will also be available. Northern Bee Books will be in attendance with a wide range of literature about bees and plants, for you to buy. We are currently awaiting confirmation about a trade stand selling bee-friendly plants and seeds.

This Conference is open to all beekeeping associations and is not restricted to YBKA members. We are hoping for a great turn out at our new venue, so check our website and book early to ensure a place.

Dave Shannon

Y.B.K.A Chairman.

## **YBKA Spring Conference and Reunion**

### **YAS Pavilions Complex**

### **18<sup>th</sup> April 2020 (08.30 am arrival)**

[Note: the venue is at the main GYS YELLOW entrance, near Sainsburys]

The theme of the 2020 Spring Conference event is  
SIMPLE, PRACTICAL, BEEKEEPING

The YBKA Conference Organising Group aims to provide an event that develops themes from previous events and allows enough time to address questions. We also hope the new, enhanced, venue will be experienced as a more comfortable and convenient location. The 2020 event has been organised with the help, generosity and assistance of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society (YAS)

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<a href="#">Timetable</a>	<a href="#">Details</a>
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08-30 to 09-15	Registration - please arrive for registration and refreshments to be completed by 9-15 am
09-15	Dave Shannon (YBKA Chairman): Opening remarks, presentation of awards and introduction of speakers
09-45	Gerry Collins (NDB) begins the lecture program with an entertaining, well-illustrated talk, entitled: "What to do about this?" He will consider many common beekeeping problems and guide us to their solution.
11-15	Tony Jefferson will give a short presentation, entitled: "Oh heck, queen cells! – What do I do now?" With the aid of a dummy hive, this is a demonstration of simple swarm control measures, intended to help you when are caught out by finding queen cells.
12-00	Lunch. Time for the greeting of old friends and the making of new. A chance to browse the trade stands for bargains. An opportunity for general discussion.
13-30	Gerry Collins will introduce Mini Nucleus Hives and his methods of working with them. This talk will cover the benefits, successes and pitfalls of managing the mini nucleus
14-30	Comfort Break
15-00	In his own, inimitable, style Jim Pearson will discuss the merits of raising your own queens, in a talk, humorously entitled: "HOW MUCH??? - £40 for a queen! Don't you know you are in Yorkshire? – we want good ones and for FREE!" This is not a detailed talk about the complexities of queen rearing – but is structured to show and encourage us all that it is not difficult to raise your own queens. The satisfaction from doing so is one of the many pleasures of beekeeping
16-00	Finally - Questions and Answers A review of the day and a chance to put additional questions to the speakers and the YBKA GPC Committee. Your chance to give feedback and suggest topics for future events

Tickets priced at £25, including a buffet lunch

More information on ticket purchase, indicating dietary preferences and deals on pre-event orders of equipment to follow!

# THORNE™



## Ulster Convention

**Date:** Saturday 15th February

**Last date to order for collection:** Noon,  
Wednesday 12th February

## Bee Tradex

**Date:** Saturday 14th March

**Last date to order for collection:** 5pm,  
Wednesday, 11th March

## BBKA Spring Convention

**Date:** Saturday 4th April

**Last date to order for collection:** 5pm,  
Wednesday 1st April

## Holsworthy Devon Convention

**Date:** Saturday 22nd February

**Last date to order for collection:** 5pm,  
Wednesday 19th February

## Welsh Spring Convention

**Date:** Saturday 28th March

**Last date to order for collection:** 5pm,  
Wednesday 25th Marc

## Yorkshire BKA Conference

**Date:** Saturday 18th April

**Last date to order for collection:** 5pm, Thursday  
16th April

Sale items, bargains and any of our normal range can be ordered for collection at any of these shows. Items CANNOT be sent but must be collected by yourself or a beekeeping friend.

# STOP PRESS!

## Grangeside Nurseries will be at the YBKA Spring Conference and Reunion

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Here at Grangeside Nurseries we have brought together our combined knowledge as beekeepers and long-time horticulturalists, culminating in a nursery full of plants to provide forage and shelter for honeybees and other pollinating insects. We can advise you on how to encourage more bees and insects to your garden. We stock a wide range of shrubs, perennials, spring bulbs, fruit and vegetable plants. We can be found in the historic village of Cawood so why not pay us a visit (we have a great cafe too!) Or, if you prefer, we are happy to come and give talks to local groups.

Ginny and Graham Crerar

Grangeside Nurseries

Thorpe Lane

Cawood

YO8 3SG01757 242798

## Honey Bee Health Courses

Duration: One Day (timing details will be given with the joining instructions for each course)

WHERE and WHEN

### COURSE FEES

15 th March 2020 Harrogate – Hives and Honey Pavillion

22 nd March 2020 Stonleigh BBKA Centre

22 nd March 2020 Darlington

£20

Qualification to attend the course – Preferably possess the BBKA Basic Certificate and kept bees for at least 2 years

### Aim of the Courses

These courses are tailored to the BBKA Honey Bee health Assessment and will be delivered by Master Beekeepers; tutors who have expertise and in this area. They are designed to give beekeepers confidence in their skills and knowledge which will be useful in assessments They will

provide practice in manipulations (without bees); a forum for discussion; and recommend relevant reading, in addition to improving individual recognition of honey bee pests and disease . The course will equip individuals with understanding of the management of honey bees concerning the pests and diseases that may affect colonies.

### **Application for the course**

Please go to the BBKA Website and purchase the course through the shop. Places are limited as each course will have a maximum of 16 participants

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/shop>

Booking Cancellation Policy

In the event that the course has to be cancelled or rescheduled by the BBKA attendees will be given the option of a full refund or transfer onto another course.

**If you have booked a course but need to cancel you will receive a full refund if the place can be filled.**

## **Save the dates! Winter-study program 2020/21**

We are pleased to confirm that 3 study days have been planned for next winter. Although the agendas will be built around the syllabus for each BBKA module, the sessions will be of interest to anyone who simply wants to expand their beekeeping knowledge, regardless of whether they want to take the exam.

17 October 2020: Honeybee Management (Module 1) led by Wendy and Simon Maslin

7 November 2020: Honeybee Products and Forage (Module 2) led by Roger Pool and Dave Shannon

9 January 2021: Honeybee Pests, diseases and poisoning (Module 3) led by Ivor Flatman and Derrie O'Sullivan

All three study days will take place at the Normanby Pavilion in Harrogate from 10am to 4pm. More details to follow but to register early interest please contact Clare McGettigan [education@ybka.org.uk](mailto:education@ybka.org.uk).



# YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## **Agenda for the Delegates' Meeting of the YBKA on 29 February 2020 Normanby Pavilion, Harrogate, 10am for a 10.30am start**

1. Welcome and comments of the Chair
2. A talk by Chris Smailes "How to deal with bad tempered bees"
3. Appointment of tellers and confirming quoracy
4. Minutes of the Delegates' Meeting 2019
5. Matters arising
6. Brief updates from YBKA Officers of the Committee
7. Brief report back from YBKA ADM by Tony Jefferson
8. Feedback from districts on:
  - Promoting the Bee Health Certificate take up across YBKA
  - Suggestions for additional training, including eR2
  - Any additional matters for the YBKA Committee to consider
9. Proposals:
  - 1- The YBKA Secretary should send bulk mail shots of the YBKA Newsletter and BBKA communications for districts directly to all members
  - 2- The YBKA should arrange for anonymised links for all district GPC representatives and contacts to be available, in the newsletter and on the website
10. Brief guidance for districts about suggesting proposals for the BBKA ADM in January 2021
11. The YBKA Spring Conference, Saturday April 18, 2020
12. Date of the next meeting

A buffet lunch will be provided for attenders, free of charge

On-line access will be available to a YBKA version of information banners, about the Yellow Legged (Asian) Hornet, c/o Chriss Line Selby BKA. YBKA will be buying a couple, for display at the Great Yorkshire Show and Countryside Live. These will be available for district associations to borrow, for a local event.

# The Apiary in February

Writing this article towards the end of January has seen yet another wet month. Where I live the temperatures have been a bit up and down, but the bees in my garden have still been managing to fly on a few occasions. Whilst the days are getting longer the weather can become more unpredictable in the coming months. We can have days with temperatures well below freezing and then days of milder weather of 10 to 12° C possibly followed by sudden showers of sleet and snow. The poor bees don't know where they are!

Queens will be starting to lay eggs in the middle of the brood nest where temperatures of 33 to 35° C, are maintained. The bees do this by metabolizing honey/sugar substitutes and internal fat stores to produce energy by effectively shivering their flight muscles. These muscles are called "indirect-flight muscles" and they can flex them without moving their wings to generate heat.

When the eggs hatch, the larvae need to be fed brood food. This is produced by glands in the bees' head, derived from eating protein in the form of pollen. As the larvae develop, they are fed a pollen and sucrose diet.

The best advice I can give you to ensure your bees are all ok, is to keep checking them on a regular basis. Heft the hives if you are experienced enough to assess the weight by this method. If not, take a beekeeper with a little more experience along with you to help. If you cannot do it this way, take a quick peep under the crown board to do a visual check on stores. If you must do this, only do it when the ambient temperature is 10 C or higher and be as quick as possible. If stores are short, add fondant and place it on the frame tops directly above the cluster, to give them easy access should the weather turn cold and the cluster tighten. Remember to replace everything a.s.a.p.

Towards the end of February, I usually start feeding pollen supplements to ensure there is enough protein to build the colony up ready for spring.

As stated last month, at this time of year small colonies can get isolated from the food stores. If one or more of your colonies is a little on the weak side, only covering two or three frames, then always make sure they have food available to them at each side and above. Always keep the food stores within direct reach of the bees.

There is already evidence of nature coming back to life where I live. Snow drops are starting to open-up, and catkins are appearing on the hazel, alder and willow. Crocuses will soon be through and on warmer days you will see bees returning from foraging trips with pollen on their hind legs. If you see bees entering the hive with pollen it is always an encouraging sign that they are doing OK.

On these milder days it's a good idea to observe the entrances of your colonies. Are they flying? Even if it's only a few. If you have more than one colony you can make comparisons. If there are no flying bees at all then you may wish to check within, to make sure they are still alive. There may be lots of activity in front of a hive but look at how the bees approach the entrance. If you see zig-zagging activity could they be being robbed?

If a colony has died, you have a couple of options:

- 1- close the hive up and leave it to clean it out later.
- 2- close it up and take it away there and then, to get it all cleaned out and ready to receive another colony later in the year.

Whichever you do, you must close it up to prevent robbing-out and any possibility of the robber bees taking a disease back to their home colony.

If a colony dies over winter (and between 10 and 30% do) you can re-use the boxes provided you clean them thoroughly. A sample of 30 bees could be taken to see if they were infected by Nosema. If you do not have a microscope or the knowledge to do this, there will be someone in your local association that could do this for you.

All varroa treatments should now be complete. All boxes should have been checked and repaired in readiness for the season ahead. As I said in last month's article, you can paint/treat them in the apiary on a very cold day when the bees are not flying by just shutting the bees in for a little while and painting the outside of the hives. Wait until the paint has dried, re-open the hives and all is done.

Some of the January sales are going on into February so you will have time to build boxes if you are planning on making increases in the coming season. There is nothing worse than having flat pack boxes when you need them to do swarm control, worse still when the bees are all hanging in a tree...! You can build frames, ready for the coming season but I don't recommend putting foundation in now. Keep the foundation flat, fresh and full of aroma until nearer the time it is needed.

Plan your aims for the coming season and try to stick to them. Send off for the BBKA record cards, or better still design your own with the information you would like to collect. Records are an essential part of beekeeping equipment today.

Finally, don't forget if you are wishing to take a module examination in March, the closing date for applications is 10<sup>th</sup> February.

If you plan on taking any of the following assessments this coming season the closing date for applications is 28 February: -

The Bee Health Certificate  
The Bee Breeding Certificate  
General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry  
Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry

Hoping for a good season ahead

Mark Millard

## Top of the Class

Dear members it is with the greatest of pride and pleasure that I would like you all to know that at this year's BBKA ADM, attended and reported back from by our YBKA delegate Tony Jefferson, Yorkshire Beekeepers were awarded the very prestigious "George Knight" trophy.

This trophy is awarded to the county association with the most overall exam passes within the country. A fantastic achievement and this, in the main, down to the dedication of our former Education Officer Elaine Robinson who I would like to thank, officially, for her commitment to the post. Elaine, as most of you will now know, has moved on, but is still Education Officer for Halifax BKA.

After careful consideration and discussions with Elaine the YBKA Committee has now split the role of Education Officer into two. Exams and Assessments will now be organised by Kirit Gordhandas who is liaising with associations and BBKA. The equally significant role of Training Officer has now, kindly, been filled by Clare McGettigan and we wish them both every success. Hopefully, sharing out these respective tasks will make the Education roles more manageable for the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every-one of you who took the time and effort to attempt the Basic Assessment or one or more of Module Exams. It is a vital part of becoming a good beekeeper: keeping abreast of all new techniques, technologies and procedures to keep your bees healthy and strong.

This year, Clare is formulating new tutorials and training days, with the help of top tutors and trainers,

to help members through these exams again. It would be fantastic to replicate our success for a second year running. It's all down to you, our members, to come along and participate.

We very narrowly missed out on winning the Surrey shield for most Basic Assessments passed in 2019. This was a technical near miss, as BBKA now calculates the winning association on the percentage of passes per association size, rather than the total number of passes alone.

We have very similar incentives in place this year, as last, for the Basic and the Bee Health Certificate, so please put your names forward for the Basic Assessment and Module exams, enroll on our courses and let's see Yorkshire Beekeepers as the leading light striving for excellence amongst our membership.

Dave Shannon  
YBKA Chairman.

## **YBKA Delegate report from the 60<sup>th</sup> BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (11<sup>th</sup> January 2020)**

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I arrived at the venue early to collect the pre-ordered BBKA booklets and meet the other delegates. The general feeling was that many delegates were pleased we had removed our propositions prior to the meeting. I took many direct questions regarding the background to this but was careful to reply, simply, that they were submitted without correct approval, without going into too much detail.

The main business commenced promptly at 10-30, with the customary minute's silence for those beekeepers "lost" during the previous 12 months.

This was followed by the testing of the voting push button units which always seems to throw up a few issues! But it does confirm the number of delegates present and which areas are not represented. This year 67 delegates were present, with 6 missing. Representing a total of 24,416 members eligible for voting

A brief note to describe the voting system, as it is often mis-understood.

Each delegate present has a single vote (so a total of 67 on the day). However, if a delegate requests it, a 'membership' vote can be called. This makes the single vote equivalent to the number of registered members they are representing (in the case of YBKA, this is equivalent to circa 1700 members)

Proxy votes are the same as a delegate being present at the meeting. The absent delegate has passed their association voting preferences to the Executive before to the meeting, so they are counted as if present.

On to the main business of the morning which is to approve the reports from various BBKA groups, including Education. These reports were published in good time and were taken as read, with only points of clarification raised by various delegates. The main message is that for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running the finances have been much more clearly controlled by the Executive and the office team, resulting in an annual surplus and so no need/wish to increase the £19 capitation fee.

Val Francis, Education Secretary, presented the education section awards. The eagerly awaited Surrey Shield for the best performance in the Basic was awarded to Tyneside, (who were not present to receive it) with YBKA narrowly put into second place (explanatory note: It is not simply the actual numbers of Basics taken in the year, but also the number of members that is taken into consideration). The 2<sup>nd</sup> award, the George Knights Memorial, which recognises

educational achievements above the Basic assessment, was awarded to YBKA. To a round of applause, I was pleased to accept the £100 cheque on behalf of the YBKA education team.

The meeting then went slightly downhill, when the Laddingford BKA application for membership of the BBKA came up. Last year they applied to join BBKA and it failed at a membership vote. They are part of Thanet at present but wished to become a direct member of BBKA, in their own right. Many associations, including YBKA, are opposed to the proliferation of lots of small, breakaway, groups. However, this is seen as “the big boys trying to control the rest”, by the small associations.

To cut a long discussion short, the application went to the vote and resulted in 45 for, 19 against, with 3 abstentions. At that point I called for a membership vote. This drew some hostile comments, and the Manchester delegate threatened to leave the meeting. Quite a time was spent determining if a membership vote could be taken on an Application (rather than a Proposition) during which time I was forcefully asked to withdraw the request for a membership vote. I felt I could not do this, since YBKA does not support the emergence of lots of small groups. As a delegate with approximately 1700 votes, I felt a membership vote was the appropriate next step. Eventually, after some threats of abandoning the meeting, the vote was cast and resulted in the application failing, with 9691 for, 13888 against and 1027 abstentions. This was announced with yet more adverse comments.

In future, I can see propositions being raised to alter the voting system for applications. This was a very uncomfortable part of the meeting – but it’s just the way things are!

Then it came to the more pleasant part of the agenda – voting “new blood” into the BBKA teams. The Exams Board went first, which was easy, as there was only one candidate, Helen Hughes from Cleveland. Helen was formerly a Whitby member, well-known to me, as my dad started her beekeeping career – so, an easy one to appoint (64 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions) The appointment of Margaret Wilson as President of BBKA – a formality really, was carried, 53 for and 14 against.

Then the “normal” members of the Executive team; complicated because there are vacancies for 3 years, 2 years and 1 year

After a bit of trouble with the voting protocol, the following will represent us all:

For 3 years; Steven Barnes, Anne Rowberry, Joyce Nisbet, Richard Bond

For 2 years; Robert Hogge, Gareth Morgan

For 1 year; John Hendry.

Following a short lunch break the various propositions were debated, this was much earlier than in the past and gave good time to develop reasoned comments (details of each of the propositions were in the December edition of BBKA News, to save repeating here):

- Propositions 1-4 were easily dealt with as these are really constitution tidy ups – they were almost unanimously accepted.
- Proposition 5 took a fair bit of debate. It dealt with the matter of proxy voting at the ADM. Amendments were raised which changed the % attendance from 90 to 70. I think this one lost its way a little due to a misunderstanding about proxy voting (see above) When a vote was taken, the proposition failed (23 for, 43 against and 1 abstention)
- Proposition 6 – Changing the title of Chairman to Chair was simple – went straight to vote and accepted (51 for, 14 against and 2 abstentions)
- Proposition 7 – This proposal that new area association admissions would need a minimum of 50 members, to be considered, was amended to 100 – the vote to accept the amendment failed with 25 for 29 against and 3 abstentions. Lancaster asked for a membership vote, resulting in 14881 for, 9054 against and 671 abstentions. At that point, the original proposer, Cumbria, asked to withdraw the proposition. Another illustration of the unrest around small versus large associations in BBKA!

- Propositions 8 – 11 were withdrawn by YBKA before the meeting but had to be accepted as such, so I asked for them to be considered as a group and they were voted as withdrawn
- Proposition 12 – this was about insurance cover for those searching for, not destroying found Asian Hornet nests and BBKA is investigating this. This was accepted, with 60 for, 5 against and 1 abstention
- Proposition 13 – raising pollinator awareness among planning and landscape students had some good debate as to how this might be done. Eventually, after a tweak of wording, it was agreed in principle with 54 for, 10 against and 3 abstentions
- Propositions 14 and 15 – about BBKA joining Apimondia, were very similar. But 14 was worded 'actively pursue' and 15, worded 'instruct'. Really, they should have been discussed as joint propositions, but the Chair refused to allow them to be combined. This caused a bit more unrest. The main issue was that Apimondia only recognises countries as members, not individual groups – so all interested beekeeping organisations in Great Britain (Bee Farmers, the Welsh and Scottish Beekeeping associations) would need to be as one about this. Whilst such negotiations are progressing under CONBA (Council of National Beekeeping Associations in the United Kingdom and Ireland), it was felt that formal agreements are not yet fully in place.

After a lot of debate 14 was voted on and passed 62/3/2. West Sussex were asked to withdraw Proposition 15. They were not too happy but did so following a vote of 62/3/2.

So finally, after a long day, made up of some good points and some hostile jeers, the meeting finished just after 3pm. If anyone ever feels like complaining about YBKA meetings, they should attend one of these to give themselves a reality check!

The 200-mile trip home gave plenty of time to reflect upon the day's events. Next time I think a suit of armour may be appropriate.

Any questions? – please get in touch  
Tony Jefferson YBKA delegate

## Award success

The Solar Tracker featured in the August 2019 YBKA newsletter has just won yet another award. The invention by Chris Smailes of Whitby Beekeepers Association won first prize in the 'Inventions' class at the National Honey Show in 2016 and was on display at the Great Yorkshire Show in July 2019.



The Solar Tracker (Westfields Honey) has just won the 'Innovation' category in the Ryedale Business Awards, presented on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 by the Ryedale Business Partnership. It will be on display at the YBKA Delegates Meeting at the Pavilions complex at Harrogate 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and at the Spring Conference on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The Solar Tracker is a motorised cradle for a solar wax extractor. It locates the sun's position and automatically follows its orbit, maintaining heating/melting efficiency at its peak. It eliminates the need to turn the box by hand to keep it facing the sun.

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.

Further details are available from Chris by email [beekeeper51@hotmail.com](mailto:beekeeper51@hotmail.com) on Facebook 'Westfields Honey' or via Whitby Association.

Central Association of Bee-Keepers



Bringing Science to the Bee-Keepers

## Yorkshire Here We Come!

CABK are delighted to be bringing one of our main meetings of the year to beekeepers in the North of the Country. Our Spring meeting will be held on the 29th of February at Arkendale Village Hall, Moor Ln, Arkendale, Knaresborough HG5 0RE,

10:00 for a 10:30 start.

Cost is £25 and includes buffet lunch

CABK is not as its name suggests, a beekeeping society that is based somewhere in the middle of the country, but an organisation that focuses on the science of the practice of beekeeping. The programme overleaf gives details of the speakers and we encourage them to spend time during breaks in the agenda to discuss their areas of expertise with you.

Book at <http://bit.do/arkendale>



Speakers are:-

**Annelly Brand** who is from the Bee Institute in Kirchhain, Germany, she will be speaking on the "Effects of pesticides on bee health and fitness". Annelly has written numerous papers on her research work and we are pleased she has accepted our invitation to speak to us. Annelly's talk will cover some of her research work on the sublethal effects of the neonicotinoid clothianidin at the physiological level in individual larvae and nurse bees and to determine its impact on brood development of an entire colony.

**Grace McCormack** is a Professor in Zoology at NUI Galway and will be speaking about "Synergy between science and beekeeping". Apiculture has posed many questions of interest to science and applying the scientific method to questions raised by beekeepers has yielded many useful answers. This talk will focus on illustrating how Darwin's evolutionary approach continues to be applied to help understand the origins and natural variability of honeybees, the relationships between the honeybees in Ireland and UK, how honeybees can adapt to the challenges of Varroa naturally, and how we can use this information to improve beekeeping.

**John Chambers** is an Oxfordshire beekeeper and his talk will be about "Basic Honey Bee Genetics For Beekeepers". There is nothing "basic" about honey bee genetics but John answer three questions. Firstly, is it possible or desirable to attempt the re-creation of pure *Apis mellifera mellifera* (AMM) strains and to entirely re-populate Great Britain and Ireland with them? Secondly, are AMM conservation areas likely to disappoint for obvious genetic reasons? Thirdly, might the simple pursuit of locally-adapted honey bees be preferable to the attempted re-creation of a subspecies? The presentation closes by explaining why further honey bee imports should be viewed as bad news and how we should be able to improve our local stock quickly, simply and optimally, using an augmented "bees know best" policy.

**Giles Budge** from the University of Newcastle will give us a talk on bee disease focussing on "Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus"

Please come along and bring your beekeeping friends, non CABK members are very welcome



CABK are delighted to be bringing one of our main meetings of the year to beekeepers in the North

## BBKA Practical Assessments and Written Examinations

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The BBKA offers its members opportunities to prove their beekeeping knowledge and skills by way of various practical assessments and written examinations.

### Closing dates for March Modules & Honeybee Health Certificate entries.

There are two important deadlines in February 2020 if you want to consider sitting one of the 7 theory module exams in March or the Honeybee Health Certificate practical assessment in May to July.

If you intend sitting any Module Examination in March 2020 then the closing date for receipt of entry form and payment is 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The date of the examination is Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

If you intend taking the Honeybee Health Certificate in 2020 then the closing date for receipt of entry and payment is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The assessment will take place at a date and venue to be arranged in May, June or July 2020.

### Written Module Examinations.

Full details of all the modules and syllabi can be found by clicking [here](#). The cost of entry is £30 per module.

### Practical Assessment in Honeybee Health.

Full details and the syllabus are found by clicking [here](#) and scrolling down. The cost of entry is £40. Any YBKA member who has passed the Basic Assessment and has managed bees for 3 years or more can apply to sit the assessment.

### Practical Assessment in Microscopy (IMPORTANT INFORMATION)

This affects anyone who studied microscopy under the previous syllabus (Pre-January 2020) AND has not yet sat or passed the assessment AND is considering sitting the microscopy in November 2020.

A new syllabus will be introduced in January 2020 for assessment in November 2020 and beyond. The changes are highlighted in bold on the syllabus. The January 2020 syllabus can be found by clicking [here](#).

### Note about completion and posting of Examination/Assessment Form.

You have two methods of payment. You can either enclose a cheque with the form or you can phone BBKA and pay over the phone; the contact number is on the form. BBKA will then give you a receipt number which you need to write on the form.

Please remember to sign and date the Self Certificate of Entry Qualification box on the form.

The application form is only available in Microsoft Word Doc format on the BBKA website. There was recently an issue with a YBKA member who had difficulty with the form as they did not have any compatible software to open the form in a readable format. I have created the form as a PDF and can email it or post it to you should you have a similar problem.

If you are entering for the Basic Assessment, more details to follow in subsequent newsletters, then you will need to hand/post the form to your association Education Officer, who will forward it on to me.

If you are entering for any other examination/assessment, the completed form should be posted to Kirit Gordhandas, YBKA Examination Secretary, c/o {email me for the address or speak to your association Education Officer for my address}. Either enclose a cheque or write the BBKA receipt number on the form.

Please remember to sign and date the Self Certificate of Entry Qualification box on the form.

Clicking [here](#) will take you to the Exams and Assessments section of the BBKA website where Application Forms can be downloaded.

### 2019 deferrals for Module Examinations.

You are entitled to defer entry for a module examination for up to 12 months. If you have deferred from March 2019 or November 2019 to March 2020 I will be writing/emailing you individually, in the next week or so, to confirm your intentions.

If you intend to sit the deferred module then you will need to complete an application form and forward it to me. The cost of a deferred entry is £15 per module.

### Finally...

The above is intended for anyone who has not entered for BBKA examination/assessment before. It is there as an aide memoir for those of you that are old hands at this.

I have taken on the role of examinations within YBKA and Clare McGettigan ([education@ybka.org.uk](mailto:education@ybka.org.uk)) has taken on education. We will be working together to deliver what Elaine Robinson has done single-handedly for the past two years!

Congratulations to the 90+ YBKA members who passed their Basic Assessment in 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want any further information or any query answering.

I wish you a Happy and Prosperous 2020.

Kirit Gordhandas, YBKA Examination Secretary

([examination@ybka.org.uk](mailto:examination@ybka.org.uk))

## YBKA CALENDAR 2020

Friday 3rd January: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January: BBKA ADM (10.30 am) Kenilworth**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February: Delegates Conference (Harrogate) 10am – 4pm

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March: BBKA Module Exams (10am – 4pm)

**3rd, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April: BBKA Spring Convention (Harper Adams)**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April: YBKA Spring Conference and Reunion (YAS Pavilions, Harrogate)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

June 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>: YAS Schools' Days

July 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: Great Yorkshire Show (Harrogate)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July: GPC Meeting 6pm (Venue tba)

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October: Module 1 Study Session (Harrogate) 10am-4pm

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>: National Honey Show**

October 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>: Countryside Live & YBKA Honey Show (Harrogate)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November: Module 2 Study Session (Harrogate) 10am-4pm

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November: BBKA Module Exams (10am-4pm)

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November: AGM (Harrogate) 10am

## Modules Applications – Local Education Officer, BBKA or YBKA Education Officer

Applications for March Module exams (ONLY) should be sent to me at the address given above. Basic Assessment & Honeybee Health applications for 2020 should go to your local Education Officer, who will organise the assessments (you can find a list of all their names and contact details in the November edition of the YBKA Newsletter).

All other assessments e.g. General husbandry, Advanced Husbandry should be sent directly to BBKA, who will organise the assessments directly with the candidate.

EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT DATES & FEES 2020			
EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT	FEE	CLOSING DATE	NOTES (also see appropriate syllabus)
JUNIOR	£5	As Basic Certificate	Aged under 18 only in small groups.
BASIC	£20	1 month prior to taking the assessment	May be held at any suitable apiary. Normally small group of candidates examined on same day Last Assessment 31 <sup>st</sup> August
MODULES	£30.00 each	10 <sup>th</sup> February 30 <sup>th</sup> September	ALL MODULES held on 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 ALL MODULES held on 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2020  Dates for 2021 will be: March 20 <sup>th</sup> November 13 <sup>th</sup>
BEE HEALTH CERTIFICATE	£40	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. May be held at any suitable apiary. Normally small group of candidates examined on same day Last Assessment 31 <sup>st</sup> July
BEE BREEDING CERTIFICATE	£80	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Held at apiary of candidate.
GENERAL CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£80	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Held at apiary of candidate.
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£120	<u>28<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>Must hold General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry</u> <u>To be held at Stoneleigh on 29/30/31 May 2020 and 12/13/14 June 2020 depending on numbers</u>
SHOW JUDGE	£40	N/A	Must hold Basic Certificate. See entry requirements in Prospectus

MICROSCOPY	£60	31 <sup>st</sup> August	Must hold Basic Certificate. To be held at various venues 21 <sup>st</sup> /22nd November 2020 plus other dates as required
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES	£60each	N/A	Available for the Basic, all seven Modules and Microscopy theory

Further information including Examination/Assessment application forms and syllabi are available from the web site [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)

#### Refunds and deferrals

1. If there is a valid reason for not taking an examination or assessment, a refund can be given.
2. Generally, there will be an administration charge of £10.00 deducted from the refund except:
  - no refunds will be given after the closing date for Modules, or Advanced Husbandry;
  - no refund will be given for Microscopy or General Husbandry if withdrawal is within one month of the assessment
3. Deferral of an exam or assessment is allowed, as an alternative to a refund, provided due notice is given. This is for one year only and there will be an administration charge of half the entry fee, payable on re-application. After 1 year the full fee will be payable. Candidates who have deferred an exam must send an application form with the deferral fee when they wish to take the exam/assessment.

#### Non-Members

- For the Junior Assessment, BBKA Membership is not required
- For Members of Welsh BKA, Scottish BKA or Ulster BKA an additional fee of £9 will be required.
- All other candidates must hold BBKA membership of some category.

## Classified Adverts

Do you have anything bee related for sale or wanting something bee related? If so, please email [newsletter@ybka.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:vera.rider@ntlworld.com),  
Tel: 07828 199 739

## BBKA Forum

The BBKA has 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)

# Committee Details

Dave Shannon is now Chair of YBKA

Mark Millard is Vice Chair

Norbert Cooper continues as Treasurer

Kirit Gorhandas is Examination and Assessments Officer

Clare McGettigan is Education Training Officer

Linda Schofield is now General Secretary

Tony Jefferson is the YBKA Delegate to BBKA.

Chris Barlow continues as Newsletter Editor

David Lamont continues as YBKA Webmaster

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WELSH BKA CONVENTION 28th MARCH

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION 4th APRIL

HALF DAY EVENT AT MAISEMORE APIARIES 27th JUNE

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW 22nd-24th OCT

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