

Y.B.K.A. eNews

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 14 : December 2010

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We need a language expert

YBKA Handbook 2011

Your district committee should receive a supply of handbooks at the AGM on 18th December. These should be distributed to members in the new year. Many Thanks.



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Well, this is the final letter from me as my term of office as chairman is to end at the year's forthcoming A.G.M. - now postponed to the 18th of December, due to the very unusual and bad weather conditions making travel for some virtually impossible. I have had an extended term of office of some 4 1/2 years following early retirement of our former chairwoman Sue Chatfield, during this period though we have gone from strength to strength. This is not only due to the very large influx of new beekeepers that have joined our association over this period but also due to all of the publicity by the media about the plight of the honey bee throughout the country. We have developed with a lot of very dedicated work by my committee and me going to our associations meetings and publicly promoting and encouraging the formation of beekeeping for beginners' classes throughout the whole of the county through our affiliated associations. This has been a tremendous success with all associations running at least one course, some running their 3rd and 4th courses in successive years. This has had the effect of increasing not only local associations memberships, but has brought the Y.B.K.A membership up from around just over 800 from the start of my office as chairman to at present in excess of over 1150 members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved at local level for doing an excellent job, long may it continue. I think we have made great improvements with how we now conduct the procedures at our annual spring Con. and A.G.M meetings, also making far better use of our new headquarters for these venues and saving money by not having to book rooms at very high rates with the monies saved going towards the buffets now being put in place by the committee at these venues. For the first time in several years we are now getting a greater proportion of our membership coming to these venues. This can still be improved upon and I am sure my successor will continue to work towards this, for we currently get about 10% of our membership attending and we on the committee are striving to get at least 15% so please spread the word.

Our Modules tutorials and exams set up by the committee and I have over the past 3 years been a great success - also. This is impart due to the work done by our new education and examinations officer Wendy Maslin who has worked tirelessly to organise and to get top tutors to attend for the benefit of all those members in attendance and offered for free. We have achieved a record number pass rate on the courses already run. This is set to continue and hopefully get many more members through the B.B.K.A module exams. We are now in the process of purchasing several sets of both dissecting and compound microscopes to start a course and tutorials on microscopy very soon. We now have a very balanced committee at the helm of the association in every aspect and I am confident that things will only improve over the years to come. Before signing off I would just like to say a big thank you to my Vice Chairman Bill Cadmore for all his help and support over my term of office, and to our Honorary Treasurer John Whitaker who since his appointment has done and is indeed still doing a sterling job for the association, likewise with our Honorary Secretary Brian Latham who gets all the information for all our venues out to everyone and behind the scenes works tirelessly to collate all the information coming into the committee and to record all for prosperity. One person I feel deserves a special thank you from me is Edna Philips who just after my appointment took on the very large task of collating and recording all our new and original members for the B.B.K.A and our records and without whose fantastic work behind the scenes we could not have done without. Final thank you to every one of the committee members to whom I have the greatest respect and know they will continue to strive for an even better Y.B.K.A in the future. For me work continues in my role as Y.B.K.A area rep. for Rotherham Doncaster Barnsley and Sheffield to whom I shall be visiting over the next few months

Many thanks to all of you,

[Dave Shannon](#)
Y.B.K.A Chairman
Happy Beekeeping
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December

The bees may have settled down for the winter but there are lots of jobs you can do.

All boxes not occupied by bees can now be emptied of frames and all the propolis scraped off. Some people flame gun the insides plus the top and bottom edges, and even give the outsides a coat of sealant.

Frames can be sorted into those which need new foundation and those which are o.k. (Also check for wax moth grubs.) The old comb can be cut out and stored for melting down in the spring. If you haven't got a Solar wax extractor then now's the time to make one. They are easy to make and a wonderful piece of equipment. The clean rendered wax can be exchanged for foundation, and then you can. replace the foundation in the empty frames in early spring, well before you need it.

Most hives will have new queens this summer but which hives contain your best bees? Check your records and breed from these.

December is a good time to treat with oxalic acid using the dribble treatment. Beebase has a good leaflet describing how to do this and there are several useful videos available on YouTube.

In early January start to regularly check the weight of stores and feed if required.

It's not worth losing a colony for the sake of a few pounds of candy.

This year one of our new members arrived at his apiary to set up his first empty hive, only to find not 20 yards away a prime swarm! So spend time this winter making a swarm box, and make it at least as big as a brood box. There's no point in making one that can only accommodate casts! Use it to carry your gear to your apiary, that way if you find a swarm you will have your box with you.

If your new, seek information and advice from old hands, they will have years of experience. Always have a list of members phone numbers because you never know when you may need assistance, On site! Above all think of how you can improve your beekeeping such as producing some comb honey or making a nuc box, or buying your jars before you extract. etc. There are lots to do so put on your thinking caps.

[Bill Cadmore, Editor](#)

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RBI

Regional Bee Inspector **Ivor Flatman**, tel. 01924 252795, e-mail ivor.flatman@fera.gsi.gov.uk

NBU office: National Bee Unit, The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York, UK, YO41 1LZ

Email: nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 01904 462510

Web site: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/>

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MEAD and HONEY WINE JUDGES

Yorkshiremen are very much in the forefront of achieving accreditation from the federation. To achieve accreditation candidates must be active mead makers as well as successful exhibitors. In addition they must have experience with stewarding and judging. Achieving accreditation is only achieved by hands on involvement and being currently active in the field of mead and honey wine.

The candidates are expected to have a wide knowledge of Meads; have an understanding of Honey Table Wines; have knowledge of all the types of honey wines including vinegar, marinades and non-alcoholic beverages made with honey; recognise common faults and errors; be fully conversant with usual show practice and rules; understand the methods commonly used for allocating awards and show management.

At the present time Alan Brown is well ahead with achieving accreditation, which takes about three years; hopefully next year he will be the first candidate to achieve this in the UK. Closely following behind is Tony Jefferson and David Shannon. Alan was heavily involved with stewarding at the National Honey Show this year, this was due entirely to the help from Rev'd Carpenter at the NHS this year.

The following is an extract from the Wax Times, the newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers.

The month's end of October saw many liverymen and beekeepers repairing to the 79th National Honey Show held at St. George's College, Weybridge. For those who are not epicures of honey and its associated products, are not enthused by the sight of rows upon rows of honey, what is the attraction? Without doubt, it's the sheer presence of interested people at the Mecca of showing that attracts them to meet up with fellow enthusiasts; some of whom they only see at this annual feast of beekeeping.

At the Bee Craft stand it was interesting to hear the chatter and bargaining tongues and one enquirer asking about the Langstroth hive having read about it. It became the preferred hive of one enthusiast, who had written an article on bees in Saturday's "Independent" newspaper. So who what is special about the Langstroth hive?

The Langstroth hive, an America designed hive, incorporates "top bee-space" whereas British hives excepting the "Smith Hive" the "bottom bee-space". It can be said that the founder of the Langstroth is the founder of modern day beekeeping. So who was Langstroth? Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth's ancestors came from Langstroth Dale, Buckden, North Yorkshire. He was born in Philadelphia USA on December 25th 1810 and he died at Dayton, Ohio on October 6th 1895. December sees the 200th anniversary of his birth. He was pastor of the second Congregational Church, Greenfield, Massachusetts. Due to ill health, he was forced to give up the ministry. In doing so, he became involved in commercial beekeeping. He studied at Yale and as a result developed a well-trained scientific mind. It is said that he came across the idea of the "hanging movable frame with bee-space all around" on October 30th 1851. It is believed that he took an interest in the blind Swiss naturalist and beekeeper Francois Huber who developed special beehives to improve scientific observation of his bees. His work, viewed through the eyes of his assistant, resulted in the first clear understanding of the concept of "bee-space" - the secret to the building of modern hives with movable frames. Huber was born in Geneva, on July 2nd 1750 and died on 20th of December, 1832. The concept of bee-space (5-6mm) is that bees will tolerate a gap of these dimensions, whereas in normal situations

within the hive (natural or the beekeepers' purpose-made home) the bees will automatically fill it with either beeswax or propolis (bee-super glue).

Today the Langstroth Hive is the most popular hive in the world, used by hobbyists and commercial apiarists alike. Its brood and super boxes are much deeper than the UK type hives; consequently, when they are filled to capacity, you need a "man of mighty girth" to lift them. Beekeepers in the UK to get the same comb area, adopt the use of one brood box plus a super box for the brood area, others use two brood boxes. It is a topic of huge discussion on which hive is best.

So thanks to the Rev. L.L. Langstroth's research, the modern concept of beekeeping came into being. The straw skeps days were numbered, although in the UK they lasted into the 20th century.

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CONTACT FEEDERS

When I wished to use a contact feeder on one of my hives two main types are available. One is the honey jar with a perforated lid and the other is a plastic tub with a gauze covered hole in the lid. In use, I have two problems with these. The first is that when inverting the feeder to go over the feed hole I usually get some syrup splashing out. My second problem is having to lift the feeder off the feed hole to refill it. This usually involves bees flying up at me.

To bypass these problems my Heath-Robinson mode engaged. I took an empty 2 litre ice cream tub and cut a 1 inch diameter hole in the bottom. On the inside of the tub I stuck a piece of thicker foil from the top of a cream carton over the hole. With a fine needle I made two or three tiny holes in the foil. The filled tub could then be placed over the feed hole. I could refill the tub, in position, without disturbing the bees. The lightness of the tub means it can be easily displaced. A piece of slate or tile on the top stops this and holding the tub in position whilst refilling helps.

I wonder if any other readers have a solution to the feeder problem ?

Know your diseases

Try this link

<http://www.gigapan.org/gigapans/27538/>

Honey Recipes for Christmas

"Knightsbridge Cocktail" (from Robin Dartington)

½ spoon runny honey

1 shot whisky

½ shot pressed apple juice

Champagne or sparkling wine to top up

'Whim-Wham' by John Hill

Being as it is almost Christmas, and at the request of our noble editor, here is a recipe which includes, some, but not much honey. This is taken from "The Complete Confectioner" ca 1790, given by Hannah Glass, and is called 'Whim-Wham', you will soon see why.

For each Person:--- Take One Boudoir Biscuit (Sponge Finger), One tablespoon of Sweet Sherry (or Muscatel Dessert wine) into which One Tablespoon of Runny Honey has been mixed, Two large Tablespoons of Double Cream, 1/2 teaspoon roasted Hazelnuts, and two small leaves cut from Angelica.....Break the biscuit into Four pieces, and place in a small custard cup. Pour over the sherry/wine/honey. Pile the whipped cream on top and decorate with nuts and angelica OR candied citron/orange. Avoid glace cherries, which would be from the wrong period!! Wait quietly for the Whim-Wham to take effect!

Honey Cookies by Julie Cooper

These honey cookies are light, wafery and crisp, and they melt in the mouth.

Makes 18-20. 25g (1oz) plain flour. 50g (2oz) margarine. Pinch of salt. 50g (2oz) demerara sugar. ½ teaspoon ground ginger. 50g (2oz) melted honey. A squeeze of lemon juice. 50g (2oz) wholemeal flour.

Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/gas 3. Put the margarine, sugar and honey into a pan and stir over a gentle heat until the margarine has melted. Remove from the heat and stir in the flours, salt and ginger. Then stir in the lemon juice. Place teaspoonfuls of the mixture on a well greased baking tray, allowing room for the biscuits to spread. Bake for 8-10 minutes until they are a light golden brown. Leave to cool for a minute or two, then carefully lift off and cool on a wire rack.

Honey Glaze for ham, turkey, etc.

To make a glaze, place 2 tbsp honey, 1 tbsp sherry vinegar, 3 tbsp dry sherry, 5 tbsp chicken stock and 5 slices of unpeeled root ginger in a small saucepan. Simmer until reduced by half, then leave to cool. Spoon the glaze over the top of the meat, discarding the ginger slices, and roast for a further 25 minutes.

Cranachan

Cranachan is a traditional Scottish dessert. Made from a mixture of whipped cream, whisky, honey, and fresh raspberries (or raspberry coulis) topped with toasted oatmeal.

A traditional way to serve Cranachan is to bring dishes of each ingredient to the table, so that each person can assemble their dessert to taste. What could be simpler!

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has produced some more honey recipes at:

www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2008/sep/13/foodanddrink.recipe

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Yellow Course in a Case

Course in the case is a packaged programme of materials for running beekeeping courses. The white CiC for new beekeepers has been available for a while now. The yellow course in a case will be available soon and offers a range of materials for preparing for the BBKA Basic examination. Other 'colour' CiC will follow shortly eventually offering a suit of materials for all stages of beekeeper training.

The Course in a Case is available for purchase from BBKA at the reduced price of £50 - but only for a limited period. Purchase application forms are available from [Wendy Maslin](#).

BBKA are organising training events over the winter to help trainers use the materials as effectively as possible so getting the package at the cheaper rate makes sense.

YBKA has one copy for members to borrow.

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THE YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

In conjunction with Bishop Burton College
Saturday 9th April 2011

YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
53rd CONFERENCE
AT BISHOP BURTON COLLEGE, BEVERLEY
EAST RIDING of YORKSHIRE

" Honey Bees and Beekeepers in our Natural Environment "

Guest Lecturers

Dr Giles Budge
Research Co-ordinator
National Bee Unit

Prof. Keith S. Delaplane
Professor of Entomology
University of Georgia

John Hendrie
BBKA / BIBBA / Nat. Honey Show

Conference Organisers
Bill Cadmore Wendy Maslin Brian Latham
Sponsored by Northern Bee Books

Programme

0900 - 0930 Registration

0930 - 0935 Welcome and Introductions

0935 - 1030 Prof. Keith S. Delaplane
 Honey bee ecology and its application to beekeepers

1030 - 1050 Coffee

1050 - 1150 Dr Giles Budge
 Colony losses

1200 - 1300 John Hendrie
 Communication in bees

Luncheon

1400 - 1500 Prof. Keith S. Delaplane
 Honey bee genetics and breeding

1500 - 1545 Discussion
 Talk with the speakers in smaller groups

1545- 1615 Tea

Goodbyes and disperse

Our Speakers for the day

Dr Giles Budge

Dr Giles Budge has worked in plant pathology research and development for 10 years. Giles started work at the National Bee Unit in October 2007 as the research co-ordinator. Prior to this, he was responsible for the development of real-time PCR-based diagnostics for bee pests and diseases and the delivery of the EFB study.

Prof. Keith S. Delaplane

Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Georgia,
Prof. Delaplane's expertise is in honey bee management, sustainable bee health management, bee foraging ecology, social evolution, and crop pollination. He oversees an off-campus lab of one dedicated state-funded technician, one soft-money technician, 1-2 graduate students, and 1-2 hourly workers. The lab work over 200 hives. He is the author of several books on beekeeping.

John Hendrie

John has been involved with bees and beekeeping almost all his life, having been stung at the age of two by one of his father's colonies. Since graduating from university in 1971, he has held many offices in local beekeeping associations, including branch secretary (12 years) and treasurer of Kent BKA (8 years), He was appointed to the exam board of the BBKA in 1991, is a vice chairman of the National Honey show and a director of Bee Craft magazine. John is heavily involved in various aspects of the BBKA.

Other attractions on the day

Northern Bee Books

A variety of the latest beekeeping publications will be on sale.

National Bee Unit

An information stand will be available.

Stamfordham Beekeeping Supplies

Suppliers of quality beekeeping supplies

Booking Form, please submit by the 26th March 2011

THE YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Saturday 9th April 2011

BISHOP BURTON COLLEGE - Application Form

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

.....post code.....

tel.....

email

(please print)

..... No. of tickets @ £25.00 including lunch £.....

..... No. of tickets @ £15.00 excluding lunch £.....

..... No. of tickets Student and young persons
@ £20.00 including lunch £.....

Total £.....

Please advise if you have any dietary requirements.

Please give names of other people you are buying tickets for so that we can prepare name badges for them.

Please send your remittance to:

W Cadmore, 104 Hall Lane, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5JG

Telephone 0113 216 0482

Please make cheques payable to Yorkshire Beekeepers Association

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Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association

Registered charity number 509743

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Beekeepers Association to be held on Saturday the 18th December 2010 at the Normanby Pavilion Great Yorkshire Show Ground Harrogate

Meeting Starts at 10:30 hrs

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee

10:30 - 11:30

Guest speaker: Celia Davis
Beekeeper v Bees

11:30 - A.G.M.

Agenda

- 3.1 Apologies for absence
- 3.2 Minutes of the March Conference
- 3.3 Matters arising
- 3.4 Chairmans address
- 3.5 Secretary's report
- 3.6 Treasurers report and budget for the following year.
- 3.7 Confirmation of Trustees
- 3.8 Bishop Burton
- 3.9 Countryside Days
- 3.10 Great Yorkshire Show
- 3.11 Equipment Officers Report
- 3.12 Y.A.S Report
- 3.13 Examinations Officers Report
- 3.14 Newsletter Editors Report
- 3.15 YBKA Website
- 3.16 Election of Officers:
- 3.17 Area Representatives
- 3.18 Proposed new district association
- 3.19 Northern Associations
- 3.20 Matters for consideration for the Executive Committee
- 3.21 AOB

Closure

NB: Lunch taken 12:30 - 13:30

A buffet lunch will be available at a cost of £4.00 per person

There will be no charge for Tea, coffee and biscuits.

Important Dates

Y.B.K.A. DATES

YBKA Spring Conference

March 12th 2011
Yorkshire Showground

Bee Breeding Event

March 26th (tbc)
Yorkshire Showground

Bishop Burton Conference

9th April 2011
Bishop Burton College

Please - Send in your district events for publishing - get members from surrounding districts to visit.

Beekeepers ?

I have been looking at the Constitution of YBKA - My District and have come to an impasse as to where to proceed with the correct nomenclature!

We have over many years repeatedly varied the title between Anyname Beekeepers Association and Anyname Beekeepers' Association and this seems to be at the whim of the typist, secretary or other official!.

I thought I may get some guidance from BBKA - who support the possessive apostrophe on both their website and letterhead. Although the variation across the country by looking at their websites is diverse.

Turning to YBKA this is less clear, the website home page has Welcome to Yorkshire Beekeepers Association Website and Welcome to Yorkshire Beekeeping Association on consecutive lines. The website history dropdown has Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association in the historical articles originating from the date of formation in July 1882.

The letterhead sent out with the AGM circulars has Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association. The constitution (2007) has the title Yorkshire Beekeepers Association.

The AGM Agenda has the letter heading Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association and below states the registered charity number which does have the possessive apostrophe in the registered title. Later the AGM refers to the Yorkshire Beekeepers Association i.e. without the apostrophe.

Wikipedia - possessive apostrophe 1.1.5 is ambiguous and therefore does not give a direction. I suppose the registration of the charity is the determining factor here? If the constitution does not have an apostrophe then is the association according to the constitution officially registered ! ???

Can anybody help ? Please ? Do we have a language expert in the association ?

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A Bit Of Fun

ITEMS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF BEEMASTER - the newsletter of Notts. BKA

At the beekeeping equipment shop the manager overheard one of his salesmen talking to a customer. "No, sir" said the salesman, "We haven't had any for a while and it doesn't look like we'll be getting any soon."

The manager was horrified and yelled after the departing customer, "Come back next week. We're sure to have whatever you need!" Irrate he turned to his salesman, "Never tell a customer we're out of anything. Now, what did he want?"

"Rain," answered the salesman.

The old beekeeper watched whilst the novice fumbled with the frames and enthused about how well his children were doing in their professions. "They've got my brains," he said.

The beekeeper looked at him with a faint smile and said, "Oh, how sad. I've kept mine!"

At the Auction a beekeeper entered a special kind of hoe with a label attached made out of stick-on labels. The label read:

"WEED STANING UP"

A bright spark said to the beekeeper, "Surely you have misspelt your label." The beekeeper explained dryly: "I had only one letter "D". Where would you have put it?"

A beekeeper gave a demonstration to a class of infants and explained about extracting honey for them to eat. After his talk he sat down awaiting the inevitable questions but instead one of the pupils in the front row began to cry. The beekeeper quickly told the pupil that the bees would not be harmed as they were given sugar to replace their loss.

"I'm not worried about the bees," the pupil sobbed, "You have just sat on my invisible friend!"

A well-known lecturer presented his message to the beekeepers' meeting. He was received a polite response from the audience with the few expected questions.

At the close of the meeting the Treasurer approached the great man with a cheque. This he politely and modestly refused, saying that the fee might be devoted to some charitable purpose. "Would you mind," asked the Treasurer, "if we add it to our special fund?" "Not at all," said he, "What's the special fund for?"

"To enable us to get better lecturers in the future!"

A beekeeper wrote this letter to an equipment supplier:

"Please send me one of those red cedar hives you show on page 43, and if it's any good, I'll send you a cheque."

In a short time he received the following reply:

"Please send cheque. If it's any good, we'll send you the hive!"

The lecturer was explaining the blood circulation of the bee and said, "If you tip a bee upside down it keeps the same blood levels." He then added, "The same cannot be said of me. If I stand on my head all the blood tries to flow into my skull. I wonder why that is?"

The old beekeeper said wryly, "Could it be that bee's have something in their heads?"

Every night Joe, a beekeeper, would go down to the off-licence, get a six-pack, bring it home and drink it while he watched TV. One night, as he finished his last beer, the doorbell rang. He stumbled to the door and found a six-foot bee standing there. The insect grabbed him by the collar and threw him across the room, then left.

The next night, after he finished his fourth beer, the doorbell rang. He walked slowly to the door and found the same six-foot bee standing there. The big insect punched him in the stomach, then left.

The next night, after he had finished his first beer, the doorbell rang again. Again the same six-foot bee was there. This time he was kicked on the knee by the bee and hit behind the ear as he doubled over in pain.

The next night Joe did not drink at all and when he answered the door bell he was beaten up by the bee which left him in a heap on the floor.

The following day he went to see his doctor. He explained the events of the preceding four nights. "What can I do?" he pleaded.

"Not much," the doctor said, "There's just a nasty bug going round!"

The middle-aged beekeeper was shuffling along, bent over at the waist, as his wife helped him into the doctor's waiting room. The nurse in reception viewed the scene with sympathy. "Arthritis with complications?" she asked. The wife shook her head, "Do-it-Yourself," she explained, "with full supers!"

A farmer was milking his cow. He was just starting to get a good rhythm going when a bee flew into the barn and started circling his head. Suddenly, the bee flew into the cow's ear. The farmer didn't think much about it, until the bee squirted out into his pail. It appears that the bee went in one ear and out the udder.

And then - there was this beekeeper, at his wit's end because of debt and no honey crop. Well, he was walking past a bank and noticed a little sign saying:

BEEKEEPERS' LOANS 2%

He dashed into the bank and asked the bank manager about getting such a bargain. The bank manager explained: "No, that's not the interest rate - that's the chances of you getting a loan!"

The proud new beekeeper brought home a brand new hive in the flat. After several hours of reading the instructions, attempting to fit piece A into slot B, etc., he finally gave up and called upon an old handyman working in a neighbouring yard. The old-timer came over, threw the instructions away and, in a short while had the hive completely assembled.

"It's beyond me," said the beekeeper, "how you got it together without even reading the instructions." "To tell the truth," replied the old-timer, "I can't read, and when you can't read, you've got to think!"

It was the day of the big beekeeping equipment sale. Rumours of the sale (and some advertising in the local paper) were the main reasons for the long queue that formed by 8.30am - the store's opening time.

A small man pushed his way to the front of the queue, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colourful curses. On his second attempt, he was punched square on the jaw, knocked about a bit and then thrown to the end of the queue again. As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the queue "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I don't open the store!"

A beekeeper was driving from his home to his out-apiary when a lawyer's car hit his van. The lawyer saw that the beekeeper was really upset. "Here," he said, "Have a swig of some whiskey I've got in the car." The beekeeper took a long drink and handed the bottle back to the lawyer. "No, thanks," said the lawyer, "I won't drink anything until after the police have arrived!"

"You just go ahead," said the man to his wife when they got to the equipment shop. "While you are visiting the church, I'll just browse in here." An hour later, the wife returned and saw him at the checkout. The shop assistant was ringing up the last of a pile of equipment, jars, and foundation that would fill two wheelbarrows.

"Are you buying all this?" the wife asked incredulously. "Well, yes," he said embarrassed. Then, waving his arm towards the interior of the shop he added, "But look what I'm leaving behind!"

This farmer was watching a beekeeper setting up hives in his out-apiary. The beekeeper called to the farmer, "Hey, mister. Is that bull safe?" To which the farmer shouted back, "Safe as anything - can't say the same about you!"

There was a daft pirate from Beds.
Whilst wearing his beekeeping threads
He forgot I suppose
For on scratching his nose
His hook tore his new veil to shreds.

There was beekeeper, so kind,
Who, when asked, "Do you mind!
Tell me do your bees string"
Said, "They can't do such thing!
Stay in front and don't go behind!"

A forgetful beekeeper we hear
Was smoking his bees without fear
When his mobile phone rang
Quickly to it he sprang
His smoker he put to his ear!

This beekeeper bet twenty-pound
His hive was the tallest around,
Piled full supers on top
But his bet was a flop
His hive sank six-feet underground.

When training, this marathon man
Tried to run as fast as he can.
When asked "How do you train?"
He was quick to explain
"Nasty bees chase me as I ran"

Once shops thought nothing was finer
Than honey coming from China.
But as we protest
Local honey is best
We feel it is major not minor!

There was an old man long ago
Wanted to make candles, you know.
Wax was heated to high
And he found by-and-by
That firemen put on a good show

This eager beekeeper from France
Tried to teach his bees how to dance.
His hopes were to vanish,
His bees only knew Spanish
And so never gave him a chance.

Then there was this fellow from
Spain
Whose bees died again and again.
Every year they got wet
But he seemed to forget
The main rain in Spain on the plain

Y.B.K.A. Executive Committee

Chairman / Honey Show Organisation

Dave Shannon
01302-772837
dave_aca@tiscali.co.uk

Vice Chairman / Newsletter Editor

Bill Cadmore
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bill.cadmore@ntlworld.com

Secretary

Brian Latham
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