

# Y.B.K.A. eNews

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



## CONTENT

1.1  
OCTOBER 2011  
Advice for beekeepers in June

1.3  
JAR PURCHASE SCHEME  
Details of the new scheme

1.3  
JAR PURCHASE SCHEME  
Details of the new scheme

1.4  
SPINK COMPAK  
Contact Details

1.5  
THE DRONE  
Misunderstood males

1.6  
CHRISTMAS  
Make gifts ready for Xmas

1.7  
EDUCATION UPDATES  
Read the NBU Leaflet

1.8  
SWARM  
Show your passport please

1.9  
DISTRICT CONTACTS  
Your GPC rep.

2.0  
GPC/ CALENDAR/RBI

Our Chairmans message

## The Bulk Purchase Issue

The members of the Y.B.K.A. General Purposes Committee (GPC) want all of our members to be able to take advantage of our bulk purchase schemes as much as possible.

This is not because we make a lot of money from these schemes - though we do make some money and this helps us keep our membership fee very low.

This is because we think that members deserve to opportunity to get a bargain if they can.

We operate 3 bulk purchase schemes:-

1. Honey Jars and containers
2. Foundation, Varroa treatments
3. YBKA merchandise

### Honey Jars

In recent months the jar purchase has caused concern as it just seemed far to complicated - and was hard for members to get prices quoted quickly. As a result of these problems we have changed this system so that members can now order directly from the supplier. See pages 3 & 4 for details.

District associations can save even more money by purchasing a pallet of jars and then selling them on to members.

Districts might also consider buying 10L pails which come in 15's - a few more than most individuals want these can be split between members.

### Foundation

About now your association secretary will be receiving order forms for each member to order any foundation they need for next year. The price of this foundation is about 25% less than the list price - so you can make a big saving by using this scheme.

You can also use this order form to order your varroa treatments - the prices are not discounted - nobody will give us a discount but you don't have to pay delivery charges.

You can also order gloves on this form.

### YBKA Merchandise

YBKA offer a range of fleeces, polo shirts, and badges for members to purchase. These make it easy to have a 'corporate look' at district events.

We urge all members to 'shop around' to see just how attractive these prices are - and if you can get a better deal than we are offering let us know so we can members save even more money.

Good Beekeeping

Bill

## OCTOBER

### JOBS FOR THE MONTH

Prepare for Winter

Extract the last of the honey



In some cases there may still be the last few boxes of honey to extract from the heather crop, or for some who have kept back the last of the late summer honey this will now need extracting but for the majority however, October signifies the end of the hard work and the seasons end. Full combs that were very well capped and filled on the heather or balsam may still be kept for the use in cut comb if not already done but they must be stored in an appropriate place away from other bees and wasps that may find and eat them if left out in the open space of a garage or shed without protection.

Personally the month of October is the preparation month for the forthcoming year, ensuring all appropriate treatments and feed are now in place within all my colonies is priority. You should have fed all the hives that require extra feed with a one-to-one mix of sugar and water to the 40kg per colony amount in total. This will ensure each hive has sufficient stores to last them through to April/May of 2012. Go through all your brood chambers to check your colonies are queen-right going into winter. The ones that aren't should be united with another colony. Better a strong colony; for its no use thinking if I have a weak colony at this time of year and unite it with another queenless and weakened colony this will strengthen it sufficiently to get it through the winter. In my own experiences this doesn't work, better unit the pair of them with other strong colonies and this will be a far better practice to get them through to next spring.

With these tasks complete its time for a security check, not only from animals and birds (woodpeckers); but also from the human intruders and thieves that are ever more prevalent as each season passes. If you're in a venerable area where woodpeckers reside then make chicken mesh cages to place over each colony. Ensure the gap between the mesh cage and the hive wall is not less than 4inches

for a woodpecker's beak is very long and damage can still occur if this is less. Check that all your boxes are well protected against the elements before going into winter, no holes, and given a good coating of wood protector and preserve. Place your mouse guards at the entrance holes but reduce the entrances where possible to a minimum before doing this by putting in entrance blocks - don't ever place a full strip of mouse guard across the full open entrance. By reducing entrance size you are giving your bees less of an area to defend against robbers. Ensure where possible your over-wintering colonies are out of public view. The less people who know they are there the better. In some cases this isn't always possible but you can put up screens or brush wood to disguise them when all the foliage is dead making them less visible. Tell your local farmers where out apiaries are and to keep an eye out for opportunistic thieves and strange unrecognised vehicles and ask him report any suspicions. Secure all hive lids with a stone or heavy weight on top ensuring they don't blow off in strong winds. Don't leave hive straps on hives as this makes it easier for thieves to quickly remove the hives. Make no mistake thieves are very often beekeepers themselves, despicable I know but unfortunately true. When all these things are in place you should be right to go into winter but remember to go down on a regular basis to check things are still ok especially with out-apiaries. Next month we'll discuss looking after boxes and frames through the winter months and how to best protect them.

I hope all have had a reasonably successful season but speaking to fellow beekeepers in my own area things have been very patchy, some having very good seasons other quite bad; once again mother nature gets the blame

Happy beekeeping  
Dave Shannon

**WELL DONE YBKA****1ST PRIZE****THE 3 RIDINGS OF YORKSHIRE**

Harrogate BKA held their honey show recently and this year included a special class



Did you hear the good news - 3 YBKA members got 1st !!!!

Harrogate Beekeepers had a "special" class this year for 12 jars of honey + educational narrative A5 size, it could be entered as 3 different beekeepers and it carried a total £200 first prize

Tony Jefferson, Jim Pearson and Allan Brown decided to have a go as an entry from the North, East and West Riding of Yorkshire.

Heather from the North, Dark Honey Dew from the West and softset from the East Riding.

Stuart Atkinson did a really excellent job with the labels and narrative.

The £100 prize money is to be added to the raffle which Whitby BKA are running to raise funds for the Joh Dews Charity fund.

The £100 worth of equipment is being donated to YBKA.

I perhaps should not write this but it makes me really pleased beating all the Harrogate Beekeepers - one up for the rest of Yorkshire !

Congratulations to Tony, Jim, Allan and Stuart.

## HONEY JARS: BULK PURCHASE SCHEME

A new, simpler scheme for members which will let them buy honey jars and other items at attractive, discounted prices.

Members can now order directly from Spink Compak

Members can pay in a variety of ways

Members will receive a discounted price on small orders

Members can arrange collection or delivery to suit themselves



### Problems identified by YBKA members:-

YBKA members identified the following problems

It is often hard to contact the association bulk purchase officer to place orders

Members want to know the price before they buy

Members want to be able to compare the YBKA/Spinks price with the price offered by other suppliers

Members want to be able to talk directly with the supplier to arrange price, collection and delivery

The YBKA payment option, by cheque, is not the best method for members

Spinks are not mentioned in any YBKA literature so most members don't actually know that they can get jars and buckets at a good price from a Yorkshire supplier

### The new arrangements for bulk purchase of jars, honey buckets and other items

#### Financial Arrangements

Spinks Compak have agreed to pay YBKA an annual fee in return for advertising space in each monthly issue of this eNews. YBKA will no longer receive a percentage from each order placed with Spinks Compak. This will reduce administration costs for both parties.

#### Ordering

*If you wish to place an order then all you have to do is telephone or email Spinks Compak directly - the contact details are on the Spinks advert on the next page.*

When you order you can discuss price, delivery details and payment arrangements directly with the supplier

You no longer need to contact YBKA in order to place an order.

You will continue to receive a discounted price for orders of any size. Small orders will have to be collected or a small order delivery charge be paid. Larger orders will be delivered free of charge - this is subject to the size of the order and the proximity of the delivery address to regular delivery routes used by Spinks Compak. As a guideline delivery will usually be free of charge on orders of 10 gross of 1lb honey jars or similar quantities of other jars or mixed loads. Any delivery charge will be agreed when orders are placed.

#### Payment Methods

Payment will be made directly to Spinks Compak at point of delivery or collection. Methods of payment are either cash, debit/credit card or via bank transfer (both electronic methods must be paid before the goods are dispatched). For members who order large quantities on a regular basis, an individual account can be set up with 21 day payment terms. Both types of account will benefit from the same prices. The YBKA Equipment Officer will no longer process orders and the Treasurer will no longer issue invoices. YBKA members will be asked to order directly from Spinks Compak. Members who are VAT registered will now be able to reclaim VAT.

**SPINKS**  
**com pak**

- Honey Jars and Lids
- Food Jars and Lids
- Food Grade Pails

See our comprehensive range at  
[www.spinkscompak.com](http://www.spinkscompak.com)

Or visit our showroom  
 9 Shannon Street  
 Leeds LS9 8SS

**Call Gemma**  
**today on –**  
**0113 2350662**

## BUY BRITISH GLASS

### Beeswax Glass & Plastic Jars

*Distributors for the 3 British Glass Manufacturers*

We have now taken stock of our British Show Standard Honey Jar



*Working with the British Glass Industry*

## Spinks Compak

Spinks Compak are pleased to be placing our first advert in the Yorkshire Beekeepers E-Newsletter.

Please feel free to visit our website and have a look at the various items available :  
<http://www.spinkscompak.com/>

We are looking forward to meeting you all at The Bishop Burton Conference in April 2012. This will also be an opportunity for you to see some of the items that we hold in stock and ask any questions that you may have.

In the meantime if you wish to place an order or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Gemma Wood who will be happy to assist you, either on the telephone number stated above or via email [gemma.wood@spinks.co.uk](mailto:gemma.wood@spinks.co.uk).

Please remember you are always welcome to visit our showroom where all our products are on display.

Best wishes to all our beekeeper customers  
 Gemma

## The Drone Honey Bee

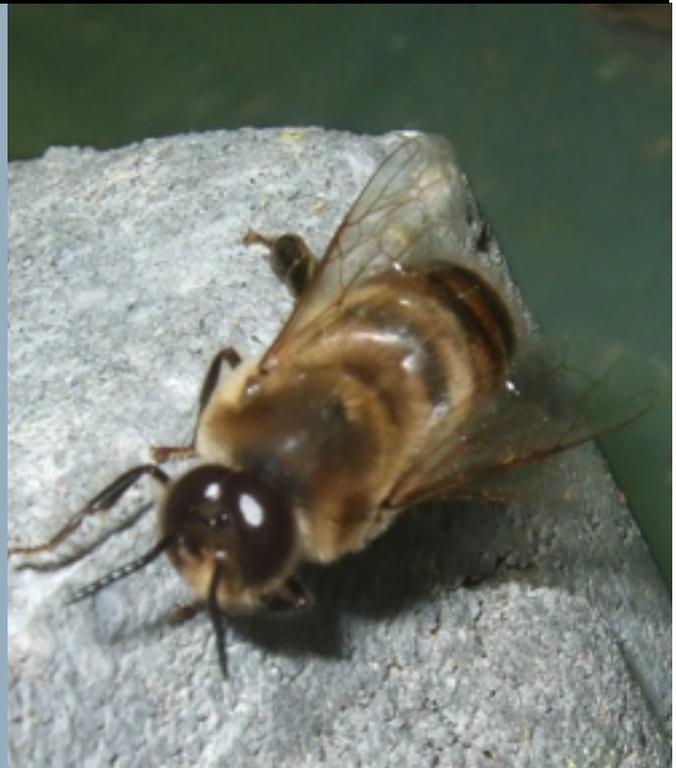
### HAPLOID MALE

*Throughout our bee breeding programme we have tried to stress just how important the drone is. The queen contributes 50% of the genetic make-up of your bees, the drones contribute the other 50%.*

This means that inbreeding can occur in isolated areas and that random mating of sub-species can occur in areas with a high density of beekeepers.

So how do you control which drones your queen will mate with ?

Glynn Davis will talk about the misunderstood drone at our AGM - Saturday 3rd December 2011.



Most people--well, it's probably more accurate to say women--laugh when they hear that the drone doesn't do anything to help around the home. All the work of the honey bee hive is carried out by female workers.

These workers don't reproduce, that function belongs only to the queen. This social community is the same as ants and I think termites as well.

But we can't discount the drone. He plays a very significant role and that is to carry the genetics of the bee forward as he mates with his queen.

Drones fly off from the hive in the afternoons and they meet in Drone Congregation Areas. These areas are known to the drones - we don't know why they are chosen or how they know where to go but chemical scents probably play a significant role. The important thing is that the queen knows too and she can find them when she does her mating flight.

The drones mate with the queen in mid air and once he latches onto the queen he rotates his body backwards which unfortunately causes a certain male appendage to snap and then he dies. But he has done the job he was born to do.

The queen will mate with about 6 drones before she returns to the hive.

She'll spend the rest of her life laying eggs, storing the sperm from her mating to last her whole life long.

The sperm is stored in her spermatheca.

Drones have extra large compound eyes - the better to see the queen with. The drone has a tiny proboscis and cannot feed himself. The workers have a longer proboscis which they use to probe into flowers and the bottom of a honey comb cell.

Drones are also sting-less. Since they don't fill a role as guarding or protecting the hive, there's no need for a stinger or venom. Drones can be handled very nicely and safely.

Around the hive, the loudest buzzing in flight comes from the drones. They will fly back and forth in front of the hive, just like the workers do, to orient themselves with the look of the hive so they can recognize it when returning. He's the noisiest because he's the largest honey bee.

I find the easiest way to recognize a drone in flight, aside from the loud buzz, is by his really long back legs that hang down when he's in flight.

In the autumn, the workers force any remaining drones out of the hive and won't let them back in. They can't afford the extra mouths to feed through the long cold winter. The drones then succumb to the cold and/or starvation and die.

# Christmas

## Some ideas for Christmas Gifts

Now that most of the hard work has finished with your beekeeping season and only a couple of months to go to Christmas. Why not turn your hand to preparing and making a few choice beekeepers Christmas gifts for your close family and friends. I can think of nothing nicer than to receive a beautifully put together gift basket with a couple of jars of choice honey with a lovely festive label on them, a pair of home made beeswax candles and to top it off a delicious honey fruit cake.

Alternatively a basket with a jar of honey, a jar of home made honey chutney (chutney sweetened using your own honey). Try making a tin of beeswax polish very easy to make and all recipes below.

What about making a plain honey sponge cake, once again sweetened using your own honey. two jars of honey in a lovely box or gift wrapped in a festive paper. Your friends and family will love to receive such a gift and now is the time to start.

### Honey fruit cake recipe

8oz of S/R flour, 4oz Butter, 8oz of honey (any variety), 2 medium eggs, 4oz of mixed fruit, 2oz of mixed peel, a pinch of salt and a little milk if req. Method, Cream butter and honey together until smooth, Stir in the beaten eggs and add a pinch of salt, Sieve the flour and add to mix ,keeping back a little to thoroughly dust the fruit. Mix all this into a smooth batter then add your fruit and mix thoroughly. A little milk can be added at this time if req. pour mixture into a prepared 7 inch tin that has had greased paper added to the sides and base beforehand. Place in the oven, middle shelf for about 1 1/2 -2 hours checking after 1-1/4 hrs.

### Home made honey Chutney

You can make any traditional chutney recipe for this but when making your decided recipe only use honey to sweeten in place of sugar. This should then be jarred and put away to mature until placing in your basket at Christmas.

### Beeswax candles

Now you can buy your beeswax candles from shops on the internet, but far better to make your own as it takes very little effort. You should as a beekeeper have a surplus of beeswax gather throughout the season from uncapping and gathered brace comb. Buy a candle mould from your beekeeping suppliers and a length of appropriate wick for the size of candle you're making; melt down your dirty wax in a ban-Marie and add 50%rain water and filter this through a fine muslin cloth, then re-heat slowly using the same method but omitting the water. After placing your wick in the centre of your candle mould ensure its on a sound and heat resistant surface, then pour. Top up to level with the top and leave to cool overnight and turn out.

### Plain Honey Sponge Cake

Exact recipe as for honey fruit cake but omit the fruit. Bake for 1hr then check

### Beeswax Polish

Pure Beeswax polish can be achieved quite easily in about 20 mins.

Take about 1/2 a cup full of pure rain water, 2ozs of clean beeswax and 100mls of pure Turpentine. This can be bought from most good paint suppliers. White spirit is no good for this recipe

Method – Place beeswax in a pan of heat resistant bowl and melt over a low heat adding the turpentine and half the cup of rain water. Allow wax to melt thoroughly then stir well. Pour into a tin of receptacle of your choice and allow to go cold for up to 2 hrs.

I know the recipients will love these gifts and all your own work.

Dave Shannon

## **Examination Preparation Update**

### **Examination Preparation Update**

Tutorials for Module 5 will be held in the Yorkshire Beekeepers' Pavillion this winter. These will start at 10.00 am and run for about 2 hours.

### **Module 5 Honey Bee Biology**

15<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> February and a third date sometime in January or early February to be arranged.

The Module 5 examination will be on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

In addition I will arrange a session on exam technique open to anyone who may be interested.

I would again endorse the correspondence courses which are an excellent way of assisting your study for the modules. The course covers the whole syllabus, with the benefit of feedback from a tutor and is a disciplined way of getting into the habit of answering examination questions.

It would be helpful to have some idea of the level of interest so please let me know if you intend to come along to the sessions in Harrogate.

All examination information can be found on the BBKA website at [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)

## **Examination Preparation Update**

### **CLOSING DATES**

Closing dates for applications

10<sup>th</sup> February  
and

September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Beekeeping Husbandry Certificates**

### **Dates for your Diary**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Study day in preparation for the General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** Study day in preparation for the Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry

These will also be held in Harrogate – please register your interest with me if you have not already done so.

[wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk) or by telephone on 01482 656018



# Swarm at the airport !!!!



A telephone call during the Great Yorkshire Show...  
 "Can you come and collect a swarm of bees from our bus please ? The driver won't get in and it's blocking one of our walkways so we can't put the aircraft on the standing for people to get on or off. Oh - and can you bring your passport with you please ?"

Once I'd been x-rayed and had my car checked I felt quite

important as my little red car was escorted across the tarmac - passengers being held back for me to pass - flashing lights everywhere.

The bees were in 2 groups on the front windscreen - a quick sweep into a box and the use of a vacuum cleaner and all was back to normal. I donated the £50 fee to Yorkshire Beekeepers Association.

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### Y.B.K.A. DATES

BBKA Forum  
1st October 2011

### Countryside Live

The show is on Sat/Sun 22/23rd  
October 2011

Yorkshire Beekeeper's Annual  
Honey Show

The entries close on Friday 16th  
Sept - so anyone holding a Judge  
merit award needs to submit  
entries and pay - then YBKA will  
refund the entry fee later

### YBKA AGM

December 3rd 2011  
Glynn Davis  
The misunderstood Drone  
Yorkshire Showground

YBKA GPC Meetings  
23rd September 2011  
25th November 2011

### BBKA ADM

January 14th 2012

BBKA Spring Convention  
April 20 -22nd 2012

YBKA Bishop Burton  
April 28th 2012

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