

# COMBINGS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE YORK AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Let's start with something nice.

**Gordon and Doreen Griffin** invite you to a Barbeque on Saturday July 9th from 5 pm . Please bring your own food to cook (and alcohol if required). We will provide bread buns, salads, fruit salad and ice cream, soft drinks, tea and coffee, plates, cutlery, glasses etc. Undercover in barn if wet or cold. RSVP with numbers by Saturday 2nd. July. Email: [dreamer@dorgor.wanado.co.uk](mailto:dreamer@dorgor.wanado.co.uk).

Kate Wallace sat British BKA's Examination module three (Honeybee Diseases, Pests and Poisoning) and passed with distinction. Well done Kate.

**The topic of examinations** came up at last February's Committee meeting.

BBKA Examination Fees:

John Fuller put the following proposition to the Committee:

*"That any Member who started beekeeping through our Beginner's Class be entitled to have their exam fees paid by the Association providing they have unbroken Membership of the Association. The fee to be paid retrospectively once the examination has been taken, pass or fail."*

The initial proposition did not find a seconder and so after some lengthy discussion the following proposition was tabled:

*"That any full Member within excess of 12 months Membership, having completed the Beginner's Course be refunded the fee for the Basic Examination as long as they attend the training and the examination irrespective of whether they pass or fail. The fee to be paid once per Member."*

This was proposed by Nigel Davies, seconded by Hugh MacPherson and carried unanimously".

This is a step in the right direction. Going through the exam system helps you understand your bees better, thus making you a better beekeeper. The Association also gains by having knowledgeable membership.

**A message from Secretary David Bough regarding swarming**

The BBKA has asked each Association to try and keep a tally of swarming activity in their area and as such I would be grateful if I could have any information about known swarms of honey bees in our Association area during May, June and July this year. If anyone has either seen or heard of someone seeing a swarm, capturing a swarm or having to have one destroyed them please let me know by email: [david@thecottageholtby.co.uk](mailto:david@thecottageholtby.co.uk)

## To BBKA Association Secretaries, April 2011

Dear Secretary

We are trying to manage the swarm season more efficiently this year and as you know will have an improved Swarm section on the web [www.britishbee.org.uk](http://www.britishbee.org.uk) and a swarm line open 9 – 5 on weekdays on 07896 751205 to help protect and capture more swarms. To help us gather data on how many swarms each local association has to deal with, please could you try to keep a tally of the following information, where you know it:

- number of calls or sightings of swarms
- number of swarms successfully captured
- number of swarms known to be destroyed

If we could gather this information, however approximate it might be, it would provide a very useful new measurement of the work you do and the problems facing the honey bee. If you are prepared to gather this information, we will ask for your local association figures at the end of July, and start recording from May 1, just to give a standard framework.

With thanks for your help.

*Jane Moseley*  
*Operations Director/General Secretary*

**Yorkshire BKA ran a one day course** at their pavilion at Harrogate on bee breeding which was a follow on from the course run last year on queen rearing. Five of us from York attended: Rob Coleman, Peter Crosby, Alan Johnston, Hugh MacPherson, and myself.

Topics included:

- What are the essentials of Bee Breeding and Practical Aspects of Queen Rearing?
- A short talk on effective record keeping given by David Allen. (Who spoke to York Beekeepers in February this year)
- A simple and Effective Bee Breeding Method that anybody can use given by Tony Jefferson.

### **This message came from Secretary David Bough regarding Claro Bees at Harrogate:**

Due to the success of Claro Bees it has had to change its trading status to that of a limited company but it will still remain under the control of Harrogate and Ripon Beekeepers. Although Mike Rowbottom is still involved with Claro Bees as a Director he is no longer the trading contact. In future can you please contact Robert Hart on 01 423 865 873. The status change means that the products stocked by Claro Bees will unfortunately increase in price due to VAT, the usual limited company administrative costs and also some supplier increases, however they are confident that they will remain at least as competitive if not cheaper than most suppliers. As part of the changes they have also installed a barcode system for their stock which should dramatically decrease the time that it takes to get served in their store.

### **Kate Wallace sent me this account of our Half Yearly General Meeting held Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Murton.**

1. 31 members attended the meeting, chaired by Sue Hesp, who firstly introduced the Yorkshire Beekeepers Examinations Officer, Wendy Maslin.

2. Wendy gave an overview of the BBKA exam and assessment system, she explained that the BBKA exams have been in existence since the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the aim of improving beekeeping practice.
3. The practical assessments are:
  - The basic assessment, general husbandry and the advanced husbandry.
  - Microscopy.
  - Honey Show judge.
4. There are also the theory exams which cover 7 modules. Completion of the practical assessments and theory modules lead to Master Beekeeper. The BBKA website gives full details: [www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations\\_and\\_assessments.php](http://www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations_and_assessments.php)
5. Wendy's message was to improve your beekeeping through learning. Wendy also said there is to be a general husbandry training day at YBKA Normanby Pavilion at Harrogate on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Contact Wendy or YBKA Secretary Brian Latham for details.
6. After a break for tea, the half yearly meeting commenced with a talk on the Bee Disease Insurance scheme by Bernard Diaper. YDBKA left the scheme some years ago and the present Committee have asked the membership to decide on rejoining the scheme. The cost of rejoining the scheme is 2 years premiums, this would be paid by the Association. The costs are £2 per member for their first 3 hives with a sliding scale for number of colonies from 4 up to 39. There was a great deal of discussion and eventually there was a majority in favour of applying to rejoin the scheme.
7. Secretary David Bough told the meeting that details of Farming for Bees, an evening farm walk has been received the date will be Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May , starting at 6.30 PM at Beadlam Grange Helmsley
8. 2009/10 accounts were presented & approved.
9. The annual subscription will remain unchanged this year, despite the increase in capitation by BBKA.
10. So far this year there have been two coach trips to Thorne's & to Stoneleigh, which were a great success and a further trip to Thorne's sale day is to be investigated.
11. Volunteers are required for the Sunday open Bee Pavilion, this year this will include opening the hives & giving a beekeeping demonstration between 2 and 3 o'clock. Details can be had from David Bough.
12. Date of next meeting: AGM Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011
13. Half yearly meeting 18 April 2012.

**A new outlet for beekeeping supplies** has opened in Ripon which could be of use to those of you living to the north of York. The proprietor is Alan Bowes. Read on.

We are a pharmaceutical registered company selling Vaccines, POM-VPS products and a full range of animal health products, vitamins, minerals etc to farmers throughout the North of England.

As a Beekeeper I have found over the past few years difficulty in sourcing constant supplies of beekeeping equipment from retailers. I have had to purchase most of my requirements online but the P & P makes it very expensive. In February 2011 we decided to stock and sell a full range of Beekeeping Equipment and have opened a trade account with Maisemore Apiaries Ltd. We have initially taken in a large stock all hive components for NATIONAL hives only, although we can order other types in with an approx lead time of 3 days.

Our Company Name and Address and contact details are as follows:

Agricultural Supply Services Ltd  
18 Camp Hill Close  
Dallamires Lane  
Ripon  
North Yorkshire  
HG4 1QY  
Telephone: 01765 692424 | Fax: 01765 608040  
Email: [allan@agriculturalsupply.co.uk](mailto:allan@agriculturalsupply.co.uk)  
Website: [www.agriculturalsupply.co.uk](http://www.agriculturalsupply.co.uk)  
Opening Times: 0800 - 1700 Monday - Friday  
0900 - 1230 Saturday

If the postcode is used with a SAT NAV it will bring you directly to our premises, as will Google street maps.

**While at Yorkshire BKA's Mead Making course at Harrogate, I was told of thefts of bees.**

These have occurred in North, East and West Yorkshire. Be vigilant.

**EDITORS MUSINGS**

Like all beekeepers I am presented with the problem of what to do with cappings after extracting. Books give options – none of them being entirely satisfactory, always leaving some honey in the cappings until rendered down. (And if rendered in a solar wax extractor the honey is not fit for anything).

One option always put forward is wash the capping (ideally in soft water) and make mead from the resultant liquor. Being a home made wine maker of some years standing, making mead is the obvious way to clean my cappings. So every year I find my self making a couple of batches.

Books on mead tell us that it improves for keeping – five years is often quoted. I find that most of it is drunk well before five years, so I was surprised to come across a small barrel of 10% heather mead I had put away that was just five years old. I must admit that it had improved enormously and after a couple tasting I managed to get four bottles out of it. (It started as part of a four gallon batch).

I have heard mead makers extol the virtues of mead from heather honey. I think it would have a very overpowering taste, and know a mead maker who threw a batch away because of it.

I have experimented making mead with differing strengths of heather honey. The first one was 25%. My notes later said that the taste of heather was very pronounced.

If, as I do you make a couple of batches of mead every year, your biggest problem is where to store it - either in bulk or bottles. Preferably keeping it cool.

I attended a talk at Bradford University last back end given by Kim Flottum – editor of the American magazine “Gleanings” - who was over here on a lecture tour.

One thing he said that stuck in my mind was on making up nuclei. We are taught to make them up with sealed brood.

Mr Flottum advocated making them up with open brood. This way you reduce the amount of varroa mites in your nuclei giving it a better start.

Using sealed brood takes varroa mites in the sealed cells, which, when they emerge, gives you weakened bees and a lot of varroa mites putting your nuclei at a disadvantage.

I went with Kate Wallace and Alan Johnston on an evening that was wild with strong winds and heavy rain with rush hour traffic on the motorway round Leeds.

I had a close escape early in March. I was going to put a tub of honey into my warming cabinet to liquefy prior to bottling. I had picked the tub up, and was about to put it down again, when the handle broke. It only fell a couple of inches without damage. Can you imagine the mess if the handle had broken 24 hours later, when the honey had liquefied and the tub split?

I have had these tubs for a few years and they are starting to go brittle, so as I cannot take the risk of spilling all over my kitchen floor – they will have to go.

It was nice to see the first bumble bees flying during the warm spell in the middle of March and the trees coming in to bloom. Then, in that fine spell starting just before the equinox saw wasps, butterflies and solitary bees flying – even the first spikes of rape. Is it my imagination, or do winters last twice as long as they did?

With all the warm weather we experienced in April, giving bees chance to build up rapidly, it is not surprising that swarming started early. The earliest one I have heard about was on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

I usually reckon the first ones issue during the last week in April.

Hawthorne came into bloom over Easter Weekend, when I would expect to see it in mid May. I think the season is three weeks early this year. Having said that, I heard the first cuckoo on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April – exactly the same day as last year.

## **HONEY JARS**

Nigel Davies and a couple of other Members have been singing the praise of GPC Ltd – Glass & Plastic Containers Ltd of Leeds for their price of jars and honey tubs.

1 lb honey jars are £36.00 per gross including lids and delivery. 10 litre plastic honey buckets are £17.28 for ten. I have seen one of their plastic tubs and they are of quite substantial construction with a metal handles.

They also have 8 and 12 ounce hexagonal jars. Jar lids can also be supplied separately.

They have a whole range of glass and plastic containers.

Contact Kevin Naylor email: [Kevin\\_naylor@btconnect.com](mailto:Kevin_naylor@btconnect.com)

## PAST EVENTS

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Murton**

David Aston was our speaker this evening. His topic was to be Bee Health. This was changed and he spoke on Protein and Honey Bees. This is a subject that most books gloss over saying that bees need to collect protein in the form of pollen to feed to developing larvae. We tend to think that all pollen is the same, but David told us that different pollens have different nutritional values. A colony needs 30 kilos of pollen during the course of a season for brood rearing alone. Some years ago I read an article that stated a colony required 1 cwt - 120lbs (54 kilos) of pollen for all needs during the course of a season. Pollen is used straight away. It will only keep for about three months

The higher the crude protein value the better the nutritional value. Low value protein leads to malnourishment of bees, which could eventually lead to the termination of brood rearing. It leads to poorly developed workers, drones and queens which die younger. Drones are fed more protein than workers; they have to be physically stronger to compete with other drones in their pursuit of virgin queens. All castes need protein after emergence to complete their development.

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Annual Dinner**

This was held at the Bay Horse, Murton. Twenty five Members, their spouses and friends attended.

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Murton Open Day**

At 1030 Sue Hesp and I opened up the bee pavilion. We gave it a quick de cobweb and sweep out. We set up some displays. Sue brought her laptop with some bee slides playing constantly. I brought some frames of honey and brood with queen cells attached. (Without bees!), nicely wrapped in cellophane. The event was opened by the Mayor of York at the main gate. Slowly the public began to walk round to us. We had advertised a live bee demonstration for 2pm. The weather was good with a nice sunny morning. I saw my first swallow darting across the apiary getting an easy breakfast after it's long journey from Africa.

Our enquiring public asked many questions. Hopefully we enlightened them a little about bees. They got the chance to sample and buy some honey. Time flew by and a gathering of 30 people were seated in front of the tall green mesh permanently erected in front of our apiary for our 2pm demonstration.

We began our demonstration by lighting a smoker and explaining it's use. Then into the hive, carefully removing the roof and crown board before pulling out frames, making sure the queen was found and caged. I took the frame and caged queen to the netting and showed her to everybody with all stages of eggs and brood.

The bees were fairly quiet on the comb with no smoke used. I found some emerging workers. This was fascinating for the onlookers to see bees emerging from their cells. Lots of photographs were taken and more questions asked. We explained why bees had to be kept warm so had to close the hive – and more questions.

About an hour later word must have gone round because more people arrived asking for another show. This time we demonstrated supers with honey and bees attached – and more questions. It is amazing really that people think that bumble bees and wasps are honey bees. So hopefully Sue and I enlightened a few people of the differences and what goes on inside a beehive.

Alan Johnston did a similar demonstration on the following day with about fifty people attending.

## **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

Treasurer John Thompson organised a bus trip to take Members to Stoneleigh – here is what he has to say:

*Twenty hardy beekeepers assembled at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming, in Murton, at 06:15 hours. Included in our number were two visitors from Scarborough and Easingwold Associations. The day was bright and sunny, and expectations were high. After an uneventful trip down to Stoneleigh by a 16 seater coach and my car, we arrived just before 0900 to find a huge queue already waiting to get into the Exhibition Hall. Slowly we shuffled forward until we got inside – then we had to join another queue to get into the Thorne's room for the bargains. It was a general "free for all", and politeness went out of the window as the bargains were grabbed. The stock just evaporated away in less than 2 hours. All that seemed to be left in the bargain room were a couple of pallets of 14"x12" frames.*

*The event was packed and there was plenty to see and do. The trade stands appeared to be doing a roaring business. Some members went into the many lectures and workshops that were running during the day, whilst others enjoyed the shopping and lazing around in the sunshine, eating and talking bees. I was particularly interested to see one of these Beehaus in the flesh, and indeed met Robin Dartington whom I believe was involved in the design of this hive. I wonder if any members have had experience of them.*

*To my astonishment, the coach luggage compartment was jam packed on the return, and it was a large compartment at that – the rear mud flaps were trailing along the ground. My estate car was similarly well filled. It was difficult to see what had been bought, as things were in boxes or bags, but I did spot a complete WBC hive in there.*

*We eventually returned to Murton about 19:00, tired but happy. I think everyone enjoyed the day, and the first-timers found it quite an experience. Perhaps next year if we run a coach, more of you will take the opportunity and come along. It's a great day out.*

## **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – York Beekeepers Half Yearly General Meeting**

Read all about it in Kate Wallace's notes on page 4.

## **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

York BKA held their annual auction at the Farming museum at Murton. Treasurer John Thompson has this to say about it:

*There was a good turnout for the 2011 Annual Auction, held at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming, Murton, York, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, in spite of a keen breeze and the threat of rain. 72 buyers registered an interest in bidding for the 125 lots on offer, from 16 sellers. There was a wide range of items available – including 12 nuclei and 3 colonies. All nuclei sold at prices ranging from £110 up to £160, but only 2 of the colonies were sold, at £200 each. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one failed to reach the reserve.*

*There were a number of new hives for sale, plenty of hive components, 3 extractors, a fridge converted as a honey warmer, and lots of other items. At the end of the sale, 10 lots had not sold, either because there was no interest, or the bid price fell below the sellers reserve.*

*Martin Ainsley did the business as the auctioneer, and the sale itself went very smoothly, thanks to Nigel Davies and his team of helpers. The only blip in the proceedings was the accidental issue of two buyer numbers twice – which only slightly challenged the cashiers!!*

The total amount taken was £4,784.85, of which £4,557.00 sent to the sellers, and £227.85 went to the Association coffers as the 5% buyer's premium. 2009 figures, for comparison, were £2,024.70, £1945.70 and £79.00 respectively. There was no premium payable by the sellers. So a very good result indeed.

*If you didn't come this year, try to get along next year. It's an interesting morning out – and there will be some cracking bargains to be had.*

An email from Secretary David Bough to Treasurer John Thompson: -"Impressive, I think a vote of thanks to you and Nigel are in order for an extremely well run auction. Everyone that I spoke to appeared to enjoy the event even one that came too late to buy went away happy that he had at least got some valuable info!"

We had visitors from Sheffield, Leeds, Hull, Darlington, Durham, Settle and one man brought five large bales of shredded cardboard for use as smoker fuel all the way from Wisbech.

Publicity Officer Julia Mander must be given a pat on the back for advertising it so far a field with such good results.

Some of the items for sale:

- Lega settling tank £130 – this looked new.
- New soft wood hives: - floor, brood box, super, crown board and roof £120.
- Stainless uncapping tray £70.
- An old refrigerator converted into a warming cabinet, £10.

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Bee Husbandry Day**

John Thompson has this to say on the Husbandry Day at Murton:

*An excellent Bee Husbandry Day was held at Murton, attended by about 30 beekeepers from around the region. Hosted and run by Ivor Flatman, Dhonn Atkinson and Pete Allanson, the day consisted of a combination of slide presentations and practical demonstrations. Thanks to them for a job well done.*

*It was a particularly useful day for those of us who are fairly new to the craft, although a number of "mature" beekeepers came along as well.*

*Topics covered in the lectures included Apiary Hygiene and Barrier Management, Bee diseases, Comb changing (Demaree, Bailey and Shook Swarm), Varroa and Swarm Control. The practical session held in our apiary looked at Colony Inspections, Apiary Hygiene, Varroa and Swarm Control and Making Increase. Tips and hints were given throughout the day.*

*Refreshments were provided by Sue Hesp, including the most delicious cakes (the lemon drizzle especially) and the strawberry tarts were to die for !!!! Full marks to her – and she's a mean washer-up as well!!*

*David Bough provided some of the most gentle and tolerant bees for the bee guys to demonstrate with – his hives were in beautiful condition – a standard to which we should all aspire. The demonstration of drone removal to check for varroa failed to locate any varroa at all – although we did find two capped queen cells.*

*An excellent day all round – make sure you get on the next day – you won't be disappointed.*

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Editors note: I did hear that people where queuing up for more of Sue's treats – they where so good.

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### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

While the Husbandry course was being held at Murton, I was attending Yorkshire BKA's class on Making and Showing Mead at their pavilion on the Harrogate Show Ground. It was organised by Michael Badger who was the principle speaker and Erica Osborn. Erica is examination moderator for the International Federation of Mead and Honey Wine Judges. We covered every thing from basic ingredients and the method of making mead, to judging and sampling. Twenty five people attended from all over Yorkshire.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Apiary meeting.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

The National Trust are holding their annual "Balsam Bash" to remove the invasive Himalayan Water Balsam. Meet at the Midge Hole car park at 10.00. This event has been held for a few years now. Which seems to indicate that once established, water balsam is difficult to get rid of.

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Craft of Beekeeping open day at Murton.

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Barbecue**

Gordon and Doreen Griffin invite you to a Barbecue on Saturday July 9th from 5 pm. RSVP with numbers by Saturday 2nd. July. Email: [dreamer@dorgor.wanado.co.uk](mailto:dreamer@dorgor.wanado.co.uk)

### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

The 153<sup>rd</sup> Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Driffield Show

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

Tockwith Show

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

Heather meeting

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August** (Bank holiday weekend)

Cawood Craft Festival.

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Harrogate Autumn Flower Show.

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

Bees for Development

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October,**

Murton. Annual general Meeting.

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

The 80<sup>th</sup> National Honey Show will be held at St Georges College, Weybridge , Surey KT15 2QS.  
[www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) for more information.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Murton. Annual Honey Show.

## WORDS FOR YOUR BEEKEEPING DICTIONARY

**PERFECT SUPERCEDURE.** Where by the new queen becomes mated and starts laying in the colony together with the old queen before the bees dispose of the old queen. Occasionally both queens are seen together.

**IMPERFECT SUPERCEDURE.** Whereby the bees dispose of the old queen before the new queen is laying.

**YORKSHIRE BEEHIVES** offer a 10% discount to York BKA members.

Yorkshire Beehives manufacture in Cedar and Redwood (pine) and carry a stock of National and Commercial hives and their components in both timbers.

We also manufacture WBC, Langstroth, Dadant, Top Bar hives, Twinstock boxes etc, etc, to order and will manufacture to customers own designs and ideas.

In addition we currently keep a small stock of the following items: framed wired queen excluders, plastic queen excluders, glass quilts, porter bee escapes, metal frame runners, castellated spacers, mouse guards, pre-formed roof metal and varroa mesh.

Contact: PAUL SNOWDEN  
Email: [yorkshirebeehives@btinternet.com](mailto:yorkshirebeehives@btinternet.com)  
Web: [www.yorkshirebeehives.co.uk](http://www.yorkshirebeehives.co.uk)

**CLARO BEES** for all your beekeeping supplies.

Large stock and very keen prices on all items. Cedar National hive parts, frames ( all in first and second quality), clothing, gloves, foundation, jars, spacers ,tools, smokers, medicines, straps etc. etc. all normally in stock and at below list prices.

Advice on the selection and use of beekeeping equipment always available.

We are situated beside the Harrogate Arms, past the RHS Harlow Carr Gardens, Crag Lane, Harrogate, HG3 1QA, Open every Saturday morning 0900 to 1230 April to October inclusive or by prior arrangement.

Contact ROBERT HART on 01423 865873.  
A map showing our location is available at [www.hrbka.org.uk](http://www.hrbka.org.uk)



## **FOR SALE AMBROSIA FONDANT**

Boxes of Ambrosia fondant are available at £15.50 each. The fondant is packed in 12.5kg boxes with five 2.5kg packets of sealed fondant in each box. Ambrosia syrup is also available in 12.5 kg plastic canisters at £16.00 each. If you are interested please contact David Bough.  
Email: [david@thecottageholtby.co.uk](mailto:david@thecottageholtby.co.uk)

## **CLOTHING**

Remember - as a Member of York + DBKA you can now get a 20% discount on clothing items available from BBwear Beekeeper's Clothing supplier. You must advise BBwear that you are a Member of the York & District Beekeeping Association, BBwear will then check with Nigel Davies our Membership Secretary that you are in fact a fully paid up Member of Y+DBKA before you can receive your discount".

BBwear, Beekeeper's Clothing, 1 Glyn Way, Threemilestone, Truro, Cornwall TR3 6DT.  
Tel: 01872 273693  
Email: [mike.bb1@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.bb1@btinternet.com)  
Web: [www.bbwear.co.uk](http://www.bbwear.co.uk)

## **AND FINALLY**

In just two days from now, tomorrow will be yesterday.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011.**

1. Attendance: Nigel Davies, Julia Mander, Peter Crosby, Hugh MacPherson, Peter Allanson, David Bough, Sue Hesp, John Thompson.
2. Apologies: Paul Taylor, Tom Robinson.
3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January: The minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed by Tom Robinson, seconded by John Tompson and carried unanimously.
4. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
5. Correspondence: A letter has been received from John Fuller requesting clarification of some summer programme events for Combings. John has also put a proposition to Committee, item 10 on the agenda and raised an issue of Combings advertising, item 11 on the agenda. A letter has been received from David Gray suggesting that we consider Keith Bartlem, Master Beekeeper from Bedale as a speaker for next year's programme. Two e-mails have been received from Brian Latham which have already been circulated to our Members, one was the Yorkshire BKA AGM minutes and the second was a statement from BBKA about Neonicotinoids.
6. Treasurer's Matters: John Thompson advised that due to the timing of Capitation fees the deficit for the year was £27.52 but that would correct itself with fees from the Beginner's Course and additional subscriptions. His report on income and expenditure since the last Committee meeting as follows:

Income:

14 <sup>th</sup> January	Membership Subscription	£420.00
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Beginner's Course Fees	£455.00
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Beginner's Course Fee	£35.00
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Membership Subscription	£12.50
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Beginner's Course Fees	£70.00
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Membership Subscription	£25.00
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Membership Subscription	£25.00
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Membership Subscription	£150.00
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Beginner's Course Fees	£35.00

Expenditure:

12 <sup>th</sup> January	David Bough – administration expenses	£44.58
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Claire Waring – speakers fees	£50.00
28 <sup>th</sup> January	YMOF – Room hire	£25.00
30 <sup>th</sup> January	YorkshireBKA – Capitation Fees	£1557.20

In answer to a question from Tom Robinson at the January meeting John Thompson advised that although it was possible to claim Gift Aid on Membership Subscriptions it was not possible to claim it on course fees.

The Association now has 97 Members, 59 of which have completed a Gift Aid form. When the Membership renewal form was printed in Combings the Gift Aid section was on the back of the form and could well have been missed by some people so John Thompson will contact the Members who have not completed a form to see if they could be encouraged to do so.

Discussion has been completed with HMRC to advise that John Thompson is the new point of contact in the Association with regards to Gift Aid.

John Thompson has updated the Association contact details online with the Charities Commission and advised that internet banking on both CAF and HSBC bank accounts is now up and running.

7. Membership: Nigel Davies advised that there were currently just under 100 Members and a few of this year's beginners had already joined but he would expect a few more to join during the year when they sign up for the practical course.

8. Beginners Theory Courses: David Bough advised that to date 29 people had signed up and paid for the course and that possibly 2 or 3 more people would attend because they had just requested an application form in the past couple of days. After the initial application form letters had been sent out David Bough telephoned everyone who had not sent back a form which prompted a few more people to respond.

9. Visiting Speakers: David bough commented that at the moment there was no guideline as to how much to pay a visiting speaker or how much to pay for their travel expenses. After some discussion it was proposed by Nigel Davies, seconded by John Thompson that we offer to pay £30 plus 40p per mile travel expenses and further that any speaker requiring more than £30 would have to be approved at a Committee meeting first. The proposition was carried unanimously.

10. BBKA Examination Fees: John Fuller put the following proposition to the Committee, That any Member who started beekeeping through our Beginner's Class be entitled to have their exam fees paid by the Association providing they have unbroken Membership of the Association. The fee to be paid retrospectively once the examination has been taken, pass or fail.

The initial proposition did not find a seconder and so after some lengthy discussion the following proposition was tabled, That any full Member with in excess of 12 months Membership, having completed the Beginner's Course be refunded the fee for the Basic Examination as long as they

attend the training and the examination irrespective of whether they pass or fail. The fee to be paid once per Member. This was proposed by Nigel Davies, seconded by Hugh MacPherson and carried unanimously.

11. Website & Combing Advertising: David Bough advised that at the moment there were no guidelines for businesses wishing to advertise their products and services in Combing or on the York + DBKA Website and that via John Fuller Paul Snowdon of Yorkshire Beehives had requested to promote his products to our Members. John had noted that Claro Bees are currently promoted in Combing for no fee. It was agreed that because Claro Bees is set up for the benefit of beekeepers and is run by volunteers that we should continue on the same footing.

It was felt that there should be some benefit to our Members if a business wanted to advertise their products and services in Combing and on our website. Peter Allanson proposed that any business should either pay £50 per year or offer a minimum of 10% discount to York + DBKA Members in order to advertise in the 4 issues of Combing and on our website. This would provide a half page of advertising in each issue of Combing or the advertiser could provide their own A4 advertising sheet to be included as a loose leaf in the Combing mailing. This was seconded by John Thompson and carried unanimously. The situation regarding advertisers would be monitored on an ongoing basis.

12. Annual Dinner – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011: Bob Hirst had agreed to organise the dinner but since he is no longer a Member Sue Hesp agreed to take over the event with Jenny Smith and suggested that we look at a venue in Askham Bryan. Action Sue Hesp.

13. AOB: Members Expenses, Nigel Davies raised the issue of Members expenses in view of the fact that due to the bad weather and post Alan Johnston had travelled to Darlington and back on 3 occasions on behalf of the Association. Once to deliver a personal cheque to cover the Association foundation order because of the post, secondly to collect oxalic acid and thirdly to collect the foundation. Nigel Davies proposed that due to extraordinary circumstances we reimburse Alan £100 for his mileage costs. This was seconded by Julia Mander and carried unanimously.

The Beginner's Practical Course will be held over 5 weeks starting on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May then each Tuesday evening until 28<sup>th</sup> June. The cost of the course will remain at £35 and includes £25 Membership subscription. As agreed at the January meeting a 5 frame nucleus of bees would be made available to every beginner requesting one at a cost of £120.

Beginner's will be asked during the theory course if they wish to sign up for the practical course and also if they would like to purchase a nucleus of bees. YDBKA Members will be asked if they would like to supply nucs for the Beginners.

David Bough to prepare an application form with options for Beginners, i.e. just the practical course, practical course plus a nucleus of bees or course, bees and seconds quality hive.

The first evening of the course to cover assembly of a hive and the second evening to receive a nucleus of bees and install them in a new hive with additional frames, foundation and feed.

Beginners to be advised of the rest of the equipment required, a suit, smoker, hive tool, feeder etc.

14. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 in the Library at the YMOF Murton starting at 7.30pm.

### **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011.**

1. Attendance: Tom Robinson, Nigel Davies, Peter Crosby, Hugh MacPherson, Peter Allanson, David Bough, Sue Hesp, John Thompson.

2. Apologies: Paul Taylor, Julia Mander.

3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February: The minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed by Peter Allanson, seconded by John Thompson and carried unanimously.

4. Matters arising: John Thompson asked if the water supply to the Pavilion had been sorted, it was agreed that Nigel Davies would investigate and resolve the problem.

5. Correspondence: A letter has been received from the Yorkshire Beekeepers advising of the Spring Convention meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March along with a supplementary sheet about their proposed bee disease research fund. A letter has been received from Harrogate & Ripon Beekeepers advising of a joint meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April at Ilkley and requesting £45 as a contribution to the cost from York +DBKA. An e.mail has been received from Jim Buddo the secretary of Scarborough Beekeepers asking if their members could join ours on a bus to Stoneleigh. Three e-mails have been received from Brian Latham, two were YorkshireBKA e.news and one was news from Yorkshire BKA General Purposes Committee all three emails have been forwarded to York + DBKA Members. Finally another letter has been received from BBKA advising about an extended period of time to purchase the Courses in a Case products at a discounted rate.

6. Treasurer's Matters: John Thompson updated the meeting on income and expenditure since the last Committee Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 as follows:

**INCOME:**

02.02.11	David Bough – Beginners Course Fees	£380.00
07.02.11	David Bough – Beginners Course Fees	£105.00
09.02.11	John Thompson – Beginners Course Fees	£175.00
17.02.11	C Soar – Membership sub	£25.00
18.02.11	Nigel Davies – Membership subs	£100.00
22.02.11	Helen Yates – Beginners Course Fee	£35.00
22.02.11	Jonathan Gammon - Membership	£25.00
	- Practical Course	£10.00
22.02.11	Various	- Practical Course £40.00
		- Membership subs £100.00
		- Nucs £360.00
		- Hive £170.00
01.03.11	P Green – Beginners Course Fee	£35.00

**EXPENDITURE:**

07.02.11	Alan Johnston	- petrol expense	£100.00
		- refund of duplicate mem fee	£25.00
10.02.11	Tom Robinson – Beginners Course badges		£9.99
15.02.11	David Allen – speaker fee		£30.00
16.02.11	John Thompson – 36 2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamps		£11.52
19.02.11	YMOF – rent		£100.00

At the moment 11 Members have requested a seat on the free coach to Stoneleigh, which was a little disappointing. John Thompson had sourced prices for various sized coaches depending on how many people eventually want to attend the Convention and the cost price is approximately £10 per seat. The coach would leave the YMOF at 6.30am and leave Stoneleigh at 4.30pm in order to avoid paying for a second driver. It was proposed by John Thompson that we charge any non-Members £12.50 for a seat, this was seconded by Hugh MacPherson and carried unanimously.

7. Membership: Nigel Davies advised that there were currently 106 fully paid Members, 5 Honorary Members and 2 applications that had just been received and were being processed making a total of 113 Members.

8. Half Yearly Meeting: David Bough advised that this would be in two parts starting at 7.30pm with Wendy Maslin speaking about the BBKA examination process. There would then be a short interval with tea and coffee served before starting the second part of the meeting at 8.30pm. The three main subjects on the agenda would be the approval of the accounts, setting the rates for each of our Membership categories for the forthcoming year and to vote on whether we re-join the BDI. It was agreed that all voting would be by hand vote with a simple majority. Peter Allanson proposed that all our Membership Category rates continue unchanged, seconded by Tom Robinson with 7 in favour and 1 abstention.

9. Beginner's Theory Course Update: The course is well under way, we now have 39 people signed up to the course and the feedback from the attendees has so far been very positive.

10. Beginner's Practical Course Update: John Thompson advised that five beginners had signed up for the course, three had ordered nucs of bees and two had ordered second quality hives. John Thompson had now found a site at Claxton where the course would be held and the nucs of bees would be located for the duration of the course.

11. Annual Dinner – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March: Sue Hesp advised that the dinner would be held at the Bay Horse in Murton, 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The menu and notice of the dinner had been circulated to all Members with Combings. All menu choices along with full payment must be received by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

12. Joint Association Meetings – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011: David Bough advised that the letter that had been received from Harrogate and Ripon Beekeepers had requested a payment of £45 from YDBKA to joint fund the meeting and referred to an agreement in April 2010. David Bough could find no record of any agreement and as such it was agreed that we would not be joint funding the event and that Harrogate and Ripon be advised.

13. The Yorkshire Beekeepers Association Spring Conference 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011: David Bough advised that the main issue on the Agenda was the vote on the Bee Disease Research Grant. It was agreed that Sue Hesp, Nigel Davies and Tom Robinson would attend the event and that we would not vote in favour of the research grant for reasons previously discussed at the January 2011 Committee Meeting.

14. Bee Breeding Conference 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011: Information had been circulated to all of our Members about this event but that to date only one person had shown an interest in attending and that was Alan Johnson. It was agreed that the three places should be allocated on a first come first served basis.

15. AOB: Tom Robinson advised that the Yorkshire Museum of Farming rather than run a cafeteria would in future have tables, chairs and two drinks/food vending machines in the foyer. This would make the placement of a working observation hive in the main foyer very difficult and we would await more information from the Management Committee. Tom Robinson also advised that we should be encouraging our Members and our beginners in particular to attend Bishop Burton Conference on 9<sup>th</sup> April as the speakers are the same ones that will be at Stoneleigh.

16. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in the Library at the Yorkshire Museum of Farming Murton starting at 7.30pm.

### **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

1. Attendance: Tom Robinson, Nigel Davies, Peter Crosby, David Bough, Sue Hesp and John Thompson.

2. Apologies: Paul Taylor, Julia Mander, Hugh MacPherson and Peter Allanson.
3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March: The minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed by Tom Robinson, seconded by John Thompson and carried unanimously.
4. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
5. Correspondence: There were four pieces of correspondence that had all been circulated to the membership by email. The Yorkshire e.news, a winter survival survey from a degree student studying animal behaviour and welfare, some information about the change of trading status of Claro Bees and a new process from the BBKA about how to register as a swarm collector on their website.

Treasurer's Matters: John Thompson updated the meeting on income and expenditure since the last Committee Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 as follows:

**INCOME:**

03.03.11	Nigel Davies – membership	£50.00
05.03.11	J Shout – Scarborough BKA Stoneleigh seat	£12.50
08.03.11	Various fees: - membership	£75.00
	- practical course	£30.00
	- nucleus	£240.00
15.03.11	Various fees: - membership	£25.00
	- practical course	£20.00
22.03.11	Various fees: - practical course	£60.00
	- membership	£125.00
	- nucleus	£240.00
	- hive	£85.00
05.04.11	Nigel Davies – membership	£75.00

**EXPENDITURE:**

10.03.11	Linda Carey – website domain fees	£31.02
17.03.11	John Fuller – March "Comblings" expenses	£166.80
05.04.11	YMOF - room rental	£75.00

To date 20 people have signed up for the practical course, 5 people have ordered nucs of bees and 5 people have ordered hives, the total income for hives and bees is now £1095. John Thompson will contact all the practical course attendees to advise the additional equipment that they will need to obtain before the course starts, a super, feeder, bee suit, hive tool etc. 20 people in total have signed up for the trip to Stoneleigh including 1 person from Scarborough Beekeepers. John Thompson advised that the most economic way to travel this number of people would be with a 16 seater mini bus and a car carrying 4 people. John Thompson offered to take a car and 3 other people and Sue Hesp proposed that the Association would pay for John Thompson's petrol, this was carried unanimously. John Thompson was attending the Bishop Burton Conference on Saturday and offered a lift to anyone else wishing to attend.

6. Half Yearly Meeting: David Bough raised the issue of what to do if Bernard Diaper from the BDI could not attend the meeting since he had not yet returned any emails or telephone calls to confirm his attendance. It was agreed that in the event of a no show we organise a panel of beekeepers and have a question and answer session similar to the one at the honey show. Julia Mander would be available to serve teas and coffees during the break in the meeting.

7. Beginner's Practical Course Update: It was discussed and agreed that for the initial evening on 31<sup>st</sup> May covering hive assembly all of the practical course attendees would meet at the same venue. For the subsequent 4 weeks of the course the group would split into two groups, the group who are purchasing bees would do the rest of the course at the out apiary working with their own bees and the other group would work with the bees at the club apiary at Murton. Sue Hesp to determine the subject to be covered on each of the evenings.
8. Trip to Stoneleigh: This had already been covered in the Treasurer's report.
9. Annual Auction: The Auction is to be held at Murton on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Sue Hesp proposed, seconded by Nigel Davies and carried unanimously that there would be no fees for the seller and that the buyer would pay 5% commission on their purchases. David Bough to confirm with Amanda that the venue is still available for the auction and also where any bees for sale can be located on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.
10. AOB: It was agreed that because of the changes to the front area of the YMOF that it would no longer be viable to house an observation hive there. Instead an observation hive similar to the one at Harlow Carr run by Harrogate Beekeepers to be commissioned to be made by Mike Marshall and sited close to the bee pavilion at Murton. Peter Crosby to speak to Mike about making the hive and also to remind him about recommending a strimmer for the Association to purchase so that he can trim the long grass in the club apiary. Sue Hesp proposed that instead of manning the pavilion between 11am and 4pm on a Sunday when the YMOF is open that we just have a scheduled demonstration of beekeeping at 2pm. The Members in attendance would just need to turn up at 2pm to do the demonstration and probably stay until 3pm to answer any questions afterwards. Action David Bough.
11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in the Library at the YMOF Murton starting at 7.30pm.

### **Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

1. Attendance: There were 31 Members in attendance and two guests representing BDI.
2. Apologies: Jenny Smith, John Fuller.
3. Correspondence: There was just one piece of correspondence which was an invitation to an evening farm walk at Beadlam Grange, Helmsley, details to be emailed to each Member.
4. Minutes of Half Yearly Meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010: The minutes of last year's meeting had previously been circulated in Combings and they were also projected onto the screen for the meeting attendees to re-read. It was proposed by David Gray, seconded by Hugh MacPherson and carried unanimously that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and the Chairman signed a copy.
5. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes just a request for clarification of the number of Members in 2011 which currently stands at 127.
6. Membership of the BDI: Following the discussion of re-entry into the BDI scheme at our AGM in 2010 it was requested that we have a representative from the BDI at this half yearly meeting in order to be able to answer any questions that any Member wished to ask before we voted on whether to re-join Scheme A. Bernard Diaper gave a short overview of why and when the BDI began and that it has 3 areas of activity, education and research into bee health and insurance against equipment losses due to infection from EFB and AFB. BDI currently sponsors lectures, workshops and programs at national events such as Stoneleigh and they also sponsor a post graduate student at York University researching EFB.

The costs of being involved in the scheme are as follows:

For 1 – 3 hives	£2
Up to 5 hives	an additional £2
Up to 10 hives	an additional £5.25
Up to 15 hives	an additional £7.75
Up to 20 hives	an additional £9.50
Up to 25 hives	an additional £11.10

The Association has already agreed to pay the initial £2 covering each Member's first 3 hives each year and then collect any additional premium from Members at the same time that our yearly subscriptions are collected.

When we came out of the scheme in at the beginning of 2005 we did so knowing that there would be penalty costs for re-entry. This was in order to discourage Associations from leaving the BDI Scheme when there were no disease problems in their area and re-joining when there were problems. Mr Diaper clarified that the re-entry costs would be £2 per Member for the current year and the previous year plus any additional premiums due for Members with more than 3 hives and that the maximum cost of re-entry is limited to £1000. Further that upon entry to the Scheme on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 the Association would have to be deemed clear of disease and also that for the first 6 months of participation of the scheme it would not be possible to make a claim. If for any reason the Association was not accepted back into the Scheme any funds paid by the Association and its Members would be returned in full.

Mr Diaper was asked a number of questions about the Scheme and explained that apart from the actual bees themselves the rest of the internal structure of the hive, the frames, foundation, glass quilts, floors, queen excluders and honey were covered in the event of treatment for disease. There was a suggestion from the floor that we postpone the vote to re-join the BDI until later in the year at the AGM. It was clarified that a decision needed to be made at this Half Yearly Meeting in order to be able to collect any additional premiums from Members along with their subscriptions when they became due on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, which was before the AGM.

After further discussion David Gray proposed and Hugh MacPherson seconded that we take a vote on whether to take a vote to re-join the BDI at this Half Yearly Meeting or at the AGM. On a show of hands there were 23 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

On the vote to re-join Scheme A of the BDI there were 22 in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention. The Association will now start the process of re-joining Scheme A of the BDI.

7. Approval of the 2009/2010 Accounts: Due to a change in Treasurer at short notice in 2010 the Accounts were not ready for approval at the AGM and so John Thompson guided the meeting through the audited set of Accounts. The Accounts had previously been circulated in Combings and they were also projected onto the screen for the meeting attendees to read.

JT noted that at the year end there was a surplus of £1017, there were 126 Members, 106 were regular Members, 9 were partners, 6 social and 5 honorary. The Association received a grant from the Coop for 5 small projects to help to promote beekeeping at Murton Park. The only project left to complete was the observation hive and the funds to complete that have been ring fenced. The foundations sales are non profit making and so appear equally as income and expenditure and John thanked Alan Johnston for all his hard work collating and distributing foundation for the Association each year and in particular the extra work he has done this year due to the bad weather in the middle of winter.

At the end of 2010 the Association had cash assets of just over £8500 and on a point of clarification from Chris Robinson John confirmed that £950 of the surplus was the remainder of the Coop grant and ring fenced to pay for an observation hive.

JT then gave a brief update of the current year to date, 39 beginners attended the theory course compared to 32 last year and 22 were already booked on the practical course compared to 17 last year. This year for the practical course students have the option to purchase a seconds quality new hive and a nucleus of bees through the Association. At present the Association has received £1675

from beginners buying hives and bees. On a point of clarification from Kevin Welby John Thompson advised that the bees are being supplied by Association Members at £120 per 5 frame nucleus. Two free bus trips have been successfully organised since the AGM, 11 Members visited Thorne's new premises and 20 Members went to Stoneleigh. This year to date the Association has a net income of £577 but that not all the possible gift aid has been claimed yet and there are cash assets of £9167 of which £950 is ring fenced for an observation hive. It was proposed by Paul Taylor, seconded by David Gray and carried unanimously that we approve the accounts.

8. Annual Subscription Rates: The recommendation from the Committee is that the subscription rates continue at the current level for the coming year despite the fact that the BBKA had put up their capitation fees by £1.

The current subscription rates are as follows:

Full Member	£25
Partner Member	£20
Junior Member	£25
Social Member	£12.50

It was proposed by John Cook, seconded by Julia Mander and carried unanimously that subscription rates would continue at the current level.

9. AOB: The Chairman advised that this year when Murton Park is open to the public on a Sunday we will no longer be asking for volunteers to man the bee pavilion for the whole day. Instead a demonstration of beekeeping would be scheduled at 2pm and advertised as one of the day's events on the program in the main building. This means that volunteers would just need to turn up at 2pm for the demonstration and be away by 3pm.

David Gray requested that there be a free bus trip to Thorne's open day and proposed a vote of thanks to John Thompson for organising a very successful trip to Stoneleigh.

10. Date of next meeting:

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Half Yearly Meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012 

### **Yorkshire BKA General Purposes Committee meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

Mead & honey wine workshop. At the time of the meeting 30 people had expressed an interest in attending the workshop.

YBKA merchandise, delivery of the sample fleece is awaited.

Next year tutorials will be held for modules 1 & 5 of the BBKA exams.

A preparation session for those wishing to take the husbandry exams will be held in May 2012.

An invigilator is required for the BBKA written exams in March 2012.

British BKA's Red and Blue course in a case are to be purchased.

It was agreed to continue to support the Northern Associations and that these meetings should generate proposals for the BBKA ADM.

Spring Conference review – this was poorly attended, a better explanation of the purpose of the Conference and the AGM is to be provided to Associations.

Bishop Burton review. Another disappointing attendance but feedback indicated that the event was well received. Consideration will be given to widen the audience through the Northern Associations.

Bee breeding day review, next steps proposals are to use the e-news to convey what attendees got out of the day and a practical sessions at an out apiary.

Dave Shannon is to be offered Honorary Membership of Yorkshire BKA in recognition of his work as Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

John Whittaker is to stand down as Treasurer, a successor is to be sought.

Discussions have begun with the Crop Protection Agency with a view to improve communication between farmers, crop sprayers & beekeepers.

Arrangements are in place for the Schools Days in 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June.

A booklet incorporating all of John Dews articles has been produced and each Association library will be sent a copy.