

BEEMASTER

**Nottinghamshire
Beekeepers' Association**
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<http://www.nottsbees.org.uk>

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The Editor would like to thank the following members for their contributions:

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DIARY DATES

Monday 3 February **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG5 6NZ**
NBKA AGM and talk: Adult Bee Diseases, Dhonn Atkinson, Regional Bee Inspector 7.30pm
Monday 17 February **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham NG23 6HB 8pm**
Tuesday 25 February Copy date for **March** newsletter
Monday 2 March **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG65 6NZ**
Gerry Collins: Swarm Control 7.30pm
Saturday 14 March **BeeTradex** Stoneleigh Park CV8 2LG 9am-4.30pm
Monday 16 March **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham NG23 6HB 8pm**
Saturday 21 March **Lincoln Bee Auction**, Lincolnshire Showground LN2 2NA 10.30am
Saturday 28 March **NBKA Auction**, Newark Showground NG24 2NY 2pm

www.nbkaeducation.weebly.com

From the editor

Penny Forsyth

February now and the last month of meteorological winter- a nice thought but winter has a habit of returning just as we begin to feel complacent. Here on the eastern side of the country we have been spared the most extreme weather of recent weeks but the ground is still saturated and it remains to be seen what we can expect in the way of spring forage for our bees as farmers struggle to get any crops into the ground. This plus the ravages of the cabbage stem flea beetle and a fall in prices is certain to impact on the production of oilseed rape, which has become a spring staple for our bees: what will replace it, particularly in areas of little natural forage? Since it seems that we can no longer rely on the old seasonal regularities and routines, how well can we and our bees adapt? We are reaping the whirlwind now, brought about by our disregard of the natural world in the pursuit of progress and profit.

February brings our Association's AGM, when Council reports to you, the members, our actions, activities and decisions during the previous twelve months. This is your opportunity to acquaint yourselves with the people who have worked hard on your behalf and to make your opinions and preferences known. There may be vacancies to fill and volunteers are always welcome but please do not worry that you may be somehow dragooned into taking on a role, we are mindful of the old maxim 'better one volunteer than ten pressed men.' The AGM is also the time when prizes and plaudits are handed out and the recipients deserve the applause and appreciation of a decent-sized audience. The same can be said of our speaker, who may have travelled some distance in poor weather. It's also an opportunity to meet and mingle with members from other parts of the county over a cuppa and plate of tasty home-baked goodies. There's a raffle, too. The NBKA AGM has traditionally been held at Lowdham village hall on the first Saturday of February at 2pm, thus enabling those members and speakers with long journeys to make to travel mostly in daylight, but the level of attendance has become so low that Council and regional committee members make up more than half of the total. Council decided once again to hold it as part of the Nottingham Region monthly meeting in the hope of convincing members that the AGM is relevant and interesting and worthy of their attendance in the future. This decision has not been popular: for members in the north of the county the journey to Arnold is a 60+ mile round trip, adding an hour to each end of a winter's evening: others living far from the city may face similar journeys. In today's pressured world a Saturday afternoon's sport, leisure or family commitment may be too much to sacrifice for a trip to Lowdham in the hinterland above the city: as someone once said, 'You can't please all the people all the time.' The AGM starts at 7.30 and will be followed by a talk by our Regional Bee Inspector Dhonn Atkinson on Adult Bee Diseases. If you can come, please do: you will find the Agenda and 2019 Minutes on p18-21. This will be my last issue of Beemaster. I will introduce the new editor, Stuart Humphreys, at the AGM and formally hand over the role at the March meeting of Council. Stuart has only recently retired and I half expected to be compiling Beemaster in the depths of Cornwall in the latter months of the year but our move has been delayed by my overwhelming desire to have one more spring with my bees before I pass them on to my very capable friend Bill Walker. Bees eh? It has been my pleasure and privilege to edit your newsletter: over to you, Stuart.

In this issue Griff weighs in wax; Anne promotes pots for pounds; Turkish beekeepers take risks for reward; Dr. Feas disrupts the dastardly hornet; sad news of unspeakable vandalism. In the regular features Linda makes marmalade; Janet reminds about renewals, commends a course and celebrates success; the BBKA brings big guns to brief our AHATs; and the photo editor of the Dutch BKA's magazine would like to get snappy in our apiaries. BBKA News and Beecraft have plenty to interest: news and highlights from across the beekeeping world, practical advice for beginners, improvers and old hands and food for thought for all. BBKA News has pesticide use on OSR; whole apiary shook swarm; useful advice on taking the Basic; Bees Abroad in India. Beecraft has skep making, Tom Seeley, the Honey Monitoring Scheme results. Kettle on?

Notes from Norwell & Hon. Sec. Report February 2020

Griff Dixon

So far the winter has been kind to us although it has been rather wet and windy at times. January for me has seen a period of doing an inventory of all my stuff; wax rendering; wax exchange v conversion; building more new supers and brood boxes as I double up again; cleaning out old boxes with the blow lamp (not the poly's); making new frames for new boxes (can anyone put a complete frame together in less than 30 seconds – a twitter social media challenge!) and finally frame dipping to strip off the final residuals in a hot bath of soda crystals and bleach. If anyone asks what does a beekeeper do in winter it seems there is more to do than in the active season. Not forgetting checking colonies for food supplies, winter varroa treatment, relocating hives for the new season and setting up new ones before things get going. I finally got the hang of the Thornes wax renderer and got a good system going of getting the steam up and flicking the cleared frames out after a few minutes and replacing with the next lot (8-10 frames at a time). They only took a few minutes to melt leaving the wire and any wax moth mush or old brood cells to clear off later. I managed to get around 55lbs of wax for either exchange or conversion, neither of which I had done before.

As I had over the 50lbs threshold I could get a better exchange rate at Thornes. I called upon the services of Maurice Jordan for advice and we went up to Thornes together with a combined wax volume of over 74 lbs. I did not know the difference between exchange or conversion and had just considered exchange only. Maurice then pointed out the error in my ways and said conversion was better – for a few pence for the melt down and rewire the sheet rate was considerably more advantageous – and boy was he right! It was two trolleys back to the van. Yes it had cost a bit for the conversion costs and when I got back I spent some time working it all out on an excel spreadsheet to see how the costs worked. You most definitely are better off by 25% on the conversion, I had to work it all out to believe it. I hadn't planned to have so many packs of super foundation and of course I will need the the corresponding frames and time to put them all together. But a nice problem to have.

I have built all the new boxes for the next season and am working through the frame building at the moment leaving the foundation out until its needed, I don't think I will go short!

I did a round of stores checking and Oxybee squirting all seemed to go well although applying the liquid through a syringe was a bit tricky at times especially getting the right dosage in the right place. A couple of overwintered polynucs are expanding already I may have to add some space to them on the next visit.

I am off to Neil Pont's dipping tanks this Friday (31st Jan) with around 30 boxes of super and brood frames plus some queen excluders for the boiling pot of washing soda and bleach. Not experienced this before so should be interesting. Then there is any final frame clean up and stacking back into scorched boxes ready for wax foundation at the right moment in the season. It's been a very busy month with a continuation into February of more of the same.

On Association matters we have the AGM at the front end of the Nottingham Regional meeting next Monday. We have a number of vacancies to fill which I believe are in hand. Let's hope for a better turnout than at previous AGM events.

Griff Dixon Hon Secretary NBKA (honsec@nbka.email)

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This month in your apiary: February

Penny Forsyth

February can be a difficult month for our bees: they are expecting the weather to improve as the day length increases and the queen will have started to increase her laying rate accordingly, but we often experience our most variable and extreme weather conditions in the shortest month of the year. As has become the norm in recent years a succession of volatile weather fronts has brought strong winds and gales, persistent and often heavy rain, frost and fog yet the winter so far has been relatively mild and my bees have been very active- nice to see but worrying, too. So, what will February bring? With the onset of more seasonal cold weather our bees should finally form their winter cluster but stores will be depleted and their unseasonal foraging activity may well have reduced the life expectancy of the winter bees- increased vigilance is needed now. As the brood nest expands the workers need to generate more heat and to maintain it, and this they do mostly by shivering their powerful wing muscles- a high-energy activity that requires a good level of stores to maintain it. The foraging bees will be out collecting pollen and nectar from early plants such as snowdrop, crocus, aconite, hellebore, mahonia- not forgetting those vital pollen providers hazel, willow, alder and blackthorn. These foragers are the winter bees, the workers that hatched in the previous autumn and remained in the hive conserving their strength until called on to provision and care for at least two brood cycles (at least six weeks of house bee work) when the queen starts to lay and the colony begins to expand. If these bees are not healthy they will be unable to complete their tasks before they die and the colony will have great difficulty surviving through to spring- good varroa management and feeding are the key here. If your hives are light, then feed fondant or candy- directly on top of the frames in an emergency. Examination of the varroa floor insert will show the rate of uncapping of stores and will also show you the position of the cluster. This is the time of year when isolation starvation becomes a risk if there is a prolonged cold spell and the cluster becomes too torpid to move to better provisions. If you suspect this has happened then it is better to briefly open the hive and move full frames next to the cluster than to do nothing at all. In an emergency you can lightly spray the bees with warmed sugar syrup and pour more syrup into an empty comb.

Jobs for February

- ~ check hives for damage from the weather, livestock or pests

- ~ make sure entrances are not blocked by dead bees, snow or debris

- ~ on mild days check if bees are flying- do they look ok? any streaks of dysentery on the woodwork? is pollen going in?

- ~ keep on hefting to check the weight of stores and feed candy if necessary

- ~ seal the entrances of any dead hives until you can take them away to investigate the cause- disease can be spread through robbing

- ~ if the weather is benign you may want to take the opportunity to remove and replace solid floors or brush clean open mesh floors- easier with help

- ~ keep your eyes peeled for signs of Asian hornet nests and early emerging queens

- ~ check stored drawn comb for wax moth damage

~ check the state of your equipment- you'll soon be needing it!

~ keep on reading and studying, maybe register for the Basic Assessment or Modules

Nottingham Region Meeting

Bob Logan

Our next meeting is **Monday 3rd February 2020**

It is the AGM of the NBKA. There will be no entrance fee for the evening. This is also when we distribute the cups and trophies for the year.

Our speaker for the evening will be Dhonn Atkinson, our Regional Bee Inspector, who will be talking about **Adult bee diseases**.

Unfortunately our last speaker David Kemp couldn't make it owing to ill health. We will book David for another night during the year.

See you there

Kitchen Support Team February

Diane Kidger

Adrian Kennedy

Martyn Nisbet

Nottingham Region Meeting: Monday 6 January 2020

Karen Burrow

The guest speaker, David Kemp, who was going to give a talk on Brother Adam, was unwell and unable to attend. In his place Alec stepped in to talk about queens.

He started on '**How to find the queen**'.

- use a minimum of smoke - it disrupts the normal action of a colony
- check the underside of crown board, or excluder (just in case)
- give yourself plenty of space, remove the outer frames (check, but usually stores)
- go through the frames methodically
- check for eggs being laid
- look on the dark side first (queen will move towards the dark)
- always manipulate the frames over the hive (in case queen is dislodged)
- be systematic in searching the comb

If you still can't find her

- remove 2 or 3 frames (to a nuc) and space the 8 remaining into pairs, then leave for a few minutes and the queen should move to the dark side of one of the pairs

- if all else fails, you could sieve through an excluder (but probably not recommended!)

Finding an unmarked queen

- move the hive 10 yards from normal position
- place an 'alternative' hive in normal position for the flying bees
- go through the 'depleted' hive
- mark the queen and reunite (or introduce new queen if required)

Alec also discussed some of the reasons for failing queens, which included:

- poor nurture when a larva
- late development from worker cell larva
- poor mating
- low number of drones
- low sperm count
- brother drone mating
- damaged

He then talked about Queenless colonies

- usually the fault of the beekeeper

Signs of loss of queen

- irritability
- colony less organised
- no eggs or open brood
- pollen stores covered by honey

Possible solutions

- introduce frame of eggs and young open brood - to allow production of emergency queen cells
- unite with another colony

Janet talked about exams and assessments and specifically the 'Honey Bee Health' certificate, which is a practical based test for beekeepers with min 3 years experience and is a good bridge between the Basic and General Husbandry exams. Costs £40.

Newark Region

Penny Forsyth

We had a good turnout for a cold January evening and the conversation was lively. Two of our members had participated in last year's National Honey Survey and had brought their results to share, which generated a great deal of interest. They had submitted honey samples from two apiaries just a few miles apart and the data clearly reflected the different forage varieties visited by their bees, including some that they were unaware existed in either locality such as poppy and lime- only going to prove that bees will travel some distance to a source of forage. A surprising omission from the findings was oilseed rape even though both apiaries had been surrounded by it in the spring. Other brassicas were listed and not known to be grown locally, leading to a conclusion that the local farmers may have been growing earlier varieties whose pollens were dissimilar; several of us had noticed that the odd batch of OSR honey was considerably grainier than we were used to and it was the tendency of early OSR honeys to set like gritty concrete that drove some beekeepers to give up in the 1960's- a taste of things to come perhaps? A look at the national results in Beecraft showed an interesting omission: lime, a seasonal mainstay for us in north Nottinghamshire. Lime trees, often companion-planted with sweet chestnut, are a feature of the Dukeries of north Nottinghamshire, forming magnificent avenues and groves: the lime tree avenue at Clumber Park is the longest in Europe. Many of our villages are also graced with these splendid trees: bees love lime and our customers certainly love the honey.

Another topic was the upcoming AGM, this year to be hosted by Nottingham Region in Arnold on a regular Monday meeting evening, meaning extra distance and travelling time for those of us who live in the north of the region. The decision is unpopular but it has been made in the hope that members who have stayed away in the past may find the AGM to be worth their attention in the future. One lives in hope.....

Bees Abroad

Anne & Rob Mason

'Anne's 'Honey Pot Challenge'

In April 2020, Bees Abroad will be celebrating 21 years of relieving poverty through beekeeping.



The monies raised will be used to support a honey enterprise in a remote rural community in the Sierra Leone rainforest. With a population in poor health, the average life expectancy is only 60 years (only 5 countries in the world are lower) and added to this, the level of poverty means a per capita GDP of \$1,490 (only 14 countries have lower).

The bee farming project is based in Barri Chiefdom, Pujehun District in the East of Sierra Leone. At present the only honey that can be purchased in Sierra Leone is "hunted honey". This not only results in poor quality honey but also the destruction of bee colonies. The project supported by Bees Abroad and Rory's Well has already provided training, sited over 400 hives and established the processing of both hygienic honey and wax.



The next and most important step is to establish a route to market for the honey and other 'value-added' products, with packaging being a key factor. Packaging honey requires:

- A supply of pots (6oz, 8oz, and 16oz)
- A manual device to measure out the required volume/weight of honey. Electric devices that do this are available but the country's electricity supply is not reliable.
- A supply of professionally printed labels

We have suppliers for 1 and 3, and we are contacting a number of companies that fabricate devices that fill pots with similar foodstuffs. This is very much a start-up and once a route to market is established any surplus will be re-invested into supplies for the next and bigger honey harvest. Our initial budget is £1,500.

In order to help Neil Brent (the Bees Abroad voluntary project manager) with the honey processing side of this project, I have come up with the 'Honey Pot Challenge' in which I hope to raise over £1000 by April 2021. At the NBKA AGM on Monday 3rd February I will be giving out honey pots that can be used to collect silver coins (each pot as shown will hold at least 21 fifty pence pieces – hint hint!)

Please give generously "Jars of Money enable Pots for Honey!"

Bees Abroad is a registered charity in the UK No: 1108464



Ever thought about becoming a charity trustee? We are searching for two. Interested? For full details of the roles and responsibilities please email info@beesabroad.org.uk

Turkish beekeepers risk life and limb to make mad honey



It is no surprise that a substance powerful enough to take out 1,000 battle-hardened mercenaries of the Roman republic has been the subject of fascination for millennia. Stories cataloguing the delights and the dangers of *deli bal*, or Turkish “mad honey”, crop up throughout history.

Pompey the Great was admired and feared throughout the ancient world, but an early misadventure with mad honey near the modern-day Black Sea city of Trabzon almost derailed his entire career.

The Roman general was pursuing the army of Mithridates VI in 97BC when in a stroke of military genius the Greco-Persian king ordered his troops to place bowls of the locally produced honey in the path of the advancing Romans. Three detachments of soldiers fell upon it, becoming delirious or fainting as they succumbed to its psychedelic effects. Mithridates’ troops returned to find Pompey’s men incapacitated and proceeded to slaughter the lot of them.

Mad honey is still produced in small quantities by beekeepers in the Kaçkar mountains above the Black Sea, the only place in the world other than the foothills of the Himalayas where indigenous species of rhododendrons produce a potent neurotoxin called grayanotoxin. If bees feed on enough rhododendron nectar, the mud-red honey they produce has a sharp scent, bitter taste – and for human consumers, a potential high. A small spoonful on its own or with hot water or boiled milk is enough to induce a mildly hallucinogenic or euphoric state. It is normally taken before breakfast as a traditional treatment for hypertension, impotence and a number of other conditions.

Eighteenth-century Europeans called it *miel fou*, importing it from the Ottomans to add to ale for an extra buzz. More recent versions of mad honey have popped up in western popular culture in Matt Groening’s *Futurama* and the 2009 film *Sherlock Holmes*.

Too much, however, can reduce blood pressure to potentially dangerous levels and induce nausea, fainting, seizures, arrhythmia and in rare cases, death. Dozens of people a year are admitted to hospital in [Turkey](#) for mad honey poisoning.

Dr Abdullah Paksoy, 27, who moved to the Black Sea village of Findıklı three months ago, said he had never heard of mad honey or its toxic effects before he was briefed by new colleagues on the symptoms and treatment – usually a saline infusion or a shot of adrenaline and careful monitoring until the patient’s heart rate and blood pressure returns to normal. “It’s very popular stuff here. I was surprised,” he said. “I haven’t tried it yet myself.”

Even harvesting mad honey can be dangerous. [Hasan Kutluata](#), 48, grew up on the humid mountainous slopes around the Black Sea, where conditions are perfect for cultivating the tea

the area is famous for as well as the rhododendrons needed to produce mad honey. His father taught him how to make traditional lindenwood beehives and secure them on the branches of trees, which is hazardous enough work in itself. Kutluata has shimmied up and down more trees than he could possibly count in 30 years and is proud to say he has never fallen. He has, however, been attacked by a bear.

“I survived by shoving my arm down its throat, cutting off its oxygen, while shouting for help,” he said, showing the red scars that still mark his hands and left leg.

Kutluata’s mad honey harvest is worth defending. Only a small fraction of honey produced in the area is pure and potent enough to justify the name and a kilogram of the best stuff can sell for up to 2,000 lira (£260). Many shops in the region now sell jars of mad honey to a growing number of foreign tourists, but the quality is not guaranteed.

Turkey’s Black Sea region was also for a long time a major centre for the production of hemp, which Kutluata says the bees enjoyed and which added depth and complexity to the local honey. Farming the plant was banned for decades under anti-narcotics legislation, but is set to make a comeback as the government searches for ways to boost Turkey’s beleaguered economy.

Kutluata is looking forward to experimenting. On a bright December day at his new workshop, a bone-shaking 20-minute drive on mountain tracks above the village of Yaylacılar, he and his wife, Emine, are checking on the sleepy winter bees, debating whether to move some of the hives to a north-facing side of the mountain.

“Beekeeping up here is very hard work,” he said. “But there is a lot of satisfaction in getting it right. There is always something new to learn.

“For example, my new workshop has a drawbridge to the top floor rather than stairs, to keep the bears out.

“People in the village call me Hasan the strangler now,” he said. “But I’ll be damned if I’m ever fighting a bear again.”

*Additional reporting by Gökçe Saraçoğlu
From The Guardian, 16 January 2020*

New weapon against the Asian hornet

Dr Xesús Feás from the University of Santiago de Compostela and his research team have been successful in creating a new weapon against the Asian hornet. The Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) should be a worrying concern for all, not just beekeepers, because this invasive species is a predator of various insects including pollinator insects. It is a fast spreading, highly aggressive predator. It has the ability to cause significant losses to honey bee colonies and potentially other native species and has been identified as a high-risk non-native species due to their threat to native biodiversity.



Dr Xesús Feás is a scientific researcher with a keen interest in the observation of the invasive Asian hornet and has been investigating methods for controlling the species. Recently the team have been successful in producing the Asian hornet’s sexual pheromones and has started testing in the Channel Islands.

Dr Feás is a member of The Velutina Task Force of COLOSS Association and gave a talk in March 2019 at the University degli Studi di Torino on *Vespa velutina* and other invasive invertebrates species. He also gave a lecture for the British Beekeepers' Association at Harper Adams University in April 2019 entitled "The Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*): an exotic predator in Europe. What does the future hold?" where he discussed his work and recent research conducted by Wen, Ping et al. that showed evidence for *Vespa velutina* gyne-produced sex attractant pheromones that mediate attraction of males.



About the Asian hornet

The Asian hornet is naturally distributed in Southeast Asia, India and China, however it was first detected outside of their native range in South Korea during 2003 and later in France in 2004. It is soon to be recognized as a Pan-European threat, later being detected in other areas (Spain in 2010, Portugal in 2011, Belgium in 2011, Italy in 2012, Germany in 2014, Netherlands in 2018, Majorca in Balearic Islands in 2015 and England and Channel Islands in 2016). Much of the feeding of the Asian hornet colonies is based on bees and other insects, and although the impact they may have on the wild insect population is still unknown, it has become a major threat to beekeeping and to the pollination service. However it is not only an issue for beekeepers. Other productive sectors (forestry, fruit growing and viticulture) human health and social activities, both in rural areas and cities, have been affected to a greater or lesser extent. Although the destruction of nests is the most effective measure to control the expansion and damage of the species, one of the most used methods at present is the trapping of specimens, based on the placement of entomological traps, which also allows collect information to know the presence, distribution and evolution of the species.

Sex pheromone lure

Insect pheromones are used as messengers that affect the insect behaviour. One of them are the Sex Pheromones, to attract adults of the opposite sex for mating. Insect pheromone is famous of its high efficiency, non-toxicity, no pollution, no harm insects and other advantages. Pheromones can be used to control different lives phases of pests in the following aspects:

Monitoring: detecting the presence of the mating period, indicating the level of infestation and evaluating the most suitable treatment and application time.

Mass trapping: capturing the highest number of insects in a trap to reduce or eliminate damages caused.

Mating disruption: impeding the encounter between both sexes by creating an atmosphere. In normal mate location, the female releases pheromone and the males flies towards the source. In mating disruption, pheromone is released from dispensers that act as false sources, or pheromone is released at such a high rate that the male is disoriented or unable to detect the pheromone plume of the calling female.

Find out more: If you would like to find out more information about this research, please contact Professor Feás and his team.

www.vespavelutina.co.uk

[Scientific research on the invasive *Vespa velutina* Asian hornet](#)

Wisbech bees killed by 'morons' in hive attack

Two vandals branded "braindead morons" have been captured on CCTV attacking the hives of endangered bees.

Conservationists believe as many as 10,000 rare bees may have died in the attack at Wisbech Castle, Cambridgeshire. The hives were established in the castle grounds last July in a bid to boost numbers of British black bees. A police spokeswoman called the attack a "cruel, unprovoked and completely unnecessary act of violence."

CCTV footage, captured at about 05:15 GMT on 8 January, showed two people breaking into the castle grounds and lifting the lids off the hives, before kicking them and attacking the bees inside with sticks, police said.

Steve Tierney, a councillor who chairs the [Wisbech Castle Project](#), said on Facebook that the castle had been targeted by vandals before, but that "ridiculous and counterproductive heritage rules" prevented stronger security measures, such as wall spikes and anti-climb paint. Describing the culprits as "braindead morons", he said: "We had to make sure the bees were settled, and they've been doing well - but importantly they cannot be disturbed over the winter months.

"These two people scaled the wall and went through black bin bags before smashing the lid off one of the hives. "They ran off and returned, setting about smashing them up. They may have been stung and came back for revenge."

PC Kirsty Hulley, of Cambridgeshire Police, said castle staff were "devastated" by the attack.

"They estimate as many as 10,000 rare bees have died, but are unable to check properly until March as further exposure to the cold air would kill the remaining bees. "It will cost the museum around £2,000 to restart the project in the spring."



The native [black bee](#) was once [considered to be extinct in Britain](#), but is hardier and darker than its European cousin, according to the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA).

BBC News

Recipe of the month

Linda Jordan

Theresa's Honey Marmalade

2lb (1 kg) Seville oranges

2 pints (1 litre) water

1½ lb (600g) honey

2½ lb (1.2 kg) sugar

Knob of butter

Wash the fruit, cut oranges in half and extract the flesh. Peel and finely chop the skins. Place in a pressure cooker with 1 pint (500 ml) of water and pips tied in muslin. Cook for 20 minutes at 10lb pressure.

Open the pan, add 1 pint (500 ml) water, the sugar and honey. Stir until sugars have dissolved, then boil rapidly until setting point is reached (use a jam thermometer or test a teaspoonful for set on a cold saucer, it will wrinkle when pushed)

Remove from the heat, stir in the knob of butter to disperse foam.

Leave to stand for 5 minutes then stir to mix in peel before bottling.

Beelines: notices, news and views**From Richard de Bruijn, Dutch Beekeepers' Association**

Hello Beekeepers

My name is Richard de Bruijn and I am the image editor (beeldredacteur) and photographer for the magazine 'Bijenhouden' (Beekeeping) for the Dutch Beekeepers Association. When I visit a region abroad I will always look if there is a beautiful place, spot or rooftop with bees to take pictures of for our magazine. I will be in Nottingham for a couple of days for a wedding of friends. It is March 6 - 9. I know it is early in the bee season but when the weather is sunny, they will fly. I can send you some examples of photos I took abroad for the magazine, only I cannot enclose images in this message. But just let me know if you are willing to cooperate. Thank you, with regards, Richard de Bruijn Email beeldredacteur@bijenhouders.nl

From Janet Bates, MB, Membership Secretary**Reminder to renew your NBKA membership**

If you haven't had your membership receipt and certificate yet then you need to read this: it means that either you haven't paid your subs; or you have paid your subs but still have to complete the online renewal form; or you haven't done either. Memberships were due on 1st January. If you don't intend to renew it would be helpful to me if you could let me know so that we can remove your name from the database and the Beemaster list and Bob's meeting list.

If you have bees it is advisable to belong to the BBKA (included in full NBKA membership) so that you have the third party liability insurance that is included.
The BDI insurance included is for up to 3 colonies . Be aware that if your membership lapses and you renew or top up your colony cover after March you will not be covered for 40 days (the 40 day rule).

If you have any queries or you haven't received a renewal form yet then please contact me.

janet.bates@ntlworld.com

Thank you,

Janet Bates

Membership Secretary NBKA

From Janet Bates MB, NBKA Education Secretary

Bee Health Certificate

This is a new assessment from BBKA. To qualify to take it you need to have the Basic certificate and to have kept and managed bees for 3 years.

Have a look at the syllabus on the BBKA website.

I am planning to run a couple of theory sessions on this and then to do some practical training at the apiary when the weather has warmed up.

Applications need to be in by 28th February to BBKA

If you are interested in having a go at this assessment then contact me

janet.bates@ntlworld.com

More exam successes!

Our first module study group continue to work their way through the BBKA Module exams and the second group also had one member who sat the Module 1 in November 2019.

Congratulations to the following members:

Kevin Anderson- Module 7 Distinction

Karen Burrow- Module 7 Distinction

Susan Ford- Module 7 Credit

Adrian Kennedy- Module 7 Credit

Julie Porter- Module 1 Credit

Module Study Groups

You are invited to join and learn more about your bees and beekeeping.

The original study group have taken Module 7 so will be working on module 8 which can only be taken after the other modules have been taken (and passed). This means it is not suitable to start with although anybody is welcome to come along to the meetings.

The new module study group will be working on module 2. It is quite suitable for anybody to start with this module as they can be taken in any order (apart from 8).

The first meeting for module 2 is on 10th December. Please, do come along if you are interested (there is no obligation to take the exam).

The syllabus is on the BBKA website- it is on the products of the hive. The meeting is held in the meeting room at the big Tesco's in Hucknall at 7pm for a couple of hours.

Let me know if you would like to come along so that we can look out for you, 07973 412101. We meet at the customer service desk and go up to the room together.

NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team News

Current UK situation

There have been no further reports other than those already detailed this year. Asian hornet queens should be hibernating now: check sheds, garages, roofs of beehives, leaf litter. We need to be looking upwards: as the leaves have fallen there is a better chance of spotting nests in trees, especially in sycamore, birch and apple. On the ground you may see dead larvae which have been ejected and dead worker and drone adults- so..... **See it, Snap it, Send it!**

Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNS) <http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

Some worrying news from Reigate BKA concerning wasp activity : 'On our member site you may have seen a piece by Richard Ramsden about wasp activity around the Brockham and Buckland hives with signs of fighting while the hive entrances are vulnerable. This alarming increase in winter predation is likely due to the very mild weather we've had this year.

This increase in wasp attacks will not be the only challenge we face in 2020, 17 sightings of the Asian hornet were confirmed in 2019 and the hoped for cold snap has not yet happened meaning that any Asian hornet queens are more likely to survive the winter. Let's hope for a cold snap in January and remember to be vigilant as we head into spring.'

If you think you see an Asian hornet or nest be sure to report it immediately, preferably with a photo, via the Asian Hornet Watch app, downloadable for smartphones, or email details to: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk and please let me know pennyforsyth16@gmail.com If you have any queries about identification please send me a photo; the smart phone app has useful pictures.

Download the identification pdfs, laminate them and put them up in your apiary, on your allotment information board or local notice board.

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

Somerset BKA has produced some excellent information pdf's available to all: you can access them via the link on the AHAT website <https://ahat.org.uk>

Read up about traps and baits ready for next season- visit <https://ahat.org.uk>

If you have not already registered your apiary on Beebase then please do so now. If there is an Asian Hornet incursion in your area it is vital that every beekeeper can be located and contacted. When you register and record your apiary information you can also report whether or not you have AH traps in place. Follow the link below:

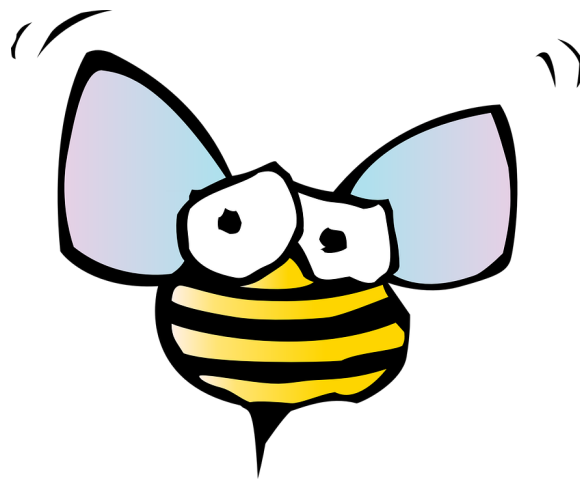
<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/login.cfm>

The NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team is now registered on the AHAT website and with the BBKA. I am currently registered as Coordinator with Pete Bull as North Notts contact and Alec Thomson the City and South Notts contact. We have a further 12 team members and between us we cover several postcodes but the aim is to provide a county-wide contact network ready to react to reports of possible Asian Hornet incursions into our region and to coordinate with the National Bee Unit, the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) and other BKAs **so we need more!** There is no limit to the number of members an AHAT may have so if you would like to be involved please contact me at pennyforsyth16@mail.com for information or if you wish to join the contacts register. There is excellent information and a set of guidelines on the AHAT website <https://ahat.org.uk>

BBKA Asian Hornet Conference: Saturday 8 February 2020 Myton School, Warwick

This is the first Asian Hornet Conference to be hosted by BBKA and is designed to bring together AH Co-ordinators from the regional BKAs to hear keynote speakers and discuss best practice. The speakers will be Professor Steven Martin on life history and current research; Dr. Xesus Feas on pheromone disruptor trials; Alistair Christie on the Jersey experience in 2019; Peter Kennedy on research in 2020; Nigel Semmence and Belinda Philipson on the NBU policy moving forward. Alec Thomson and I will attend on behalf of NBKA and will report back to members.

And finally..... good luck to our new editor, Stuart Humphreys!



it's been fun (mostly)

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BEEMASTER is published monthly. Contributions by 25th of previous month please to the Editor. Copy received after this date may have to be held over to the next **BEEMASTER**.

The Editor retains the right to amend submitted articles or to reject articles which appear, in her opinion, to be unsuitable. Items which do appear may not reflect the opinions of the Council of the NBKA.

EXTRACTORS

Members may borrow the NBKA extractors - 4-frame, hand driven kept at Brackenhurst and hired from Maurice Jordan. An electric one (with settling tank) is held by Glenis Swift 0115 9538617. The EasyBee extractor which is useful for extracting frames that hold honey that has granulated is held by Frank Chambers in Calverton (0115 965 2128).

ADVERTISEMENTS

NBKA accepts no responsibility for advertisements appearing in this newsletter. Please mention **BEEMASTER** when replying to advertisements.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Advertisements free to paid-up members but 10p per word – minimum charge £1 to non-members. Circulation approx 300 throughout the UK and abroad.

Short adverts may be paid for in First and Second Class postage stamps which should be sent directly to the Editor. Cheques should be made out to NBKA and sent to the Treasurer.

**This advertising space is available now
~ see above right for rates and terms**

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
3rd FEBRUARY 2020 – 7:30pm**

Eagles Nest Community Centre, Gedling Road, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6NZ

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM (Enclosed)**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Accounts for 2019 and Auditor appointment**
- 6. Subscriptions for 2021**
- 7. Election of Vice - President**
- 8. Election of Honorary Treasurer**
- 9. Election of Show Secretary**
- 10. Election of Two Council Members**
- 11. Presentation of Cups and Awards**
- 12. Any Other Business**
- 13. Date and Time of the next AGM**

Refreshments will be made available by Nottingham Region. There will be a raffle, proceeds in aid of Association funds- suitable prizes are very welcome.

Nominations are required for the election of officers shown in 8, 9, 10,11 and 12 above.

I Nominate _____

For the Office _____

Signature _____

Please note that the nominee's permission must be obtained before a nomination is made.

All Nominations must be in the hand of the Chairman before 7:30 pm on the day of the AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Nottinghamshire Beekeepers Association
Lowdham Village Hall NG14 7BD
Saturday February 2nd 2019 – 2:15pm

The Meeting was Chaired by David Chambers (DC) (President) with Council Members Andrew Barber (AB) (Chairman), Griff Dixon (GD) (Hon Sec), Chris Hutter (CH) (Hon Treasurer), Stuart Ching (SC) Archivist) and Alison Knox (AK) (Show secretary)

Only 32 out of 220 members were in attendance (15% of the Membership)

The President welcomed those members that had been able to attend to the meeting.

- Apologies for absence were received from Janet Bates, Alec Thomson and Pete Bull
- The Minutes of the AGM for 2018 had already been circulated and were accepted as a true record.
- There were no matters arising from the minutes other than a technical correction.
- The Chairman's report had already been circulated with the members being given time to read it through. DC thanked AB for the report and asked for any questions and was accepted as a true record.
- The accounts for 2018 were presented by the Honorary Treasurer who informed the membership that the Association had made a £71.47 loss last year. The Honorary Treasurer highlighted various pockets of money that was used for specific association purposes and mentioned that the Honorariums had increased for the first time in 25 years to bring it in line with a current valuation. The Honorary Treasurer mentioned that the subscription would remain the same for the next year. The President asked for any questions and the accounts were accepted as a true record. The President asked the Honorary Treasurer if the appointed auditor would continue for next year and it was affirmed.
- The President announced that Membership Subscriptions would be maintained at the same level as last year at £25. The Honorary Treasurer enquired if BDI were going to raise their capitation charge to which the Hon Sec replied that it did not seem likely. The President asked the members if they were happy with the subscription which was affirmed.
- Chris Hutter was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer
- Penny Forsyth was re-elected as Beemaster Editor although Penny drew to the meeting's attention that she may be leaving the area in the next year or so and will be seeking a replacement. The President enquired about an editor designate
- David Chambers was re-elected as Spray Secretary although this is now known as Agricultural Liaison.
- Janet Bates was unable to attend the AGM but by proxy was re-elected as Education Secretary
- There were no advance nominations for the two councillor vacancies, so the President asked for nominations from the meeting members that were present.

Robert Logan asked if the criteria and description of a Councillors role could be discussed. The President asked for him to provide this as a current Council member. The role involves 4 meetings a year and would assist in helping run the association with ideas and thoughts on how it could be improved. The Council agenda is put together by the Hon Sec based on things that require discussion based on the requirements of the BBKA, BDI and the running of the NBKA. Topics are debated with differing opinions with a general consensus being the way forward for the Association. It is the Governing Body for the NBKA. Geoff Curtis volunteered to continue beyond his 3-year term and was co-opted through Nottingham Region rather than as a direct member appointment. Susan Ford volunteered to become a Council member and was duly elected.

The President informed the meeting that he had received a nomination for a Vice President put forward by Andrew Barber. Alec Thomson was duly elected Vice President.

The awarding of Certificates could not be made as Janet Bates (Education Secretary) could not attend the AGM therefore the awards were postponed and will be distributed at another event.

- Stuart Ching, Archivist, addressed the members informing them that a list of Cup winners through the years was not something that was readily available, and he was compiling such a list for posterity and NBKA records.

The President received a list of the Award winners and read them out to the Members: -

Karen Burrow passed Module 1 with Credit, Module 3 with Distinction and Module 5 with Distinction

Sue Ford passed Module 3 and Module 5 with Credit

Rod Chapman passed Module 3

Kevin Anderson passed Module 3 with Credit

The President congratulated those members that passed the modules with the members showing their appreciation for their success.

The Presentation of Cups was introduced by Alison Knox and presented by Laney Birkhead.

The following awards were made: -

Moorgreen Cup	Best in Show for Annual Honey Show	Mary Carey Allwood
Fred Richardson Tankard	Best in Show for Autumn Honey Show	Mary Carey Allwood
Allan Lewis Memorial Trophy	Heather Honey (Cat 6 Jars)	Maurice Jordan
Herrod Hemsall Cup	Most Points for Honey, Beeswax & Mead	Martin Bowker
William Marshall Cup	Most Points in Wax classes 9 & 9A	Bob Logan

Albert Scoffins Cup	Most Points in Classes 11, 12 & 13	Jane Simpson
The Novice Trophy	Member <2 years Honey, Beeswax & Mead	Ben Wilson
Bartle Memorial Trophy	Granulated Honey at Autumn Show	Martin Bowker
NBKA Display Trophy	Best Display at Nominated Shows	Linda Jordan
Photography Cup	Best Photography for Bees & Beekeeping	Alec Thomson

In addition to the cup a hive tool engraved with the awarded cup notation was also presented to the successful member as a keepsake.

The President congratulated all the winners and Alison Knox for all her hard work.

Penny Forsyth presented an award to Ann Mason for being the most prolific contributor to the Beemaster Monthly Journal.

- Any other business - Penny Forsyth drew to the members attention the NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) had now been formed which was now officially registered and on call for any Asian Hornet sightings.
- The date and time for the next meeting would be Saturday February 1st 2:15pm at Lowdham Village Hall. **NOTE:- This has been Changed to Monday February 3rd 2020 at 7:30pm Eagle Nest Community Centre, Gedling Road, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6NZ**

The President Closed the meeting at 3:02pm

Tea and refreshments were provided which was followed by Laney Birkhead the Guest Speaker who gave a presentation, talk and film entitled "Swarm: A Creation of Many Hands" based on her exhibition "Swarm"

Griff Dixon Hon Sec
NBKA