

Y.B.K.A. eNews

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Our Chairmans message

One Year Gone One to look forward to...

Our AGM was well attended this year and proved to be a really good day.

We started with a presentation of over £2000 to Macmillan Cancer. This money has been raised through the raffle organised by Whitby BKA in memory of John Dews. £200 prize money was also donated by the winners of the 12 Jars class at Harrogate & Ripon BKA show. The main raffle prize was a beautifully made hive. Congratulations to all concerned.

Glyn Davis, from Devon, then spoke on the fascinating reproductive biology of the drone. Many felt that it was about time the male of the Apis world was given some attention. Glyn's trick with an inflatable glove was a treat. His talk also discussed some of the 'myths' that we have accepted as true without a great deal of evidence. Thought provoking. The discussion on orientation flights actually being queen guarding flights was particularly interesting as was the talk about why queens become drone layers.

This was followed by an excellent Bee Health presentation by our RBI, Ivor Flatman. All districts have been circulated with a copy of his report for the year which is really useful and should be read by all members. Members are reminded that the GPC recommends that all of our members register on Beebase as this gives us the best possible protection against the spread of disease - coupled with good husbandry of course.

Each member of the GPC made a short presentation to the AGM which illustrated the wide range of activities YBKA are engaged in on behalf of our members - all have worked hard and deserve our thanks.

Particular thanks must go to Mr John Whitaker, our retiring Treasurer. John has served YBKA with exception skill. He has helped us develop our bulk purchase arrangements and introduced the Gift Aid scheme. He has always been involved in each and every YBKA activity and has always supported his colleagues. He will be missed. I thank him on behalf of all members.

Districts rightly took the opportunity to suggest actions for next year. Clearly our priorities will be determined by this meeting and will include Education, Bee Breeding, the GYS showground and supporting inter-district events.

I wish all a Happy Christmas and a Great Beekeeping New Year.

Bill

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Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to
All YBKA Members

DECEMBER

JOBS FOR THE MONTH



All is quiet in the Apiary in December, with little work to be done other than to ensure hives are intact after storms and entrances are clear of snow. Bees fly only on warmer days for cleansing flights and perhaps to collect water. Ensure ventilation is adequate as damp hives are far more dangerous to the health of the bee than external cold.

Small bouts off egg laying occurs, however the population in the hive continues a downward trend overall. With virtually no brood rearing the temperature in the hive is maintained between 30 °C depending on the cluster size. Little heat loss and lower temperatures mean that food is conserved however at the end of December when days start to lengthen, Queens's start to up the laying rate and food becomes more important.

Weather patterns can change rapidly in winter with cold frozen periods followed by milder damp weeks causing sudden rapid clustering of bees. Isolation starvation can occur as bees move upwards on their stores. A cluster forms on one side of the hive and if it fails to expand in warmer weather it can starve despite lots of stores remaining in the hive. A quick look beneath the crown board can identify if this may be a problem and a little candy placed above the feedhole directly above the cluster will see them through. If you don't have candy then a simple bag of sugar with an area on one side soaked to let the sugar solution attract the bees can work wonders.

After such a warm autumn many hives will be short of stores. Consider placing candy on earlier rather than later. A few pounds spent now will save a lot of problems later.

Varroa monitoring should continue during milder periods when the bees have broken cluster. In December a drop of one mite per day represents about 150 mites in the colony and these can damage new brood when the queen starts laying. Treatment if necessary is likely to be by trickling 5ml of 3.2% oxalic acid over each seam of bees, although it should be applied early in the month if cold, to avoid as far as possible any brood being present. It is preferable if you haven't done this before to get the readily prepared small squeezable bottle from suppliers as the mixture is correct and they come with full instructions. This job is much simpler if you work as a pair so that hive parts can be removed and the oxalic acid applied in a very quick sequence of events with minimum disturbance of the bees.

Keep a watch for damage by pests, especially woodpeckers.

December is a month that is generally quite hectic in the family but if you get a quiet day after Christmas it can be good to examine your equipment stocks and list your needs for the year to come. Make plans to develop your system of management to develop your beekeeping and decide what you want to achieve in the year to come.

Yorkshire Beekeepers' Convention

APRIL 28TH 2012

Bishop Burton College

" Managed Bees and Beekeepers vs Unmanaged Bees and Beekeepers"

Guest Lecturers

Dr Deborah A. Delaney

Assistant Professor - Entomology & Wildlife Ecology
University of Delaware



Mr Wally Shaw

Anglesey BKA

Welsh Beekeepers association

Regular contributor to Bee Craft



Mrs Jenny Shaw

Anglesey BKA

Welsh Beekeepers association

Qualified Tutor and Mentor

*A great day out - 4 lectures - A really good lunch
A chance to talk to the speakers in small group sessions
Chat with friends old and new.*

Apply via separate flyer or contact bill.cadmore@ntlworld.com

Northern Beekeepers' Convention

MARCH 31ST 2012

in Newcastle at the Great North Museum

Dear all,

The Northern Beekeepers' Convention.

As some of you may know it is now held in Newcastle at the Great North Museum (Hancock Museum in old money) on March 31st. We'll be sending the brochure out soon, and the website will also be updated.

We'd really like to make it a wider Northern event. As we don't want to bombard you with endless emails we have social media for those who like to keep up with the latest developments our website is

www.nebees.org

On Facebook we are- Northern Beekeepers' Convention

On Twitter we are @nebees

kind regards
Barbara Keating

Lancaster Beekeepers

FEBRUARY 11TH 2012

Carnforth Lancashire

9.30 - 4.30

Apiary Management**Share and Learn Workshop****Contact**

<mailto:bees@al-consulting.co.uk>

Telephone 01524811978

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MEAD *and* HONEY WINE JUDGES
 PATRON - THE YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
President - Raymond Twiddle OBE

MEAD DAY

Strength Gentleness

The request for another Mead Workshop has borne fruit!

It is proposed for Saturday 25th February 2012 at the Normanby Pavilion, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate commencing at 10am.

The workshop will be hosted by the Yorkshire beekeepers' Association who will provide lunch and refreshments. The fee will be £ 15 to cover food, travel and incidental expenses.

The workshop will be organised by the Moderator and Overseer for the IFMHWJ, supported by Alan Woodward, Ivor Flatman and Alan Brown all accredited IFMHWJ judges who will undertake breakout sessions. The day's agenda is as detailed below:

Types of Meads and Honey Wines for both exhibition and consumption
 Question Time
 The making of mead – the honey and ingredients – Method/s
 Question Time
 Lunch
 Exhibiting; judging technique; tasting – the common pitfalls of samples
 Open discussion and questions

Vice – President – Sir Kenneth Morrison CBE

Moderator for United Kingdom:

Mrs. Erica Osborn MA – 61 Broadheath Drive, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6EU –
 Telephone 07833 158 565

Overseers for United Kingdom:

Michael Badger MBE – 14 Thorn Lane, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 1NN – Telephone 07958 591 501
 Michael Young MBE – Mileaway, 101 Carnreagh, Hillsborough, BT26 6LJ – Telephone 07834 712 438

Application Forms from Michael Badger buzz.buzz@ntlworld.com

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Bulk Purchase - Jars

A Reminder

If you wish to order honey jars, honey buckets and other containers through the YBKA bulk purchase scheme then all you have to do is telephone Spinks Compak on the above number.

Tell them that you are a YBKA member and then ask for the prices for the things you want to order.

You'll also need to discuss collection or delivery.

You then pay Spinks Compak direct - cash, debit card, cheque, credit card or bank transfer.

Y.B.K.A. will benefit from your order through the direct payment Spinks Compak make to us.

Thank you for supporting this - we hope these are the cheapest jars available to you.

Y.B.K.A. Jar Prices offered by Spinks Compak

SPINKS

YBKA Special Prices

Product Code	Description	Price inc VAT	Per
1HONBC	1lb Standard honey jar	£12.14	72 units
70HONCR	70mm Gold metal screw caps.	£10.01	100 units
Free delivery on orders of more than 15 gross on our own scheduled transport.			
12HEX	12oz Hexagonal food jars	£15.82	84 units
63TOG	63mm Gold twist off food jar cap	£5.05	100 units
If 10 or more cases are bought in one transaction price falls to			
		£14.63	84 units Jars
		£4.67	100 units Caps
Free delivery on 20 cases or more on our scheduled transport			
282FOOD	282ml Round food jars	£13.73	72 units
70TOG	70mm Gold twist of food jar caps	£6.89	100 units
If 10 or more cases are bought in one transaction price falls to			
		£13.28	72 units Jars
	Free delivery on 20 cases or more on our scheduled transport	£6.67	100 units Caps



BEE BREEDING

APRIL

Get everything ready

MAY

Get drones underway then

get Queens underway

JUNE

Mated queen should be laying.

JULY

Nucs building into strong colonies

AUGUST

Might even get a bit of honey

What are you doing in regards to bee breeding ?

District Actions

Many districts undertake some form of bee breeding - this might be queen production, production of nucs or hive splits. It might be grafting and using mating hives.

Many of our individual members also do some bee breeding.

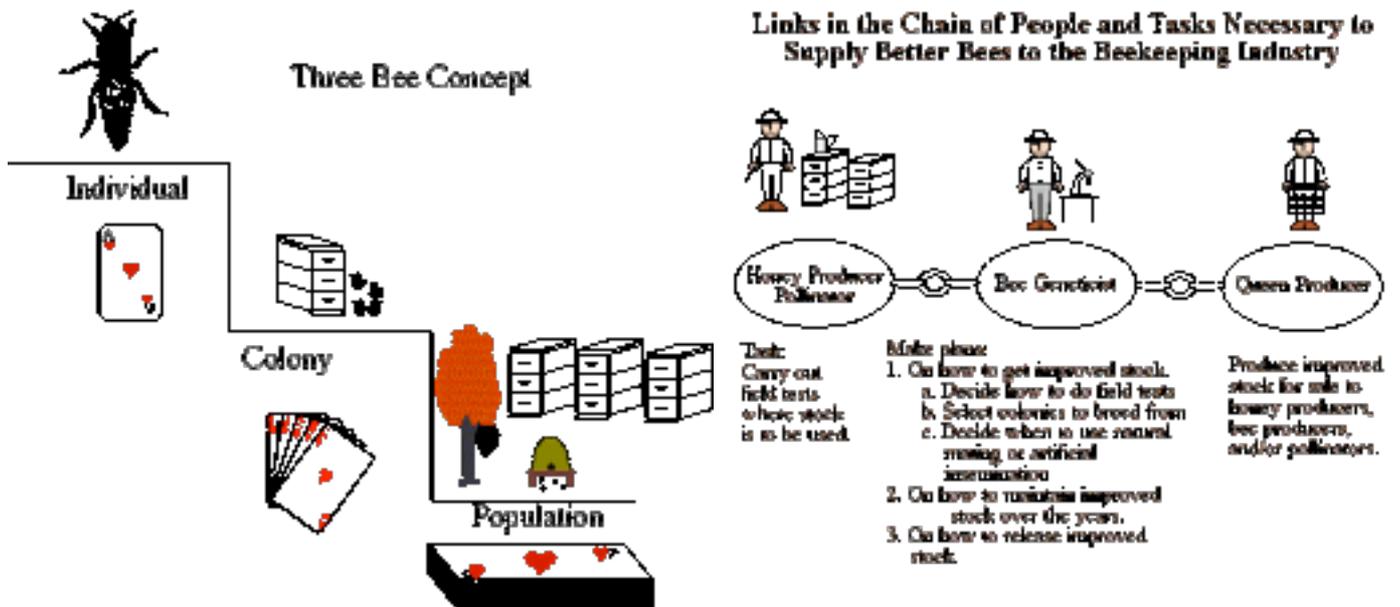
We would like you to tell us what you get up to and how well you think it works.

This can be a simple piece of pros describing what you do or it might be a timetabled plan of actions and activities.

Please send the details of your scheme into us so that we can publish and share what works.

It would be useful if you could also tell us why you are breeding from the particular type of bee you have.

Please help the GPC encourage more members to try bee breeding.
Thanks



Redrawn from Walter C. Rothenthaler ABJ March, 1980

Bee Breeding

Please tell us what you would like YBKA to do next in order to help members develop their breeding skills.

ybkanews@ntlworld.com

YAS- Great Yorkshire Show Hives and Honey Building Position Paper

1.0 Background

There seems to be a fair amount of confusion surrounding the proposed development by the YAS of a further building adjacent to the existing Normanby Pavilion. This position paper aims to produce a simple set of ideas that can be considered by the YBKA membership.

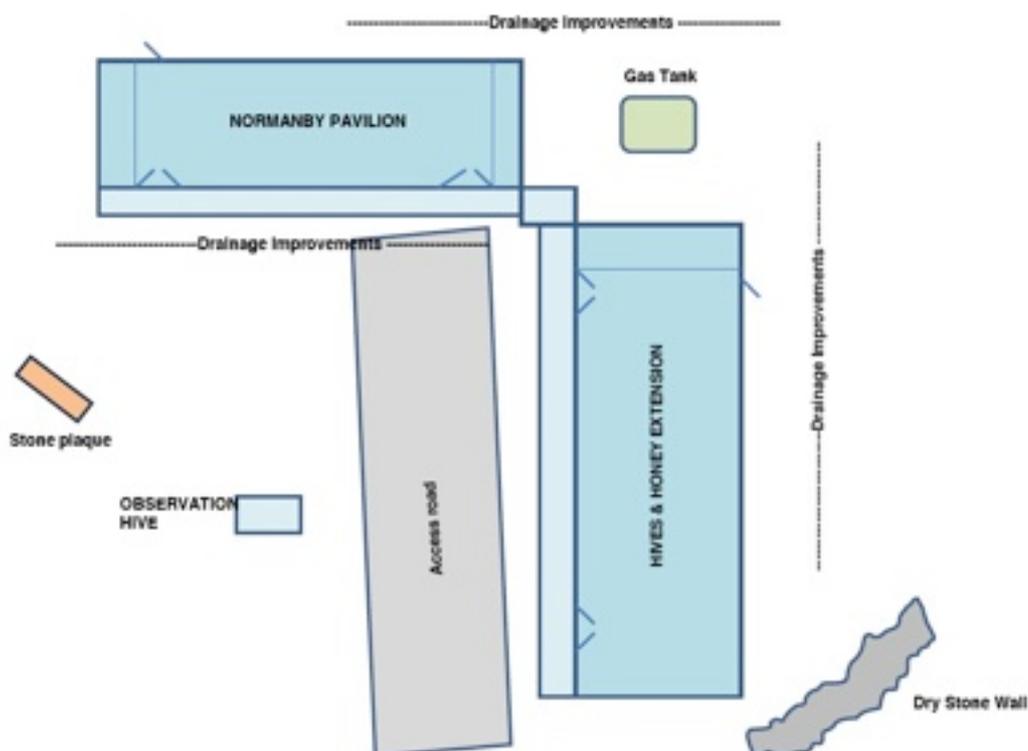
It needs to be borne in mind that discussions with the YAS are strictly with the YBKA YAS representatives, but in order for them to represent the YBKA some form of direction from the membership is required. This paper is not final or cast in stone but is an attempt to "come off the fence" and give a form of longer term wish list. The YAS will obviously have the final say as after all it is their real-estate.

In 2011 the YAS honey show was relocated from the main hall to the bee garden area, with the honey show and YBKA key events in the Normanby Pavilion and the other YBKA events in an adjacent marquee provided by the YAS. This resulted in a successful honey show and generated a number of suggested improvements to take forward.

2.0 YAS proposals

Another building is to be erected adjacent to the Normanby Pavilion which will actually be larger than the existing. However due to the site topography the initial costs are increasing and this is subject fully to the YAS. The fact that they have given a commitment to provide such a building is evidence of their support to the YBKA. Certain other improvements to the site would probably be carried out during the building works.

A sketch of the site is attached.



A number of meetings have taken place with generally positive outcomes. However, there has also been many supposedly agreements that have taken place, these are not agreements as such, because at this stage the build is in its advanced feasibility stage. No decisions have been made. To move the project further and to gain some form of YBKA "stakeholder" involvement in the long term use of the building, it is felt that we (YBKA) need to offer some form of financial commitment.

Whilst the title is "the hives and honey extension" it must be borne in mind that the building needs to be put to more use than just 1 week in the year for the GYS. As such it would be made available to YBKA should we wish to commit financially.

The timescale of the proposed build is subject to YAS but is likely to follow:-

- 2012 continued feasibility/costing and possible groundworks prior to the 2012 GYS (a marquee would be provided for 2012 GYS)
-
- 2013 erection of the building and temporary fit out for 2013 GYS (if you like "dummy run" basis)
-
- 2014 final fit out for the 2014 GYS

3.0 YBKA position

As our membership grows and we have more beginners and improvers we need to be able to host more events to suit the demographics of our members. It is fair to say that most members are likely to support the use of the building, not just for the GYS, but for ongoing YBKA events into the future. However committing sums of money requires consideration prior to any progress. Various sums of money have been suggested ranging from; Zero, £3000, £9000 and 10% of the build cost, plus a few variations (I must stress no decisions have been made). I am mindful that other topics involving significant financial outlay have not progressed as it was felt lack of detail in their presentation, hence this position paper to effectively allow members to think over the plans and allow due time for consideration. The paper will be presented at the AGM and hopefully allows all district associations due time to report back to the YBKA spring meeting.

The building would give YBKA a greater floor area than presently available and enable us to host improved events in future if we use the 2 buildings effectively. YBKA are the largest Area Association in BBKA and we would have a base that would rival no other and would probably be the envy of most. I have proposed a set of layout drawings (attached) which give an idea of a proposed interior layout that would remain flexible to meet the needs of the honey show and any events YBKA wish to host in future. The sketches also include some improvements to our existing Normanby Pavilion facilities that would be capable of relocating to either building. I am mindful of security so any proposed IT facilities are intended not to be fixed installations.

4.0 conclusions and costs

When the building goes ahead YBKA will have increased space to host improved events in a central area which is generally accessible to all district associations with ample parking etc

The building would not be "just" a honey show building YBKA would have use, as we currently have with the Normanby Pavilion. YBKA contributed significantly to the build cost of the Normanby Pavilion to gain preferential use.

The YAS are not asking us to contribute such sums this time. To gain preferential use and have some form of involvement we need to contribute financially. As the build will be spread over a number of years I think we can also spread the outlay to YBKA over a 3 year period. Also if we are offered the opportunity (by the YAS) we may be able to contribute to the fit out by providing our own labour and materials, thereby saving YAS significant labour costs. All above needs final acceptance by the YAS

Costs :-

2012 - spend up to £500 to improve the IT facilities in the Normanby Pavilion, this would be provision of 2 number removable roof mounted brackets for projectors and wall mounted screens in 2 centre bays of the room to enable width ways seating and dual screen viewing, thereby improving out "conference" type facilities. Equipment would be capable of relocating to the new building as it is of a bigger size (if required)

2013 - donate a sum of £3000 to the YAS to indicate our commitment and support to providing another building

2014 - procure hardware to provide fit out of the new building at a cost of £3000 for equipment, based on the attached layout and a sum estimated to be in the order of £4000 for "free" labour to install the above hardware

for a sum of £6500 spread over 3 years we effectively are providing YAS with a £10,000 contribution (due to labour by YBKA)

A display board will be in place at the forth coming AGM for information. Please consider these proposals and provide any comments, via your YBKA area representatives

Tony Jefferson BEng, CEng, FIEE
YBKA Vice-Chairman

Have Your Say

Yorkshire Beekeepers Association has for many years been closely associated with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, the Yorkshire Show and Countryside Live. Our pavilion is used for many events and meetings. The General Purposes Committee can see advantages and disadvantages to the proposals. It is important to the GPC that our members discuss these proposals and let us know what they think.

You can do so by emailing your comments to either Tony Jefferson stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk or Dave Shannon dave_aca@tiscali.co.uk.

As always we want Yorkshire to be the biggest and best beekeeping association. Please help us take this forward.

Yorkshire Area Representatives

Note: These will be updated at the next GPC meeting

Airedale, Wharfedale, Bradford, Leeds	Bill Cadmore 01132160482 bill.cadmore@ntlworld.com
South Riding, Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield	Dave Shannon 01302-772837 dave_aca@tiscali.co.uk
Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Pontefract	Phil Gee 01422886114 pjgphilgee@aol.com
Beverley	Wendy Maslin 01482656018 wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk
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Easingwold, York & Barkston Ash	Tom robinson mautomrobee@btopenworld.com
Whitby, Scarborough, Malton & Rydale	Tony Jefferson 07749731945 stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk

HIVES & HONEY – NEW PAVILION

MICHAEL BADGER

Introduction.

The Hives & Honey section has been in existence since 1878. The originators commenced a beekeeping presence at the 1878 Great Yorkshire Show (GYS) held at Thirsk. The display section contributed to the formation of YBKA in 1882. The displays continued until the 1885 GYS held at Selby. The first honey show was held here, at the time the Lincoln Show and the Royal Show were the first shows of this kind to come into being. The founding fathers, WB Booth (a former President of YBKA) and Mr William Dixon of Becket Street were involved with the honey section from these earliest times until 1929. At each annual show the various sections were tented and required rebuilding at each show as each GYS was held at a different venue, moving through each of the ridings in turn until 1950. The rising costs for staging a show became quite a burden in terms of costs and the rising tide of involvement that fell on the local councils together with all the red tape.

From 1951 until 1999 the Hives & Honey section was housed in its own building. Due to the remodelling of the flower and food hall this building and others were demolished. Unfortunately fate took a hand in the agreements for a new home for the Hives & Honey section in that the long illness of the CEO and subsequent death; a succession of show managers and site superintendents; several unsuitable sites for the honey section that matters came to a head following the 2010 GYS. The Chairman of the Hives Honey Committee requested that the YAS honour their original pledges to provide a new building for the honey section.

The new facility

A series of meetings were held including one with the YBKA that brought matters to a conclusion that the YAS would provide a new facility within the confines of the Normanby Pavilion area. The YAS are embarking upon a consolidation of like minded areas in that they are all brought together rather than spread across the showground whole.

The new facility will be constructed at right-angles to the existing Normanby pavilion. The site chosen requires major earth works banking proposals to retain the existing play area. The retaining mechanism may be gabions with a French drain to take the surplus water from the surrounding carp park areas that finds its way down to the Normanby pavilion causing water logging issues.

The cost of the ground works is £ 35,000 +the new pavilion at £ 50,000 excluding VAT.

Points worthy of consideration

The building is quite large; it lends itself for use outside show days for YBKA. Whilst it is a fair point the building will be available at these times, it might attract usage by others unless YBKA makes a point of giving the YAS a reasonable sum of money that ensures we have the greatest say in who can use it. Understandably the membership needs to be satisfied that their money is used to good effect and that whatever sum is donated meets these criteria. Having said that the YAS are aware that we have limited funds (they too are under pressure due to falling investment income). If YBKA commits a reasonable sum upfront now this will I am sure be received with acclamation. In addition, if we were to offer some additional sums overtime, that can be met according to time and our own income flows this would be well received as they can sell this offer to their own finance people that we are prepared to dip into our pockets to meet current income trends.

I think it is essential that we offer money that is within our means, over a set time period that meets our aspirations and meets the needs of the membership.

The proposed structure

The provision of a new single-storey pavilion with over-hanging veranda and clock tower (without clock) as a decorative feature; externally clad in Western Red Cedar ship-boarding 19mm x 86mm. The external roof structure is to be left without waterproofing. The roof structure will be clad in galvanised steel corrugated sheeting, PVC coated by others.

The Structure secured and set on a prepared concrete.

The superstructure to be constructed in tanalised pressure coated BS 8417; softwood timber design to Standard 1995-1-1:2004, 5: Design of Timber Structures.

The building foot print is 21950mm x 9750 or the imperial equivalent of 72' x 32'. The extent of supply is limited to provision of the building without fixtures and fittings in the kitchen, toilet, office and store but includes erection.

40M long x 1220 mm wide x 19mm flat shelving deck constructed in interior grade beech plywood. Supported by 50mm x 50mm x 762mm high softwood up rights, braced with diagonal supports; all suitably fixed to the structure that is fully demountable for non-show use.

Veranda 1220mm wide x 21950mm long complete with softwood hand railing and vertical suitably sized supports in softwood all as described above. A covered walk-way linking the Normanby Pavilion and the Hives & Honey Pavilion.

Windows double openers; similar to Magnet joinery with standard glass to Part L requirements.

External cedar cladding to be secured and fixed with stainless steel nails.

Internal finish dry-line construction, unfinished, decoration.

Standard fire exit door with crash bar.

Power, lighting and services . Extension of gas supply to provide gas fired heating for LTHW radiator system, installation of radiators for comfort heating. There would be no provision for comfort cooling.

Guttering in black 110mm UPVC "Marley" deep flo on both elevations with 4 Nr 68mm diameter down pipes to discharge on to ground surface.

It is proposed that times other than the Great Yorkshire and Countryside Live Shows that this building be further adapted for use by the YBKA. There is a groundswell opinion that the YBKA could undertake additional conferencing at the YBKA Complex if the facilities were adapted for using high spec Audio Visual aids. The concerns for security of such equipment has been catered for in that the equipment (camera, monitors and screen) be in kit form for demounting and storage at the Events Centre Offices which are manned 24/7; they are secure, warm and dry. The building would be provided with cableways and conduits and possibly hard wired in readiness for such requirements.

Have Your Say

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As always we want Yorkshire to be the biggest and best beekeeping association. Please help us take this forward.

Bees and Honey For Sale

Orders are now been taken for over wintered colonies for sale in spring, from a well known and reputable local Yorkshire beekeeper with gentle and productive stock.

P.O.A.

Also 50lb buckets of Yorkshire Honey at £2.60/lb buyer collects.

For more information call Rob Bolton on 01924 862175.

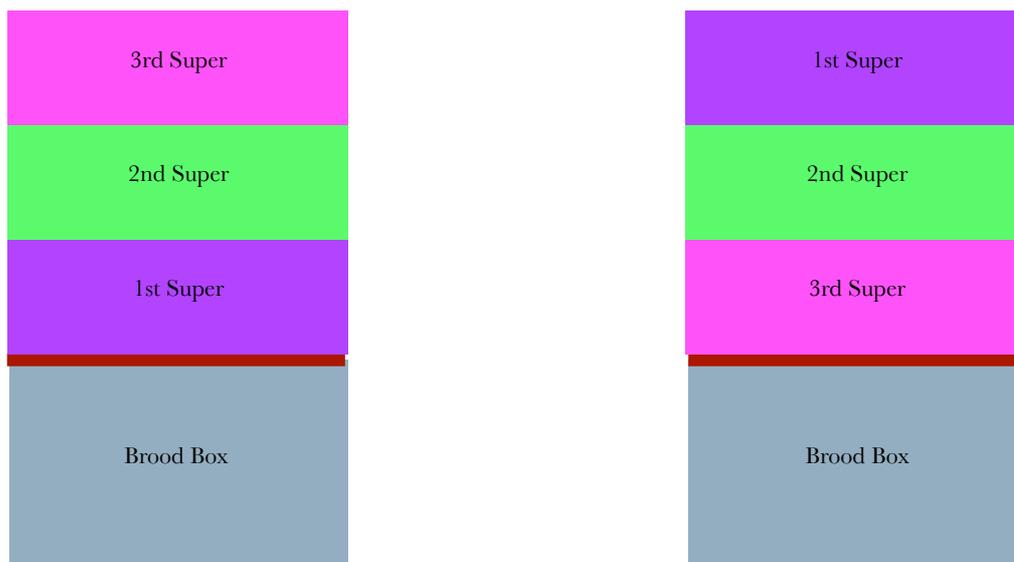
Top or Bottom ?

How should you add supers ?

The choice is easy when you're adding your first super - put on the queen excluder (or not if you are a non-user) and then place the super on.

However if you are adding a second or subsequent super do you just add it to the top of the pile or do you lift the used supers off and put the new one immediately above the queen excluder ? Which is the best method ?

Well - all of the research makes it fairly clear - it doesn't make much difference. Other factors are much more important in determining how much honey your bees store - weather and plant cover type being the most influential external factors - how strong your colony and what type of bees you have also make a big difference - bee breeding again !!!!!



However bottom supering does seem to be preferred if you are trying to get bees to draw out foundation - and therefore if you are trying to get bees to produce cut comb. Put your box of foundation above a super full of honey and bees will mostly ignore it unless there is a really good nectar flow (as with oil seed rape). Put the foundation or cut comb frames under an almost full super and the bees will work it much more readily - but make sure you keep your spacing correct otherwise the bees will build where they want rather than where you want.

What do you think ?

Do you have any experience comparing the two ways of supering ?

Email us and tell us about it

ybkanews@ntlworld.com



Yorkshire Beekeepers Association

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Y.B.K.A. DATES

BBKA ADM
January 14th 2012

BBKA Spring Convention
April 20 -22nd 2012

YBKA Bishop Burton
April 28th 2012

The 2012 calendar will be
agreed at the next meeting
of the GPC.

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[beebase/](https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/)