



YORKSHIRE
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association Newsletter April 2021

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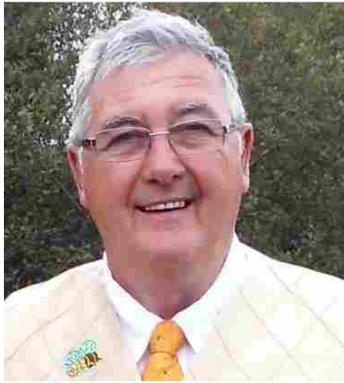
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YBKA Committee

Classifieds

**Yorkshire BKA does not condone the importation of bees from abroad
via any route.**



Chairman's Notes: This year we hosted our first virtual YBKA Delegates Meeting, following the procurement of a larger audience Zoom licence. The meeting proved a great success, with a record number of area delegates in attendance. The meeting allowed constructive interaction between the Committee and delegates and received positive feedback. 17 out of our 22 associations were represented, the most for many a year. I would like

to thank all attenders for their contributions. This positive outcome prompted the decision, with the support of all representatives present, to host our 2021 AGM and possibly all future main meetings involving area delegates/link persons and YBKA members, via Zoom. With relevant reports circulated in advance, attenders have time to familiarise themselves and their district members with the content and discuss any matters they wish to bring to the attention of the Committee as matters to be considered for future action. With the facility of meeting from the comfort of home, rather than having to travel various distances to our Harrogate headquarters, we hope to see future meetings with even more districts represented, to make sure all lines of communication are open.

On another matter: YBKA is working in conjunction with BBKA to discourage the importation of Italian package bees into the UK via Northern Ireland, resulting from a legal loophole in the Brexit agreement. The company behind this intended action is placing the health and safety of our UK honey bees and native pollinators at severe risk of an incursion of the small hive beetle, a non-native species against which our bees have no coping strategies. I urge every YBKA member and anyone else who reads this Newsletter and wishes to support us in this action, to sign the Parliamentary Petition raised by Anne Rowberry, Chair of BBKA. We must do all we can to raise the awareness of our legislators to this potential catastrophe. If you haven't done so already, please follow this link to the petition <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/577603> to add your signature. We need to achieve 100,000 signatures to persuade Parliament to debate the matter.

This same company has bought out BeeTradex and is planning to host several sales and educational events throughout the country this summer, under the title Festival of Bees. One has been negotiated to take place at the Harrogate Show Ground in late July. I respectfully ask all YBKA members to boycott this event, because of the reckless behaviour

demonstrated by the proprietors, risking the welfare of our bees and other pollinators for profit.

Dave Shannon
YBKA Chairman

BEVERLEY BEEKEEPERS ANNUAL AUCTION

HONEY BEES AND BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT
JUNE 27th 2021
WOODMANSEY VILLAGE HALL
LONG LANE, WOODMANSEY HU17 0RN

Auction of live honey bees and associated new and used beekeeping equipment.

Entries accepted Saturday 27th June 18.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs and
Sunday 28th June from 08.00 until 10.30am
Viewing Sunday from 10.30 am
Auction Commences 11am

Auction of live bees will commence at 1pm approx.
Enquiries to auktion@beverleybeekeepers.co.uk or
Dave Hodgson 07875393588
10% seller's commission.

NO BUYERS PREMIUM
Refreshments available from 10.30am
For all further information please see:
www.beverleybeekeepers.co.uk
[..\Auction2020\BevBKA Auction Guidelines 2021.doc](#)
[..\Auction2020\Auction Colony description form 2021.doc](#)

From beehive to jar - Honey authenticity explained

Rick Mumford, Head of the Science, Evidence and Research directorate explores the honey supply chain, the unique issues that can put it at risk of food fraud, and the work done by the FSA and local authority partners to ensure the authenticity of honey from beehive to jar.

<https://food.blog.gov.uk/2021/03/18/from-beehive-to-jar-honey-authenticity-explained/>

Submitted by Cath Graham

BBKA Exam Board Updates

Exam Board Statement about Practical Assessments: 25th January 2021

The Examinations Board is endeavouring to run practical assessments as usual this summer. This is dependent on what Covid-19 restrictions are in place at the time. Though we have an expectation that restrictions will have lifted to an extent that the practical assessments will be able to take place this summer, this is not guaranteed. We are hoping that it will be safe to run the assessments by this point and are proceeding on the basis that this will be the case. The last date for applications is 28th February.

This deadline does not apply to the Basic Assessment.

There has also been a change in policy regarding deferrals which was recently emailed to all members. The statement is reproduced below ::

Exam Board Statement about deferrals - 31st March 2021

The systems of exam deferrals has, over the years, become increasingly complex to administer. As there are currently no outstanding deferrals in the system as a result of covid-19 cancellations, we felt this is a good opportunity to simplify the system.

We will no longer be offering deferrals for exams. Instead, if a candidate wishes to withdraw from an exam or assessment, they may cancel up until one calendar month before the exam and will receive a refund minus £10 to cover administration. No money will be refunded if there is less than 1 calendar month before the exam.

We think this change will make the system simpler to administer as well as simpler to understand. The change will take effect from 3rd April 2021.

All updates from the exam board are published on the BBKA website and can be viewed by visiting

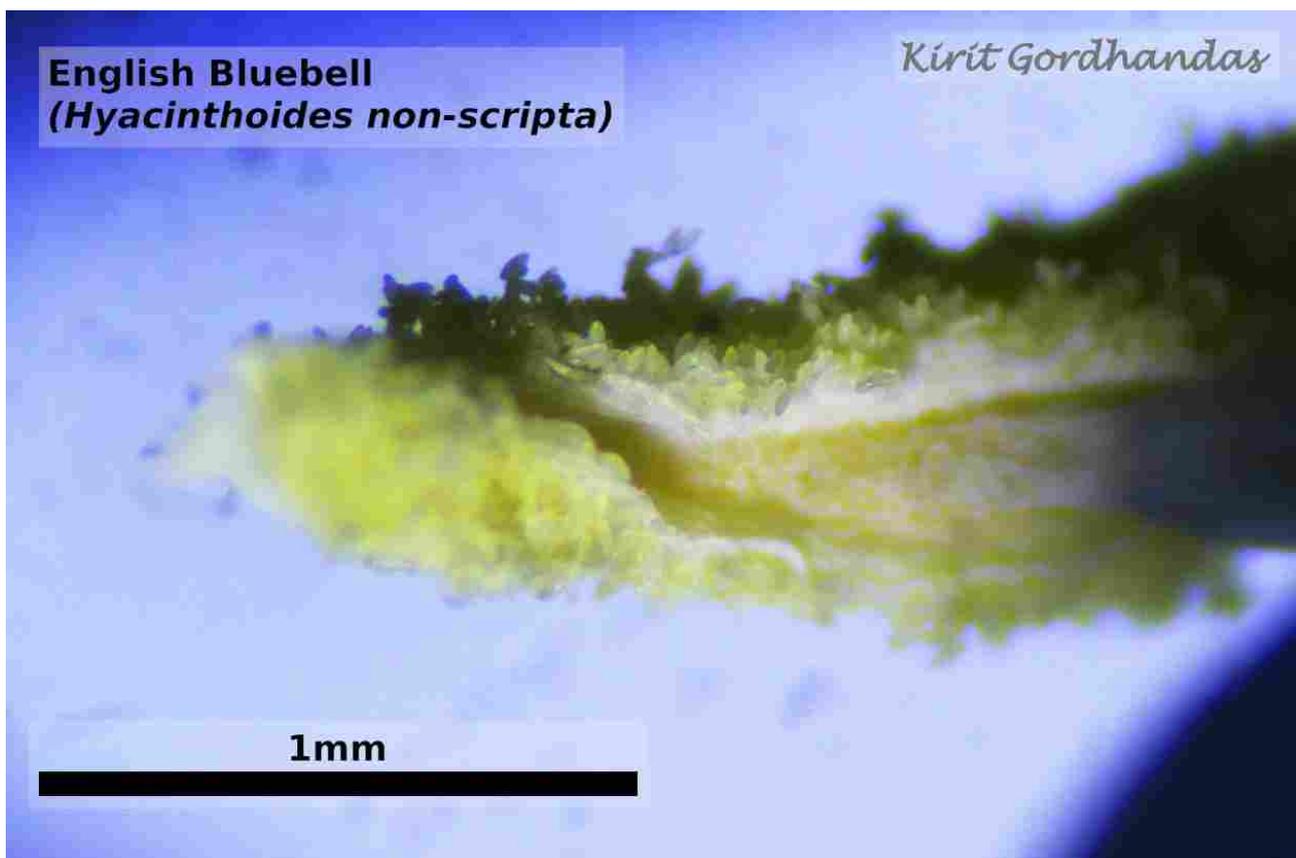
<https://www.bbka.org.uk/exam-board-news>

Kirit Gordhandas,
YBKA Exams & Assessment Secretary

Microscopy Photographs

Below is a picture of single anther of an English Bluebell with its pollen and petal still attached. The photograph is at x45 magnification with the individual grains of pollens clearly visible. It was taken using a camera mounted on a dissecting microscope.

The original hi-resolution photograph (5184 x 3456 pixels - 21.3Mb) can be viewed by clicking <[HERE](#)> or visiting <https://bit.ly/3tokG7d> (Short link to the photo on Google Photos drive)



Kirit Gordhandas - YBKA Exam & Assessment Secretary

What to do in the Apiary in April

Where I live numerous fields of oil seed rape have started to flower giving the landscape some colour and providing a vital source of pollen and nectar for colonies to build up and hopefully result in a surplus crop of early spring honey.

If not already done, now is the time to remove mouse guards, as they can strip off those vital pollen loads as the returning foragers squeeze through them.

The demands on the colony are quite significant at this time of year. An expanding brood nest and aging, over wintered, adults can place great stress on colonies. We may experience warmer days, but the nights remain cold, and the brood nest temperature must be maintained by the remaining bees in the colony.

If the weather is inclement and they have no opportunity to go out foraging, it may be advisable to supplement their feed with a light syrup 1:1 (1-part sugar to 1-part water). As stated in last month's article, protein for the colony is vital and without protein in the form of pollen or pollen substitutes, queens will cease to lay eggs. You might wish to consider applying pollen patties directly above the frames to assist the colony at this time?

Weather permitting, April usually sees the first Spring inspections taking place. I would wait for a period of warmer weather ideally with temperatures around 14 – 15C and not go in on the first warm day. Impatience can be catastrophic for your colony. Young eggs and larvae can quickly become chilled and die when exposed to cold winds and low temperatures. Once the first inspection has been completed, you can evaluate the available stores and take a more informed decision as to whether they need additional help. I am a firm believer in the mantra 'better safe than sorry'! Also remember to start as you mean to go on and complete a hive record. There is a sample 'Hive Record Sheet' on the BBKA website <https://www.bbka.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=95cc5034-5a03-4779-a370-50d1f9bcb125>

When a few nice warm days arrive, then we can do our first brood inspection. We check that queens are laying well and that there is healthy looking brood at all stages, with light-brown (digestive biscuit) cappings and

no perforations. We keep an eye out for any signs of disease, checking that larvae are glistening white with clear segmentation and not twisted and distorted within their cells. Familiarise yourself with what healthy brood should look like and if you find anything to cause you concern, try to take a photo and first consult with a local, experienced, beekeeper. If you are still unsure, forward your photo to the Regional/Seasonal Bee Inspector to back up a phone discussion and identify whether your colony should be visited.

Picture of healthy Brood



"Courtesy of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Crown Copyright"

It is possible that when you check the sealed brood pattern it is irregular and has raised/domed cappings on worker cells. This is a sign of either a drone laying queen or laying workers. Below are the typical raised cappings indicating a drone laying queen.

Photograph of raised cappings



At this time of year there is little prospect of obtaining a replacement queen, unless you have taken a nucleus through winter. The options are limited, but I have successfully united a colony of bees that had a drone laying queen with another, queen-right colony. Whilst the winter bees are coming to the end of their lives, they can still bolster a weak colony and assist in a rapid build-up. Remember before merging, the old queen needs to be removed and dispatched. Make sure that the bees show no signs of disease and unite using the newspaper method. If you cannot find the queen and suspect laying workers, then a different procedure needs to be adopted before merging. If unsure seek advice from a more experienced beekeeper.

If you see your queen on the first inspection and this is not always the case, then make sure she is still well-marked. If not, take the opportunity now to re-mark her before the population increases dramatically. Marking the queen will be of great value in the months to come.

As part of my spring inspections, when the temperature reaches 15C or above, I ensure that the floors are cleaned, I have spare floors already cleaned (the wood scorched and the mesh floors scrubbed with a washing soda solution ready to go below the brood box). Alternatively, you can quickly clean off any debris from the floors and any build up between your frames and on the frame lugs.

Now is also the time to move any empty brood frames you intend to replace to the outer edges of the brood box. This makes replacement easier when the time comes to put new frames and foundation in.

Some colonies will be ready for a super now and others will be getting ready in the next few weeks so ensure you have clean queen excluders (if used) and supers ready.

Don't forget to insert your varroa floors to complete a mite check. For those who didn't use an oxalic acid treatment in mid-winter, this is another vital thing to check before the nectar flows begin. There is lots of useful advice on 'Beebase' about when to treat and what products are more appropriate at the time of season.

Now is the time to make sure you have sufficient equipment available such as new frames ready to receive foundation along with sufficient supers and spare equipment to deal with swarm control. There is nothing worse than seeing a swarm hanging from a tree and having to put equipment together before you can collect it.

Now is a good time to brush up on swarm control techniques and think about what methods you wish to adopt and prepare equipment. YBKA provided each District Association with several BBKA publications, one of which was a DVD on swarm control and prevention techniques. This is a useful resource and can be loaned from your Association so contact your librarian or secretary.

As responsible beekeepers we should be mindful of preventing swarms as they can cause some distress for members of the public. Swarming is a natural instinct, and is a honey bee colony's means of reproduction. If you are interested in being on the swarm collectors list, please contact your association secretary who can update your details on the eR2 system. Please remember that you will need to be a fully registered member of your district association and BBKA to be eligible for insurance cover as a swarm collector.

It is hard to believe that a year has passed under Covid restrictions although there is some light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccination programme. This summer may bring opportunities for district associations to hold some apiary meetings where newer members can get some hands-on practical sessions.

Whatever develops, stay safe and enjoy your beekeeping.
Finally, good luck to those taking the module exams on 24th April.

Mark Millard

YBKA CALENDAR 2021/22

Friday 12th March: GPC Meeting 6pm (Zoom)

Saturday 13th March: Beetradox (Sandown Park – postponed, watch website)

[Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st March: Training for invigilators and candidates for BBKA on-line Modules Exams \(details tbc\)](#)

Saturday 27th March: YBKA Delegates Meeting 10am (via Zoom)

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th April: BBKA Spring Convention (virtual event – see BBKA website)

Saturday 24th April: BBKA Modules Exams (on-line only)

Friday 14th May: GPC Meeting 6pm (via Zoom)

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th July: Great Yorkshire Show (Harrogate Showground- tbc)

Friday 16th July: GPC Meeting 6pm (venue/medium – tbc)

Friday 17th September: GPC Meeting 6pm (venue/medium – tbc)

Friday 15th October: GPC Meeting 6pm (venue/medium – tbc)

Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd October: National Honey Show (Sandown Park – tbc)

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th November: Cosmetics Workshops with Dr Sara Robb (tbc)

Saturday 13th November: BBKA Modules Examinations (venue/medium tbc)

Saturday 27th November: YBKA AGM (via Zoom)

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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