



The Combings

www.ydbka.org.uk

*I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life,
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on my knife. (A Wag)*

Association News

At our regular monthly meeting in March, Rob Coleman announced that he had received only one call from a member wishing to go on the bus trip to Stoneleigh in April. A show of hands at the meeting indicated that he could not fill enough seats to make it worthwhile. On the strength of that showing it was decided to call the trip off.

At the Half Yearly General Meeting held at Murton in April it was announced from the Chair that our Regional Bee Inspector David Kemp had retired. Ivor Flatman who was our Seasonal Bee Inspector has taken his place. Ivor Flatman's job has been filled by Alan Johnston.

Alan announced that he will be standing down as Secretary at the AGM in October. We will therefore require one of you to take over. If you are interested then contact Alan or Chairman Tom Robinson.

The highlight of the evening was a personal one. At the last Committee Meeting it was decided to make me an Honorary Member of York Beekeepers. It was voted on and passed unopposed. It came as a complete surprise to me - I was at a loss for words. It is a great honour.

I started keeping bees in 1976 and joined York soon after that. The meetings then were held in Purey Cust Chambers. It was there that John Acheson took me under his wing and got me involved in Committee work, which in turn got me involved in setting up the Bee Pavilion (with others) at Murton and then running it for a period until my job was reorganised.

Since retiring I was on the Committee for a spell, was involved with the Honey Show and our auction. It was my idea to have a newsletter - "Combings" - that was six years ago and it is still going strong. Last year with David Aston we organised a "class" for those of you wishing to take your BBKA Basic Assessment. This was a success and will be run again this year.

In the March 2008 edition of "Combings" I asked for those of you wishing to take the BBKA Basic Assessment to contact David Aston or myself. If you are interested you have until Sunday 8 June to do so.

Kate Wallace sent me this e-mail addressed to Secretary Alan Johnston. It is dated Tue, 11 Mar 2008. It is self-explanatory.

A bee farmer, Alan Stonehouse, has purchased a bee farm near to Scarborough and is currently looking to buy in honey in 30lb buckets. If any members have such a surplus please contact Alan via the Secretary.

Kate also sent me another e-mail dated 26 March - again it self-explanatory.

I am e-mailing from a TV company called Celador Productions and am working on a new TV documentary series for Channel 4.

The programme will look at groups of people (friends and/or extended family) who are planning to pool their resources to buy a large house together. The idea being that things such as childcare, finances, working life and leisure time all becomes easier if they are shared. It also means people can live in an amazing house that they would otherwise not be able to afford on their own.

I thought that there might be some people who are passionate about beekeeping that might fit this bill - perhaps they are deciding to move to a place with more land in order to have more hives? Would you mind asking around for me at your next meeting to see if anyone knows someone doing this, or perhaps you would forward this email around your mailing list?

If there is anyone that is interested it would be great if you could pass on my details. I can be e-mailed on ljackson@celador.co.uk

Thanks so much for your time. Kind regards, Laura.

*Laura Jackson
Casting Producer
Celador Productions Limited
email: ljackson@celador.co.uk
web: www.celador.co.uk*

There is a general shortage of bees. If you find you have too many and wish to dispose of them, then contact Secretary Alan Johnston.

The following have joined York BKA. Please make them welcome.

Tony Edwards
David Farnsworth
Mark Halliday
Ed Rawlings
Sharon Ross
Jon Steel
Sharon Whittington

Editor's Musings

On a regular visit to my bees in mid March, I found one had been blown over. On my previous visit twenty days previous I had put a pail feeder on. That feeder was the right way up (perforations up) with nothing missing, which would indicate the hive had been upended soon after my last visit. So I was surprised to find two full frames of bees, a queen and a small patch of sealed brood.

In the previous three weeks we had had the usual mix of weather including a period of frost and a little snow. It does show how bees can survive the worst of conditions.

I had a 'phone call from a member a short while ago asking me what the water content of honey for sale should be. Do you know?

"The Beekeepers Quarterly" of December 2007 did a range of articles on varroa. One snippet that caught my eye stated that "at least 18 honey bee viruses have been identified so far".

I heard recently of a virus associated with acarine. I have no doubt that these viruses have been with us since bees were first invented, but has taken modern technology to identify them. Did the viruses associated with varroa come with the mite or were they lurking there all the time?

The Vernal Equinox was something to look forward to after what seemed to have been an interminable winter – the first spikes of rape are in flower – the flowering currant is also ready to burst out (we are taught that when the flowering currant is in bloom, then it is warm enough to look through our bees) – bumble bees are flying - and what do we get - strong winds and two inches of snow!

We all know that varroa has a predilection for drone brood. It has a longer period after capping, allowing

female mites to produce more offspring. What I didn't know is that with *Apis cerana* from where our varroa originated, it is only drone brood that is infested by varroa.

With our bees *Apis mellifera* both worker and drone cells are used for breeding. Putting a frame of drone based foundation into a hive will attract varroa mites to it. When it is capped you cut out the brood and the varroa with it. It stands to reason that if you don't cut out the drone brood before emergence, you will have an explosion of varroa.

I use a variation of that system – instead of a frame of drone based foundation, I use a shallow frame with worker foundation in my brood box. The bees draw drone comb from the bottom bar and once sealed it is cut off and the frame replaced. This system works well until the colony stops producing drones.

Half a dozen York members went to the Lincoln auction. I have been told that it was well organised – it would have to be as there were over 500 lots for sale. The top price paid for bees was £250, with the rest going for between £150 and £220. NUC's were selling for over £100.

An auction at Malton on the 24 April was also well attended by York members. A colony of bees with brood on six frames went for £270. 200 other lots went up for sale.

There is a general shortage of bees, probably due in part to last season being so poor for getting queens mated.

I got my first call of the year to "Come and look at some bees under a tree in my garden" on 24 April. They were solitary bees nest building with the characteristic volcano like mounds of earth. I sat and watched them once – the queen left her nest and within a few minutes was back with a load of pollen. She flew unerringly to her nest entrance even though there were a couple of dozen close by all looking the same.

I always keep an eye open for the arrival of the first swallow – it gives me a psychological fillip – summer is here! This year they were late arriving on the 1 May. Summer was complete on the 6 May when swifts and martins arrived accompanied by the smell of someone's barbeque!

I had my first swarm on the 6 May – it was a beauty hanging from the end of a branch and easy to collect. Normally I would have cursed on seeing it. This year, with bees being in short supply, I was happy to see it hanging there.

David Aston asked me to use one of the Hungarian Rotary Hives he had been given to evaluate. You will have read about them in "The Beekeepers Quarterly". They have circular combs in a cradle which is turned by a battery driven electric motor at one side. To get to the frames you have to take the back off, remove a spring loaded bar that is part of the cradle cum frame spacer. To do this and all other manipulations, you are working on your knees and I find it a chore. Consequently I think twice before I look in.

I had been through all my colonies and could not find any excuse now for not looking through the rotary hive. I knew it was strong as I had put a second super on only a couple of days previous, so was not entirely surprised to see this swarm hanging there.

All I can say in favour of this rotary hive is that it is well made, otherwise I do not have a good word for it.

Winter Losses

I have heard that winter losses have been high this year – nationwide – as high as 60%. Within the York Association I hear of two members, one losing half and the other losing three quarters of their overwintering colonies.

EFB is still being found in our area, so be vigilant. Two York members have had EFB confirmed this year so far. If you have any doubts, call the Seasonal Bee Inspector. Don't leave it – it won't go away.

BBKA Petition – HELP!

This means you!

You'll all have had a copy of the BBKA Petition seeking increased funding from the government for research into beekeeping and diseases in particular. I don't normally do petitions but this one is different. It's a rare chance to do something for bees. And don't they need it. Now.

Our national leaders are making all the right noises but if the politicians are going to take any notice we have got to hit hard. I'm afraid they don't really rate bees. That means signatures on petition forms (thousands of them), letters to MPs and using the media. It can be done. Only last week (as I write) it was The Times (newspaper). Yesterday, the One Show on BBC1. Excellent coverage of some of our current troubles, on both. One of our own members took forms to Beverley market last week and got several hundred signatures. Good for him!

So, get out your petition form, duplicate it and hawk it round. You're most unlikely to be rebuffed. You're more likely to be thanked, you'll find. As soon as a sheet is full, send it in so that the BBKA can publish running totals and keep up the pressure.

I've spoken personally to both the Chairman and Secretary of the BBKA - and to our own David Aston - and am quite satisfied they know what they are doing and are determined to

- promote relevant fields of research
- pinpoint competent research teams
- seek Research Council funding

Next I'm going to ask them to produce really good A3 placards so that beekeepers can take to the streets (why should The Big Issue do it all?). And, while I'm about it, I'm going to suggest a national "Save the Honey Bee Day", when we all take to the streets - just the kind of thing the press, radio and TV will pick up.

So far, it's only me making a fuss. I had hoped our own Committee might throw its weight behind a campaign and push it up first to the Yorkshire BKA and thence to the BBKA. But, as of now, I'm told no Committee meeting is planned till the autumn - so it's up to us, individual members, to do the business.

Bill Bell taught me about bees, 30 years ago. Since then so much has changed, most of it for the worse and most of it caused by man. It's surely up to us now to help the bees, because no-one else will. It's not pleasant but we have got to make waves. Now. This is our Big Issue - isn't it?

Dick Gardner
Thursday 17 April 2008

Dick sent me this follow up piece on Wednesday 14 May.

BBKA Honeybee Health Campaign

I've badgered the BBKA suggesting a national "Save Our Honey Bees" campaign, an issue of BBKA campaign tee-shirts, professionally designed placards, trade sponsorship and (next year now) a sponsored BBKA London Marathon team - so that we could raise our own research funding. I've personally so far sent off 240 petition signatures to the BBKA. I've got a quote for YDBKA tee-shirts (white lettering on black) for a local campaign. Chris Robinson tells me that Tom Robinson already has some - now, I believe, at Murton - and is already in touch with the local media.

The York Farmers' Market at Murton will be held on 17 May, 21 June, 19 July and 16 Aug (all Saturdays). There are others in other centres (eg Malton). In York there will be street markets in Parliament Street from 9 to 4 on the last Friday of every month (ie 30 May, 27 June, 25 July and 29 August). By covering these we could get literally thousands of signatures.

I think the YDBKA should now launch a definite campaign, in two parts:

1. Take the BBKA Petition to the public at these markets, wearing YDBKA tee-shirts;
2. Simultaneously engage the local media: press, radio and TV. Years ago, when I was YDBKA Treasurer and Press Officer I wrote many articles for the Press, one with a wonderful photo of Barry Potter and me showing off some enormous combs we'd taken, with the help of William Birch's biggest cherry-picker and a dodgy step ladder (what price Health and Safety now?), from a very high chimney along Tadcaster Road and I started a monthly live broadcast with Radio York but one instalment got fatally interrupted by a very cross neighbour, livid at the van parked in "her" way. I always found the media - and the public - very supportive.

I'm personally tied up every Saturday from 9.30 to 12.30 and being now long-retired am generally very heavily committed(!) So, while I'm prepared to carry on as I have been and to take part in a YDBKA Campaign, I think the Committee should now take this on board. The DEFRA Honey Bee Health Strategy, which you can download from their website, is a brilliant piece of drafting but, in terms of actual benefit to honey bees as of now, gets nowhere and commits no-one to anything.

So, as usual, it's mainly up to us. What do you all think?

An easy way of monitoring varroa to see if treatment is needed - Ann Harman

1. Take a wide mouthed jar or plastic beaker. Then fix a lid with a piece of screen wire of a hole size that the bees cannot pass through -- about 0.5 or 0.7 cm square holes.
2. Scoop about 300 bees from the comb into the jar. Put lid on.
3. Dump two table spoons powdered sugar through screen wire.
4. Shake, shake and shake. Then shake the sugar out onto some light-coloured or white surface and look for the brownish varroa crawling stickily about.
5. Count varroa.
6. Put powdered bees back into their hive. Clean and dry the jar.

It's so easy and no bees are killed so it has become the number one test here in the US.

Editors note: To get the required number of bees, you will want a large matchbox - the size that "Cooks Matches" come in. Two thirds/three quarters open your match box, then draw the open part of the matchbox close too and along the face of the comb. When the box is full you will have plenty of bees to run this test. An alternative is to shake a frame of bees into a large bowl, then scoop or pour them out of the bowl into your jar. It goes without saying that the queen does not want to be part of your sample.

The Oldest Known Bee

The ancient insect, trapped in tree sap, is at least 35-45 million years older than any other known bee fossil. It appears to share features with both bees and wasps, and supports theories of bee evolution. Experts believe pollen-dependent bees arose from carnivorous wasp ancestors. With the arrival of polli-

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A map showing our location is available at www.hrbka.org.uk

nating bees, flowering plants blossomed on Earth. Prior to 100 million years ago, the plant world was dominated by conifers which spread their seeds on the wind.

George Poinar, Professor of Zoology at Oregon State University, US, whose team reported their discovery in the journal *Science*, said: *"This is the oldest known bee we've ever been able to identify, and it shares some of the features of wasps. But overall it's more bee than wasp, and gives us a pretty good idea of when these two types of insects were separating on their evolutionary paths."*

The amber specimen, from a mine in the Hukawng Valley of northern Burma, has been named *Melittosphex burmensis*. It has waspish features, such as narrow hind legs, but also branched body hair and other characteristics of bees. The fossil bee is in remarkable condition, with individual hairs preserved on undamaged portions of thorax, legs, abdomen and head. Legs and wings are also clearly visible.

In terms of size it is tiny, measuring barely 3mm across. This is consistent with evidence that some of the earliest flowers were also small.

Professor Poinar added: *"This fossil may help us understand when wasps, which were mostly just meat-eating carnivores, turned into bees that could pollinate plants and serve a completely different biological function."*

There are now around 20,000 species of bees, which use pollen to feed their young.

Neighbours and the Law

This is a clipping in Thorne's "Beekeepers News" that has been buried on my desk for the last ten years and has just surfaced again. It is just as relevant today.

"Until recent times it was held that a dog was entitled to one bite because the owner did not know that it was vicious until it had bitten someone. The principle might be extended to bees on the grounds that the bee had never stung anyone before. Not now. The law has changed and the general public is more litigious and urban minded. There is little sympathy for animals that are not cuddly or in some way appealing.

The two factors which might be tested should a beekeeper be sued are negligence and nuisance. If a beekeeper is shown to be negligent and causes damage to others, he is liable because he has failed in his duty of care. For example a beekeeper who boasts that his bees are great honey producers but are fierce little savages is negligent if he keeps them where other people or animals are likely to be stung.

Another example is that a beekeeper who keeps his bees with the hive entrance facing a neighbour's garden is negligent in law if anyone who is in the neighbour's garden is stung. In yet another example a beekeeper that opens his hives when improperly prepared eg having forgotten his smoker, and arouses the bees to sting is negligent in law. Moving a colony of aggressive bees away from the area may reduce negligence.

If bees are soiling your neighbour's property, eg windows or washing, causing a loss reasonable enjoyment of his house and garden and, once again, stinging, you may be guilty of causing a nuisance and, once again be liable for damages. It is possible to cause a nuisance and be negligent at the same time. A criteria is reasonableness. If the hives are of reasonable number, in a reasonable place with bees of reasonable temper and handled with reasonable competence, the beekeeper should not be at fault in law.

Swarms are normally the property of the beekeeper from whose hives they came whilst they are kept in sight, but following or collecting a swarm is not an excuse for trespass. If a swarm hangs up in your neighbour's garden and you are refused entry you have no redress. If you enter without permission you are committing a trespass. Furthermore if your neighbour, whilst unfriendly to you, is friendly with another beekeeper and invites him to take the swarm he may do so. Once the other beekeeper has taken what was your swarm the bees are "reduced into his possession" and become his. You have no further claim on them in law.

What is the Beekeeper to do?

The best advice is that he must be reasonable and avoid negligence *or* nuisance. Public sympathy is not with the beekeeper and the pig-headed beekeeper who insists on stirring up his bees on a sultry day when neighbours are gardening or sunbathing is guilty in law and may bring contumely, or worse, on us all. Keep on good terms with neighbours with timely gifts of honey. Never forget that if you are taken to court the chance of your case being heard by a beekeeping judge is three times worse than your chance of winning a prize in the national lottery!"

Editors note. I believe that by taking BBKA examinations, it shows your competency in beekeeping, and could be of help in such a situation. (Then if you are competent, you would not get into such a situation in the first place.)

Kate Wallace sent me this e-mail regarding a bee sting survey.

Sting Allergy Survey

This was first hinted at in the last BBKA News and is now ready to proceed. The survey is conducted via a specialised web site and takes very little time. Go to the BBKA website to find the direct link to the survey. Currently the link is on the 'News/Current News' pages.

You do not have to give your name and the survey is subject to all the ethical controls of any medical study. A more complete article will appear in BBKA News as soon as possible, as will the results later in the year.

Please respond if you are a beekeeper, the survey is not just about severe reactions to stings, it is trying (in part) to establish the extent of this among our community so ALL RESULTS ARE IMPORTANT.

The information below is from the researchers.

Can we sting you for some help?

All UK beekeepers are invited to take part in a nationwide survey. Doctors at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital have designed an easy to complete web-based questionnaire to establish, for the first time, how common bee venom allergy is in the UK beekeeping community and how historically it has been managed. The survey takes 5-7 minutes to complete and the link that appears at the end of this paragraph will take you straight to the survey.

If you would like more information about bee venom allergy the next BBKA news has an article with all the ins and outs of this often frustrating problem for some beekeepers.

Thank you all in advance for agreeing to take part in this bee venom survey, your responses are greatly valued and time appreciated.

*Dr A Richter and Dr MT Krishna
Department of Immunology and Allergy
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital*

Reducing Bee Stings

There is a paper like product on the market used in tumble driers to reduce static build up and to make clothes smell nice – it is called "Bounce".

Recently I was given a list of twenty two things you can do with "Bounce" other than put it into your tumble drier.

One of them was addressed to golfers who should put a sheet of "Bounce" in their back pockets "to keep bees away". Taking that a stage further, if beekeepers where to put a sheet in each pocket will they ever get stung!

One of you try it and tell me if it works.

Kate Wallace sent me a second contribution - this cutting from Devon Beekeepers magazine "Beekeeping"

In the July/August 2007 edition of "The Ecologist" magazine, someone, described by the magazine as "Local Hero" says this:- "Hygiene control in the (UK Beekeeping) industry is the worst in the world" and "60% of BBKA members are operating in a totally illegal manner" and "For every good amateur beekeeper there's thousands that shouldn't be allowed to keep goldfish, let alone bees." and "We are the last Western country that allows unlicensed beekeeping"

He also blames amateur beekeepers for misusing varroa treatments and causing resistance. If you can get hold of a copy of "The Ecologist" I suggest you read it.

As the writer says these are "Un-honeyed" words. I hope they are over stated to the point of being untruthful. He has been commercial beekeeping in UK "just 5 years". What has given him this strong attitude or is he just putting down the standard UK product to try to enhance his own? I think we shall hear more about this fellow. He also reports that "85% of British bees should be put down because they are so badly bred"

And while we are talking about possible extinctions, has anyone seen that very interesting and beautifully adapted parasitic fly *Braula* recently? It might have been an irritation for bee keepers and their queens but is it also now exterminated? Some blame varroacides for this too.

Editors note: I tried looking for the "Ecologist Magazine" on the inter net without any luck. If you are able, then please keep an eye on that publication – there may be some interesting comments made. As for braula, I have not seen it since treating for varroa.

Past Events

Friday 15 February

Our Annual Dinner was held at the "White Swan" pub/ restaurant on the A19 a few miles south of York. It was a new venue for us – I think it was one of our better places. Thirty nine members, their spouses and

friends turned out for the dinner - this is one of the best attendances we have had. I thought it was a good meal, well prepared with good service. There was a large and varied menu to select from.

Wednesday 20 February

There was a poor turn out for our regular monthly meeting held at Murton. Our speaker was Brian Hatley of Cleveland BKA and his topic was "Observation Hives – their construction, stocking and maintenance". Brian stressed the importance of safety – he uses 6 mm laminated glass in his observation hives. The hive itself is secured in a frame and the frame securely attached to floors and walls so nothing can move. His hives consist of two deep frames and one shallow. It is a good education tool-you can study bees behaving naturally. Put labels on the glass to tell people what is going on in the hive. Even if your bees have access to the outside you should still have a feeder on all the time.

Wednesday 27 February

Tom Robinson and Nigel Davies who will be running this year's Auction, met with me at the Fulford Methodist Church Hall to discuss the running of our auction in the past, as a starting point as to how it will be run in the future.

Wednesday 19 March

This meeting was much better attended than the last one - a good attendance gives a better atmosphere. Two new Members were introduced to the meeting - both will be on this year's Introduction to Beekeeping course. Association business was soon out of the way and our speaker – David Aston was introduced to the meeting – his topic - Making up for winter losses.

David went through the reasons for losing bees over winter. Outright starvation, and isolation starvation, where bees die surrounded by food, but because of a cold spell are not able to move to the food surrounding them. Starvation is characterised by bees head first in empty cells. Poor mating of queens the previous season can result in queenlessness or a drone layer. Nosema was mentioned, but the main reason for winter losses David puts down to varroa and its associated viruses. All treatments used against varroa are now ineffective. To replace lost colonies, you can collect swarms. Hive on foundation as it is disease free- put a frame of unsealed brood in to reduce the chances of absconding - give treatment for varroa with an insert to allow you to quantify the drop. If on foundation you must of course feed. Unless the origin of a swarm is known, then it is advantageous to keep it separate from other colonies until you have had chance to assess it. Splitting

colonies when they start building queen cells prior to swarming. David reckons that up to nine cells are alright. Any more than that and you are rearing queens that will also swarm. You can simply do an artificial swarm – he showed us the Snelgrove method, but the Heddon or Pagden methods work equally well. You can make up nuc's. Three frames being the minimum size with two queen cells (belt and braces). Use open queen cells. You know then that you have a queen. Sealed cells do not guarantee a queen – it is possible to have worker bees sealed in side a cell. Once made up leave for three weeks to allow your bees to get on with things – resist the temptation to have a peep. When raising queens on a larger scale, the modern way of getting them mated is to put your queen in to a mini nuc with a cupful of bees. David uses full-size frames because they have more bees of all ages that are able to feed the queen better to complete her growth.

Saturday 8 March

Yorkshire BKA Spring Conference (from David Allen, Yorkshire BKA Information & Press Officer)

52 members attended the Buckles Inn Spring conference last Saturday to listen to Michael Young's talk entitled "Profile of a serial Killer" about the Africanised Honey Bees causing problems in the USA. The afternoon meeting was somewhat less well attended but business was attended to in a swift manner. The latest edition of the YBKA Newsletter was distributed along with the leaflet in the Spring Field Day to be held at Harrogate. The foundation and Varroa Treatments (purchased on the Winter offer) was collected by the association representatives. Peter Hoskins has gone through a swift learning curve in taking over this aspect of Yorkshire BK's service to beekeepers.

Wednesday 9 April

Our Half Year General Meeting was held in the library at Murton. It was a poor turnout with only eighteen Members attending. The main item for discussion was the change to our Constitution regarding the classification of membership in line with the letter sent to you by Treasurer Chris Robinson sent to you in March. The new categories were discussed at length, although the reasons for the changes were obvious. A vote at the end of discussions was unanimously in favour of the changes. These changes to the Constitution are to be ratified at our AGM in October.

Other topics covered were

- Association accounts for the first three quarters of our financial year;
- authorisation for Librarian Alan Johnston to spend £500 on books and DVD's to bring our library up-to-date over the next twelve months;
- the internal painting of the bee pavilion, and
- improved signs to guide visitors to the pavilion.

Wednesday 16 April

The speaker at this regular meeting at Murton was Dr Richard Baker from CSL. He gave a detailed talk on "A broader look at changes to the environment". This included plants, crops, animals and insects to come, also the demise of our native species. It was nice to see the meeting well attended.

What you all wanted to know!

A tablespoon of sugar contains 77 calories. A tablespoon of honey contains 64 calories.

Forthcoming Events

June

The National Trust is having another "Balsam Bash" at Hardcastle Crag – "to remove the invasive Himalayan Balsam from the Crag". No dates or venues are given so I suspect they will be having more than one bash. It could be a nice day out for the walkers among you – but don't tell them you are a beekeeper and you love the stuff because you get a good late honey crop off it!

Tuesday 3 June (1830 hrs)

Lesson four of our Beginners Course will be combined with a visit to Rob Coleman's apiary at Wiggington.

Tuesday 10 June (1830 hrs)

Beginners class lesson five.

FOR SALE

Honey Jars

Yorkshire BKA can supply a gross of 1 lb honey jars with lids for £27. There is free delivery on a pallet. For further details please e-mail peter.hoskins7@ntlworld.com

Hive Stands

Tired of always ending up with backache every time you go through your hives?

Do you have to do your beekeeping on your knees?

Then no more, for I have the solution. Purchase one of our purpose made hive stands capable of carrying two or three hives, made of light weight metal fully galvanised, strong and robust, will last you a life time and find out the pleasures of easy hive manipulation all for the modest cost of £45.

Enquiries to Bob Hirst, e-mail: pamandbob@btinternet.com

Colin Hattee has 1lb squat honey jars for sale. Priced at £15.00 per half gross including lids. Lids on there own are £5.00 per half gross. 14 lb tubs of Ambrosia are also available at the special price of £13.00 per tub. Colin will bring your order to meetings or you can collect them from Colin's home by prior arrangement.

Honey Buckets

Steve Hudson has new 30lb honey buckets with sealed lids for sale. £2.00 each.

Sugar Syrup

Nigel Davies has a quantity of sugar syrup which is suitable for use as spring feed - £3 for 30 litres, bring your own containers.

Queens

Bill Spence of South Riding BKA will have good quality black queens that are quiet, tried and tested and four frame nuc's in good quality boxes available for sale from early June. Queens are £20.00 each. NUC's POA. If you are interested, then contact Bill. He is a member of the "Black Bee Brigade".

Saturday 14 June (1000 – 1600 hrs)

The committee of Yorkshire BKA are to arrange the 2008 Field Day on at the Normanby Pavilion on the Great Yorkshire Show Ground. This will commence at 0930 hrs and there will be refreshments, Bee Microscopy, talks in honey production and Food Safety, Cleaning equipment and Colony Hygiene as well as supplies and sales. £5.00 per head includes tea, coffee and lunch with free parking. Tickets to be bought in advance from Bill Cadmore.

Tuesday 17 June (1830 hrs)

Beginners class lesson six.

Wednesday 18 June and Thursday 19 June

Lincolnshire Show at the Lincolnshire Show Ground on the A15 a few miles before you get to Lincoln.

Tuesday 24 June (1830 hrs)

Beginners class lesson seven.

Wednesday 25 June (1830 hrs)

One of our regular summer apiary visits – this one will be held at David Gray's apiary at New Earswick.

Tuesday 1 July

Beginners class – lesson eight.

Wednesday 2 July (1830 hrs)

A visit to Tom Robinson's apiary where the theme will be queen rearing.

Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 July

Great Yorkshire Show will be held at the Harrogate Showground.

Wednesday 16 July

Driffeld Show.

Sunday 19 July (1730 hrs)

Our Annual Summer Barbeque will be held at Jenny Smith's. Bring your own meat/sweets and drinks. Salads crockery and cutlery will be provided. Please confirm your attendance by 12 July (not 12 June as in your programme). In case of bad weather please phone Jenny.

Wednesday 23 – Sunday 27 JulySaturday 26 July

Visit to Ken Barran and Sue Hesp's extracting facility. Details from Sue Hesp.

Saturday 23, Sunday 24 and Monday 25 August (Bank Holiday weekend)

Cawood's annual Craft Fair. Barkston Ash BKA will be in attendance there.

Wednesday 10 September (1930 hrs)

Our first winter meeting at Murton. Speaker to be announced later.

Friday 12 September – Sunday 14 September

Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

Wednesday 15 October (1930 hrs)

York BKA Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 16 – Saturday 18 October

National Honey Show. This is held at the Royal Air force Museum at Hendon, just to the north of London. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFORMATION IN YOUR MARCH "COMBINGS" IS WRONG. A new date and venue has been set.

Thursday 30 October – Saturday 1 November

The National Honey Show is now to be held at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey. KT15 2QS. The college is situated just off the M25 and a short walk from Addlestone station.

Editors Note. This new location is to the south west of London. If you are travelling down the M1 by car, once you reach the M25, junction 11 is a further 30 miles anti-clockwise. I think the new venue is a disinclination to people travelling from our area.]