



YORKSHIRE
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association Newsletter November 2020

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Chair's Notes: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all YBKA members for being extra careful over the past 10 months in the light of the pandemic. Also, a thank you to all district committees, some of whom have organised virtual meetings to tend to business and even organised quizzes and talks for members during the various restrictions imposed to slow the spread of the virus. There seem to be grounds for some cautious optimism with the news of several vaccines coming on stream, but we must all still remain careful and follow our local guidelines in our day to day activities, including visits to out-apiaries.

The YBKA Committee and your local representatives, have continued to “meet” courtesy of Zoom. We are now beginning to plan a series of virtual winter talks for members to enjoy and hope to attract speakers on various interesting topics to provide something for beekeepers at all levels of proficiency. Further details will follow in our next edition. Until then, I am sure Mark Millard (our **Month in the Apiary** writer) has many tasks to recommend for everyone to get you ready for the beekeeping season of 2021.

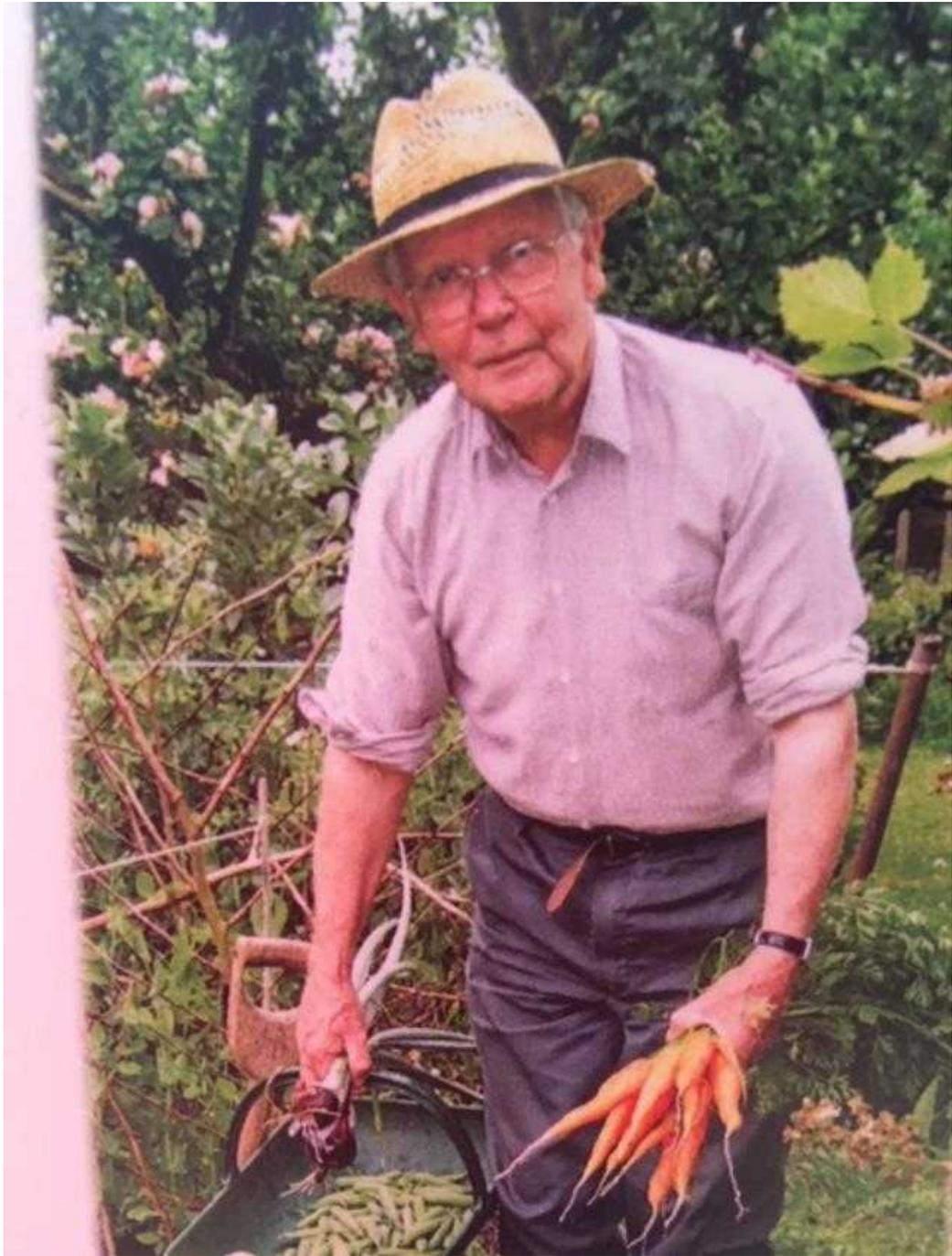
To keep our newsletter fresh, interesting, and inclusive I would like to propose that each district provide an article, ideally from a different member, each month. This can be any topic deemed of interest to beekeepers, such as gardening, wildflowers, recipes for cooking with honey products, personal beekeeping stories/experiences, travel etc. Articles can be sent directly to our editor Chris Barlow newsletter@ybka.org.uk

Happy beekeeping and please stay safe out there!

Dave Shannon
YBKA Chairman.

Chris Milner Obituary

09/10/1931 – 18/09/2020



I am very sad to announce the death of Chris Milner, President and long-standing member of Malton and District Beekeepers Association.

Chris was a knowledgeable, and enthusiastic member of the club and his wise words, thoughtful and kind actions will be missed by all.

Chris started beekeeping in Ryedale in the early 1970's. He had moved to the area from his teaching post in Hyde, Kent to take up a post as Lecturer in Rural Studies at York St John College.

Some of the older members of YBKA may remember Chris as he used to attend the YBKA meetings as the representative for Malton BKA and was a regular attendee at the YBKA Spring Conferences.

Starting beekeeping with only one or two hives he built up his colonies to around 40 hives at the peak of his beekeeping. A talented and passionate gardener with a flair for practical skills, that he used to make and maintain much of his beekeeping equipment. In fact, the Ashforth feeders he gave me at the beginning of my beekeeping career are still in use and good order today.

This is just a small example of the kind and generous man he was. Always gently encouraging others and quietly supporting the beekeeping community. A true gentleman.

Adrian Wilford

A DIY frame feeder

There are occasions when we want to feed small amounts of 'syrup' for stimulatory or maintenance reasons, when increasing the volume with other feeders might cause the internal hive temperature to fall and require bees to go to cooler parts of the hive to reach the feed. A classic case is feeding a new swarm in a nuc box. For this a frame feeder is frequently used and might be considered a must for a beekeeper. A frame feeder is basically a thin box the size of your frame which can be filled with syrup. Once placed in the hive the bees can enter the top and take the feed. Frame feeders are extremely useful and easy to make. On a 'usefulness to effort' ratio they are probably at the top of the scale of any beekeeping equipment you might make. **Photo 2**



What you will need? Some plywood about 4-6 mm thick and some wooden battens the width of your top bars and about 8-10mm thick. The actual length will depend on the frames (hive-type) you use. You can in fact cut up old top bars to use as battens if you wish. You may, of course, choose to buy the materials – but you could try to get off-cuts which might be cheaper.

If you are interested in re-cycling wood, **photo 1** shows the starting materials for the feeder described here. This was the door of a discarded cabinet (for the plywood) and a wooden slat from a discarded bed (for the spacers). The assembly time could be under an hour, though drying of the 'size' (wood sealant) takes over night. At this point (or earlier!) you will need to make a decision. **Photo 2** shows two feeders, with different tops. One top uses a solid length of wood into which a slot is cut, the other, simpler one, uses two pieces of spacer for the top. The slot type is more robust but the second is much easier to make. I now make only the second type.



I take a pragmatic line now, and instead of measuring with a ruler (**photo 3**) I lay a brood frame on the plywood and draw round it but exclude the frame lugs. You will need two pieces of ply, one for each side. If using old plywood, make sure there are no nail holes in it, although small holes can be plugged. I find I make fewer mistakes making it this way, especially when listening to a play on the radio! The marked pieces of ply are cut to size and both painted on one side with diluted PVA glue. When you cut them, you can cut another piece shorter than the feeder width and slightly narrower than the top bar. This will be the float on which the bees can stand when feeding. This is also painted with diluted PVA on all sides and edges. I put two coats on all these pieces.



For gluing I use a 'hard as nails' type of glue. This is thick and can be laid down as a bead which will take up any unevenness in the wood surfaces and prevent leaks. You can of course use other wood glues but if they are very thin you could get leaks when there are irregularities in the wood. I nail the parts together especially the 'top bar' which gives it more strength. From here it may be easier to follow construction from the photos (**4,5,6**)



When assembled make a thicker dilution of PVA glue and run some round the inside where the ply meets the battens. This ensures that any tiny leaks are sealed. Finally, when the inside PVA is dry the float can be slipped in. To refill the feeder, I use a small funnel and jug but with a steady hand you can dispense with the funnel.

To use this as a useful dummy board the top can be closed with gaffer tape!

Chris Coulson

Bev BKA

Oct 2020

November in the Apiary

The days are getting much shorter and temperatures are dropping in the evening. November in the apiary is generally the end of the beekeeping season and your bees should be well prepared for winter. As we enter November some daytime temperatures
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will be sufficient for bees to fly for cleansing and search for forage such as ivy. However, as we get further into the month external activity is likely to reduce.

By now your colonies should have sufficient stores and varroa treatments should be completed, even those late treated colonies returned from the heather. Remember to remove and dispose of treatments that have been given, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All too often in spring you can find treatment strips left in from the year before. This helps the mites build up a resistance to the treatment in the future.

Now is a good time to start hefting your hives to assess the amount of stores they have going into the winter. This will give a benchmark and hefting on a regular basis will give you an indication of how the weight reduces. A full colony needs around 55lbs of stores to get it through to Easter. Hefting is the term used for assessing the weight by lifting one side of the hive up gently whilst the opposite side is still resting on the stand. This gives an indication of weight (not the full weight, as some is still borne by the stand). If using mesh floors, the rear is a good place to heft from as there is the natural hand hold under the floor to gently just take the weight. Some people use a spring balance, but then you need to know the starting weight to make useful comparisons throughout the winter.

Hefting a hive



Mouse guards should now be in place to prevent "unwanted visitors" taking up residence. As discussed last month, now is the time to place insulation above the crownboard to prevent unnecessary heat loss; but do not compromise ventilation as dampness does more damage than the cold.

Remember to ensure hive stands are on firm solid ground and that the roof is fitted securely and weighted down with a heavy object such as a stone to prevent it from being

blown off in winter-gales.

If you are in an area where woodpeckers are present it is always a good idea either to place a net over your hives or a chicken wire cage around them to protect against attacks. When doing this, make sure the gap between net/mesh and hive is a minimum of 4 inches deep, to prevent the birds being able to reach the woodwork. I think Correx wraps around the hives are good for protecting against woodpecker attacks as there is nothing for the bird to hold onto to bore a way through the woodwork.

The winter months are a time for maintenance and repair of your equipment ready for next year's season. Sterilize combs to protect against disease and predatory wax moth attacks before storage (see previous articles for advice on this).

Make sure all the honey you have extracted complies with the regulations on water content. Your honey is at risk of fermentation if the water content is too high. Borrow a refractometer to test this, and if you are not sure how, ask a more experienced beekeeper to assist you. Store your honey in airtight containers until you are ready to bottle it.

Now is also a good time to take stock of how this year has gone for you and think about how you can possibly improve things for the coming year. Plan your strategies for next season and write them down. Are you happy with the extent of your beekeeping knowledge, or would you like to learn more? This year has been difficult with COVID 19 causing earlier training sessions to be cancelled. November Module Exams were cancelled, but the Spring exams are now planned to go ahead online (**see below**). There are some great webinars on the internet which can be attended free of charge where you may broaden your knowledge of the craft and pick-up some new ideas you may wish to implement in your own beekeeping.

What is so enjoyable about beekeeping is that you never stop learning, so enjoy the challenge! Do the best you can to help the bees survive the winter and more importantly, keep safe

Mark Millard

Changing your email address?

As eR2 has taken off across the county, it has been great to hear from so many members who want to make sure their email address is correctly recorded on the system to keep in touch.

The next, logical step in this process is to guide members to the person in their district association who has editing rights, to update their eR2 details locally. Usually, this person will be either your association Membership Secretary or your Treasurer. So, if you are intending to change any of your personal details: email; contact number; address or name, please make your district association "editor" your first port of call.

Many thanks to YBKA Treasurer and eR2 Manager, Norbert Cooper, who has been updating your records so far, but let's see if we can give him some time off for good behaviour now and go local!

Linda Schofield

Getting Started with Beekeeping by Sue Watling and Patrick Lynch from Beverley Beekeeper's Association

Sue

I became a beekeeper in April this year with two overwintered nucs, gifted from my beekeeping mentor Patrick. I kept them on my allotment but didn't have the best of starts. Within five weeks, the brown hive had swarmed, causing great excitement on the allotment, while the pink hive became queenless, and I never did understand why. It was definitely a case of baptism by fire!

Patrick's bees were lovely. Quiet and calm, they never seemed bothered by my first attempts at solo inspections. I felt dreadful for missing the swarming signs and thinking I'd done something to destroy the other queen. It seemed I'd become more a bee-loser than a bee-keeper.

Patrick

Swarming is one of the key concerns for beekeepers, new and old. I think that losing a swarm, like the first sting, is part of the, sometimes painful, learning process. Preparedness for this in the form of two hives, not one, allowed me to be a lot less concerned about the loss than poor Sue was.

Sue

After the swarm, the brown hive requeened itself. Queen cells were present in the pink hive, and as it was quite full, I carried out a queenless split, sharing the frames with a new green hive. A few weeks later, it was clear the pink girls had requeened, but for some reason the green remained queenless. I'd read this could make bees aggressive, but they were incredibly quiet. Although busy foraging, their numbers were decreasing, and the only way to save them was to merge them back again. Initially this seemed to work, but around mid-July, I noticed an absence of brood and realised the new queen had once more mysteriously disappeared. Fortunately, by then the brown hive was flourishing, so I transferred a frame of eggs and young larvae into the pink hive. Within a few weeks, they were up and running, and I was more or less back where I started. Two functioning colonies, but no honey to speak of, and in no time at all, looking at preparations for winter.

Patrick

As mentioned earlier, having a minimum of two hives offers a number of benefits, including a source of eggs if needed. Without that, Sue might have had to spend money on an untested queen or had to combine colonies again to save the bees. Other benefits include the opportunity to compare colonies. You could have the nastiest bees and think them calm or vice-versa. Observing colony build up, honey collection, propolisation etc. is given better perspective through comparison of colonies.

Losing a swarm is never pleasant. In Sue's case, I was confident that she could recover the situation and if necessary, I could donate a queen. So, in addition to having more than one hive, having at least one beekeeping friend should be a recommendation. Better still join your local association and meet lots of friends.

Personally, I just love raising queens. Advising Sue not to inspect the hive for a month, after the swarm, and the egg donation, really concerned her and one could see the loss of weekly 'communing with the bees' was a shocking thought. For me, this time of waiting for a queen to emerge and mate is such a time of anticipation. Towards the end of the waiting period, I was pestering Sue to have a look because I get so excited. I'd also had 100% success getting queens mated at the same time, so I had very high hopes. When Sue did find her new queen and large areas of capped brood her smile came back very quickly.

Sue

During the waiting times, I returned to my beekeeping books, as well as social media, where YouTube and Facebook were wonderful sources of information, but also potential minefields. I had a constant stream of questions, but no sooner had I found an answer which seemed to fit, I would see it shot down with a dozen totally different opinions. When it came to clothing and smokers, or even hive design, I could muddle my way through. However, the lack of direct answers on bigger issues, such as how many queen cells should I leave, and whether or not to treat for varroa, was confusing. Of all the difficulties in my first year, the conflicting information was one of the hardest to come to terms with.

Patrick

Sue and I are both allotment keepers. If you ask three gardeners for advice you will get eight opinions. Beekeeping is not dissimilar. Sue and I also both come from an academic background and personally, I was very much disheartened by the amount of opinion and lack of evidence in my early reading. I have since become much more relaxed. I still like evidence, but just like gardening, one can adopt many approaches, the issue is finding what works for you and your bees. I am an experimenter. I read and then I try things. Some work well for me, others are near disasters. The more I experiment the more I learn what will work for me, but I don't think will ever be set in my ways, that isn't really my nature.

One of the challenges for new beekeepers is that lack of experience and a tsunami of content and opinions on the various social media. I love the Fat Bee Man for entertainment but would really worry if a new beek saw his YouTube channel and tried to keep local bees that way in Yorkshire!

Having gained some experience and realised just how good the bees are at recovering from my interference, I have learned to relax more. I am not expecting definitive answers anymore. How does this work though for a new beekeeper who just wants to know the answer to their question? They don't always want eight opinions. I am a bit worried about this. If we encourage the '*there is only one way*' approach, how will beekeeping continue to evolve, and more importantly, how will beekeepers find what works best for them and their bees? It isn't easy as a new beekeeper. I know I wanted to know how I could do '*the best*' for my bees and indeed '*what more can I do?*' I think beekeeper training should always attempt to light the flame of inquiry, not just dictate practice.

Sue

As I was writing this piece, my primary concern was preparation for winter. Having lost bees and queens, my priority was to get them through to next year. Whatever the bees wanted, the bees could have, but how could I be sure I was doing the right things? Initially, some of the practical questions around beekeeping had kept me awake at night, in particular when it all seemed to be going wrong. However, now I realised there were no definitive answers, I began to feel a bit more relaxed over making decisions which felt right for both me and for the girls.

Talking this over with Patrick, we came to the conclusion the reason everyone does it differently is that beekeeping is a reflection of individual ways of seeing and being in the world. Questions rarely have single answers because methods are linked to the beekeeper's motivation for having bees in the first place, as well as being associated with their over-arching philosophy. We identified three different drivers.

- Husbandry where the beekeeper tries to control the environment for maximum profit, usually via honey, such as bee farmers.
- Academic where the beekeeper is interested in expanding knowledge horizons like Tom Seeley.
- Personal where you're happy to let the bees teach you, and where answers to

questions emerge from not only your philosophy, but what's right for your bees in your location, weather, forage, past hive history etc.

I knew there would be a lot to learn about beekeeping, but I thought the answers would be out there, and it would simply be a case of tapping into the perceived wisdom and experience of others. I had no idea the knowledge base would be so varied, or how social media, the 'go-to' resource in particular for newer beekeepers, would highlight, and often exacerbate, so much contradictory advice. The truth is that in most cases, there are no simple answers. It's more like a mystery puzzle. You gather the clues and reach your own individual conclusions. The only way to learn beekeeping is to do it.

Some pictures from Sue's journey



Through it all, I've remained hugely in love with my bees. They're such delightful and fascinating creatures and I can't wait for next April, although at the moment it seems a very long time away.

Sue Watling writes the Beginners' Blog for the Beverley Beekeeping Association which can be found at <https://www.beverleybeekeepers.co.uk/2020/tag/beginner-blog/>

Please be aware that these items are now available to view on the BBKA website at www.bbka.org.uk

Reports in lieu of YBKA AGM 2020

As you will be aware, YBKA is not holding an AGM this year. Following consultation with the Charities Commission the YBKA Chair, Dave Shannon, was advised that provided the Officers of the Committee (Holding and Secondary Trustees) were prepared to remain in post for another year and the usual reports were circulated to members, it would be acceptable to forgo a meeting in such exceptional circumstances as those presented by Covid-19. I can confirm that the first stipulation has been met and am happy to forward

the reports of the current post holders.

Available reports comprise those of the:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Education and Training Officer
- Examination and Assessments Officer
- Secretary
- Bee Health Officer and
- Equipment Officer

The details of propositions to be considered at the BBKA ADM 2021 are now available on the BBKA website in the members section (**see below**) and will be published in the December edition of the BBKA News

The YBKA Committee will next meet on **8 January 2021**. If you have any comments/queries/suggestions in respects of these reports; the propositions for the BBKA ADM; or any other matter, could you please raise them with your district link to the Committee, or myself, so that they can be included in the agenda?

It has recently come to the attention of the YBKA Committee that the Constitution documents of some district associations do not reflect those of either BBKA or YBKA, the bodies with which they are affiliated. Could we respectfully ask districts to take some time to review their documents for any changes that may be needed? I can already hear the groundswell of a groan: "Haven't we all suffered enough, already?"

Let us all hope that the new year ahead will bring some positive outcomes for us all and, of course, our bees!

Best wishes to all our members,

Linda Schofield

Secretary YBKA

Editor Note: a version of this was recently sent by email to all members, if you want a further copy of the reports, please contact Linda at: secretary@ybka.org.uk

Locked down, but no need to feel locked out!

As beekeepers we are so fortunate to have access to an ever-expanding source of information, on-line, to "feed our habit" during Covid-19 restrictions, the "cold turkey" approach of winter and the end of bee bothering for another year.

You will have had the recent request from BBKA to post any virtual events that others can access in their listings calendar at:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/calendar-listing-page>

and BIBBA has recently sent out a reminder of their on-line list of events at:

<https://www.beekeeping.events/>

Can I just remind you that YBKA has the website and monthly newsletter as valuable resources to “advertise” your district’s virtual events open to information foragers from other regional beekeeping associations? If you wish to promote an event, please contact:

Dave Lamont: website@ybka.org.uk

Chris Barlow: newsletter@ybka.org.uk

For those of you looking to arrange a virtual speaker for a district association talk, there is the BBKA list of speakers, with those willing to give a digital presentation highlighted.

“Tune in and turn on” as they used to say, back in the day!

Linda Schofield

BBKA examinations 2021

Dave Shannon is delighted to advise that BBKA has just confirmed that the spring module exams will be going ahead next year. First dates 24/25 April, **closing date for applications 31 January 2021.**

More details at: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/news/march-2021-exam-news>

Good luck to all candidates!

Linda Schofield

Secretary YBKA

Editor Note: this was originally sent as an email to all members recently

Update on BBKA Examinations and Assessments for 2021

The BBKA Exam Board have issued a statement about the Module exams for 2021 which is reproduced below.

The global outbreak of COVID-19 led to the cancellation of the March and November 2020 module exams as social distancing rules made the exams untenable. As we move into winter and another national lockdown, it seems likely that the coming months will offer little to change the situation.

Many institutions, such as universities, have been examining candidates using online invigilation systems. The Examination Board has been looking into this possibility and has been trialling suitable software.

We believe we will be able to hold the spring module exams on the weekend of 24th and 25th April 2021 using online invigilation, so people can take module exams online in their own homes. Unfortunately, we will not be offering the module exams as written papers this spring due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

The final application date for Module exams will be 31st January 2021 and candidates will be able to sit a maximum of two modules. Anyone who has already applied and does not want to take the exam online can have their entry transferred to November 2021 at no

cost, when we are planning to offer paper exams.

I am reliably informed that the Exams Board is preparing a Q and A document which will go out soon.

Kirit Gordhandas

Module 3 – Study Dates - Save the dates!

After the disappointment of having to cancel our planned in-person study module study sessions for this autumn/winter, I am pleased to let you know that we have now arranged a programme of 5 evening 'Zoom' study sessions based around the syllabus for Module 3 (Pests and Diseases of the Honeybee). Although the agendas are built around the BBKA module syllabus, we hope 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. The dates are:

- December 8th 2020: American Foul Brood and European Foul Brood – led by Ivor Flatman
- December 15th 2020: Adult bee diseases (Nosema, Acarine, Amoeba) – led by Derrie O'Sullivan
- Jan 5th 2021: Varroa – led by Ivor Flatman
- Jan 12th 2021: How disease affects the alimentary, excretory and respiratory systems of the adult honeybee – led by Derrie O'Sullivan
- Jan 19th 2021: Statutory requirements, Asian Hornet and Bailey Comb exchange – led by Ivor Flatman

All sessions will run from 7-9pm via zoom. The events are free to attend, but participants will need to register to receive the zoom invitation. A formal email with the relevant details will be sent soon.

Clare McGettigan

Education, Yorkshire Beekeepers Association

PS: I hope we will be able to run similar study sessions for one other module in late January/February – tbc.

Propositions for the BBKA ADM on 16 January 2021

To access them, you will need to go to the BBKA website homepage www.bbka.org.uk Click on the Members tab. Once in the members' area, enter **ADM 2021** into the search box and you will find a list of the propositions, and more information about them, by

clicking on **Section 5** in the Delegates' Pack. The information should also be published in next month's edition of BBKA News.

If you have any comments regarding any of the propositions, could you please bring them to the attention of your local representative/link person for the YBKA Committee **before 1 January 2021**? We will need to discuss the propositions at our next Committee meeting on 8 January, to give Tony Jefferson, our delegate, guidance on how to vote at the BBKA meeting to represent the views of Yorkshire members.

You may, for example, have a view on the proposed BBKA subscription increase, as mentioned in the recent President's Letter?

Sorry, more reading!

Linda Schofield

Secretary YBKA

Editor Note: this was originally sent as an email to all members recently

The ruminations of Vera Rider!

Over the almost 40 years that I have been keeping bees I have been to numerous lectures given by eminent beekeepers. My only fault is that I believed them all! The worst idea was from a chap who convinced us all that double brood was the way forward. It was so "clear and obvious" that took it up immediately, not taking into consideration that at 5 feet nothing tall I would have some difficulty manipulating the boxes! I struggled on all summer convinced that 'it must be me' until, in the end, I had to get a really tall chap to come and give me a hand with some really nasty bees. We sorted them out, getting loads of stings but, lesson learned, I stuck with the conventional methods from then on.

Another bad mistake I made was to go out to a building site where bees had been found in an attic. Not having kept bees for long, my husband had found me a white suit from work (bearing the ICI logo). I sewed Velcro along the front and got some washing up gloves. Sorted! We had to climb up a dodgy ladder to get into the attic and found that the bees had colonised all along the rafters. We carefully cut them out and tried to wire them into a hive. This was against the wishes of the bees who let us know it in no uncertain terms! However, we pressed on. I soon realised that the ICI suit and washing up gloves were no match for bees bent on letting us know they were not happy. Of course, there were more combs than we could fit into the box, so we resorted to putting some of them into plastic bags. The bees had clearly been there for some years and several plastic bags were filled before we made our escape. Not one of our best moments!

Collecting swarms can be fun. One of our most memorable incidents was in a park in Middlesbrough. It was after closing time, and the park was empty, but we had to climb over a fence to gain access and then found the bees settled around a pole. I don't know if you have ever tried to collect bees from a pole, but any ideas we had were unsuccessful. Smoking them up into a box didn't work, and after a lot of thought we ended up gathering them by hand and putting them into a skep. I wouldn't do this now,

but as a young, inexperienced beekeeper it was all I could think of. Got most of them though! My husband embroiders this story every time he tells it.

I am not keen on collecting swarms nowadays but sometimes you feel so sorry for people you just have to go. Last year I was asked by the Council Bee Officer to go to see a very elderly man who had a swarm in his garden. It was a nuisance because it was hanging right over the path in his lovely back garden and he was too afraid to go out. We collected it and he tried to pay us. We have never yet taken payment for collecting a swarm, but I've noticed that people who are obviously 'well off' never offer to pay and will often try to get you to pay them! You can spend ages waiting for the bees to settle and they never even offer you a cup of tea. Others will try to insist you take payment.

Collecting bees can be a risky but fun business. Risky because you don't know the temperament of the swarm you are collecting and fun because you come across all sorts of hilarious situations. We once had to carry a swarm through a house because there was no other access to the garden. I once brought a swarm home, on the bus, in a cardboard box resting on my knee: they never made a sound. Clever bees!

I once went to a talk entitled "50 years of beekeeping". My talk could be called "40 years of making mistakes collecting swarms". Am I an expert now? Absolutely not. Every situation is different and sometimes, the bees are very obliging and come quietly, other times just the opposite. I collected one swarm from a school on my way home. I had forgotten I had promised a colleague that I would give her a lift. "Don't worry", I said. "I'll put them in a box in the back and they will stay quiet". To her credit, she kept her nerve when the bees started to find their way out. I still get reminded about it when I see her!

Vera Rider

YBKA Examinations and Assessment Officer.

List of speakers on beekeeping, including those who can offer digital talks

Dr Stuart Andrews

Contact: stuart.andrews@zoetis.com Tel: 07973 690428

Talks: The work of Bees Abroad, personal experiences gained in Uganda.

Fees: Donation to Bees Abroad.

Dr Fred Ayres

Contact: fred@lunevalleybees.co.uk Tel: 01524 811978

Digital speaker: Yes

Talks: Alternative approaches to beekeeping.

Fees: By arrangement.

Mr Michael Badger MBE

Contact: buzz.buzz@ntlworld.com; bingley.badger@gmail.com Tel: 07958 591 501

Fees: None

Keith Bartlem

Contact: k.bartlem@btinternet.com Tel: 01845 565132

Digital Speaker: Yes

Talks: Thermoregulation of the honeybee.

Flying with bees (contrast between bees and airplanes).

Swarming.

Monarch or Republic, an introduction to queen cells.

Fees: Speaker fees go to a Parkinsons charity.

Dave Bonner, Master Beekeeper

Contact: dave@bonner.me.uk

Digital Speaker: Yes

Talks: Honeybee Democracy (based on Tom Seeley's book)

Queen rearing on a queenright colony - using Miller method and a Cloake Board.

Collecting Swarms,

Asian Hornet

Meander through the wonderful world of Apiculture.

Bee Disease.

Hygiene and Husbandry.

Beneficial effects of Bees and their products.

Swarm Management.

Preparing Bees for winter.

Our adventures in Uganda with Bees Abroad

Fees: A donation towards petrol plus a donation to Bee Abroad, £50 suggested minimum.

Dr Gerry Brierley

Contact Email: DrGerry@QueenBeeTalks.Buzz Contact Phone: (UK) 07891 534264

Website: www.queenbeetalks.buzz & <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Secrets-Hope-Honey-Bee/dp/1916055303/>

Presentation type: Either in person or digital medium such as zoom to anyone, anywhere in the world!

Talks: Medicinal Apitherapy: A journey into the healing hive – The therapeutic values of 8 key bee products. Including an insight to Vet-Apitherapy (1 hour)

The history of the honey bee: A journey into the history of the hive (1 hour)

Honey Bee Warfare: A journey into the warring hive 'Beeological Warfare' (45 mins)

Bee Venom Therapy: A journey into the healing hive – An insight into how bee venom therapy has been used to treat Lyme disease and other chronic illnesses (30-45 mins)

The Secrets of the Honey Bee: A journey into the life of the hive (45 mins)

Enid Brown

Contact: enidbrown6@gmail.com Mobile 07763 809367 Digital speaker: Yes

Digital speaker: Yes

Judges Referee at The National Honey Show and senior BBKA Honey Judge. Talks:

Aimed at new beekeepers Lecture fee is £50

John Charlton

Contact: johncharlton151@gmail.com

Talks: Beekeeping in general.

Recent history and changes.

Hive Products - Mead, pollen, Propolis.

Microscopy - Demonstrations and/or one day classes.

Available for non-beekeeping groups.

Fees: £25-£50 plus mileage.

Gerry Collins MSc BSc PGCE NDB

Contact gerry@collins72.plus.com Tel: 01302 539873

for availability and latest list of talks

Digital speaker: no

Talks: Several topics including

The curse of the wax moth.

Queens and things.

What's going on in my hive?

Move your bees.

Selection and queen rearing.

What do I do about this? (Problems in beekeeping and some of their solutions).

All presentations are profusely illustrated with images, some with video clips.

Fees: £30 for evening beekeeping branch meeting, £50 for all day beekeeping convention (£90 for 2 talks on the same day)

Barbara Dalby

Contact: pebadalebees@btinternet.com Tel: 01992 622645

Digital Speaker: Yes, talks, other than Honey Cookery, can be presented via digital format.

Talks: Wax recovery for further uses (can be a practical demonstration)

Apitherapy: A talk giving background and the benefits of the use of bees and bee products for health and healing. This would include using bee venom for a number of conditions but is not solely the subject of the lecture.

Producing Products from the Hive: A talk designed to give ideas on some products that can be made from the produce of the hive, using simple ingredients, for home use including candles, polish and simple creams and lotions.

Honey Microwave Cookery

Fees: Lecture from £50 per lecture

Peter Dalby

Contact: pebadalebees@btinternet.com Tel: 01992 622645

Digital speaker: Yes, all but queen rearing.

Talks: Travels of a Beekeeper

Plants for Pollinators

Queen Rearing

Swarm Control

Beekeeping for Beginners and more specific beekeeping subjects.

Fees: Lecture from £50 per lecture

Andrew Durham

Contact: adurhamcbka@btinternet.com Tel: 0778 377 3873

Digital Speaker: Yes

Talks: Asian Hornet – The French Experience (arrival and spread of Asian hornet, impact on beekeepers and defences against the hornet)

Fees: None

Travel: East & South East but will consider further afield.

Travel and hospitality arrangement: Overnight accommodation where appropriate and reasonable travel expenses.

Brian Durk

Contact: briandurk@beesabroad.org.uk Tel: 01452 698 654

Location: Gloucestershire.

Talks: Bees Abroad.
Bees & Elephants.
Queen rearing.
Fees: £50 plus expenses (negotiable).

David Evans, Professor of Virology, University of St Andrews

Contact: www.theapiarist.org and david@theapiarist.org

Location: Fife (077666 01824) and Ardnamurchan (no mobile signal)

Digital Speaker: Yes

Talks: Zoom or equivalent online talks of 60-90 minutes duration, followed by Q&A session. My website demonstrates the range of topics I can cover which are usually an entertaining combination of science and practical beekeeping. Popular talks include:

Rational Varroa Control

Bait hives for profit and pleasure

Preparing for winter

Preparing for the season ahead

Measure twice, cut once, swear often - Br Bodgit does DIY for beekeeping

Queenright queen rearing

Fees: Provided on request

Nigel Fleming

Contact: nigel.fleming@blueyonder.co.uk

Talks: Beekeeping for those who contemplate becoming Beekeepers.

Microscopy for Beekeepers and Mellisopalnyology.

Beekeeping beginners to advance.

Dr Nikki Gammans

Contact: nikki.gammans@bumblebeeconservation.org Tel: 07545 171110

Talks: Bumblebees (all areas included from ecology, ID through to gardening etc; introduction to solitary bees and can talk on hymenoptera in general).

Fees: Donation to the short-haired bumblebee project.

Andrew Gibb

Contact: andrew@andrewgibb.com Tel: 07876 560346

Talk: Environment, bees and food

Why do we need pollinators?

Drone psychology, the weaker sex

Products of the hive

Beekeeping for fun

'Introduction to queen rearing methods'

'What you can do for the Wax Chandlers Company'

Fees: Donation to Wax Chandlers Company if desired

John Goodwin

Contact: carole.gdwn@gmail.com

Talks: Honey workshop (How to win rather than just compete).

Wax workshop (preparation of wax for showing).

Honey tasting (differing honeys from around the world).

Swarm management/collection and prevention of swarms.

John Haverson

Contact: johnhaverson@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01264 781609

Talks: Guidance for Beekeepers from Wild Honeybees.

Chemical free beekeeping with the Warré hive.

The Pros and Cons of swarming.
The Plight of Bees.
Fees: £ 50

John Hendrie

Contact: bibba26@talktalk.net Tel: 01732 833894
Talks: Practical & Scientific topics, the list is constantly changing.
Fees: By arrangement.

Dr Julia Hoggard

Contact: julia@bcs.org Tel: 01539 560869 / 07570 583461
Digital speaker: Yes
Talks: For talks please see www.BeeEd.org.uk
Fees: £50

Pam Hunter, Master Beekeeper

Contact: pamhunter3939@gmail.com el: 01403 864007 / 07974 925435
Digital Speaker: Yes
Talks: Wide range of topics on biology and scientific aspects of bees, insects and plants.
Evolution of insects and plants.
Details of pollination by insects.
The garden, forage and bees.
Navigation and foraging.
Nutrition and the colony.
Bees' senses.
Also Pheromones, rape, swarms and historical aspects of bees and beekeeping.
What makes a queen?
Why the drone is so important.
Viruses - what are they and what do they do.
Happy to tailor talk as requested, given notice. Detailed list of talks available.
Fees: £50 local groups. £80 county meetings.

Trisha Marlow, Master Beekeeper

Contact: trisha_marlow@beesabroad.org.uk Tel: 07812 518822
Digital Speaker: Virtual talks: available anywhere due to the power of Zoom, Teams and Go to Webinar.
Talks: Bees Abroad talks -
Into Africa: Bees, Beekeeping and the Reason Why (suitable for Associations, County events, conferences)
Bees Abroad: The What, How and Why (for other interested groups)
Changing list of other talks: e.g. Colony cohesion. Colony nutrition. Topics related to bee biology. Forage and plants. Bee husbandry. Other - happy to develop what your members want to hear about.
Fees: Speaker fee to Bees Abroad, also a donation to Bees Abroad in lieu of other expenses for virtual talks would be greatly appreciate in these difficult times for our projects.

Stephen Martin

Contact: s.j.martin@salford.ac.uk Tel: 0161 295 2476
Digital Speaker: yes
Talks: Hornets.
Recognition.
Varroa.
DWV

Varroa Resistant Honeybees

Fees: £150 - goes into a fund to allow attendance at bee/social insect conferences.

Derek Mitchell

Contact: mndmm@leeds.ac.uk Mobile: 07798 802851

Talks: The Invisible Dams of Honey bees

Hive Ventilation – why you shouldn't

The Honey bee and the Mosquito – why hives are built like this

What is warm to honey bee?

Honey Bees and Humidity

Fee: £50.00 to single BBKA, £70.00 – County event

Jean Mozley

Contact: bees4ujean@gmail.com

Talks: Swarm control.

Queen introduction and how to store queens.

How to make a living from your bees.

Fees: £40 fee plus travel costs.

Margaret Murdin, NDB & Master Beekeeper

Contact: margaret.murdin@bbka.org.uk

Digital Speaker: Yes

Talks: Long list constantly changing and updating. Also exam workshops.

Fees: £50.00

Chris Park

Contact: Chris@acorneducation.com

Digital Speaker: able to Zoom lecture. Also can send a narrated PPT to a club, who can then distribute this to their members or make it available online.

Talks: Treatment Free Beekeeping. Bee-centred Beekeeping. To Bee or not to Bee - the sliding scale of beekeeping intervention.

Skep Beekeeping.

Skep Making.

Beekeeping Folklore and Mythology.

Mead, Metheglin and Magic.

'Honey Island' - Some Heritage of Honey in Britain.

Making Mead & Traditional Honey Drinks.

Honeybees in Art and Symbolism.

Ancient Beekeeping - Europe, Egypt & beyond

Log Hives - ancient & modern

An Introduction to Apitherapy

A History of Apitherapy

Bee Hive Air - science or sorcery?

Bee-houses

Roger Patterson

Contact: roger-patterson@btconnect.com Tel: 01403 790637 / 07976 306492 (no texts)

Digital Speaker: I am able to do webinars in all formats

Talks: Mainly practical beekeeping, talks, workshops and apiary demonstrations, including queen rearing/bee improvement. For extensive list please email or download list from Dave Cushman's website

<http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/rogerpattersonlectures.html>

Fees: No fee. See lecture list for expenses.

Richard and/or Jane Ridler, Master Beekeeper

Contact: Richard_ridler@beesabroad.org.uk Mobile 07942 815753

Digital speakers: yes both

Talks: Adventures in African Beekeeping.

A Comparison Between Beekeeping Practice in U.K. and Africa.

Beekeeping in Africa and the Relief of Poverty.

Fees: Just a generous donation to Bees Abroad.

David and Cecilia Rudland

Contact: enquire@eastsurreybees.co.uk

Talks: Seasonal Management.

Nucs and their Uses.

Queen Rearing.

Candle Making.

Mead Making.

Plants and Gardens for Bees.

Marketing and the Bee Farmers Association Apprenticeship Scheme.

Fees: Talk fee £60 plus travel expenses.

Robert (Bob) Smith

Contact: robert_787@hotmail.com

Digital speaker: Yes

Talks: Over 30 talks available.

Pollen and nutrition.

Botany & Microscopy.

Varroa control without chemicals.

Managing the workers.

The importance of bee space.

And many others, please email for full current list.

Fees: £30 for local groups, £80 for County events.

Will Steynor

Contact: willsteynor@hotmail.com Tel: 01364 72469

Talks: Beekeeping as a profitable sideline.

Time saving inventions for the practical beekeeper.

Making beeswax candles using glass moulds.

Fees: By arrangement.

Brigit Strawbridge

Contact: brigitstrawbridge@gmail.com Tel: 07974 809135

Talks: Bumblebees and solitary bees: their life cycles and behaviour, their importance as pollinators, the reasons for their decline and what we can do to help them.

Fees: Variable starting at £65 for a local talk.

Mr. William (Bill) Summers

Contact: williamfsummers@btinternet.com/www.thezesthive.com Tel: 01258 473015

Talks: The Zest Hive Mission for better bee health and bee keeper wealth,

Fees: None

Margaret Thomas NDB

Contact: zyzythomas@fastmail.com

Digital Speaker: Yes

Talks: Any-but can supply a list if required.

Fees: £50 a lecture.

Jim Vivian-Griffiths

Contact: jimvg45@gmail.com Tel: 01600 714428

Digital speaker: Yes

Talks: A range of talks, practical & scientific - please email for list

Fees: £60 per talk

Andy Willis

Contact: andy.beeman@icloud.com Tel: 023 8040 4530/0747 290216

Talks: A variety of forage related and general beekeeping subjects also including cleaning

wax and preparation for candles and how to win prizes at honey shows.

A full list of talk titles is available on request.

Fees: £50

YBKA CALENDAR 2020

Events postponed

To be updated

Committee Details

Dave Shannon is 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 Secretary

Tony Jefferson is the YBKA Delegate to BBKA.

Chris Barlow continues as Newsletter Editor

David Lamont continues as YBKA Webmaster

Classified Adverts

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

Thorne's large, stainless steel steam wax extractor complete with steam generator. Used a couple of times and in very good condition. A bit small for my setup sadly. I'm looking for £250 or very near. On Thorne's site at £430. Call Rich on 07801 847487 to view in Strensall York if interested.



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