



Lancaster Beekeepers Club Training Programme

We offer an exciting and engaging training programme for anyone wanting to gain essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills in beekeeping. Our training "Beekeeping for beginners", comprising two parts: theory and practical, cover the BBKA Basic Assessment.

Theory training course code BBT

7 evening sessions online and a session of live demonstrations (see below).

Practical training course code BBP

5 afternoon sessions

Saturday 26th June 2021

Saturday 10th July 2021

Saturday 24th July 2021

Saturday 14th Aug 2021

Saturday 4th Sept 2021

Booking a course:

To find out more please email us (secretary@lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk)

or to confirm your place on the course please send payment to:

LNWBA Lancaster Branch

Account Number: 01859692

Sort Code: 40-27-02

Please remember to include your name and the course code with the payment.

Beekeeping for Beginners – theory sessions (course code BBT).

This year, due to COVID restrictions, this course will be run online via Zoom.

All sessions start at 7:30pm, aim to finish before 9:30pm and are recorded so that people who miss a session can see it later.

Wednesday 10th March

This session is a free taster session introducing beekeeping and Lancaster Beekeepers Association covering:-

Why be a beekeeper?

Why join a club?

Introduction of the speakers and the topics they will cover on the course.

Recommended sources of information.

Wednesday 7th April

Introduction to beekeeping – History and importance of honey bees. State of the population now, structure of beekeeping in UK. Different kinds of beekeepers.

Bee Biology – Anatomy, Castes, Life cycle, Jobs during life, Food, Swarming etc.

Thursday 15th April

What's involved in Beekeeping – Time, Money, Responsibility etc.

Food, Forage and what the bees produce.

Thursday 22nd April

The Beekeeping year – what happens when and why?

Inspections – When, How, Why and Recording

Wednesday 28th April

Pest and Disease

Wednesday 5th May

Swarming – why, when, what, who, how?

Swarm collection and housing. Use of bait hives.

Wednesday 12th May

Stings, reactions avoiding getting stung, protection etc.

First aid.

Starting beekeeping – siting apiary, sourcing bees – nucs, swarms, local etc

New Beekeeper's experience – my first year as a beekeeper

Saturday 22nd May - Demonstrations

In small groups spread throughout day but depending on numbers, may have to go onto another day. This will be held at our apiary at Yealand Conyers. Directions will be circulated before the session.

If COVID regulations prohibit this day, videos of the demonstrations will be posted on YouTube.

Demonstrations

Tools and Equipment.

Different hive types – the advantages and disadvantages

Hive parts and the bee space, frame types/spacers.

Artificial swarm.

Cost of the Beekeeping for beginners – theory course is £75.

Beekeeping for beginners – practical course (course code BBP).

The entry requirements for this course are to have completed the Beekeeping for Beginners - theory course. Bee-suits will be made available to those on the course for its duration but individuals will need to provide their own suitable footwear (wellington boots or similar). Held during the summer when the hives can be opened. Practical procedures will be explained, demonstrated, and then undertaken working with the bees in the apiary. We will open the hives at every session to see how each colony has developed and understand the lifecycle of this super-organism. This provides the candidates with the opportunity to experience part of the beekeeping season and apply the theory learnt previously. In addition, candidates will be able to build their experience and confidence with the bees. Each session lasts approximately 3 hours, and refreshments are provided.

Arrival for the session is from 13:00 and finishing by 16:00. The dates for 2021 are as follows:

Saturday 26th June 2021

Saturday 10th July 2021

Saturday 24th July 2021

Saturday 14th Aug 2021

Saturday 4th Sept 2021

On completion of the full practical course each candidate will receive a certificate of attendance.

Candidates must have completed the Beekeeping for Beginners – theory course before undertaking the practical sessions. Children under the age of 16 must be confirmed with us beforehand to ensure that a child sized bee-suit is available for them and accompanied by a fee-paying adult.

This course takes place at our training apiary at Yealand Conyers.

Cost of the Beekeeping for Beginners – Full practical course is £75.