

Introduction to Beekeeping - Course Structure 2019

Session	Subject	Topics	Presenter
1 14th Jan	Introductions The Honeybee & the Colony	Introductions: Course, Members, Tutors The Honeybee: origins, species & structure The Colony: Castes, lifecycles & functions <i>Introductory video: The Honeybee</i>	Maria Heywood Chapters: 1, 2, 4 Maria Heywood
2 21st Jan	Brief History of the Hive & the Beekeeping Year Instructions for Self-Directed Study Week 28th January	The bees' nest The moveable frame hive & its development. The modern hive & its components The Beekeeping Year: Honey harvest & preparations for winter, over-wintering, spring management & inspections, summer build-up & harvesting	Graham Fifoot Chapters: 3, 4, 5
3 4th Feb	Queens	Structure, function, lifecycle revisited Queen & colony temperament Marking & clipping the queen Requeening/queen introduction Making up nuclei Importance of purchasing good quality, local queens	John Sadler Chapter: 6
4 11th Feb	Managing Increase – Swarm prevention and control	Reasons for swarms – causes, natural history, primary swarms and casts Swarm prevention methods & links to disease management Swarm control – the artificial swarm Swarm collection	Pam Hatton Chapter: 7
5 18th Feb	Pests, Diseases & Poisonings of the Honeybee Instructions for Self-Directed Study Week 25th February	Pests Diseases & apiary hygiene The Bee Inspectorate Brood diseases & statutory requirements. Adult diseases Managing varroa, tropilaelaps, & small hive beetle Integrated pest management strategy Poisonings: detection, spray liaison, advance warning & colony protection Your interests & queries researched using the internet, beekeeping sites, literature	Graham Platt Chapter: 8 Maria Heywood
6 4th Mar	Self-Study Outcomes Bees & Plants: Forage availability - timing, quantity & quality Hive Products	Contributions discussed & comments Pollination, nectar & honey Local forage crops (top fruit, OSR, clover & heather) Forage dearth & supplementary feeding (sugar syrup & pollen patties) Wax, propolis & pollen Other hive products: candles, creams etc. Selling honey	Training Team Stuart Hatton Chapters: 5, 9 Pam Hatton Chapter: 9
7 11th Mar	The Bee Inspectorate	The Role of the Bee Inspector. Statutory powers, support services and education	Ian Molyneux RBI
8 18th Mar	Getting Started in Beekeeping The next stage: The Practical Course	Where can I put my bees? Siting your apiary Personal equipment Type and purchase of hives Buying bees – caveat emptor BBKA standard & Fera movement certificate Local & National support Local Association, BBKA membership – fees, insurance & benefits Sign up for the Practical Course Pre-course apiary visit can be arranged Syllabus (Practical Record)	Graham Platt & Maria Heywood Chapter: 10 Training Team

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